



The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

October - December 2021

Commander's Comments



Think about a piece of cloth. A high-quality 3' x 5' piece of cloth may be comprised of tens or even hundreds of thousands of microscopic threads that are woven tightly to form this smooth fabric. Each thread is dependent on the adjacent thread to ensure this massive group of individual strands makes one cohesive unit. Perhaps similar to "E Pluribus Unum", or "Out of Many, One."



What happens to this fabric if one thread fails? Let's take for example "Old Glory", "The Stars and Stripes"...our American Flag. You raise this flag smartly high in the air, proudly displaying this glorious masterpiece, the symbol of the free world. She waves peacefully in a light breeze and may be extended straight outward in heavy winds. Day and night, in light winds or strong, the threads of this woven fabric fight diligently to support one another to keep this flag "one."

After months or even years of displaying her beauty, one thread weakens, fails, and the edge of this flag begins to fray. One thread breaks and now the integrity of the entire flag is in jeopardy. As she continues to wave in the air, more and more threads continue to break, Old Glory becomes tattered, and her beauty begins to diminish. She's tired and weak because just one thread broke, and others began to follow. So what happens next? A true, patriotic American will lower her down, fold her properly, and retire her in an appropriate manner. Others will ignore her and let her fly until her beauty no longer prevails.

In patriotic or perhaps political speeches, we may have heard the speaker referencing the "fabric of our nation." This metaphor signifies the interpersonal relationship we as human beings develop over the course of our lives, which forms the society in which we live. Business, personal, religious, volunteer services, military, and political affiliations are just a few examples of the "threads" we load into the looms of our lives, to form the fabric that is unique to each and every one of us. Collectively we take this fabric, and join with others to form the cities, towns, organizations, or in general, the society in which we live. Like the flag I reference above, what happens if one of these threads weakens and fails? Sadly, the results will end the same. If ignored, the beauty will diminish as more and more threads weaken and fail.

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Is this what is happening in America today? Is the fabric of our nation becoming torn and tattered? The winds of society are taking their toll on America. It's being poisoned by liberal media, radical groups, and those who feel their agendas are far more important than the good of a nation. This poison is more like an acid and is eating away all that is good.

I won't elaborate deeply on this, but I highly suggest you look up an essay called "If I were the Devil." This essay was written and spoken in 1965 by radio commentator Paul Harvey. He spoke about what the devil would do if he was allowed to infiltrate society. Just a few quotes to intrigue your curiosity "If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have, and give to those who want, until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious", "I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions – just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door. "If I were the Devil...!"

One of the most influential and manipulating leaders of all times, Adolf Hitler once said "Our strategy is to destroy the enemy from within, to conquer him through himself." Are we seeing this in America today? Will we allow America to destroy America? Will we continue to allow the threads of Old Glory to weaken and fail, or will we stand strong against this wind, against this devil, and raise her high once again on the tallest of flagstuffs, salute her, and say "God Bless America!"

Now on to Post news.

It's hard to believe, but September has come to an end, and the 4th quarter of 2021 is upon us.

First of all, I want to elaborate on what a beautiful day and event we had at our Post on the 20th Anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 and the dedication of our new First Responders Memorial. VFW Post 3345 shined in our community, in our state, and at VFW National. Commander-In-Chief Harmon was thoroughly impressed once again at what we do. We must all step back, and take a look at what 3345 does. I hope you all have as much pride in our Post as I do. It always has been and will continue to be my utmost goal to make Strongsville VFW be the best of the best.

Also just to clarify something to all of you, on September 13th, there was a large event at our outdoor property. The Strongsville GOP RENTED our property to hold their annual clambake. This event was in no way affiliated with the VFW. It was a self-contained event paid for by the organization. They hired a caterer, provided their own tables, chairs, and tent. The only thing we provided was a cash bar, which we benefited greatly from. Also, the fee for them to rent our property is 50% of the profit from the event. This goes directly to our Relief Fund/National Unmet Needs. Last year, the donation was substantial, and this year should be the same.

