



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

Adam Jacobs, 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.

Paint Nite

JULY 9th

7 pm

Register Now
at
www.paintnite.com

Only \$27.00!!!!
Use Code
"PaintBloNo"

www.vfwpost454.org

VFW POST #454

1006 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington
(309) 827-9733

*Public Parties Welcome
* Seating for 200



SHOW YOUR PATRIOTIC
SPIRIT
ENJOY A FUN EVENING
COME PAINT WITH US

Next Paint Nite is
Monday, July 9th 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

Greetings,

From the "Republic of Korea" or at least that is what the training area up at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin is called.

It is a great honor to take the reigns as Commander of our post and I will do my best to fill the very large shoes of the commander before me and ones from the past. I hope you can join us at the post on Tuesday, July 3rd for the cook out, fireworks and musical entertainment.

As all change of commands go all policies in effect remain in effect unit further notice. I look forward to the year ahead and finding ways to keep the post moving forward and incorporating the large growing population of Iraq and Afghan Veterans into our ranks.

If you need me or have suggestions, I have an "open door" and look forward to insight and constructive criticism. Don't be a stranger and we look forward to seeing you around the Post.

Adam Jacobs
Post Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Auxiliary members!

We are getting close to beginning our new 2018 - 2019 year. Our Department Convention was great and Auxiliary 454 was recognized for the great work done in our programs this year. Congratulations to our own Diane Hawk, District 7 President was awarded "Outstanding District President of the Year. And, to Billie Guthals for moving up to fill the Senior Vice-President position for the Department of Illinois Auxiliary.

As President, with all that was accomplished this past year, I want to thank the officers, committee chairman and our dedicated members who helped with all the functions to make this great VFW AUXILIARY.

Thanks to everyone who helped place flags in the cemeteries for Memorial Day and to all who marched in the parade and attended the ceremonies.

In August, we will have another group sale. It is never too early to start planning for this event. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Aug 9 th	Set-up
Friday, Aug 10 th	Sales 9 ó 2
Saturday, Aug 11 th	Sales 9 ó 2
Sunday, Aug 12 th	Sales 11 ó 2
	Clean Up Begins 2 pm
Monday, Aug 13 th	Pick-up 9 am

We can use all the help we can get for the set up and tear down of this event. If you can lend a hand please contact the Auxiliary.

Our next meeting will be July 11th at 6:30 pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

Murleen Swafford
Auxiliary President

VFW 454 RIDERS GROUP

Our meetings are held once a month, with our next one on Sunday, July 1st at 12:30 pm in the conference room of our Post.

Plan ahead to attend our "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 ó 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):

óChampaign Freightó
Registration fee:
\$10 per bike or vehicle (\$5 ea additional 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

COOK-OUT AT THE POST

You Heard Right! Cook-Out on our own grill! Several of our members have agreed to cook for this event.

Come out for an early celebration of our nations 242nd Birthday. We are kicking off the event on Tuesday, July 3rd with a cook-out.

We start serving food from 6 - 8 pm or until we run out. The menu and pricing is as follows:

Hotdogs	\$2.00
Brats	\$2.50
Hamburgers	\$3.00
Cheeseburgers	\$3.50

All served with beans and a bag of chips.

We also have dinner or background music supplied by the Pork Bellies Band from 6 - 9 pm. They have offered their services for "Free", so please come out and enjoy the food and say Thank You to the Pork Bellies for supporting our VFW.

And don't forget about the spectacular light show once it gets dark outside. It has been a good event each year. So we hope to see lots of our members here.

Corn Crib Baseball - Cornbelters

óSalute to the Military Nightó

VFW Post 454 is going.

When: July 13th

Time: 7 pm

Where: Corn Crib (Section 106)

Tickets: \$10 each

Post is paying for the member and spouse. This also includes the Auxiliary (member and spouse).

What do you get? Seat in Section 106 (\$10.00 value). One parking pass (\$2.00 value). One food voucher (\$4.00 value) meaning you can get a hotdog and small drink or one beer.

You say you have other family members

that want to come? No Problem! Their cost is \$10 as well. Don't wait. Seats are filling up fast. Contact Jim Waters at the Post to get your name on the list. Any additional seats needed, must be paid to the Post on July 3rd.

The Post will obtain everything so you will not have stand in line at the ticket booth. You will have everything you need before you arrive at the Corn Crib. We need to ensure that you are definitely going, because if you don't go and the Post purchases tickets, we lose the money for all unused tickets.

Post Membership

As of June 24th, the Post is sitting at 98.25% membership. It doesn't look like we will reach the 100% goal before June 30th. However, we are still hopeful. We have some annual members that need to pay their dues and help keep the membership numbers up.

Remember that our Post tries to help annual members reach Life Membership and avoid those annual premiums. 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 Meeting & Officer Installation

Due to the July 4th holiday, we have moved the Post meeting to Tuesday, July 10th at 6:00 pm.

