



# The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

October - December 2022

## Commander's Comments



Welcome back to VFW Post 3345's Quarterly Newsletter! Although we have been trying to keep everyone informed about what's going on at our post via email blasts, it's been quite some time since we actually published a newsletter. So many things changed when COVID-19 inundated our lives 2 ½ years ago, and pausing our newsletter was one of them. We went from a quarterly document filled with narratives, information, and advertising, to directives on how to deal with social distancing and COVID closures.



Well, thankfully all that is behind us, and we are now getting back on track with everything. In addition to the newsletter, we are also working on updating our methods to go live with an events calendar, a new way of sending email blasts, and a system for sending group text messages for quick updates or memos. More info to follow.

Those of you who are in your mid 50's or older, remember the name Paul Harvey. Paul was a well know radio broadcaster and author whose stories and unique delivery intrigued many of us for several decades. One of Mr. Harvey's most well know phrases was "and now the rest of the story." He would then complete the story and sign off by saying "good day!"

In addition to "the rest of the story", most of us have also heard many times that there are two sides to every story. No story is totally complete without the ending, nor are they always truthful. Some of you heard of the online verification site known as Snopes. This service searches the facts and calls out falsehoods relating to certain comments, stories, etc. Sometimes it would be nice if life itself would have Snopes, and that those who only tell part of the story or make false accusations in order to damage someone, would be blocked or at least called on the carpet for their hurtful words, or inaccuracies of their stories.

With technology today, it's very easy for someone to hide behind the keystrokes of their computer, tablet, or smartphone and make erroneous accusations against someone, or spread false information. We see it all the time on cable news networks, publications, AND ESPECIALLY on social media.

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*Sponsored by Ohio VFW Charities*

Look at what takes place in politics! Look at what they did to our now Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearings, and especially look at what they have done to the former POTUS! Most of the media, and too many politicians thrive on this.

Sadly, so do some of the people we know. They love twisting stories to suit their needs, make attempts to damage the reputation of respected individuals, or convince others into believing something other than the truth. Unfortunately, this happens everywhere, from the highest political office in the land to the person who may be sitting next to you at the bar. The truth can be twisted and turned until irreversible damage is caused.

When you watch the news, listen to speeches, or perhaps just the words of the person sitting next to you, always remember, there is “the rest of the story” and unless you hear it, don’t be too quick to believe or judge. I’ll give you a brief example.

Three months ago, one of my final responsibilities as District 7 Commander included closing a VFW that was non-compliant for years and was nearing foreclosure. For two years we tried helping them. We helped with donations and assisted them on how to become compliant with local and state laws, along with the VFW Department of Ohio and National bylaws. I, along with several other VFW officials, spent countless hours trying to help. Finally, it was determined there was no hope left and it was best to close the doors before the mortgage company or Attorney General seized the property. Warnings were given time and time again, yet they still failed to comply.

The closure bylaws and procedures were followed perfectly, yet some Veteran and Auxiliary members of that post took to social media and started making blatant lies against those of us tasked with this difficult responsibility. Of course, they only told part of the story! Some members of our Post saw these allegations and immediately thought they were true.

I could go on and give you other examples, but I don’t believe that is necessary. Many of you know what I’m referring to, as you may hear about or have experienced these types of situations yourself. Perhaps from a family member, someone who may be in your innermost circle of friends, or even a member of our own Post, an organization that’s supposed to be based upon honor and respect.

Regardless of the relationship, the end result is the same. For those who claim to be the victim, maybe they are just the opposite. They may have been the ones to cause the situation but manipulated the story to make others think differently. For those who listen to the alleged victims, remember this....do not believe what you see on television, read online nor the mumblings of these people until you’ve heard “the rest of the story!” This is especially true as we approach the upcoming mid-term elections, as the airwaves will be flooded with political comments, lies, twists, turns and stories to make you believe their narratives and discredit others. Before going to the polls, do your homework, educate yourselves on these individuals, and once again, make sure you know “the rest of the story!”

Now onto other news.

