



**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](mailto:vfw454@comcast.net)  
Post Web Page – [www.vfwpost454.org](http://www.vfwpost454.org)

All the Newsletter information will be posted on the Post Web Page [www.vfwpost454.org](http://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, May 14th at 7 pm**  
**To Register Go To: [paintnite.com](http://paintnite.com)**  
**Use the Code "PaintBloNo"**  
**Cost is DISCOUNTED to \$27.00!**



**Memorial Day Parade**  
**Monday, May 28th, 9:00 am (Start Time)**  
**Miller Park Ceremony 10:00 am**  
**Guest Speaker Brad Gould**  
**VFW Dept of IL - Jr. Vice Commander**

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

Hello Everyone,

I hope by the time this letter comes out we are done with the snow and cold temperatures. This spring (if you can call it that) has been a rough one. Last month we held our Post elections for 2018-2019. Those of you that ran and those of you that were elected, Thank You! - for being involved in OUR Post.

The Town Hall meeting that was held on April 16th was well attended by over 100 people. The Pantagraph did a nice front page article on the event and the Post got some well deserved recognition in the community.

Several of our other events lately have also been well attended. The first couple of paint nights went over very well and there is another scheduled for May 14th (painting a patriotic scene). It sounds like everyone has a good time painting and enjoying OUR Post.

On May 20th, we are hosting the District 7 meeting. Come on out and meet some of the other members in the District. Also, the Post is closed until 3 pm that day.

Don't forget May 24th - Flags Out to the local cemeteries. We need a lot of support with this project. Then on Memorial Day we will participate in the parade, the ceremony at Miller Park pavilion and then travel out to Danvers for the ceremony there before coming back to the Post for lunch and camaraderie.

If you are looking for something to do on Friday and Saturday evenings, the Post hosts a dart tournament weekly on those evenings.

Thanks to everyone for being a part of our organization. See you around the Post!

**G. Brent Wick**  
**Post Commander**

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Auxiliary members. Elections were held at our April meeting and I want to thank all who attended. Congratulations to all those elected to officer positions.

Your new officers will assume their positions after the Department Convention in June.

Those elected are:

President	Murleen Swafford
Sr. Vice	Barbara Scott
Jr. Vice	C. J. Wahmann
Treasurer	Diane Hawk
Chaplain	Gwen Royalty
Conductress	Louise Shattuck
Trustee 1	Linda Beard
Trustee 2	Wilbur Schenk
Trustee 3	Helen Schenk

Auxiliary Installation will be May 19th from 3 p.m. to 5 pm and all are welcome to attend.

Our next bake sale is May 12th from 11 am until 2 pm. There are a lot of great bakers in this Auxiliary. So bring out those baked goods.

Our POST will host the District 7 meeting on Sunday, May 20th at 11 am. This is the meeting where we perform a Joint Memorial Service for those lost during the last year. This would be a great opportunity for all our Auxiliary members to attend.

We will be placing flags on the graves of our deceased veterans May 24th. We will meet at the POST at 8 am and could use your help. Rain date is the 25th.

"POPPY SALES", downtown Bloomington on Sat. the 12th and Sat. the 26th, set up time is 7 am, both Saturdays. Also on Sat. the 26th POPPY SALES will be at several business locations.

MEMORIAL DAY the 28th, come and join us in the parade. Step-off time is 9 am. Line-up time is 8:30 am. We march to Miller Park and after the events there we will go to Danvers for a memorial service at the grave of PFC John H. Kraus whom our POST is named after.

Our Treasurer needs your help. We have incorrect mailing addresses for several members. If you can help please contact Diane Hawk at home phone 828-3534 or email [diane.hawk@comcast.net](mailto:diane.hawk@comcast.net).

The members are:

Diane Devore, Nancy Eschenbrenner, Bertha Green, Velma Lawrence, Betty Newby, and Tami Reeder.

We appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Looking forward to seeing you at our May 2nd meeting at 6:30 pm. We will be holding our Memorial Service for deceased members.

**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, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post. Don't forget the "Salute to Freedom Ride" on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Post Membership**

As of April 26th, the Post is sitting at 97.72% membership. We have approx 36 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.

### **Officer Elections**

Post Members! Officer Elections were held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Here are the Post Officers for the 2018 - 2019 year:  
Commander Adam Jacobs

Sr. Vice Cdr  
 Jr. Vice Cdr  
 Quartermaster  
 Chaplain  
 Judge Advocate  
 Surgeon  
 3 yr Trustee  
 3yr House Committee

Bob "Doc" Clark  
 Dennie Smith  
 Jim Waters  
 Denny Meeks  
 Ralph Pouliot  
 Patsy Mayer  
 Jay Eagle  
 Brent Wick  
 Randy Wolcott

**Auxiliary Bake Sale – May 12th**  
 AUXILIARY BAKE SALE - May 12th -  
 11am - 2pm. This will be the last bake  
 sale for awhile, that is, until someone  
 steps forward to take charge of them.  
 Helen and Wilbur have done a  
 magnificent job with this project for the  
 last 2 years, but due to health reasons  
 they are stepping down. All the auxiliary  
 members and many veterans thank them  
 for all the funds raised through this  
 program.

**Special Note:** We have received  
 guidance from the Mclean County Health  
 Dept. as to the items we cannot sell.  
 Anything that needs to be kept cold  
 (cheese cakes, meringues, custards,  
 pudding type treats, etc.) "cannot" be sold  
 at bake sales. Please keep that in mind  
 when you are baking donated goods.

