

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 16, EDITION 12

DECEMBER 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

I want to thank everyone who came out and participated in our Veteran Day events, which included Lakeside Cemetery, Orchard Heights, and in our Post Lounge. I want to especially thank our Honor Guard and our Auxiliary; we could not have these ceremonies without either one.

On Saturday, December 27th, South City will be playing in the lounge from 7p.m. to 11 p.m., all are welcome to attend.

On Wednesday, December 31st is the revealing of the Oakwood Manor. We are in the process of renovating the windows, floors and ceiling and will be showing off the brand-new additions at the party. Doors open at 6 p.m. Full Course Buffet dinner at 7 p.m., Entertainment by Yank the Cover Band from 08:30 – 12:30 p.m. Champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are available at the bar until December 23 rd or VENMO by December 21st at @Carol-Kiefer-3. Tickets are \$10.00 each for Auxiliary/Post members; \$15.00 for non-members; tickets at the door will be \$20.00. If you purchase via VENMO, your tickets will be at the door the night of the event. There will also be 50/50 raffle and a door prize.

There was no Post meeting this past Thursday due to no heat at the Post and sickness is running rampant; so if you are sick, stay home.

I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Comradeship,

Amy Owczarczak, Commander
VFW Post 1419
AmyOVFW1419@hotmail.com
(716) 432-0829

CONTACT US:

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VFW1419.org (Website)

*If you know of someone
not receiving the
Newsletter have them
send a message to the
GMAIL ADDRESS
ABOVE.*



VFW AUXILIARY

Wreaths Across America is taking place at the Field of Valor this coming Saturday, December 13th at Noon. If you are available to lend a hand prior to the Ceremony, please arrive at 11:30 that morning. As you may or may not know, we have many members that have been interred in the Field of Valor and we donated some money to help with the purchase of Wreaths. The Auxiliary Donated \$500.00; the Post donated \$170.00; and the Collection Bucket that I placed in the Post Lounge gave an additional amount of \$250.00. I would like to Thank everyone that donated and intend to place a bucket again next year in October to see if we can't beat this year's contribution,

The Auxiliary Christmas get-together will be December 15th at 6:00 pm prior to our monthly meeting. If you would like to make a snack to share, please do so but even if you are unable, please join us.

Katy Blaszkiewicz
Auxiliary President.

WE STILL WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS

Sadness has again struck our members and their families and friends.

Ron Towers, Former Officer of the Corporation, Life Member of the Post, and Long Time Member of our Honor Guard passed away.

Tom Amabile, Bartender, lost his son Tommy very unexpectedly.

Joe Drewiega, long time Volunteer helping with Clean Up and Set Up of Oakwood every Tuesday for many years passed away. He was the Brother of Life Member John Drewiega and the Uncle of Auxiliary Member Michele Boice.

Jerry Welsted, Life Member, Member of the Honor Guard, former Officer of the Corporation, and Long time Post Commander is still attempting to recover from a very serious stroke.

Member Jeff Dinan is still battling Cancer and has taken a turn for the worse. Jeff is not only a member but the son of Long Time Bartender Mary Dinan and Electrician Extraordinaire Jack Dinan.

Post Member Bryce Beeman is recovering from Back Surgery.

Fran Wright, Life Member of the Auxiliary, Long time Officer of many positions, and the backbone of our organization has taken ill and is currently in a Nursing Home.

Heather Strebel, Auxiliary Member and Long Time Bartender is recovering from serious ankle surgery.

Patrick Bapst, Life Member of the Post has also been ill for quite some time.

There have been many other members touched by death and illness and we ask for your Continued Prayers for everyone.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VETERANS

TRICARE Open Season runs Nov. 10 through Dec. 9, giving eligible beneficiaries the chance to enroll in or change health plans for 2026.

In an open letter to the leaders of the House and Senate, VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore and Adjutant General Dan West urged bipartisan support for responsible, scientifically grounded research into hemp cannabinoid-based alternative treatments for veterans suffering from conditions like post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and chronic pain.

Top VFW Leader Condemns The Washington Post: VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore sharply criticized The Washington Post's reporting in response to its recent article, "How some veterans exploit \$193 billion VA program, due to lax controls" (October 6, 2025). "Your article leans heavily on inflammatory anecdotes and edge cases, portraying veterans as system abusers, while ignoring the structural reality: Combat wounds are not the only occupational hazards of military service," said Whitmore.

Dominic H. Caselli
Service Officer

HONOR GUARD CORNER

Hello Comrades and Happy Holidays,

Not too much to cover this month so I'll get right to it. The Honor guard is looking for a few good people to fill positions to bring us back to full strength. If you would like to join us please contact me so we can meet. I will, at that time, actually interview you and let you know what our needs are and what is expected of you if you join. It is more time consuming than what everyone thinks. You're actually on call for funeral ceremonies and some community affairs. All will be explained when we meet.

Thank you. Well that is all I have for now so I'll be signing off. I would like to wish you all and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As always God Bless America our Troops who are serving and those who served and lets not forget those who have left us and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. H

Don Hancock—Honor Guard Captain



The background of the poster is dark blue with a pattern of small white stars. Two large, bright yellow and white fireworks are exploding in the upper corners. Golden streamers and confetti are scattered throughout the design.

New Year's Eve CELEBRATION

HOSTED BY V.F.W. POST 1419

When: December 31, 2025 Doors Open at 6:00 PM

Where: Oakwood Manor Banquet Facility, 2985 Lakeview Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075 (located behind V.F.W. Post 1419)

Enjoy:

- Full Course Buffet Dinner at 7:00 PM • CASH BAR
- Entertainment by YANK THE COVER BAND 8:30 PM
- 50/50 Raffle & Door Prize
- Midnight Champagne Toast

Tickets:

- Post 1419 members - \$10 each, available at post bar
- Presale Tickets: \$15 each, available at the V.F.W. Post 1419 Bar until 12/23 or Venmo at: @Carol-Kiefer-3 until 12/21 at 9:00 PM. Put names of attendees in your Venmo purchase & pre-sale tickets will be at the door on night of event.
- At The Door Purchase: \$20 each (while supply lasts).

POST SENTINEL INFORMATION

The Deadline for article submission is the FRIDAY AFTER THE POST MEETING. It is very important that all articles are submitted by the due date.

The Deadline for next month is

January 8th, 2026

All submissions should be sent via email

to

postsentinel1419@gmail.com

CRIBBAGE ANYONE????

There is a Cribbage Club that meets at our Post the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesday each month from September through May. If anyone is interested in joining in, contact Robyn Boldt at 716-648-1830 for more details.



DON'T FORGET OUR FOOD PANTRY LOCATED ON THE FRONT LAWN OF THE POST. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO KEEP OUR PANTRY STOCKED AND FEEL FREE TO HELP YOURSELF TO ITEMS IF YOU ARE IN NEED. THIS FOOD PANTRY IS FOR EVERYONE TO USE. MEMBERS OF OUR POST AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

WE ALSO NOW HAVE A PET PANTRY ON THE FRONT LAWN. LET'S HELP KEEP OUR FURRY FRIENDS FED AND HAPPY.

SICK CALL

If you know of any member of the Post or the Auxiliary, who is sick, in the hospital, or has died, please let someone know.

Post Chaplain Brent Doyle	716-649-3019
Auxiliary Chaplain Terry Walker	716-912-6849
Commander Amy Owczarczak	716-432-0829
Aux. President Katy Blaszkiewicz	716-253-4681
Honor Guard Don Hancock	716-830-4237
You can also call the Post and tell whoever answers the phone. 716-648-2618	