As fall is now upon us, we look back on a great summer of events at VFW Post 3345. Kicking things off at the end of May with our Memorial Day events and parade, followed by three outdoor concerts, a very successful golf outing, and most recently a sold-out clam bake. We now look ahead at our fall, early winter, and holiday events. The first event is my Wine & Dine on October 15 from 6-11 PM featuring 8 different small-plate style foods, paired with wine. Also, Ron Howard and Cruisin will entertain us from 7-11 PM. Tickets are on sale in the canteen for \$50. This includes food, wine, domestic beer, and well drinks.

Of course, there will be many other gatherings and events over the next couple months, and I'm sure others will touch on these.

As I mentioned above, we now have a group messaging system that will allow us to communicate with you in the event of changes in schedules, canteen hours, and other last-minute events or functions.

In order to sign up to receive this, **text VFW3345 to 78859. Once you hit send, you will receive an automated response that will say "(VFW3345) Thank you for joining VFW3345 test list courtesy of Grover Gaming. For Help Reply Help. Msg&data rates may apply. Reply STOP VFW3345 2 Optout."** Immediately following, **send another message with your first and last name.** This will allow me to ensure that you are a member of our post, and I can then authorize you to be added to the list.

Please keep in mind that these messages are only distributed to a closed group, and if/when you reply, they will only be seen by the authorized administrator, not the entire group.

Time to end this article and get it off to publishing. As always, I wish you fair winds and following seas.

May God watch over you and keep you safe. Finally, in the words of Paul Harvey - "good day!"

Respectfully,  
Tim Zvoncheck Commander.

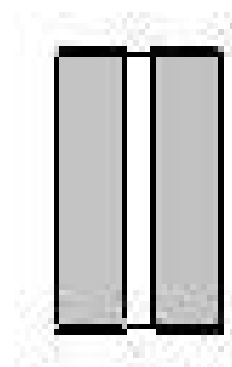
# Senior Vice Commander



*I'm back in the USSR  
You don't know how lucky you are, boy  
Back in the US  
Back in the US  
Back in the USSR*

*Well, the Ukraine girls really knock me out  
They leave the west behind  
And Moscow girls make me sing and shout  
That Georgia's always on my mi-mi-mi-mi-mi-mi-mind*

***Back in the USSR (Lennon-McCartney, The Beatles)***



Beginning with the February invasion of Ukraine by the Russian military, it felt like we were back in the USSR – or at least, in the Soviet era again.

Vladimir Putin – the President of Russia – has been at the helm of Russia for several events that reek of the old Communist state. From the second Chechen War, a war with Georgia, the annexing of Crimea, and now the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, he seems to be displaying a fondness for the good old days of Russian domination of eastern Europe and southwest Asia.

The recent situation in Ukraine gives us all some encouragement that the Russian military is not the intimidating behemoth that it portrays itself to be – some of the Ukrainian counteroffensives have taken back some parts of eastern Ukraine that had been overrun by the Russians early in the invasion. But that does not mean we can stop being concerned about what lies ahead. Ukraine's military is significantly smaller and less well-funded than the Russians – they only have about 200,000 active service members.

Russia, on the other hand, has a military of over one million active-duty personnel (fifth, behind China, India, the US, and North Korea) with an active mandatory draft for all 18–27-year-old male citizens for one year of service. It has the world's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons; it has the second-largest fleet of ballistic missile submarines and is one of only three countries with strategic bombers.

The performance of the military on the field in Ukraine does call into question the motivation level and commitment of the service members – and perhaps the public sentiment toward the war is souring as well. But under Putin, I don't think we can really afford to not pay attention to what may happen if he becomes desperate for a "win". What might he attempt to do with those military resources, especially tactical nuclear weapons?

In addition, Russia and China are expanding their trade relations. They are also conducting (limited) military operations together. Not that they are fast friends but having our two primary adversaries cooperating with each other at a time when the rest of the world is keeping them at arms' length is something else to keep an eye on. Plus, with a large amount of heating oil/gas being fed to Europe from Russia, if Putin decides to cut off the supply to those nations assisting Ukraine, that support for Ukraine may be scaled back to keep their citizens warm during the coming winter.

