



# The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

January - March 2020

## Commander's Comments



WOW...2020!!

It's been 20 years since the planes fell out of the skies, Wall Street and banking systems came to a screeching halt, and computers and other means of data processing and communication completely failed because of Y2K...Oh wait, that did not happen! We all thought it would though, because that's what the media told us was going to happen. "The end of the world!! Y2K Insanity! Apocalypse Now! Will computers melt down? Will society?

A guide to MILLENNIUM MADNESS" is what blazoned the cover of Time Magazine on January 18th, 1999. Well, we all survived. No planes went down, and ATM's kept spitting out cash.



Yes, maybe your Super Mario game that ran off of 5 1/4" floppy drives had a hiccup, or your Commodore 64 would no longer allow you to shoot down an alien in Space Invaders, which for some obsessed gamers, may have seemed like the end of the world, but look, the rest of us are here. The media hype was incorrect, and we all survived!  
WOW...2020!!

It's hard to believe, but it's been three years since I stood on the lawn of the Capitol in Washington DC and witnessed Supreme Court Justice John Roberts administer the oath of office to Donald J. Trump, to become the 45th President of this nation. Well, another Presidential Election year is underway, and the clown show is in full swing. Congress is doing all they can to prevent President Trump from not only finishing his elected term but trying desperately to block him from running for re-election.

Since 2017, Rep Maxine Waters (D-CA) swore she would not stop until Donald Trump was impeached. This was long before any allegations of a phone call with Ukraine. On January 4th, 2019, speaking at a reception, newly elected Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-MN) quoted in reference to President Trump "we're gonna impeach the motherf---er!", and recently the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said, and I quote "It's not a question of proof, it says what allegations have been made...!"

I could go on & on, but just imagine if the time that was spent on this foolish effort was spent doing something that would bring our country together, not further divide them. Solving the homeless problems in California, New York, or in other parts of the country. Increasing benefits for our veterans or working on a solid immigration policy.

*continued on page 2*

*Sponsored by Ohio VFW Charities*

No, instead the House is completely focused on finding some way to remove this man from office. Thankfully though, he ignores the stupidity and continues on with the business of the country. While the impeachment documents were being transferred from the House to the Senate, the President of the United States was out doing the work he was elected to do. He signed a historic trade agreement with China, opening more American companies to work with China on exporting more than \$200 million in farm and energy goods and services in the next year. This agreement, along with those signed with Mexico and Canada continues to bolster the economy of the United States, reducing unemployment to record lows and sending the Dow Industrial Average to new record highs. On January 20, 2017 the Dow was at 19,827 and as I sit here today, it's at 29,348. Is that a fluke, an accident, or is it because the administration is doing its job? You decide!

Speaking of the responsibilities of the President of the United States, he is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He has sworn to protect our nation and its citizens from all enemies, foreign and domestic. On January 3rd, 2020, Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was sent to jannah (Arabic heaven) to meet his 72 virgins compliments of a handy drone strike near the Baghdad Airport. General Soleimani, also referred to as the "Terrorist-in-Chief" was known to be responsible for the death of many American servicemen and women. He was also responsible for countless deaths of citizens all over the region. It has been said that Soleimani was more dangerous than the mastermind of the attacks on 9-11, Osama Bin Laden, yet several Congressional leaders and the liberal media attack our president for acting within his sworn responsibilities of protecting our countrymen. I'm not sure about you, but if my son or daughter was deployed in that region, I would feel just a little safer knowing that another terror mastermind is gone.

Before moving on, I would like to state one disclaimer. Prior to discussing post business, my newsletter articles typically start off with an editorial section. My editorials speak of current events, which normally have a bit of a political undertone, but that's because it's an ugly reality. I try to focus on fact, not opinion, but sometimes I may teeter on the edge. Please be advised though, that these editorials are from my perspective as Tim Zvoncheck, not as VFW Post 3345 Commander. They are my words and they do not necessarily represent the perspective or opinions of the membership, the organization, or Post 3345.

Now onto Post business.

Last weekend, I along with a few others from Post 3345 attended the Department of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus. It was a busy, but productive three days. Sitting in Council of Administration meetings well into the evening, listening to Ohio VFW Charities talk about the importance of Ohio lawmakers passing HB 282, which is the permanent legalization of gaming machines for veterans and other fraternal organizations, sitting through a Prisoners of War / Missing in Action memorial ceremony, and finally listening to the twelve Department of Ohio Voice of Democracy and three Patriots Pen finalists.

