HAMBURG TOWNSHIP POST 1419

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 15, EDITION 7 JULY 2024

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Hope you all had a wonderful Fourth of July and are enjoying your summer. I know it is earlier, but October will be here before we know it, please get the word out that the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarships are out.

The Voice of Democracy 2024-2025 theme is "Is America Today Our Forefather's Vision?" This scholarship is open to any students in the 9th through 12th grades. The audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first place winner receives a $35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's university, college or vocational/technical school.

The Patriot's Pen 2024-2025 theme is "My Voice in America's Democracy?" The essay encourages students in 6th through 8th grades to examine American history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300–400-word essay, expressing their patriotic views. Each First-place state winner receives a minimum of $500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins $5,000. Our Post also offers monetary awards for the best essays in both categories. These essays are due to Brian Deeds, Junior Vice Commander no later than midnight on October 31, 2024. If you need an application or further details, please contact Comrade Deeds at (716) 783-2520.

On Saturday, August 17 th we will be participating again the KIA Memorial Road March at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park. If you would like to sign up t run, walk or participate virtually, you may do so under our team "Post 1419 Fallen Dragons" at www.kiamemorialmarch.com. I hope everyone continues to enjoy their summer and be safe and well.

In Comradeship,
Amy Owczarczak, Commander
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(716) 432-0829

CONTACT US:

- *Post (716)648-2618*
- *Commander (716)432-0829*
- *vfwpost1419@yahoo.com*

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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.

NEXT BAR TENDER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM ON:

SEPTEMBER 14

VFW AUXILIARY

Thanks to all that attended the Honor Guard Fund Raiser and to those of you that provided desserts for the event. The weather was less than inviting and many things were not able to be completed but all in all it was a pleasant event.

As promised, I said I would fill you in on the Honor Flight trip that we participated in last month. Where to begin? From the send off at the UAW Hall by the Patriot Guard, the Police and Patriot Guard escort that led us to the Airport, to the Reception at the Buffalo Airport, by the group singing of the National Anthem and other Patriotic songs, to the Honor paid to each and every one of us by the TSA, I can't say enough. Delaware North provided a send off breakfast and Southwest Airlines treated each and every one of us like we were the most important people in the Airport. When we arrived in the Baltimore Airport we received a Water Cannon Salute from the Fire Department, and the reception there was unbelievable. Clapping, yelling, "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE", hand shaking, escorted to our waiting busses by the Town Crier ringing a bell announcing to all who we were. When we got on our busses, each one of us had a boxed lunch provided by Arby's. We went to Fort McHendry where Francis Scott key wrote the Star Spangled banner. On to our Hotel where a very nice Buffet dinner was prepared then off to The Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veteran Memorial and the Korean Memorial. That was day one.

On Day two, we awoke to a Buffet Breakfast then to our busses where we visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Witnessed the Changing of the Guard, on to the Air Force Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, World War II memorial, and then the Navy Memorial. The reception at each and every Monument was unbelievable. Again with clapping, yelling, pats on the back, hand-shakes, by people of all Ages and ethnic backgrounds from 5 YRS old (some younger) to 95 YRS old. At the Naval Memorial we were provided with another boxed lunch prepared by Mission BBQ. Throughout the entire trip we were provided with bottled water and more snacks than a person could or should eat.

When we arrived back at the Baltimore Airport for our departure we again were treated like Kings and Queens by TSA and all of the passengers waiting for their own flights to leave. Upon arrival in Buffalo, another Water Cannon salute, a Police Officer Honor Guard saluting each and every Veteran as they exited the plane, a Parade with the Buffalo Bag Pipe band and the literally HUNDREDS of people at the Airport welcoming them home and Thanking the Veterans. This was the Welcome Home they deserved many years ago and although it was a long time coming it was more than appreciated by each and every Veteran.

I urge you to go to the Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight website and see Volunteer your time to help them out with future trips.

I have nothing else except **WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS!!!!**

Katy Blaszkiewicz-President

SERVICE OFFICER CORNER

VFW National Veterans Service Deputy Director testified at a pending legislation hearing before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Macinkowicz commented on proposed legislation to improve the quality of veterans claims for VA benefits by providing training and oversight for those deciding VA claims. He noted, "While training and oversight is essential, without proper funding for these programs, the development and execution could be severely impacted, thus limiting the effectiveness of these programs." He also communicated the VFW's approval for legislation to assess VA notice letters sent to claimants by stating, "The VFW supports effective notification and believes that veterans should not be penalized for not understanding the complex laws of the VA claims process."

VA has announced it will be expanding health care coverage for family members and primary caregivers who participate in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA). At the end of this month, these beneficiaries will have new coverage for audio-only telehealth, mental health care, and contraceptive services.

VA announced the creation of a new grant program to assist service members and their spouses leaving the military as they prepare for their next careers. VA plans to award around $4 million in grants in 2024 to eligible organizations that provide employment-based resources including resume assistance, interview and job recruitment training, employment placement services, and other services to help successfully transition to civilian life

HONOR GUARD

Well the 4th of July has come and gone. Where has the time gone?

Not much to report this month so I'll get right to it. The Honor Guard Fund Raiser was a success even though the weather refused to cooperate. I do want to Thank everyone that braved the nasty weather and made it out to support the cause. I also want to Thank everyone that purchased tickets but was unable to attend. We truly appreciate your support.

There were a couple of winners that day as the 50/50 and Bar raffles were drawn. Ed Gwitt won the bar and Paul Welsted won the 50/50 which he donated back to the Honor Guard. Thanks to all for purchasing the tickets and special thanks to Paul for his generous donation.

For the most part, everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and had a good time so damn the weather we had a good time in spite of it.

As always, God Bless America, our Troops who are serving and those who have served. Let us never forget those who cannot be with us because they gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Yours in Comradeship,

Don Hancock

Honor Guard Captain

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
AUGUST 3rd
All submissions should be sent via email
to

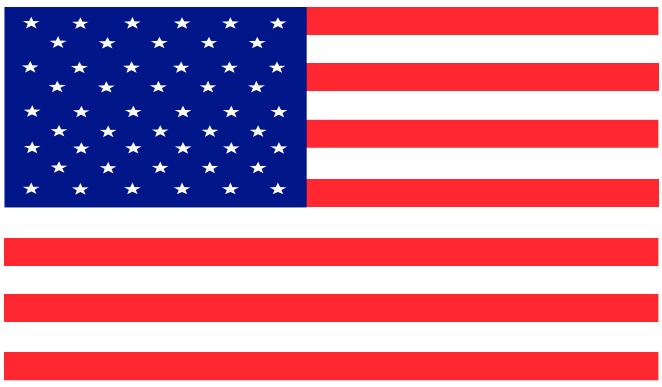
postsentinel1419@gmail.com OR
Kblasz622@gmail.com

Great works are performed not by Strength but by perseverance.

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 Blaszkiewicz	716-253-4681
Honor Guard Don Hancock	716-830-4237

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

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