The main reason, though, that I bring all of this up is that seeing this kind of activity from the Russians signals that we may be entering a new Cold War era. It's too soon to say we need another "600-ship Navy" and such, but as Russia and China begin some rather aggressive activities in the world, we clearly need to ensure that the United States continues to fund and train a highly capable military force able to deter any hostile actions directed at us and our allies.

Our military budget is not small by any stretch of the imagination. However, in addition to funding technologically superior weapons, we need to ensure that military training is directed at effective war-fighting skills.

You can see many articles reporting that a lot of training today is focused on what some would call "woke culture". I believe if Russian or Chinese adversaries are coming at you, they don't care what your pronouns are; and frankly, we shouldn't care about theirs.

What we should be training our service members to do is first, how to deter; and second, if not able to that, destroy the enemy's capabilities to do harm to us. That applies to the more guerrilla-oriented strategies employed by our non-traditional enemies as well – Al Qaeda, the Taliban and such.

The primary mission of the United States military is to defend the US and its interests. We need to make sure that in these unsettled times that we have leaders who understand that so that we do not appear vulnerable to those who would do us harm in any capacity.

It may be a great song, but I don't want us to be "back in the USSR."

Tad Brown  
Senior Vice Commander



## Membership Committee:

We have been doing well with members renewing so far this year, but always want to try to keep all of our members! If you know someone who is up to renew but seems hesitant, please have them give me a call (440-376-7491).

The Membership Committee tries to contact everyone up for an annual renewal, but we don't always succeed (bad numbers, no email address, etc.). Also, we continue to offer paying half of a Lifetime membership for members who have been with us for at least one year. The amount varies by age band, so again – if you're interested in that option, please contact me!

You're probably tired of me saying it, but you are our best recruiters! Always try to recruit new members too when you're out and about! Look for veteran articles of clothing, license plates, etc. and ask them if they think they may be eligible! Once again – have them contact me if they have questions!

Have them contact me via email ([srv@vfw3345.com](mailto:srv@vfw3345.com)) or my cell (440.376.7491).

Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

## Advertisers

Those of you who have previously advertised in the Scuttlebutt should have received a letter from me indicating the renewal costs.

If you would again like to be included in the newsletter, please let us know.

Also, if you are considering becoming an advertiser, see the information on the next page regarding the costs for the various sizes of ads. Print out the form and send it in to my attention, or our newsletter editor, Linda Burger.





Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Strongsville Post 3345  
17900 Strongsville Blvd.  
Strongsville, OH 44149

October, 2022

**Post Newsletter Advertising Application**

1. **Ad sizes available:** Business Card single, 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 \$100.00 Yr.  
Business Card double, 3 1/2 x 3 \$200.00 Yr.  
Top or Bottom Banner, 1 1/2 x 7 \$200.00 Yr.
2. **Includes:** 6 bi-monthly issues, plus 24/7 coverage on Post website
3. **Circulation:** Emailed to 1,400 Post members
4. **Graphics and Text:** All graphics and pictures must be in any of the following formats: Jpeg, Tiff, Gif or Bitmap. Text should be in MS Word. Submit ad design for approval. Newsletters and Calendars are produced in MS Publisher.
5. **Payments:** All payments are due before printing; future payments are due prior to the end of the 12-month cycle. Your cycle begins with the month your first ad is printed. Your ad cost is protected for at least three years. All checks should be made out to Strongsville VFW Post 3345 with "Newsletter" noted on the memo line.

**Application**

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Graphics or Text Submitted:

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of 1st Ad: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit all ad material on separate sheet, or preferably by digital format to email listed below. Design assistance is available.**

Contact information: Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Cell: 440-376-7491

Email: [srv@vfw3345.com](mailto:srv@vfw3345.com)



# *Junior Vice Commander*

## Upcoming Events



Friday, October 28th – Halloween Costume Contest with the Air Chiefs, 7:30 pm

Saturday, Dec 17th – Karaoke with Johnny R, 7 pm

Saturday, February 25th – Karaoke with Johnny R, 7 pm

Saturday, April 22 – Karaoke with Johnny R, 7 pm





# *Thank You To The Sponsors of the 2022 Post 3345 Golf Outing!*

## **Platinum Hole Sponsor – Nations Lending**

### **Hole Sponsors -**

Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz

Bill & Barb Overton

Kaminski for Strongsville

American Legion Post 91 Charities

Sup-R-Die, Inc.