The plans for District 7's Military Ball are well underway. Tickets are now on sale and contact me at (440) 667-6154 or Post 3345 Junior Vice Commander Effie Zavatchen at (440) 673-8111 for tickets. Ticket prices are \$45. That includes a served buffet dinner consisting of chicken, beef, potato, vegetable, and a vegetarian dish. Also, open bar cocktail hour will be from 5PM-6PM, afterwards a cash bar will be available. We look forward to a night of good food, friendship, and fun. This event is open to ALL family and friends. Please invite as many people as you wish. Our guest speaker is recent Past Commander-In-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz, who if you haven't seen speak, is worth the price of admission. Chief Schmitz is a very dynamic and fun comrade and we look forward to giving him a warm welcome at our event.

Thanks for all you do. In closing, as always I wish you fair winds and following seas. May God bless you and the United States of America.

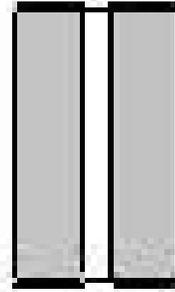
With great respect,
Commander Tim Zvoncheck

Senior Vice Commander



Let's dance in style, let's dance for a while
Heaven can wait we're only watching the skies
Hoping for the best but expecting the worst
Are you going to drop the bomb or not?

Let us die young or let us live forever
We don't have the power, but we never say never
Sitting in a sandpit, life is a short trip
The music's for the sad men
"Forever Young" – Alphaville (Gregor Meyle)



Songs from the '80s were mostly upbeat, happy and had some great melodies. However, there were some groups that definitely took a darker take on things based on their view of the geo-political situation (they're still great songs, by the way – just a little on the grim side of the spectrum, philosophically).

These groups were convinced that President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher specifically were driving the world to a nuclear conflict. In addition to the cited song by Alphaville, other "Nuclear Armageddon" songs include Modern English's "Melt with You", Jefferson Starship's "Countdown", "Red Skies" by the Fixx, and Nena's "99 Luftballons" to name a few.

Fortunately, they were all wrong about those leaders' terms in office. We are still here! These artists were not alone, though. The press, not big fans of Reagan or Thatcher, was of the same opinion and continually tried to undermine those administrations because the majority of the media disagreed with their political ideology.

The press, the Fourth Estate, has a critical role in sharing information about what is going on in the world at any point in time. It is supposed to be an objective, fact-based institution, challenged with performing due diligence on the stories that it shares with the public to keep us all accurately informed of the activities of our government at all levels, providing transparency into what is happening in the world around us, as well as what is going on in our hometowns.

The First Amendment to our Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Yes – right there in the First Amendment! The important role the press has in disseminating information to the population they serve is so vital that it cannot be infringed upon and was mentioned in the first of our Bill of Rights.

However, that is presuming the press' output is objective – stories being thoroughly scrutinized to be factual and free from any bias. (If not, then that is commentary and opinion – not news! It's still protected as free speech, but there is a big difference between opinion and facts.) The following is not news – it is my commentary: I do not believe we the people are being well served by our news agencies today.

Most people do not care what someone else's political affiliation is unless it impacts the ability for that person to objectively perform his or her job. But there are some career choices that should be made with a commitment on the

part of the individual to follow basic ground rules, and journalism (“the press”) is one of those careers. The press is charged with being the eyes and ears of the people – seeing and reporting on what is happening so that the people served by them have information from which they themselves can interpret and decide on things. The press should not be telling people what to think about the “news” they are reporting, or ask pointed questions that display its own bias on an issue. (Again, understanding that commentators and editorialists are given a bit more of a free rein than journalists.)

If the press decides to go ballistic when a politician of one party says something over the top but remains sitting on its hands when the same type of behavior is displayed by the other party’s politician or political orientation that they agree with, that just shows the abject hypocrisy of the media. This objection is not attacking politicians or political parties (we can visit that topic some other day!) – they are politicians, and we all know they’re going to lie if they are speaking for the most part 😬! These comments are challenging journalists to do their job. Commentators are doing just that – they are commenting on the news of the day and apply their spin. But some “journalists” who claim to be “newsmen” or “newswomen” ask such pointed questions of those on the other side, or DO NOT ask questions when questions are merited when in front of someone in their camp, that it is blatant that their personal views are dictating how they perform their jobs.

