

# POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 15, EDITION 2

FEBRUARY 2023

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

America's armed forces would not be the impenetrable force it is today without the service and bravery of our African American veterans. Every February, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is honored to join the nation in celebrating Black History Month, bringing the service and achievements of our black service members and veterans to the forefront. Black History Month offers the opportunity to both celebrate and educate generations on the triumphs and success stories as well as the disparities faced by a rich cultural heritage that has played such a vital role in making our country what it is today. If you haven't been down to the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park lately, back in September the African American Veterans Monument was unveiled. The monument is the first of its kind across the nation. The monument has 12 columns and will light up at night. These columns represent the 12 wars that African American veterans have fought in. They light up because when a soldier was away from home their loved ones would put a candle in the window until they came back. There are also bricks that have the names of African Americans who have served our country. There are 550 with names right now, and 5,000 bricks in total. The Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park is full of history, that you, your children and/or grandchildren can learn from.

If you know someone eligible to join our Post, please have them submit an application. Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued another challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of February. National will be tracking all Post membership increases throughout the month. New members, renewing members, reinstated members; all increases will count towards a contest. At the end of February, the Post must show at least a 2% membership increase, to receive a \$1,000 award deposited into the Post account. Let's go out and recruit new members, retain our existing members, and bring lapsed members back. As part of this year's membership incentives, Commander-in-Chief Tom Borland wants to drive home the message that EVERY VETERAN COUNTS. To support this message, every VFW member who recruits a new member will receive a special One New Member recruiting pin to show the world that they're doing their part to help our organization grow in strength and reach our membership goals. Applications can be found in the post lounge, DD214 (honorably discharged and served overseas in an area of foreign conflict), membership dues are required for membership.

February has long been designated as Black History Month and Valentine's Day; but the month also includes the only holiday starring a weather forecasting marmot, Groundhog Day. Weather can be pretty miserable in February, but if you're the glass-half full type, consider that the days are getting longer and Spring is on the horizon....so Happy February! Hang in there – it won't be long until Spring has sprung!

Be safe and well.  
In Comradeship,  
Amy Owczarczak, Commander  
VFW Post 1419 AmyOVFW1419@hotmail.com  
(716) 432-0829

## CONTACT US:

\*Post (716)648-2618

\*Commander (716)432-0829

\*vfwpost1419@yahoo.com

\*postsentinel1419@hotmail.com

\*VFW1419.org (Website)

*\* If you would like to receive the Post Sentinel via email, please send an email to the address above.*

\* PLEASE CONTACT THE POST IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS MAILING IN ERROR



## **VFW AUXILIARY**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to all that brought soups; Thanks to all that brought desserts; Thanks to all that donated to the Basket Raffle/Chinese Auction and Thanks to all; for your support in making this Soup-a-Thon a success. .

Special Thanks to Kara Siulc for single handedly taking the responsibility of arranging the Auction items and selling the tickets. I would be remiss if I did not specifically thank Debbie Harris, Melanie King, Mary Hancock and Marie Monnin for Working the front table, and to Paula Bucci and Pam Goss for their 50/50 expertise.

As always, Mary Dinan and Mary Hancock were my rocks in the overall arrangements and to all the ladies that cut and delivered the desserts. Also to Jack Dinan who not only made sure the electrical system held up but also checked and rechecked the soup supplies and washed the empty Crocks and made the kitchen presentable. Gloria Duman; Pat Fest, Jane Tupis also rendered their valuable support.

I also want to Thank Young Joseph Suto, Isabelle Suto, and her friend Abby for all of the support they provided. I've said right from the start IT TAKES A VILLAGE. This is not a one man show and it requires everyone to do something or at least offer to do something. Special Thanks to Chris Wright who cleaned up the mess left behind.

For those critics that think I should have charged more for the Soups and Desserts, it cost us nothing but man power, and as the sign in the post lounge says, your criticism means nothing in the post lounge, bring your ideas to a meeting.