Nivalis Health, LLC

Crash Champions

Ride With Valor

Kalinich Fence Co., Inc

VFW Post 3345

Mayor Tom Perciak

Kilplinger & Co., CPA's

Mike's Bar & Grille

Westwood Honey Farm

State Representative Tom Patton

Triv's Restaurant and Lounge

Raymond J. Wohl, Berea Municipal Court

North Star Electric, Inc.

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Martin W. Layman DDS, Advanced Dental Care of  
Streetsboro

Strongsville Chamber of Commerce

Elegant Embroidery LLC

Strongsville Rotary Club

Diane Diamian (PINK LADIES)

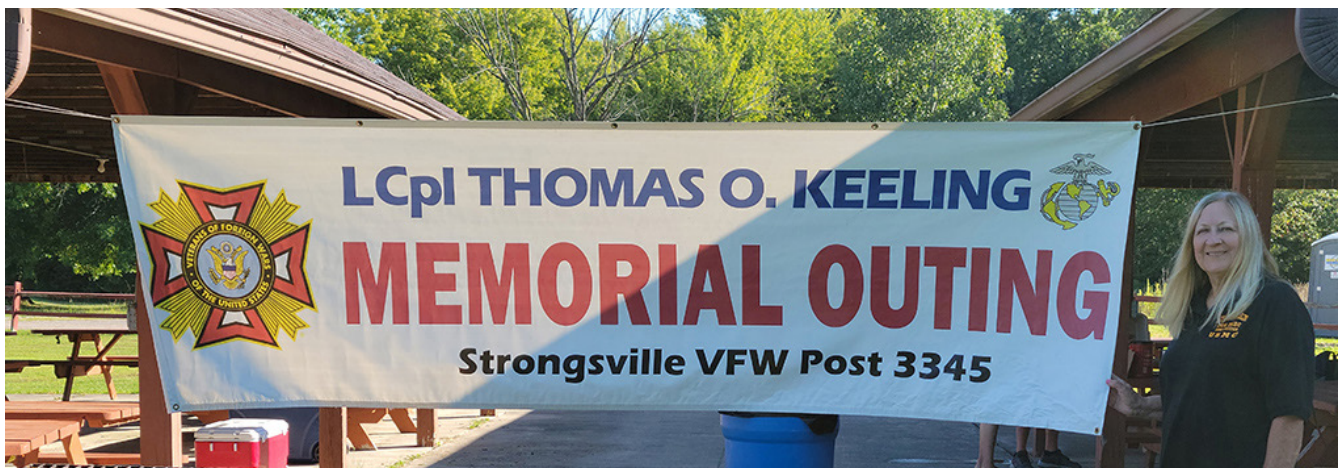
Bryan Chaye Assisting Hands Berea

Mark Nutter

Brooke Nutter

Jardine Funeral Home Inc.

Jim Adams Trapper, Brian Adams,  
Rick Adams, Steve Adams





# *Honor Guard Don Kennett*



I am glad to announce that the Honor Guard has a new member, his name is Sam Morgano, he is a Navy OEF/OIF Veteran, lives in Richfield and is married to his lovely wife Mariellen.

As a member of the Honor Guard for over eleven years and captain of the team for approximately nine, I continue to feel the need to give back to our veterans in a way that makes me feel honored. I couldn't be more proud than to do that with an outstanding team that is always at the ready when the need calls.

As the year 2021 came to a close, our team had collectively given 678 hours of our time to do our part whether it be a parade, a flag ceremony, many community services or honors for a fallen veteran including Rittman services.

I appreciate all they do and want to share a few accolades that we have gotten throughout the year. We continue to get a warm, appreciated thank you after funerals and those family members who tell us how much what we do means to them. And when a funeral director comes up and says that in all the years he has been coming to Rittman, he has never seen such a great Honor Guard performance. We do it with pride, we do it with respect and we do it for our fallen veterans because this is what they deserve.