This criticism goes both ways – conservative and liberal/progressive news organizations are so partisan today that it is very challenging to make it through a newscast – where we should just be hearing “this happened today” and not “this happened today, and this is what it means and what you should think about it.” So many of the shows on all the major channels are becoming op ed programs rather than news shows. Sure, we may agree with opinions being expressed if it’s one of “our” channels, but it still is a show attempting to drive a particular agenda rather than to be the “eyes and ears” for us.

It’s doubtful this will change, however; and while I would still challenge the press/media/journalists, etc. to work to eliminate their partiality, the more realistic challenge is to all of us. We need to be able to strip away the bias being foisted on us. Knowing what’s happening in our country, especially what our political leaders are doing, is crucial in helping us make decisions at election time. That is when the voice of the people is most needed – when placing people into positions of authority based on objective understandings of what candidates/incumbents say and do. We all need to not just take in that with which we agree – we need to make sure we are doing our own due diligence since the press is no longer filling that role, pulling information from whatever sources we can find and making our own decisions.

Failing to cover things that show one side’s own candidates in an unflattering light is shirking the responsibility of the press, and therefore failing to provide the crucial service that the Fourth Estate is charged with in helping our citizens understand what is happening in our world, nation, states, and cities. I’m not holding my breath, though, that they will change their stripes. “Hoping for the best but expecting the worst. Are you going to drop the bomb or not?”

Tad Brown
Sr. Vice Commander

Membership Committee:

As always, one of our most critical goals is growing the VFW (and the Auxiliary!). You are our best recruiters, and I encourage all of you to keep your eyes and ears open to possible new members when out and about living your lives! If you see someone wearing some military-related article of clothing, say hello and ask them if they served. If they did, suggest they look at joining the VFW if their service included any qualified campaign!

Current annual members – don't forget! If you'd like to become a life member, let us know at renewal time! The Post pays half of your life membership amount! Can't beat that deal anywhere!

Have them contact me via email (svcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz) or my cell (440.376.7491).

Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Advertisers

Those of you with current ads in the newsletter should have received a letter from me indicating the renewal costs if you'd like to continue. I've received a couple of them back, but please get your check in to me (payable to VFW Post 3345) soon!

Also, if you are considering becoming an advertiser, see the information further back in the newsletter on 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, 2021

Post Newsletter Advertising Application

- 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.
- Includes:** 6 bi-monthly issues, plus 24/7 coverage on Post website
- Circulation:** Emailed to 1,400 Post members
- 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.
- 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.

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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: srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz



Honor Guard Don Kennett



First of all, I would like to welcome our newest member of the Honor Guard, Daniel Zamiska. He is a Navy and Coast Guard veteran, who currently resides in Strongsville. He officially became a member as of August of this year. Welcome aboard Dan.

A fellow Vietnam veteran from my unit (C co. 101st AHB "Blackwidows") sent in an article with a comparison of CIVILIAN FRIENDS vs VETERAN FRIENDS and I thought it needed to be repeated for our news letter.

*** CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you are too busy to talk to them for a week. VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years and will be happy to carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry. VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours. VETERAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back in better condition than when received. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you. VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will stand by you no matter what the crowd does. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while. VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences. VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no civilian could ever dream of. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!" Then carry you home safely and put you to bed. CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will forward this.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Kennett, Honor Guard Commander

Calendar for: July, August, September

October 2nd –	Honor Guard Meeting
October 9th –	Eagle Scout Honor Court
November 6th –	Honor Guard Meeting
November 10th –	Tour of Duty at Rittman
November 11th –	Veterans Day Remembrance
November 20th –	VFW 7th District Military Ball
December 4th –	Honor Guard Meeting/Breakfast
December 29th –	Tour of Duty at Rittman



TAPS



April, 2021: None

May, 2021: None

September, 2021: None

New Members

July, 2021

William Szabo

August, 2021

None

September, 2021

James Slepsky
Thomas Burk
Jorge Pena
Timothy Franczak

Donations

July, 2021

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
St. Joseph Church SOUL Run	\$250
VFW District 7	\$500

