



The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

April - June 2023

Commander's Comments

A Decade at The Helm



Sometimes it's hard to believe it's been 10 years since I first raised my hand and vowed to take the helm of VFW 3345 as Commander. At no point in time did I ever think this was at least a decade-long commitment. My children were still in school and busy with sports and other activities, and my business demanded a lot of my time, especially frequent travel. However, when I was asked and then agreed to run for this position, I did it with the utmost commitment to take what my predecessors built and expand upon it tenfold.



When assuming the role of Commander of this Post, I did it with three main goals in mind. Number one was to take care of our veterans and those in need better than we ever have before. Secondly was to put VFW Post 3345 on the map within this community and throughout the entire VFW organization. The third goal was to work tirelessly to instill true patriotism in the hearts and minds of this membership and throughout this community and those that surround us. As a team of leaders and members, I do believe we have accomplished them all.

In no particular order, the following is a recap of some of the more significant accomplishments and events that took place since 2013:



Established the first ever Community Day and membership drive and created an annual event up until the pandemic.

We did a major overhaul to our Canteen and expanded the building for the walk-in cooler. This also opened the foyer for easier access for our membership (and first responders in the event of an emergency). We built an addition on the east end of the building and completely upgraded our beer system, while adding additional cold and dry storage.



Working closely with Home Depot, we were able to receive multiple grants exceeding \$30,000 to upgrade our bar top, Canteen flooring, and parts of our Canteen lounge.

A new roof was installed and funded with a \$20,000 donation from the ODJFS, Ohio Means Jobs, for the work we do helping veterans in need.

A new Canteen point of sale system was purchased and installed to improve our operations and reporting to the Attorney General and to create detailed financial reports.

We added the Ohio Lottery kiosk and multiple Keno monitors for the entertainment of our members and guests, while adding additional revenue for our post.

The Queen of Hearts drawing was established, which has generated additional revenue for the canteen and Auxiliary. Over \$100,000 has been paid out since its inception.

Electronic gaming systems overseen by the OVFCC were added to our post in 2015. Following years of legal/political gamesmanship by the Ohio state house and others, they were finally legislated as fully legal for all charitable organizations that maintain a 501(c)19 status. These games not only provide entertainment for our members, but also contribute greatly to our charitable funds that allow us to help others.

Speaking of charitable funds, because of the efforts of our membership, our Relief Fund, generated by our Annual Poppy Drive, continues to be strong and available to directly impact our local veterans who may be enduring financial hardships. This annual drive has brought in over \$300,000 in donations since 2013.

In 2018 we added the Nevada Gold self-service ticket dispenser. This machine allowed us to add additional games, some of lower denomination, while not burdening our canteen staff.

Our kitchen has been upgraded with new appliances such as double convection oven, flat top griddle, etc. to enhance our capabilities for Lenten fish fries, events, and hall rentals.



Working closely with the former Mayor Byrne of Parma Heights, we received a donation of a bus, which was upgraded and wrapped for the exclusive use by our Honor Guard. This not only aids in the movement of our Honor Guard to their events, but it also serves as a portable billboard that honors and remembers those who served our nation.

On the 20th anniversary of the horrific attacks of 9/11 and the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, September 11, 2021, we dedicated our new First Responders Memorial with an incredible event that brought in nearly 500 spectators, first responders, and dignitaries from all over Ohio. It was truly an amazing day highlighting our post and showing our strong commitment to our first responders. My words that day were “We watched over all of you while we served our nation, now you watch over us as you serve our cities and towns.”

Even though the cost to accomplish these upgrades has been quite significant, the financial strength of Post 3345 is stronger than ever. It's estimated that we have invested over \$500,000 in our post over the past 10 years, yet our savings accounts, CD's, charity, and relief funds are at record high levels. The financial stability of Post 3345 has nearly doubled during this time, and I assure you, we are secure for years to come.

We have established irreplaceable connections at all levels of government including local, state, and federal politicians, staff members, and organizational leaders. These friendships may be viewed by some as political motives, yet they are not. They are strictly for the purpose of helping us accomplish our goals as a veteran charitable organization. When a veteran or spouse needs assistance, we frequently rely on these relationships to help us push through a claim or obtain assistance.