Let me mention your Honor Guard team by name and please give them a big thank you the next time you're at the Post:

Dennis Beckman - John Hohne - Dave Hrusch - Don Miller – Sam Morgano - Mike Murray - Dave Nesky - Tom Nevans Sr. - Charlene Sanford - Kevin Sepik - Russ Tobel - Phil Toomey - Daniel Zamiska

The Honor Guard is still looking for new members to join our ranks. If you are interested in joining our team or if you would like to have a better understanding of what we do, please do not hesitate to contact me at 440-665-7751, and I will be happy to discuss our mission with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Kennett,  
Honor Guard Commander

## **Calendar for: October, November, December**

<b>October 1st –</b>	<b>Honor Guard Meeting</b>
<b>October 19th –</b>	<b>Rittman Tour Of Duty</b>
<b>November 5th –</b>	<b>Honor Guard Meeting</b>
<b>November 11th –</b>	<b>Veterans Day Remembrance</b>
<b>December 3rd –</b>	<b>Honor Guard Meeting</b>
<b>December 7th –</b>	<b>Tour of Duty at Rittman</b>



# TAPS



**July, 2022:**            **Randall Smith**

**August, 2022:**       **None**

**September, 2022:** **Noah Coblentz**

## *New Members*

### **July, 2022**

Dianah Kwiatkowski  
Salvatore Morgano  
Timothy Smith

### **August, 2022**

Charles Erbs  
James Segan

### **September, 2022**

James Bukvic  
Joseph Hooven

## *Donations*

### **July, 2022**

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
VFW Ohio Charities (Golf Outing)	\$300
American Legion Post 91 (Golf Outing)	\$100
Strongsville Kiwanis - Patriotic Flag Display	\$200

### **August, 2022**

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Strongsville Rotary Foundation StrongFest	\$250
Hanson House Fundraiser	\$500
USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation	\$3,000
Corpsman Maxton W. Soviak Mem. Foundation	\$1,000

### **September, 2022**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Sub Zero Mission	\$500
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	\$1,000
Arts in Strongsville	\$ 50
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund	\$150
Cleveland American Veterans Association	\$2,500
Semper Fi & America's Fund	\$250
Serving Area Military (SAM)	\$2,500
Strongsville Food Bank	\$1,000



## *Canteen Manager*

### *Scott James*

I accepted the position of Canteen Manager back in April 2022. I will do my best to run as an efficient Canteen as did my predecessor Billy Sopko.

I hope everyone enjoyed our three lively concerts held this summer at the post. We had larger than expected turnouts which shows we have a good relationship with the surrounding communities. We plan to continue these concerts every summer!

The Dart League will be starting up on Tuesday, October 4th. If you still need to sign up, there is a signup sheet by the dart boards in the hall or see Terry. In the past, this has always been a fun evening for darters. We are hoping to build up the number of participants for this Tuesday event.

Come join us this fall/winter for all your favorite Football Games. Whether it be Saturday College games or NFL games on Sunday, Monday and Thursday nights, we'll be open and ready for all you "armchair quarterbacks"!

And keep your eyes and ears open for possible events during the football season.

Scott James  
Canteen Manager



# *Auxiliary President*

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Thank you to all the past officers, trustees, and committee members for all they have done for “our” Auxiliary. I find it a great honor to be allowed to act as Auxiliary President for the coming year. I hope to continue traditions, work closely with the regular officers and members and to forge forward with new endeavors.

Congratulations, to all of the newly elected and appointed officers, committee members, and trustees, and I am confident that we will succeed in keeping Post 3345 the best in the State of Ohio. I look forward to seeing you at Post events, Burger Mondays and Auxiliary meetings so we can all get to know each other better.

Keep an eye out for Mike Z’s event updates! As our new Junior Vice, he has many great events planned.

Our Patio concerts are done for the year but, they were very well attended and great shows.

Coming up, we have the Chili Cook-off and Tailgate Party for Army/Navy game...stay tuned for more detail.

