



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

John H. Kraus Post 454
1006 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
(309)-827-9733

Non-Profit Organization
Heyworth, IL
US Postage Paid
PERMIT #19

Brent Wick, Post Commander
Murleen Swafford, Auxiliary President
Jim Waters, Editor - Quartermaster
E-Mail Address for Post - vfw454@comcast.net
Post Web Page – www.vfwpost454.org

All the Newsletter information will be posted on the Post Web Page www.vfwpost454.org . Please go to the Post Web Page and Register to receive your Newsletter by e-mail. Some copies of the Newsletter will be available at the Post Lounge.



**Next Paint Nite is
Monday, June 11th at 7 pm
To Register Go To: paintnite.com
Use the Code "PaintBloNo"
Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!**

John H. Kraus VFW Post 454 Presents
VETS learn to
★ ★ ★
★ ★ ★ **PLAY**
GUITARS

Time: Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:00 PM from June 7 through July 26, 2018

Location: 1006 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

**Next Guitar Class
June 7th through July 26th
Contact Barry Conder
(to check availability)
ticonderoga84@frontier.com**

COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Hello Everyone,

This is my last comment section as your Post Commander. I have truly enjoyed the last two years and have learned a lot about not only our Post but the VFW as an organization. This is due to the wonderful mentorship at both a Post and District level that I have received over the past several years in each of the officer positions I have held. To all of those who have helped me along the way, thank you.

Our organization is based on veterans helping veterans. Our efforts are futile when we start judging others. "People who judge others tell more about who they are, than who they judge". Let's keep the climate at the Post positive and enjoyable for everyone who comes through the doors. I highly encourage any new incoming officers for next year to attend the state convention in Springfield. You actually can learn some things and meet other veterans from around the state.

We have had some well attended events at the Post. One of many is the paint nights. I am told that it is a fun crowd and everyone has a good time while they are here creating their next masterpiece. Keep an eye on the calendar and the Post facebook page to learn about other upcoming events at the Post.

As a VFW member, remember to volunteer, recruit and get the word out to our community about what we do for our veterans.

Hope to see everyone around the Post.

G. Brent Wick
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All Our Auxiliary Members.

Spring has finally arrived and may you all be enjoying it. At this time, I now have all the officers and chairmen to

begin our 2018/2019 year. The year starts after our June Department Convention in Springfield.

Thanks to all of those returning to roles and to the new ones who are stepping up to assist in the many positions. I know we will have a great year.

At the May meeting we held our memorial service to recognize those who passed away this year. It is always a solemn time to remember our members and how fragile life can be. It is so very important to hold family and friends near.

Memorial Day was a special time to recognize our members of the military. So much can be done on this day. Whether you marched or attended the parade, attended a ceremony, or in your own way just remembered the sacrifices made by our brave men and women. We thank you for honoring them.

As I reflect on all that was done this past year, a big "Thank You" to all. It takes a lot of planning and participation to be successful.

God Bless you all and our troops.

Our next meeting is June 6th at 6:30 pm. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Murleen Swafford
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

Do you own, and ride a motorcycle? If so, the VFW Post 454 Riders Group would love for you to join us! We are a group of both Post and Auxiliary members with a passion for riding, camaraderie, and helping and supporting our US Veterans. If you're a couple, and one of you doesn't have an M class license and is a passenger, you are still both welcome!

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, June 3rd at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

We are sponsoring the "Salute to Freedom Ride" on September 22nd. There will be door prizes and a silent auction. Please bring a new toy (to be

donated to Toys for Tots of Mclean County) in exchange for a door prize ticket.

Starts & Ends at VFW Post 454

9:30 – 10:25 am	Registration
10:25 am	Briefing
10:30 am	Kickstands Up
4:30 pm	Arrive Post 454
5:00 pm	Dinner

** Meal Ticket included w/Registration

**Meal Tickets for purchase are available for those not participating in the ride

Entertainment (Live Music):
"Champaign Freight"

Registration fee:	\$10 per bike or vehicle
	\$ 5 ea passenger

The ride is 150 miles with a few stops to Salute Freedom. So come on out and enjoy the Ride and help us "Salute Freedom"!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Post Membership

As of May 27th, the Post is sitting at 98.07% membership. We have approx 28 annual members that need to renew their dues to make our Post 100%. Now is the time for "Life Membership". The Post will pay \$100 towards a life membership. Contact the Post at 309-827-9733 and ask for Jim (our Quartermaster). He can help you become a Life Member.

Let's make that 100% mark and be noticed for our hard work on membership by doing it right.

Post Officer Installation

Our installation takes place at the next Post Meeting on June 5th at 6:00 pm. Anyone filling an Officer position needs to be at this meeting to be installed.

World War I Presentation & Music

Post 454 hosted the event on Wednesday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm. We had 40 people, several post and auxiliary members, and the local community, attend this function and it was well received.