VFW Post 3345 and our Service Officer Bill Overton have been instrumental in getting over \$6 million in claims, benefits and back pay approved for our Veteran members and friends.

Through the efforts and financial strength of VFW Post 3345, we have been able to donate over \$4 million in volunteer hours and money to local charities and organizations. We continue to support veterans, hospice and long-term care facilities, youth programs, schools, and many other groups and facilities.

VFW Post 3345 not only survived the global pandemic known as COVID 19 but came out stronger as a community and organization. Over \$10,000 in grants were received and we held multiple events such as the community drive-thru cookout in May of 2020, free Thanksgiving meals in November 2020, and the “Mask-erade” Ball in March 2021. These events brought smiles to faces of others, and a sense of hope during some very difficult times. Due to the generosity of our Post during this difficult time, we were featured on a special video created by the City of Strongsville highlighting those who continue to give. We were also featured in a similar video on Spectrum News.

We fought the NFL on the kneeling and disrespecting of our National Anthem and our flag. We received worldwide attention, from troops on the ground in Afghanistan, to emails from Australia, and radio coverage in Los Angeles. We received donations from individuals throughout the country. I was interviewed by multiple local and national TV and radio stations including Fox, ESPN, WTAM, etc. and we received strong praises for our stance in banning the NFL. We stood strong where others kneeled or cowered away! I was told by some that “you can’t fight this”. My reply – “oh yeah?...watch me!”

We were instrumental in getting legislation passed and signed into law by President Trump that not only returned the battlefield cross to our National Cemeteries but protected it from ever being removed by some far left liberal who is offended by the realities of war.

We honored the “Greatest Generation” with an elegant dinner for those who defended our nation and its freedoms during WWII. It was an evening of remembrance for those who gave their lives and celebration for those who remained with us. It was an amazingly elegant evening shared by an irreplaceable generation of men and women who were the epitome of TRUE Americans

In January 2016 we Welcomed Home our beloved Vietnam Veterans with a wonderful event. We closed the Post to all but these honored men and their spouses, and remembered the sacrifices they made by celebrating with food, drink, music, and camaraderie.

We honored our Korean War Veterans with a special presentation of a hard bound book from the Republic of Korea remembering the heroes and reflecting on the horrors of that war.

We remembered countless numbers of our friends and veterans at funeral homes and graveside ceremonies after their time on earth was through. I have been blessed to be able to eulogize so many of them, while the officers and Honor Guard provided the honors that every veteran so deeply deserves. It's a difficult task to eulogize so many incredible comrades, yet this honor will remain with me for the remainder of my life. I could spend hours just writing about the significance of each of these, but briefly, I want to mention how having the honor to perform a ceremony, and spread the ashes of WWII US Navy Veteran Paul Varga, in the pond in which he built, truly touched my heart. I've also been blessed to hold the hands or be present in hospice with dying comrades, while they took their last breath and slipped away into the arms of God.

VFW Post 3345 planned and hosted the most patriotic event ever brought to Strongsville, the ceremonies and display of the Ohio Flags of Honor. That weekend was a true testament to the commitment we at VFW 3345 have to our veterans and this community.



Complete with nearly 1,000 American flags waving gently in the wind, to a flyover by a WWII plane, and the largest crowd ever assembled at a OFOH opening ceremony, VFW 3345 and Strongsville shined like never before.

Not only was the event itself breathtaking, but the volunteer hours by YOU, the members of 3345, not only helped assemble and dismantle this display, but you kept watch over these flags constantly from Friday afternoon until the closing ceremony on Sunday.

During a polar vortex, I called upon the members of 3345 to pull together to gather coats, clothing, and food to help the homeless of Cleveland. Within less than 24 hours, we assembled truckloads of warmth and comfort to those less fortunate than most of us. Once again, we came together to touch the lives of others.

I can go on, and list more and more of what we accomplished over the last decade, but I think most reading this are aware of what we do. WE as a team of leaders and so many members are focused on the mission of our organization and my motto of "Empowering Veterans While Strengthening Community."