Most of these events are open to the public and would be a good opportunity to bring your friends and family to the Post, to hopefully, grow our membership.

The Golf Outing this year was a success. All of the golfers, sponsors, volunteers and the weather came together for a smooth event.

Back this year is the Adopt-A-Vet program, which is a way to remember our veterans in need of special care. Members “adopt” a veteran who is in a long term care facility and send them a card or two each month. It only takes a few minutes to jot a note in a card, some provided by the auxiliary, letting them know they are in your thoughts and not forgotten. If you are interested in adopting a veteran, please let me know or see Linda Burger or Margie Briller.

It is because of our Veterans, we are able to live in freedom

Mike Lungo, Auxiliary President





## *Auxiliary Junior Vice President*



I had the great honor of being elected and installed as Junior Vice President at the auxiliary's May 23rd meeting. As a lifetime member of the Post 3345 auxiliary since 2021, I originally joined in honor of my grandfather Michael Zullo Sr. who served during the Korean Conflict.

I look forward to making the best of all of our upcoming events. It has been my pleasure over the years to help cool both at Post 3345 and at American Legion Post 91 events for many years. In addition, I've been a regular volunteer for the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio and hope to bring my years of experience in the catering and restaurant industry to benefit both the Auxiliary and the Post.

Upcoming events include Celebrity Chef Nights featuring some of the outstanding cooks here at the VFW, along with special guests, offering their favorite dinners at very modest prices. Often these dinners include long-time family recipes and/or dishes created by the chefs!

Browns Tailgate Parties- we provide the Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and encourage anyone who would like to bring a side dish. Join us October 23rd for the Browns vs. Ravens and on January 8th Browns vs Steelers.

The Annual Ohio State vs. Michigan Chili Cook Off will be on Saturday November 26th - Sign up to find out if you have the best chili in town or bring your favorite side dish.

And don't forget about Burger Night and Queen of Hearts drawing every first and third Friday.

All of these events are possible due to our amazing group of volunteers who continue to dedicate many hours of time and labor for the benefit of all of us. This summer at our three outdoor concerts we enjoyed a ton of fun, heard some great music and had the opportunity to raise funds for both the Auxiliary and the Veterans.

The annual Golf Outing also was again a great success raising over \$9000 with the help, again, of our many outstanding volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who helps make our Post the best around and we look forward to many more fun and successful events in the future.

Mike Zdravecky  
Junior Vice President  
Post 3345 Auxiliary

# Scholarship Programs Aid Students, Promote Patriotism



**2022-2023 Theme**

**“Why Is The Veteran Important?”**

**Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022**

**Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award**

## **Voice of Democracy**

Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 25,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000.

Before submitting your essay, read the rules and eligibility requirements, and find your sponsoring local VFW Post as applications must be turned in to our Post by midnight, Oct. 31.

The 2022-23 theme is:

**“Why is the Veteran Important?”**

About the 2021-2022 winner ...

Daniela Mare, a junior at Sachem High School North in Lake Ronkonkoma, New York, was named the 2021-2022 Voice of Democracy first place winner. Daniela’s speech on the theme, “America: Where Do We Go from Here?” won her a \$30,000 college scholarship. Daniela was sponsored by VFW Post 9486 and its Auxiliary in Centereach, New York.

Scholarship applications and information is available at our VFW Post, and at [vfwauxiliary.org/youth](http://vfwauxiliary.org/youth) and [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarship](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarship).

# Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

## Jim McCann

Interviewed by Linda Burger

Paper forms, electronic forms, online forms – sometimes it seems as though our world revolves around filling out forms, which must be filed, recorded, updated and maintained!

Just ask Jim McCann, VFW Post 3345 Adjutant who has a long history with reports, with the Army, in his civilian career and now with the Post.

Jim was born on the West Side of Cleveland and his childhood neighborhood held many treasures – including a very dear friend, Bill Sopko and his future wife Marcia!



After graduating from St. Ignatius High School, he went on to John Carroll University. However, his love of – and participation – in playing music with a local band lead to “difficulties” with his academics and he had to sit out a semester.