September, 2021

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
VFW Post 3482	\$1,500
Woodlands Cemetary Foundation	\$100
Veteran-In-Need	\$3,000
Strongsville Kiwanis Patriotic Flag Display	\$200

August, 2021

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Strongsville City Club - Rib Burn Off	\$500
D-Day Conneaut	\$100
Arts in Strongsville	\$50
American Legion Post 91 Golf Outing	\$100
Ohio State Former Boxers & Associates Program Ad	\$50
Strongsville Rotary Kids Fest and Duck Race	\$250
Department of Ohio District 7	\$300
Hanson House TopGolf Fundraiser	\$500
Friends Forever Fundraiser	\$100
Strongsville Community Band	\$500
Safety Forces Fundraiser St. Colette	\$300
Tri-C Westlake Student Veterans Org.	\$100
Strongsville Food Bank	\$500



Service Officer Bill Overton



Greetings, it's been a while since we have updated our members and families about VA benefits and assistant programs that are available. The past year has seen many changes in availability, most are veterans' health care and claims. Exposure to Agent Orange, burn pits and other chemical exposures can be viewed as military injuries. The Blue Water Navy Act has now been approved. The personnel serving aboard ships within the 12-mile limit in Vietnam in 1962 to 1972 are eligible for Agent Orange connected illnesses. There is a list of ships now posted on the VA website.

We have continued to file claims for compensation and health care for veterans the past 19 months; we have also assisted several veterans and families in need. Because of the Covid 19 shutdown, approval on claims could take up to two years. The VA is relying more on outside psychiatric examinations than ever before. The results from these examinations have not been good for veterans. We are currently working on improving these examinations.

If you think you have a service-connected injury or illness, file a claim now, protect yourself and your family's future. Remember, when you are in the service, you are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, according to Uncle Sam. This means any injuries could be service-connected.

Timeline: July 21, 1930 President Herbert Hoover signs an Executive Order consolidating the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions and the National Home for Disabled Veterans and Soldiers into what is now the Veterans Administration. The VA had a budget of \$786 million and was serving 4.6 million veterans. Today, there are 19 million veterans and a proposed budget of \$269 billion. We, as veterans, must use it or we will lose it.

Something to think about - Your real estate taxes are going to increase dramatically. The reason - the cost of lumber. New homes have increased dramatically, the counties are going to raise your taxes, your insurance company will raise your premium because the cost of the home has increased. This is going to affect senior citizens on fixed incomes. It will also affect families with medium to low incomes. Your politicians will do nothing to stop this from happening but, you can call your local politicians and your state and county officials. If we all work together, maybe we can stop this madness.

We, as veterans who had been deployed to countries who do not have the freedoms we have, know how important it is to keep our red, white and blue flying across America. I was asked by a politician, "Do you know how it feels to fear for your life?", I answered, I am a member of the VFW

Service Officer
VFW 3345
Bill Overton

Be In The Know! Enroll in the VFW Weekly Action Corp email to be up to date on VFW legislative activity and other news and programs. Sign up on the VFW.org site or at <https://votervoice.net/vfw/register>. See page 18 of this Scuttlebutt for a sample of the Action Corp updates.



Canteen Manager

Bill Sopko



Autumn, the most scenic season is here. Hope everyone enjoyed the summer as best one could.

The outdoor concert, were again enjoyed by many. Thanks to the Auxiliary and House Committee members who helped set up for the event – it was a lot of work and they did a great job!

Post events are always posted on the bulletin board in the Canteen, listing times, date and cost. Please stop on in for a refreshment and a little camaraderie while keeping abreast of the upcoming Activities.

Reminders.

1. We are once again starting to forget about Rule # 1 concerning vulgarity. Lets tighten up the lips. Thanks
2. Check your drivers license for its expiration date. It wasn't fun taking all the tests over again.
3. Please patronize your local veterans friendly merchants, for example, the Corner Car Wash, where you can use the discount code #33453

Again please stop in and enjoy a refreshing libation or two. Support your Canteen - you could even end up being lucky by signing up for the Flower, Candy or Ice Cream Fund and winning some extra Holiday Cash.