Several of the incoming officers were not available for the June 5th meeting for an installation ceremony, so we will have the installation ceremony at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, July 10th just before the 6:00 pm monthly meeting. All incoming officers need to be at the Post at 5:30 pm for the installation.

Auxiliary Annual Dues

The annual dues are \$25 and are due now. Send them to Diane Hawk, Treasurer, 1006 E Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61701. If you're thinking about a life membership, let her know and she will tell you the cost. Remember, part of your membership dues stay with the local post and is used to help fund various programs for veterans and families, youth activities, Americanism projects and general all around expenses.

Also, if you have been an auxiliary member for at least a year and are diagnosed with cancer, you can receive a cancer grant. Just notify Diane Hawk and she will send you a form to complete. A little extra money comes in handy during stressful time. You can receive this grant twice in your lifetime, but it must be a year apart.

Packing Boxes

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:

July 11	August 15
September 12	October 10
November 14	December 12

Entertainment Events

July 9th is our next Paint Nite. It is a patriotic picture in honor of America's Birthday. We have a Paint Nite each month through the end of the year. Here are our scheduled dates:

August 13 th	September 17 th
October 15 th	November 19 th
December 10 th	

Auxiliary's Danville VA Trips

Come join us when we go to the Danville

VA. We try to go play bingo and take the veterans out to lunch at least once a month. It is a wonderful way to get to know them. For example, last month we met George, a veteran from Terre Haute. His brother took him to Danville almost 4 years ago. He has 4 brothers and 4 sisters. He told us for the first two years he was there his brother brought him hygiene products once a month, but has had no visitors since that time.

George was in the Army and served two tours in Vietnam from 1969 until 1971. He loved going out to lunch with us to get away from the hospital atmosphere and the hospital food. George is only one of the many reasons we visit the VA. If you would like to ride along, please contact Mary Sheehan, 309-585-0489 or by email at marysheehan@comcast.net.

District Meetings & State Convention

District 7 elected Bob Sable to be our District Commander for the upcoming year. If you see Bob, let him know we appreciate him filing that position and that we are right behind him ready to help.

The State Convention was interesting. 7th District members (Brad Gould and Billie Guthals) are both serving as the Seniors in the officer positions. Meaning that next year they will be State Commander and State Auxiliary President. A big pat on the back for them and the 7th District. Let them know that we support them and will help in any way we can.

Centennial Celebration – Post 454

We know that our Birthday is in 2020 and you may feel that is 2 years away. But it will be here faster than you know. Now is the time to begin the initial planning of this historic event. With some VFW Posts closing each year, it is a remarkable feat to reach 100 years old, so if you would like to help with the planning contact our Quartermaster (Jim), who is putting some things together.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES AND SISTERS

Everett Kuntz (June)



JULY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 VFW Riders Meeting 12:30 pm	2 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	3 Cookout 6 - 8 pm Music 6 - 9 pm Fireworks (after dark)	4 Happy Birthday America	5 Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	6 VFW Darts 7 pm	7 VFW Darts 7 pm
8	9 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	10 Installation 5:30 pm Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	11 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	12 Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	13 VFW Darts 7 pm	14 Remembering Heroes Ride 10 ó 2 pm Darts 7 pm
15	16	17 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Open Mic Night 7 pm Pool 7 pm	18 Pool 7 pm	19 American Kids 6 pm Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	20 VFW Darts 7 pm	21 BHS Reunion 1983 Setup 2 pm?? Starts 7 pm Darts 7 pm
22	23	24 Pool 7 pm	25 Pool 7 pm	26 Guitars for Vets 7 pm Pool 7 pm	27 VFW Darts 7 pm	28 Darts 7 pm
29	30	31 Pool 7 pm	1 Auxiliary Mtg 6:30 pm Pool 7 pm	2 Pool 7 pm	3 VFW Darts 7 pm	4 Darts 7 pm
5 Bridal Shower 11 am VFW Riders Meeting 12:30 pm	6 House Mtg 5:30 pm AMVETS Mtg 6:30 pm	7 Post Mtg 6 pm Pool 7 pm	8 Pool 7 pm	9 Auxiliary Sale Setup 9 am Pool 7 pm	10 Auxiliary Sale 9 - 2 VFW Darts 7 pm	11 Auxiliary Sale 9 ó 2 Darts 7 pm
12 Auxiliary Sale 11 ó 2 Tear Down 2 pm	13 Paint Nite Setup 5 pm Starts 7 pm	14 Marine Corps League Mtg 7 pm Pool 7 pm	15 Pool 7 pm	16 Pool 7 pm	17 VFW Darts 7 pm	18 Wedding Recp 11 am Darts 7 pm
19 Cancer Benefit 1 pm	20	21 Pool 7 pm Open Mic Night 7 pm	22 Pool 7 pm	23 American Kids 6 pm Pool 7 pm	24 VFW Darts 7 pm	25 Golf Tourn Luncheon 12 ó 3 Darts 7 pm