Bill Kemp, the librarian, from the Mclean

County Museum gave a 45 minute presentation on the concerns and affects of World War I on the local people and businesses located in Bloomington/Normal and the surrounding area. Dale Evans, a local music historian, provided information on the music of the time, played a couple of songs on his 1870's victrola, as well as played a couple on his banjolele. It proved to be an informative and entertaining event.

We give a big "Thank You" to Bill Kemp and Dale Evans for donating their time and talents to this event. We also "Thank" Suzanne Kraus, a niece of PFC John H. Kraus, for planning this event and helping to make it a splendid evening. Also a thank you to Lucca Grill for donating the gift certificates.

Auxiliary Bake Sale

As stated in the May newsletter, May 12th was the last bake sale for awhile. We are looking for someone to take charge and continue the hard work that Helen and Wilbur have did over the last 2 years. The auxiliary members and many veterans thank them for the funds raised through this program.

Packing Boxes

At this time, we have no names to send boxes to in July. If you know of anyone in a combat zone, please send or bring their address to the Post or Auxiliary office. We would like to continue sending boxes to our servicemen and women. Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Pot Belly's Veterans Fund Raising

They are helping us raise funds. So please stop by Pot Belly's at 609 South Main Street in Normal and have dinner on one of the dates shown below. Here are the dates for this year:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| June 13 | July 11 |
| August 15 | September 12 |
| October 10 | November 14 |
| December 12 | |

Drink Specials

We are trying to help our members and friends of the VFW by having specials. However, if our members are not stopping by to enjoy the Post, then it will not work to keep having specials.

Remember that the proceeds help keep the Post in good condition for the next generation of veterans and help provide support to veterans programs and local charities. So please stop by and share a little time with an old friend or even make some new friends.

Entertainment Events

The May 14th Paint Nite had 20 participants. We have a Paint Nite each month through the end of the year. Here are our scheduled Paint Nite's:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| June 11th | July 9th |
| August 13th | September 17th |
| October 15th | November 19th |
| December 10th | |

Come out and make it an evening out with your spouse, girls night out or a birthday party event. Our events are more for adults. However, we can help get a Paint Nite for families and children.

Women's Memorial

Changing the Face of Courage

The Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial held its 20th Anniversary Celebration last October 2017. Women veterans, join your Sisters in Arms by registering. Add your name to the roll call of heroic women who have served this nation!

The largest core group of women, who have served in our military history are nurses. 59,000 nurses served in WWII. Our nation built the memorial honoring all of its military women - past and present. Every military woman - nurse, pilot, sailor, infantry woman - has the right, and I would argue the obligation, to be part of this amazing story.

Recording each woman's story for a collective history of military women contributes to something larger than ourselves. If we do not tell our own stories, I shudder to think what history will record. We recently lost the first woman to be promoted to a General Officer position (BG Anna Mae Hays), the 13th Chief of the Army Nurses Corps. Courage defined BG Anna Mae Hays.

Courage is 57 Army nurses who landed alongside the assault troops on D-Day North Africa on 8 November 1942. Seventy-seven courageous Army/Navy nurses were held captive for three years in a Japanese prison camp. Courage is personified with the names of eight women that are engraved on the Vietnam Wall. Courage is someone who has the willingness to raise their right hand and volunteer to serve.

WIMSA is changing minds of what a Veteran looks like!
Register at www.womensmemorial.org

District 7 Meetings (2018 - 2019)

Please mark them on your calendars for the upcoming year.

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| Aug 19th | Rantoul |
| Nov 18th | Bloomington |
| Feb 17th | Pontiac |
| May 19th | Champaign |

May is District elections for the 2019 - 2020 year so be thinking of personnel for the different District officer positions. We need some of the newer members to step up and fill these positions.

Memorial Day Weekend

Was a "HUGE" success. Thanks to the members and community volunteers that help with the various events. We could not have done everything without your help. Again, Thank You from the officers and members of VFW Post 454.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Wilma Doss (April)
Patricia Mattingly (May)

Anthony Turchirollo (May)



JUNE 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					VFW Darts 7 pm	Graduation Party 1 pm Darts 7 pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm	House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	Darts 7 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	Pool 7 pm	Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	Darts 7 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Happy Father's Day		Pool 7 pm Open Mic Night 7 pm	Pool 7 pm	American Kids 6 pm Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	Darts 7 pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Pool 7 pm	Pool 7 pm	Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	Darts 7 pm
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm	House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	Cookout 5:30 - 6 pm Fireworks (after dark) Pool 7 pm	Happy Birthday America	Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	Remembering Heroes Ride 10:30 am Darts 7 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	Pool 7 pm	American Kids 6 pm Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	BHS Reunion 1983 Setup 2 pm?? Starts 7 pm Darts 7 pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Pool 7 pm	Pool 7 pm	Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	VFW Darts 7 pm	GOC - Destiny's Ride 1 pm Darts 7 pm