WE ARE THE VFW! We share in the camaraderie and friendship the Canteen has to offer, yet we focus on the three goals I listed earlier. Post 3345 is one of the most widely known throughout the organization. At every State and National convention, most have heard of what we do. Due to our successes, we have had multiple visits by several past National Commanders, which is a very rare occurrence. They recognize what we have done and continue to do. Bravo Zulu to all of you who make our post a home!

To recognize all our hard work, since 2013, Post 3345 received multiple VFW All-State awards, and in 2021, the coveted VFW All-American status. These accomplishments are not easy to achieve, but with vision, planning, leadership, and the dedication of many, even the most difficult of goals can be reached.



As Commander for the past 10 years, I have had tremendous support. The events and successes listed above would have been impossible without the support and cooperation of those committed to our mission. I also know there are some who think otherwise. Some who are friendly to my face, yet act differently behind my back, and there are some who think I'm in this position for my benefit. It makes me sad to know that, but I also know that you can't please everyone all the time. I know that my wife and family have sacrificed a lot, while allowing me to be so involved in this organization and I am deeply grateful to them and to all of you who have given me so much love, encouragement, and support over the years.

Sometimes these responsibilities are exhausting! From time to time, I think that maybe I should just throw in the towel, walk away, and let someone else deal with the burdens of this position. Yet simultaneously I think of all those we've helped, the lives we've saved, the tears we shared, and the laughs we enjoyed. Occasionally I have said to others "I need to be done", yet I think that as long as the majority of the membership want me at the helm, I will continue to focus on keeping this ship on course. I don't know when I'll walk away, but until then I will continue to appreciate the beautiful post we have and the amazing people who make this happen.

As I wrap up this "Decade at The Helm", I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and I look forward to sharing more success with all of you in the years to come.

As far as outside of VFW 3345, most of you know that I am no longer involved in District level leadership. I dedicated two years to that, helping those who accepted the help and being bashed by those who didn't, but it was time to pass the torch to others. I am uncertain if I will pursue higher levels of leadership, and only time will tell. For now, I am focused on our post, and I also sit on and chair committees at the VFW Department and National levels.

I will be the new Department Chairman of Community Activities for the upcoming year, and I am a member of the Department Finance Committee. I was also selected to the National Veterans Service Committee, which will consist of meetings and events beginning in July in Phoenix Arizona. These commitments, along with my son's wedding and the birth of our first grandchild make for a very busy, yet exciting year ahead.

With that, I wish you all fair winds and following seas. May God bless you all, and watch over your families, our troops, and our first responders.

With much respect,

Tim Zvoncheck, Commander



Senior Vice Commander



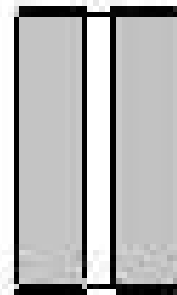
*I will go, I will go
I will leave the firelight
I will go, I will go
For it's now the time is right*

*I will sing a young man's
song
That you would sing
On Remembrance day
I will be the sacrifice
Bells will ring
On Remembrance Day*

*I must leave this land
And the hunger that is here
But the place I stand
Is the one I love so dear*

*Like a flower in some forest
That the world will never see
I will stand so proud
For I know what we can be
Remembrance Day*

**Stuart Adamson – Big
Country**



This newsletter covers the second quarter of 2023, in the middle of which is Memorial Day. So that is where this article will be focusing on as that is the most significant day of the year, outside of religious holidays, for Veterans, and hopefully, most Americans.

We equate Remembrance Day (the term often used in Europe) with Veterans Day (here). However, the lyrics in this song reflect the more somber nature of Memorial Day – a day where we commemorate those of our comrades-in-arms who never made it home, those who made the ultimate sacrifice. “I will be the sacrifice, Bells will ring on Remembrance Day” – perhaps tolling for the loss of our father, mother, brother, sister, neighbor or friend.

This holiday comes up every year, as holidays do, and every year, Americans mark it as the beginning of the summer season – the launch into vacations at the beach, or traveling to exciting destinations while the weather is sunny and warm. That’s all fine and good as far as starting the summer off; however, we need to make sure we approach this holiday with the solemnity it deserves.