President-Katy Blaszkiewicz

**ON FRIDAYS WE STILL WEAR RED!!!**  
**REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED**

## **HONOR GUARD**

Hi everyone!! Hope all is well when receiving the newsletter.

Not much to report this month, but just wanted everybody to know that the Honor Guard will be raffling off another bar this year. As I type this column John Arcadipane and Joe Suto are starting to build it. We're hoping it's done by the end of the month so we can start selling the tickets next month. Drawing will be held at the next fund raiser on June 17th. An announcement will be made when we start to sell tickets. GOOD LUCK...

That's all I have for now so I will be signing off. As always God Bless Our Troops who are serving and those who have served and God Bless America.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Don Hancock  
Honor Guard Capt.

### SERVICE OFFICER

The onslaught of predatory law firms targeting Camp Lejeune veterans is overwhelming. If you have questions reach out to me and we'll work towards determining if joining the Camp Lejeune lawsuit is right for you, and I can give you the number of an entrusted law firm that has a long history of serving veterans and has your best interests at heart. Visit [vfw.org/CampLejeuneHelp](https://www.vfw.org/CampLejeuneHelp) for more information.

#### Sport Clips "Help a Hero"

Applications are being accepted now through April 30 for the fall college 2023 semester. Veterans leaving active military duty need to prepare for civilian careers that often require additional college, graduate, and technical degrees or training. To ease the financial burden of going back to school, Sport Clips and the VFW have teamed up for the past eight years to provide up to \$5,000 of assistance per semester, per family, for service members and veterans in the rank of E-5 and below. I can give anyone the website should they know someone who can use it.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>

Dominic Caselli

Service Officer



On Saturday, April 15, 2023, our Auxiliary is hosting a Meat Raffle to raise money for our organization. To maximize our fundraising potential, we are looking for individuals or businesses to sponsor one of the 12 rounds.

The cost of sponsorship is \$100 per round. Your name, your business name, or the name of the veteran you want to honor will be listed on the schedule of events that will be given to all entrants that evening.

If you are interested in sponsoring a round, please contact Kara Siulc (716)316-4938 or Heather Strebel (716)863-2811 or email us at [hkevents716@gmail.com](mailto:hkevents716@gmail.com). Sponsorship money will be due April 1, 2023. Checks can be made payable to "VFW 1419 Auxiliary".

In addition to sponsoring rounds, we are also looking for donations of Large Raffle items (chest freezer, gift cards, coolers, etc.) for the event. If you are willing and able to assist us with this, please contact one of us using the above contact information.

Watch for more information in the coming months. Flyers, tickets, and volunteer opportunities will be available soon!

Thank you in advance for helping make this event a success!  
Kara Siulc and Heather Strebel

### 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  
March 3rd**

All submissions should be sent via email  
to

[postsentinel1419@hotmail.com](mailto:postsentinel1419@hotmail.com)

Katy Blaszkiwicz-Editor

(716) 253-4681 Cell

**TACOS WILL RETURN TO  
THE POST LOUNGE ON  
TUESDAYS FROM 5-7**

**Starting February 14th**



**Sometimes the hero stumbles and  
falls right off of the page**

**Sometimes the princess rolls her  
eyes and says "I don't want to be  
saved!"**

**Sometimes the dragon needs  
rescuing and the villain aches  
to be helped**

**Sometimes in the darkness the lost  
boy finds himself**

**Sometimes the prince is cunning  
and not at all what he seemed**

**Sometimes the witch's kindness  
shows it's she who deserves to be  
queen**

**Sometimes we shouldn't define  
people by someone else's point of  
view,**

**Just because it's what we've been  
told doesn't make it true.**

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716.903.2558

**Classes are held in one of our Meeting  
Rooms as the need arises.**

**Call James Emmick for more  
information.**

**(716)903-2558**

### 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
Past Commander Jerry Welsted	716-316-8917
Commander Amy Owczarczak	716-432-0829
Aux. President Katy Blaszkiwicz	716-253-4681
Honor Guard Don Hancock	716-310-4549

You can also call the Post and tell whoever answers the phone.

**If we aren't told we don't know.**