With that, wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a wonderful, safe New Year. God bless you all, pray for our Veterans and the good old U.S. of A.

Dave and Billy

I confessed, I told my wife the truth, I was seeing a Psychiatrist. She then told me the truth and said she too was seeing one, along with 2 plumbers and a barber.



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House Committee Brent Newton



I would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the Ace Molar concert and the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 and First Responders Memorial Dedication.

Work parties are the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month. All are invited and breakfast is included.

Thank you,

The Housing Committee

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Do you know of anyone looking to buy or sell a home?
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I am a Vietnam Veteran and want to use my 34 years'
 experience helping people buy and sell homes,
 to help my fellow veterans in need!



Jack Egan: Broker Realtor
216-780-3534






Auxiliary Jeff Myers



I hope everyone enjoyed their summer that seemed to go by in a flash. We had quite a busy summer of events around the Post with two concerts and crew also cooking for the Queen of Hearts Drawings twice a month.

But a big shout out must go out to everyone who assisted with getting sponsors and helping in any way for our Golf Outing which was a HUGE success thanks to Frank Zullo and his band of great volunteers.

Our meeting on October 11th is our Inspection by our District President so I ask that everyone please show up a little early for the meeting, especially our Officers and Trustees.

Our Senior Vice Cathy Thomas is currently looking into getting a Marine Corps Toys for Tots drop off box brought to our Post. The District 7 Military Ball will be held Nov 20th, and tickets are @ \$45 and are available from Commander Zvoncheck.

Events are currently winding down for the moment, but the regular weekly and monthly drawing continue, as well as Queen of Hearts on the 1st and 3rd Fridays.

The Post is also having a Halloween Party with Johnny R on October 30th. We are planning on having a few Tailgate Parties so look for email announcements.

Reminder: Dues must be paid by the end of the year. The Auxiliary is currently at about 85% paid members - let's be sure to get it to 100%!

Again, I hope to see more of you at our meetings and to get more involved in our Post Auxiliary.

Always Remember to Thank A Veteran,

God Bless
Jeff Myers

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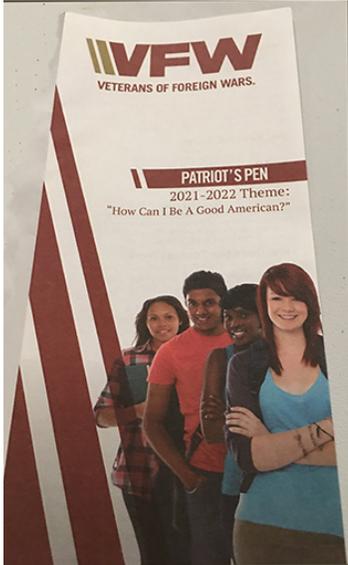
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A Veteran, Serving Veterans!

Scholarship Programs Aid Students, Promote Patriotism

By Carol Woodward, Auxiliary Scholarship Chairperson



As like last year, the VFW Auxiliary sponsors 6 Scholarships per year.

Due Oct. 31, 2021 Patriot's Pen (Grades 6th, 7th, and 8th)

Theme: "How Can I Be A Good American?"

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9th thru 12th) run by the vets

Theme: America: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Due Feb. 15, 2022 Continuing Education Scholarship

Due March 31, 2022 "Red, White, and Blue!" Singing the National Anthem
(Ages 6 to 12)

Illustrating America 2-D Art Contest (Grades K thru 8)

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest
(Grades 9th thru 12th)

Scholarship applications and information is available at our VFW Post, and at vfwauxiliary.org/youth and vfwauxiliary.org/scholarship.



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Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

Dave Hrusch

Interviewed by Linda Burger



A successful businessman. A loving Father and doting Grandpa. An Always-ready volunteer. A Well-read and knowledgeable historian. A strong friend. And above all else, a Proud Marine and American.

“From a very young age, I knew I wanted to serve in the military, and specifically, in the Marines,” revealed Dave Hrusch. “My Dad was a World War II veteran and fought at the Battle of the Bulge and it just seemed like the right thing to do.”