Since the American Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783), Americans have been willing to fight on behalf of their nation to ensure it survived.

The Revolutionary War was the first, of course – as a bunch of ragtag colonists stood up against the mightiest military at the time - the English – to throw off the yoke of the British Crown. As far as we can determine, the Americans suffered 6,800 killed in battle.

This war was followed by the War of 1812 – with a loss of 2,200 service members. The Mexican-American War saw 1,733 Americans killed in action.

The American Civil War caused a staggering loss of life, as American fought American. 110,000 Union lives lost in battle, and 94,000 Confederate lives lost.

Next – the Spanish-American War (the aftermath of which brought about the establishment of the VFW) saw 386 Americans killed.

The War to End all Wars – WW I – added 116,516 Americans to the list of heroic dead. While no one has conclusively determined the number of Americans lost in WWII, the accepted figure is 407,000.

Korea accounted for 33,686 lost American lives. Vietnam had us say farewell to 53,220 fellow Americans. The First Gulf War (1990-1991) tallied 148 Americans dead. Afghanistan saw us lose 2,448 lives. Iraq – 4,487.

There have been other conflicts which added to the total, which is currently listing over 666,000 Americans dead fighting on behalf of the United States. This country, which prides itself on being the Land of the Free, is still a free nation 247 years after our founding because of its veterans – but is most indebted to those 666,000 who gave everything for America.

We often hear the phrase “Freedom isn’t Free” – and these numbers prove that out. To put that number into perspective, consider the lives of American service members lost is like losing the city of Boston, Las Vegas or Nashville.

Numbers are very useful in getting a point across, but they are also very cold. Even picturing the entire population of a city gone, it’s abstract. Talk to members of our Post who came home without all their friends. Our Korean and Vietnam war vets, our Afghanistan and Iraq vets – I’m sure most can say they know friends who were killed overseas fighting on behalf of our country – to keep the bad guys ‘over there’ and to keep those of us at home safe from harm.

It’s real – these are real people who never made it home to their families. Hopefully you all attend the Strongsville Memorial Day parade and the presentations at the City’s Freedom Trail or here at the Post. These events all are to help us remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice – they gave their lives supporting the ideals of American values and fighting for freedom – sometimes not just for us, but for those we were fighting to protect in these various wars.

Did they want to go? Probably not, for the most part, but they went because they felt it was their duty to leave ‘the place (they) stand (which) is the one (they) love so dear.” Fighting for what makes us such a great nation – valuing the individual and his or her freedom – is what makes us all “so proud for (we) know what we can be” – a free people.

So as we kick off the Summer Season on Memorial Day, let us step back first and be thankful for the men and women who sacrificed everything so that we can go out to the Islands, or Hilton Head, or Europe or wherever we are free to go.

You all probably have the day off – please attend (and even participate – it would be great to have more than maybe 10 of us marching!) the Strongsville Memorial Day parade; or if unable to do so, please come to the Post around noon on Memorial Day to help us pay a tribute to our brothers- and sisters-in-arms who can’t be here with us today, but who have allowed us to commemorate their sacrifices in a free nation.

“I will be the sacrifice. Bells will ring on Remembrance Day.”

Tad Brown
Senior Vice Commander

Membership Committee:

SENIOR VICE/MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

We're still a bit shy on our numbers – 97.7% retention. If you are someone who hasn't renewed but is reading this newsletter, please reconsider renewing your membership.

I encourage you – and all members, actually – to check out the VFW Fact sheet – link below (or the full URL if that doesn't work in the newsletter format). You can see all the great things the VFW is doing to live up to the motto that “No One Else Does More For Veterans”®. Any questions about membership? Contact me: SRV@vfw3345.com or (440) 376-7491

VFW fact sheet

<https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/media-romm/press-kit - VFW Fact Sheet>

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

April, 2023

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.