With that, Jim lost his student deferment and, of course, was immediately drafted by the Army.

“I was first sent to Ft. Benning, GA for my basic training,” Jim recalled. “As part of the process, we had to undergo an interview of sorts and for some reason, my interviewer recommended me for clerical training!”

As he watched his fellow recruits be shipped out, Jim’s Drill Sgt. remarked how lucky he must be, that he most likely would not be sent for infantry training. And he was right as Jim then was assigned to Fr. Leonard Wood, MS for Clerical Training.



“This turned out to be an excellent opportunity, in many ways,” Jim revealed. “I received very good training in all aspects of personnel management and clerical operations. Plus, I was extremely fortunate not to be sent to Vietnam.”

That changed in January, 1968 when he was sent to Bearcat Base, Camp Martin Company, which was 10 miles south of Bien Hoa, Vietnam. There Jim served in the Headquarters for the 214th Combat Aviation Battalion, primarily maintaining Officer Records for the Helicopter Unit.

“Our group was very good at record maintenance, known as ‘REMFS’ – Rear Echelon Master Filers. Although I’m pretty sure those in the field had another meaning for the name!” he jokingly recalled.

After Jim’s discharge in November 1968, he admits he felt “aimless, looking for something”, a feeling not uncommon among returning service people. Again, through a neighborhood treasure, he began what he calls a breakthrough career, with the U.S. District Court.

Recalling, his main treasure, Jim began dating Marcia and the two were married on June 9, 1973, and will celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary next year!

“Her father owned the Family Trio bar in the neighborhood and from that, and seeing her in the area, I was very attracted to her,” Jim revealed. “But I was never sure how her Dad felt about me until one night when he referred to me by an ‘affectionate’ term – then I knew I was in!” he added, laughingly.

Jim and Marcia have two children, both of whom are Auxiliary members and two grandchildren.

His involvement with the Post began almost as a fluke. “Bill (Sopko) and I were driving by and he asked – how come we don’t belong?” Jim said. “So we stopped in, got applications and the rest, as they say, is history.”



It was under Post 3345 Commander Dennis Pilny that Jim was first appointed Adjutant, and he feels very honored to be trusted with that position. He has now served under four Commanders so, as he jokingly said, “I must be doing something right!”

Jim’s many responsibilities include maintaining the local Post roster for Veterans, Auxiliary members and Guest Members and ensuring that the Key Card system is functioning correctly. He also monitors all donation requests received and, as part of the Advisory Group, recommends which requests are presented to the membership for review and voting.

He also serves as the Veteran’s Historian, maintaining meeting minutes and recording everything that takes place.

“We are so fortunate at this Post to have terrific leadership and everyone is made to feel as though they are an important part of the team.” Jim said. “I am very proud of what we do here and I, very grateful to be part of it.”

He also mentioned how Post 3345 is very active in the Strongsville community, crediting Commander Tim Zvoncheck for fostering and encouraging that relationship. Jim also cited the many charities the Post supports, such as the Honor Flights and how the very successful Poppy program has allowed the Post to provide direct assistance to veterans in need.

Outside of the Post, he and Marcia enjoy trips, especially to Las Vegas! “You know, I really feel as though I’ve hit a Royal Flush – with my time in the Military, my Civilian career, my involvement with the Post and, of course, with Marcia!” Jim declared.

Jim McCann, we at Strongsville Post 3345 are the lucky ones – to have someone with your skills, dedication and personality as an integral part of the organization!