An avid reader even then, Dave’s research led him to conclude the Marines were “the only way to go. I was enamored with the Marines, with their proud history and with the mental and physical challenge they offered,” he declared.



Just 9 days after his 18th birthday, Dave took the first steps to fulfilling that dream by enlisting in the Marines, along with two of his friends. It was off to Parris Island for basic training and then – the Marines sent him to Weather School!

“This was definitely not how I wanted to serve my country, why I joined the Marines, to be a weatherman, and I let everyone know.” Dave revealed. “I finally resorted to writing my Congressman, which was strongly frowned upon by my superiors.”

His strong desires and determination finally prevailed and Dave was sent to Infantry training and then assigned to Vietnam in September, 1969.

While first there, Dave did patrols, providing security on convoy duty as the “hired gun sitting up front and all the thing grunts do,” he said, with a laugh.

In early 1970, his unit, the 7th Marine Regiment, was transferred to the LZ Baldy Landing Zone in Da Nang.

“At one point, I heard the Unit was short a helicopter gunner, so I quickly volunteered. After a fast training session, I participated in numerous missions and other actions, for a little over six months.”

Shortly after this, Dave was shipped home - his first stop – “McDonald’s on Snow Road, for a chocolate milkshake” he remembered, with a laugh.



“It was very hard to adjust to being at home, at first I found myself just wanting to be alone, looking at pictures, thinking – I don’t belong here,” Dave revealed. “Nothing here (home) had changed – but I had.”

When asked his first response upon hearing “Vietnam”- Dave’s very poignant answer was sadness. Then misery, fear, courage, responsibility – words that have a “significant meaning when you’re in that kind of an environment,” he explained



Dave did begin working right away, with Republic Steel and soon enrolled first at Cuyahoga Community College, then Dyke College, graduating with a Bachelor of Public Administration with a minor in Law Enforcement. His new goal was to work with the FBI, but again, a detour occurred.

“There was an economic downturn when I graduated and the Federal government wasn’t hiring, which was very disappointing,” he said. “I went to a Cleveland Jobs Fair and starting talking with this guy, an Army veteran, and he said – ‘I see something in you that tells me you’re going to be a success’ – and he offered me a position as an Analyst with Dun and Bradstreet.”

“I was a bit surprised to discover I enjoyed the work, and was good at it. But I also discovered that the real money was in Sales so I transferred to that division as soon as possible,” Dave revealed. Obviously also good at this, he quickly advanced within the company, becoming one of only 8 National Account Managers, servicing the very biggest clients.

“It was good work and I enjoyed it, but all the travel and time away from my family and home took their toll,” according to Dave. “Luckily I was able to retire at the age of 55 and begin spending more time with my sons and, now, my grandchildren.”



It was also about this time that Dave joined Post 3345, at the urging and encouragement of his cousin, Bernie Slimak. “When I first got home, I joined a local VFW Post because these guys were my heroes but it was a very negative experience, one that many Vietnam vets encountered,” Dave said, with a trace of sadness and frustration. “The majority of the members were World War II vets who ‘won their war’ and who looked down us and made us feel very unwelcome.” So he quit, and stayed away from the VFW for many years.

But Bernie told him about the Post in Strongsville, where things had drastically changed, where Vietnam veterans were encouraged to join and where many good things were happening, Dave took yet another chance and joined Post 3345 – and we are very glad he did!

“It is really when you are around other veterans that you can feel comfortable, whether you’re sharing your memories and just hanging out,” explained Dave. “Only people who have shared similar experiences, who have endured the same trials and challenges and who understand the deep, deep bond between service people.”

Now serving as Assistant Canteen Manager, Dave has held a number of elected positions at the Post and continues to participate in “any and all” projects and programs.

“My goal is to contribute to the success of this Post wherever and however I can,” he declared. “Far and away this is the best VFW Post – whenever people walk in here, they are welcomed and members are friendly towards them.

“I really enjoy taking visitors around to all the displays we have, explaining and answering questions, he added. Dave also had high praise for the Post 3345 Auxiliary – “they are the unsung heroes, always there to participate, help and support. The Post couldn’t run without them!”