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



Honor Guard Don Kennett



The following was taken from a military organizational unit newsletter (The Black Widows) that I served with in Vietnam.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

‘The soldier stood and faced God, which must always come to pass. He hoped his shoes were shining, just as brightly as his brass. Step forward now soldier, how shall I deal with you? Have you always turned the other cheek?

To my Church have you been true? The soldier squared his shoulders and said, ‘no Lord, I guess I ain’t, because those of us who carry guns, can’t always be a saint. I’ve had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough. And sometimes I’ve been violent, because the world is awfully rough.

But I have never took a penny, that wasn’t mind to keep. Though I worked a lot of overtime, when the bills just got too steep. And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear, and sometimes God, forgive me, I’ve wept unmanly tears. I know I don’t deserve a place among the people here, they never wanted me around, except to calm their fears.

If You’ve a place for me here Lord, it needn’t be grand, I never expected or had too much, but if You don’t, I’ll understand.

There was silence around the throne, where the saints had often trod as the soldier waited quietly, for the judgment of his God.

Step forward now, you soldier, you’ve borne your burdens well, walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets, you’ve spent your time in Hell.’

The Honor Guard is still looking for new members to join are 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: April, May, June

April 1st –	Honor Guard Meeting
May 3rd –	Tour of Duty at Rittman
May 6th -	Honor Guard Meeting
May 28th -	Memorial Day Remembrance at the USS Cod
May 29th –	Memorial Day Activities (Multiple Locations)
June 3rd -	Honor Guard Meeting
June 21st -	Tour of Duty at Rittman
June 24th -	Vietnam Remembrance (Olmsted Falls)

TAPS



January, 2023: Edwin Bonza
John O'Brien
Kenneth Kassouf

February, 2023: None

March, 2023: Dan Jencson

New Members

January, 2023

Michael Edikiz
John Altekruse
Mathias Dore
Jeffrey Raver

February, 2023

Joseph Wasdovitch
Matthew Lane

March, 2023

Daniel Kontra
Thomas Krupa

Donations

January, 2023

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps	\$1,000
Ride With Valor	\$525
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	\$250
Hearts of Patriots	\$500
Veterans-in-Need	\$1,000
Strongsville Rotary Foundation - Chili Open	\$1,500
Girl Scout Troop 70578	\$100

February, 2023

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	\$250
VFW Post 894 (Ride for Homeless)	\$50
Strongsville Chamber of Commerce (Homecoming)	\$750
VFW Unmet Needs	\$500
VFW VMS	\$500

March, 2023

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	\$250
City of Strongsville (Youth Sports Sponsor)	\$190
Vin Rouge Pub Tent #1 Military Order of the Cootie	\$500
Reboot Recovery	\$1,000



Canteen Manager Scott James

I hope 2023 is off to a good start for everyone. The Super Bowl party was a success! Thanks to everyone that helped.

Queen of Hearts drawings will be on the first and third Sunday during Lent. Then will go back to Fridays starting April 21.

We'll start out May with Cinco De Mayo on the 5th. The Canteen will be offering specials that day. And then right around the corner summer will be upon us and we'll host our Summer Outdoor Concerts.

These are the dates and bands we have lined up, so mark your calendars.

June 24 - Custard Pie

July 22 - Moxie

Aug 26 - Ace Molar

As always, we appreciate your business in the Canteen and remind everyone to drink responsibly.

Scott James
Canteen Manager



EECOH.ORG

eecofohio@gmail.com
330-727-2790

*Recognizing Ohio Veterans Whose
Ancestry Comes From Eastern Europe*

Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

Nada Fleming

Interviewed by Linda Burger

“I just like being busy.”

If ever there was an understatement – that is the biggest ever when describing the career, activities, honors and accomplishments of Nada Fleming.

From her early beginning at Garfield Park High School where, in addition to academics, she participated in tennis, baseball, swim team, bicycling – “whatever was there,” Nada displayed the drive that led to an illustrious career with the U.S. Navy, the Naval Reserves, VFW and the city of Seven Hills.



“My father, Srecko Tosic, had been called back into the Serbian Army when World War II began. Unfortunately, a train carrying his unit was captured and he became a POW in Germany,” related Nada, in describing her family’s trek to America. “When the American and English troops freed the prisoners, he was sent to a DP (Displaced Person) camp in England since Marshall Tito had taken over power in Serbia and my Dad would have been killed if he returned.