# What's Cooking!

*Our Post is very fortunate to have many great chefs, cooks and bakers!  
Every event brings delicious donations that are enjoyed by members and guests.  
And everyone always asks for the recipe!*

*If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, please email it to [vfwpost3345\\_1@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost3345_1@gmail.com)  
or drop it off at the Post, in the Auxiliary mail slot.*

*This issue we feature a recipe from Pat Kawalik,  
who says it was always a favorite at her restaurant!*



## PAT'S CHILI

1 lb Hamburger or ground Turkey  
1 large onion (chopped)  
2 stalks celery (chopped)  
2 T garlic powder  
3 T chili powder  
1 large can stewed tomatoes  
1 can light chili beans ( half smashed )  
1 can dark kidney beans (half smashed )  
1 box chicken broth 1/4 cup lentils  
salt and pepper to your taste

Brown meat, onions, celery, garlic, chili powder together  
Add chili beans (smashing half)  
Add stewed tomatoes and chicken broth, salt and pepper

I start cooking early in the AM and cook it on a LOW BURNER ALL DAY  
Stir as necessary, add water as needed

I always serve with a galop of mashed potatoes in the center of the bowl  
and include a salad with this meal



# SCUTTLEBUTT PUBLISHING!

**Newsletter publication:** As a reminder, the Scuttlebutt newsletter and calendars have been switched to a quarterly electronic delivery - either as an email attachment we send to you, or by visiting the Post's website - [www.vfw3345.com](http://www.vfw3345.com). Pictures from some events have been uploaded to the Post website, check out the fun. We are continually uploading pictures from various events held throughout the year so check it out frequently.

If you have pictures you would like to share, please email them to [vfwpost3345\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com).

Please send your electronic contact information, and any updates to your home address, to [svcdr@vfw3345.com](mailto:svcdr@vfw3345.com) and we will make sure you are added to our email distribution list.

**NOTE: If you include your birth month and day, we will also add you to the Birthday List. There is also a Birthday Book behind the bar in the Canteen, where your information can be added.**

## **Share Your Celebrations!**

You can now share the good news and celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Graduation or other Special Event in the Scuttlebutt Newsletter! One-time, quarter page ads can be purchased for \$25 per issue. Photos and other images can be included - and we'll even help with the design.

Information can be submitted via email [vfwpost3345\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com) or by contacting Linda Burger at [lewburger2@gmail.com](mailto:lewburger2@gmail.com).

Comments, suggestions and ideas for the Scuttlebutt are always welcome - just let us know!

Linda Burger  
Scuttlebutt Editor



**October 1, 2022**

**Senate Hearing on Recruiting and Retention:** VFW National Legislative Associate Director Brittany Dymond provided a statement for the record to the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel regarding military recruiting and retention. She conveyed the importance of military quality of life as it pertains to both the retention of current service members and recruitment of new ones. “Like any occupation, benefit packages will always fall short if individuals’ basic needs, or those of their family members, are inconsistently satisfied,” said Dymond. Sexual assault and harassment, military housing issues, and food insecurity were among the topics highlighted. She also illustrated the clear connection between successful military transition and future generations’ decisions to serve.

**VFW Attends Roundtable with House Leaders:** The VFW attended a veterans organization roundtable hosted by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Ranking Member Mike Bost (R-IL). VFW Assistant Legislative Director Kristina Keenan expressed the need to crack down on predatory claim consultants as more veterans seek VA benefits due to the passage of the PACT Act. She thanked Rep. Jake Ellzey (R-TX) for being the original cosponsor of H.R. 8736, Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act or GUARD VA Benefits Act. This VFW-supported bill would reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees to assist with claims for VA benefits. Keenan also expressed the need for more resources for Vet Centers to provide services in rural areas including mental health services, and more data from VA to better understand veterans at risk of dying by suicide.

**2022 VA Suicide Prevention Report Released:** VA released its 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. The number of veterans who died by suicide in 2020 is the lowest annual number since 2006. According to the report, suicide was the second leading cause of death of veterans under the age of 45. The VFW has advocated for many years for VA to include all VA benefits usage in this report. The 2022 report shows data beyond the clinical interactions and provides a somewhat clearer picture of veterans who have no interaction with VA. “The problem of veteran suicide is a complex one that deserves serious study and academic rigor. I think the nation owes our veterans that much,” said VFW National Commander Tim Borland.

**No-Cost Flu Vaccines:** The CDC estimates 5,000 to 14,000 flu deaths occurred in the last year. Eligible veterans can receive a no-cost flu vaccine from Sept. 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023. Use the VA locator to find a VA facility, pharmacy, or urgent care location near you. It is recommended that you call ahead to ensure availability.