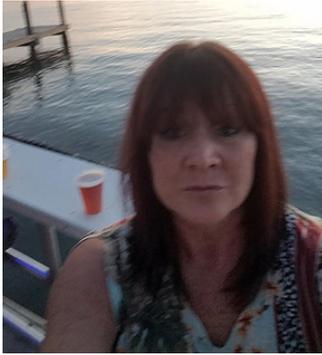


Dave Hrusch – for your quiet heroism, your dedication to the Marines and your country - we at Strongsville VFW Post 3345 salute you and are honored to have you as a Member.

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 vfwpst3345_1@gmail.com
or drop it off at the Post, in the Auxiliary mail slot.*



*This issue we feature a recipe from Annette Coyne,
who says it's Larry's favorites because, well, it's
meat and meat!*

ONE OF ANNETTE & LARRY'S FAVORITE RECIPES - COWBOY CROCKPOT POT ROAST

Ingredients:

3 - 4 lb. Chuck Roast
Salt
Pepper
3 Tablespoons Olive Oil
1 Package Dry Ranch Dressing
1 Package of Dry Aus Jou
1 Stick Butter
1 16 oz. Jar of Pepperocini
Baby Carrots (as much as you like)
1 Lb. Red Skin Potatoes, cut in half

1. Add olive oil to pan, salt and pepper Chuck Roast, then sear the meat until golden brown.
2. Put meat in crockpot with butter, dry ranch mix, dry aus jou and pepperocini.
3. Cook on low for 5 hours
4. Add baby carrots and potatoes.
5. Cook on low for 1 more hour.

Enjoy!

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. 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.

Please send your electronic contact information, and any updates to your home address, to svcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz 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 or by contacting Linda Burger at lewburger2@gmail.com.

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

Linda Burger
Scuttlebutt Editor

Cash for Lionel Trains

Call Bob at (440) 759-2573

Mom's
PIEROGIES

TAKEOUT

Stop in or Call Ahead!

- ☎ 216.309.1570
- 📍 8467 Memphis Avenue Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
- 🌐 www.momspierogies.com
- ✉ team@momspierogies.com

Mom's Meal Deals

Home cooked style dishes:
(pierogies, stuffed cabbage, cabbage and noodles,
potato salad, cucumber salad and our delicious barszcz
(traditional beet soup)

Hot and ready to eat pierogi and stuffed cabbage meals
available.

Also available frozen. Call ahead for what's fresh daily



October 11, 2021

VFW Testifies Before House: VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Technology and Modernization regarding pending legislation. Murray testified on important IT funding and transparency-related bills and expressed support for a draft bill to collect demographic data on users of VA benefits. He stated, "Having a better understanding of the veteran population utilizing VA care and benefits will help better inform how and where to direct resources." The VFW is grateful for the subcommittee's attention to these issues and hopes these bills will quickly advance and become law.

VA Resumes Overpayment and Medical Copayment Collections: VA is resuming over-payment notifications for new debts and debts that were paused during the COVID-19 pandemic from Apr. 6, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021. Although debt collections and collections on medical copayments restarted on Oct. 1, 2021, VA will not begin to deduct debts from benefits payments until Jan. 2022. Options to request debt relief due to financial hardship will be included in debt notification letters that will be sent to veterans

Veterans Legacy Memorial Adds Webpages for 500,000 Veterans: VA recently expanded their Veterans Legacy Memorial website by adding 93 VA grant-funded state, territorial, and tribal veterans cemeteries. This expansion includes individual pages for nearly 500,000 veterans interred at these cemeteries, providing a way to honor and remember their service. Family members and friends may submit photos and stories to be reviewed and potentially added to these pages.

VA #FightFlu Initiative: VA has expanded flu vaccine availability to more than 70,000 in-network community providers. Eligible veterans can now receive at no cost a standard, high dose, or preservative-free flu shot at their local VA health care facility, in-network community retail pharmacy, or an urgent care location without prior authorization. If you are eligible, you need to present a valid, government-issued ID at a covered location.



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