“While at the camp, he met a beautiful woman, Lucija, who served with the Serbian Red Cross and they were married. The possibilities for permanent settlement were the United States, Canada or Australia and they really weren’t given a choice,” she went on. “Luckily, they were sent to a place called Medina, OH and, having been a farmer in Serbia, the area appealed to him.”

As it turned out, the first years they stayed in a Tourist House in Cleveland, and her Dad took a job with Republic Steel. In 1954, they moved to Garfield Hts, where Nada spent her childhood.

“My parents always thought I would go into teaching and I actually was a member of the Future Teachers of America,” Nada recalled. “However, I was always drawn to the medical field. In fact, while in the 9th grade, some friends and I started a Candy Stripe Unit at Marymount Hospital.”



Following graduation, she worked for Edgepark Surgical, assisting the pharmacists, who urged her to obtain a degree in that area. But her heart was in nursing and she began studying at St. John’s Hospital.

“Being very old world, my father did not see the value in my attending college. He believed I should marry the person he had selected for me, and when I declined, he refused to help with my schooling,” she explained. “A friend suggested I apply to the military, which would not only pay for my education but also guarantee me a job for two years after graduation.”

After being accepted into the Navy and completing her Nursing degree, Nada was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago.

It was the first year following the end of the Vietnam War, with about 1,000 patients in the hospital. “In 1973 there were not many female nurses of corpswomen,” she explained. “The men were very respectful and loved to help us – especially when, being ‘height-challenged’ I needed something on an upper shelf,” she said with a laugh.

Following her marriage in 1975 to a fellow member of the military, Nada served at several hospitals, based on their station.

In 1983 they moved to Seven Hills and she began work at Metro Hospital Operating Room and with the Commodore of the Navy Medical Unit in Cleveland.



In 1985, Nada was approached to join the Naval Reserves, and in addition to her growing duties at Metro, she began training Naval Officers in CPR and Leadership courses and served as the Executive Officer of the Medical Unit. There she instituted a Medication On Wheels program, to encourage patients to take needed meds by going directly to them.

During this time, she began work on her Master's Degree while also being a very active Soccer and PTA Mom for her children.

Her required two weeks of active duty took her to Japan and to many places throughout the U.S., including a stint in Alaska where the Army Corps of Engineers was constructing a highway so residents would have faster, safer access to medical care. “In addition to nursing service, we had to learn to drive an ambulance and even, in one area, how to drive a Caterpillar!” she said, with a laugh.

In December, 1990, following the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War, Nada received orders to transfer from Cleveland to Kansas City. “It was very hectic, I was finishing up my finals, had my job, my husband and kids,” she recalled. “We were a bit lucky in that we were given six days to prepare, others didn't even receive that much notice.”



After packing two sea bags with camouflage clothing, t-shirts, boots and everything else she might need, the Unit was taken to New Jersey where they waited for two weeks before they shipped out – not knowing where they were being sent.

“I remember the weather was terrible when we left – rainy, cold, snowy,” she recalled. “And then we landed in Bahrain, where we were taken to a Tent Hospital consisting of 27 tents, where we encountered sandstorms, rain, unbelievably high winds and flooding!”



While there, Nada, a Naval Reserve Lieutenant Commander, worked six days/12-hour shifts providing surgical assistance for not only American service people but Iraqis as well. "Even though patients were screened before coming in, we had no way of knowing if they might be booby-trapped, which heightened the anxiety."