The receipts from the bake sales allowed  
 the auxiliary to take veterans at Danville  
 VA to lunch, have pizza parties, purchase  
 canteen books and other items for bingo.  
 If you are willing to chair this project,  
 please contact Murleen Swafford at 309-  
 829-3802. Bring your items for sale and  
 purchase other goodies, but also give  
 Helen and Wilbur your thanks and best  
 wishes.

**Packing Boxes - May 19th**  
 The Auxiliary is packing boxes at 9 am.  
 We need names and addresses of Service  
 Men and Women serving overseas in a  
 combat or hostile fire area. Drop off any  
 names and addresses at the Post or  
 Auxiliary office. Ddonations are greatly

appreciated. Thank you for your help.

**Pot Belly's Veterans Fund Raising**  
 They are helping us raise funds for  
 veterans programs this year! 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.

May 16	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.

**VFW Post 454 Luncheon**  
 The Hammitt 9th grade High School  
 Students prepared a lunch and served it  
 on April 13th to about 15 people. The  
 kids really had a great time asking about  
 items in the display cases and learning a  
 little more about the military and what  
 veterans have done for this country. We  
 thank them for thinking of veterans.  
 Another event is being planned for later  
 in the fall after school starts back up. We  
 will keep informed of the date.

**Vendor Fair**  
 The Auxiliary put on another good show  
 this year with over 20 vendors. They  
 appreciate all the help provided for the set  
 up and tear down of the event.

**Entertainment Events**  
 The April 16th Paint Nite had 30  
 registered participants. We are planning  
 a Paint Nite each month through the end

of the year. Our next Paint Nite is  
 scheduled for Monday, May 14th. The  
 picture is on the front of the newsletter.  
 Let's see if we can make that number  
 reach 50 or 60. Here is a list of dates we  
 have requested for Paint Nites:

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

You can come to these events 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.

**District 7 Meeting – May 20th**  
 May is District elections and a  
 remembrance ceremony takes place for  
 those we lost this last year. It all takes  
 place at VFW Post 454. Please plan to  
 make this meeting. Joint meeting and  
 ceremony is 11 am, Lunch at 12 pm,  
 separate meetings at 1 pm. Post is closed  
 until 3 pm.

**Veterans Town Hall Meeting**  
 The Illiana VA Representatives were well  
 received. They provided a lot of good  
 information during their presentation and  
 were able to answer a lot of the attendees  
 questions. We will schedule another  
 town hall later in the fall before the  
 weather gets bad and possibly we can  
 have the next one on a Saturday morning.

**Memorial Day Is Coming**  
 Flags out to cemeteries on Thursday,  
 May 24<sup>th</sup>, (rain date May 25th). Look for  
 the information in the Pantagraph, our  
 facebook page and our website. The  
 Parade is Monday the 28th. Form up at  
 8:30 am. Ralph will be looking for all of  
 our Color Guard members. After the  
 Miller Park Ceremony, we plan to go  
 straight out to Danvers cemetery for the  
 memorial to John H Kraus. Then back to  
 the Post for Lunch.

**IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS**

Glenn Hurley (Mar)  
 Donald Coffey (Apr)  
 Alice Belcher (Apr)

John Eads (Mar)  
 Charles Wilkinson (Apr)  
 Dolores Rubini (Apr)

Delmar Beitz (Apr)  
 Alicia Perry (Apr)



## MAY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	March 30th House Mtg 5:30 pm	1 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	2 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Bowling Mtg 6:30 pm (Conf Rm) Pool 7 pm	3 Pool 7 pm	4 15th Birthday Party Set Up 7 pm VFW Darts 7 pm	5 15 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party 4 pm VFW Darts 7 pm
6 VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm	7 AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	8 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	9 Pool 7 pm	10 Pool 7 pm	11 VFW Darts 7 pm	12 Bake Sale 11 am Darts 7 pm
13 <b>Happy Mother's Day</b>	14 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	15 Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	16 Pool 7 pm	17 American Kids 6 pm Pool 7 pm	18 VFW Darts 7 pm	19 Pack Boxes 9 am Aux Officer Install 3 pm Darts 7 pm
20 District 7 Mtg 11 am Post Closed Until 3 pm	21	22 Pool 7 pm	23 Pool 7 pm	24 Flags Out Cemeteries 8 am Pool 7 pm	25 Flags Out (Rain Date) 8 am VFW Darts 7 pm	26 Poppy Sales 7:30 am Darts 7 pm
27	28 <b>Memorial Day Parade</b> 9 am Lunch 12 pm	29 Pool 7 pm	30 Pool 7 pm	31 Pool 7 pm	1 VFW Darts 7 pm	2 Darts 7 pm
3 VFW Rider's Meeting 12:30 pm	4 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	5 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	6 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	7 Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	8 VFW Darts 7 pm	9 Darts 7 pm
10	11 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	12 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	13 Pool 7 pm	14 Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	15 VFW Darts 7 pm	16 Darts 7 pm
17 <b>Happy Father's Day</b>	18	19 Pool 7 pm Open Mic Night 7 pm	20 Pool 7 pm	21 American Kids 6 pm Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	22 VFW Darts 7 pm	23 Darts 7 pm
24	25	26 Pool 7 pm	27 Pool 7 pm	28 Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	29 VFW Darts 7 pm	30 Darts 7 pm