

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 17, EDITION 01

JANUARY 2026

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone's year is off to a great start.

If you had the opportunity to attend the New Year's Eve party, co-chaired by Maike Redmond and Stacy Suto, you know what a fantastic time was had by all. During the celebration, we were also proud to unveil the newly completed renovations at the Oakwood Manor. Throughout the month of December, a new floor, windows, and ceiling tiles were installed. These improvements would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the following members: John Arcadipane, Tony Coppola, Chris & Emily Hull, Phil Keifer, Joe and Stacy Suto, and Don Welsted. I would like to personally acknowledge and thank them for their many hours of effort and their continued commitment to maintaining and improving our hall.

We would also like to make members aware that some of you may be receiving emails requesting donations for the VFW. Please note that these emails are not from our Post, and we do not receive the funds. These requests are sent from the National organization, and members should not feel obligated to donate.

Congratulations to our Voice of Democracy winners:

First Place: Khamila Lester

Second Place: Tessa Spurrier

Third Place: Nicholas Kasprowicz

Lastly, please mark your calendars for our Easter Bunny Breakfast, which will be held on Sunday, March 29th, in the Oakwood Manor. Additional details will be shared in the February newsletter.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" – Eleanor Roosevelt

In Comradeship,

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



VFW AUXILIARY

Unfortunately due to many instances of illness, prior commitments, and threatening weather conditions, we found it necessary to cancel our December meeting. I trust you all had a good holiday season and I hope to see you in 2026.

Our Auxiliary has more than 200 members and although some of them do live in other states less than 10% of our "in-state" members involve themselves with our activities and meetings. I don't fool myself, I know quite a few of you had reasons other than supporting Veterans and their families for joining our organization. Our purpose as an Auxiliary is to support Veterans and their families and your lack of involvement or caring about our mission saddens me.

Quite a few of our male members have been very involved in working around the post and that involvement has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated by the Auxiliary. I was very happy to hear and see so many of our male members lending a hand on a pretty regular diet. They are in fact supporting our Veterans.

The Newsletter: Due to a serious issue with our former mail provider, I had to establish a new email distribution list with a new provider. This was done several months ago. In order to do this, your former quarter master went in to the National VFW site to copy and paste all of the email addresses that National had on file. I accessed the VFW Auxiliary list and did the same thing. My email distribution list is now ONLY email addresses. No names, no mailing addresses nothing but email. If you change your email address, you must tell me what the old one was as well as the new one. If you know someone that does not receive the Newsletter, GET THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS. Just providing me with a name does nothing to help me check my list. If National does not have an email address for you, then I don't either which means you aren't even reading this because you aren't on my list.

Katy Blaszkiewicz
Auxiliary President.

WE STILL WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS

UPDATES ON OUR MEMBERS:

Jerry Welsted, is still suffering the ill effects of a very serious stroke. He has now been transferred to a private residence for more personalized care and attention.

Member Jeff Dinan is still battling Cancer and has now been discharged from the hospital and is living at home with Mary & Jack Dinan (his parents).

Post Member Bryce Beeman is recovering quite nicely from Back Surgery.

Fran Wright, Life Member of the Auxiliary, Long time Officer of many positions, has been admitted to the Autumnview Nursing home on Southwestern Blvd.

Heather Strebel, Auxiliary Member and Long Time Bartender is recovering from a serious ankle surgery. She expects to be back on both feet this month.

Patrick Bapst, Life Member of the Post has also been ill for quite some time and I have not heard anything in the form of an update.

Please continue your prayers and positive thoughts for all of our family and friends.

HONOR GUARD CORNER

Hi everyone. Another year behind us and a new one ahead. Hopefully it will be a bit better than the previous one.

Really not much to say this month but just wanted to touch on last month's news article. Last month I requested that you consider joining the Honor Guard. That request is still being extended to any **POST** member that would like to join. Just contact me and we can meet to discuss what's expected of our members.

Well that about does it for me so as always, God Bless America, our Troops who are serving and those that have served. Please never forget those that have made the Ultimate Sacrifice.

Don Hancock
Honor Guard Captain
716-830-4237

EDITORIAL NOTE ABOUT THE HONOR GUARD: In my opinion, right now they have too many members that either don't want to show up for anything or cannot show up due to work restrictions. They also lost two members recently due to Sickness and Death. These two members were ALWAYS showing up. They need to have a good showing for events but especially for a Funeral. Veterans that have passed away deserve a Military send off and our Honor Guard can't provide an appropriate one without members suiting up and showing up.

Key VFW news for veterans includes the "Honor the Contract" campaign focusing on benefits and fighting predatory claims, resources for PACT Act issues, financial education initiatives, the Combat Tested Gaming league, and updates on advocacy for benefits reform and new programs like hemp-derived THC drinks in posts, all under the "Still Serving" banner to show on-going veteran impact.

PACT Act & Claims: VFW offers accredited Service Officers to help with toxic exposure claims and protect against "claim sharks" who charge for illegal assistance.

"Honor the Contract": A major campaign emphasizing the government's duty to veterans, fighting benefit cuts, and addressing fraud, as detailed in their 2026 Priority Goals.

Financial Education: A new program with Main Street provides tailored financial content and resources for veterans.

Combat Tested Gaming: A free esports league for camaraderie, featuring games like *Rocket League*.

Hemp-Derived Beverages: A new partnership with Torch Drinks aims to bring smoke-free, plant-based drink options to VFW posts.

Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD): VFW helps transitioning service members avoid mistakes and fraud, protecting long-term benefits.

Visit the VFW Website: Check the News Feed and Today's VFW for the latest news and stories.

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

February 6th, 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.



**What can't
be cured
must be
endured**

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.

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|---|--------------|
| 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 | |

We try to keep up with all of our members, but if we aren't told we don't know.