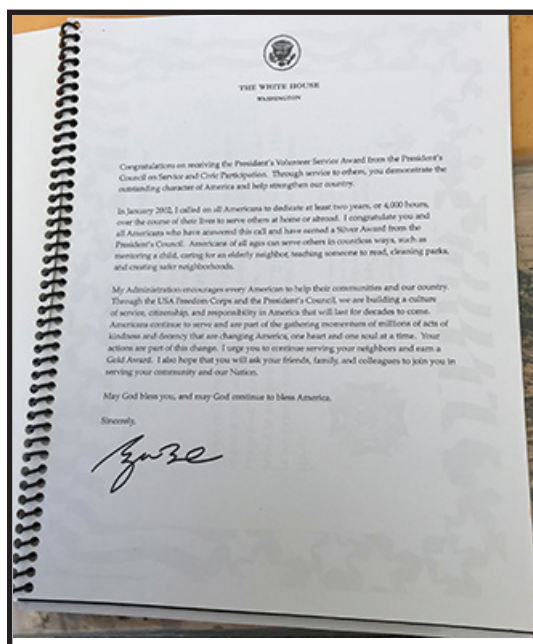
Upon returning from her Operation Desert Storm service, Nada was promoted to Commander and received the Military Nursing Leadership Award – only the second one ever awarded.

Once home, she plunged into the activities and service of the Seven Hills VFW, serving as Commander and Senior Vice Commander for many years. Nada very actively promoted the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests, visiting all the schools within a five-city radius.

She also organized, set up, arranged and volunteered at many Seven Hills programs and events, highlighted by her involvement with the Memorial Day parade for 12 years.

In 2001, she met her current husband while working at Metro. "Even though I had gone through a very painful divorce and was a bit wary, after meeting Thomas, I knew in my heart I'd be dating him a long time." They did – and were married in October 2002.

Her accolades could – and do – fill many albums, numerous commendations and awards from Seven Hills and other cities, the Hospitals where she worked, the many schools and organizations where she volunteered. In 2008, Nada was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame; she also received the President's Volunteer Service Award for CERT.



When her brother became ill and required her care, Nada took a major step back from her volunteer activities. Unfortunately, since there was no one to take over these responsibilities, and membership had greatly shrunk, the Seven Hills VFW Post turned in their charter. Still wanting to be involved with the work of the VFW, Nada then joined Strongsville VFW Post 3345 – and

Nada Fleming – for your never-ending service to our Country, and to our communities, we are proud to have you as a member of VFW Post 3345.

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
Auxiliary Trustee Lisa Teti, with
a treasured family dessert!*



Grandma's Cobbler

Preheat oven to 350

Melt 1/4 cup butter in a 9x9 square pan

In a bowl mix the following:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder

Pour the above mixture over the melted butter.

Sprinkle fruit on top of the mixture, then sprinkle 1/2 cup sugar on the fruit

Bake for 30 minutes at 350

Fruit suggestions -- blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, peaches, pears, apples, etc.

I suggest 2 cups of fruit. Tree fruits should be chopped to small pieces/cubes.

Serving suggestion: warm with vanilla ice cream

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.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 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



April 17, 2023

VA Opens Additional Buildings for Homeless Veterans: VA announced the opening of two buildings that will provide 120 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless and at-risk veterans and their families at the VA West Los Angeles campus. The campus now has a total of 233 supportive housing units available. VA has set a goal to provide at least 1,500 permanent housing placements to veterans in the Greater Los Angeles area in 2023. Nationwide, VA permanently housed 40,401 homeless veterans in 2022. If you know a veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness and in need of VA services, call the West LA VA Welcome Center at 310.268.3269. Veterans in crisis should call 1.800.273.8255 and press 1.

Check the Status of Your VA Claim: Many veterans and their families and survivors have filed claims related to the PACT Act. Regardless of when or why you filed, you can check the status of your claim online. Sign into va.gov with your existing [Login.gov](https://login.gov), [ID.me](https://id.me), [DS Logon](https://dslogon.com), or [My HealthVet](https://myhealthvet.com) account. If you don't have any of these, you can create a free [Login.gov](https://login.gov) or [ID.me](https://id.me) account. If you feel there is something incorrect in your claim, contact a VFW Service Officer in your state to discuss your options.

VA Offers Trauma Coordinators: Military sexual trauma (MST) is sexual assault or harassment that occurs during military service. MST survivors can receive help at VA health facilities from MST Coordinators to connect to no-cost care. Community-based Vet Centers provide MST-related outpatient counseling and referral services in a nonmedical setting.