All of the essays and presentations were phenomenal, but certainly one stood out above the rest, and fortunately that was Ruth Anand, who was the winner at our Post, and District 7. She went on to win the Department competition and will now attend the VFW National Legislative Conference in Washington DC on March 2nd & 3rd where she will represent Post 3345, District 7, and the Department of Ohio. I will be present at this conference to support her, and to hopefully witness her take home the grand prize of a \$30,000 scholarship. (See photos, next page)

Before closing, I just want to remind everyone of the time, effort, dedication, and thought that gets put into each and every decision made at VFW Post 3345. I must also remind everyone that the officers, and so many other volunteers at our post are exactly that, they are volunteers. Dedicated and thoughtful volunteers! I say this, because when something occurs that is not necessarily to the liking or agreement of one or maybe a small group of individuals at the post, that doesn't mean that decision was made due to the lack of care or concern. Decisions are based upon what we feel is in the best interest of the post and the mission of our organization.

It was so nice to come back from spending another 3 ½ days away from my home, family, and business, fulfilling the extremely taxing duties of my volunteer position, and working toward the betterment of the organization and our veterans, to open my mailbox and find a letter from an unhappy member, stating that I tend to overlook that the VFW is about “veterans helping veterans”. I was also told that the officers are not there to make decisions, they are there for the “pleasure of the members”.

I find these statements interesting, maybe a little confusing, but most of all, hurtful! The hundreds, if not thousands of veterans who we, at 3345, helped or touched in one way or another since I became Commander seven years ago might find these statements confusing as well. I also find it amusing to know that I, along with the other officers and staff members, who work so hard to keep our post the best around, are only there for the “pleasure of the membership”. Just imagine what 3345 would be today if its leadership and staff members weren’t concerned, dedicated, or decisive!

If you’d like to know what that’s like, I can give you a number of posts in District 7 to go visit and see what that type of leadership adds to the organization. I assure you, it’s not pleasant!

Time to step off my soapbox and get this article off to our editor.

As always, I wish you all the warmest and most heartfelt thoughts for a wonderful and blessed 2020. I pray that God grants you all “fair winds and following seas.”

Respectfully,  
Tim Zvoncheck, Commander

***RUTH ANAND  
VOICE OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER***





# Senior Vice Commander

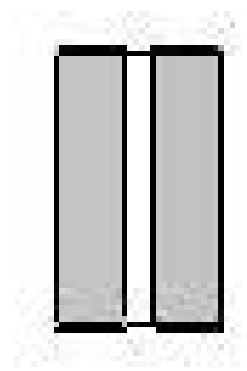


Come the war, Come the avarice  
Come the war, Come hell

Come attrition, Come the reek of bones  
Come attrition, Come hell

This is why, Why we fight  
Why we lie awake, And this is why  
This is why we fight

When we die, We will die  
With our arms unbound



“This is Why We Fight” Colin Meloy (The Decembrists)

Rather jarring lyrics to start off the new year! But the meaning behind them is quite important, at least how I am interpreting them (hopefully it's what Colin Meloy was getting at too!). While preparing remarks for the Pearl Harbor Day commemoration held at the Post on December 7th, the importance of retaining a strong military kept coming to mind. “When we die, we will die with our arms unbound.” In America, we are - and intend to remain - a free people – “(that) is why we fight”.

The American colonies realized they were not free to make their own decisions about how they were to live their lives while existing as a colony under the British monarchy. I don't intend to go into American History 101, but certainly as the Revolutionary War seemed more and more imminent, Patrick Henry's short statement summarized what a lot of the Colonists felt, “Give me liberty, or give me death!” This sentiment found its way into the Declaration of Independence, and we know the rest.

Freedom is an innate right of mankind, and the Founding Fathers understood that. Oppression by regimes and governments quash that right since usually, a free people would not want that regime or government in place. Look at what's happening in Hong Kong. That territory had been a colony of the British Empire starting in 1842, and was held by Britain until 1999, when it was returned to China.

The residents of Hong Kong were rightfully apprehensive about what their future would be once they fell under the rule of the Communist Chinese government. While life as a colonist under the British Crown was hardly ideal, there were still many protections of individuals' rights that seem to be evaporating as the Chinese regime begins to move in with a heavier presence in the region. The protests are in direct response to the Fugitive Offenders bill, which would have allowed criminal fugitives in Hong Kong to be extradited into the China criminal justice system. This was viewed as the lead-in to the autonomous Hong Kong residents being more under the direct jurisdiction of the hard-line mainland Chinese system. This specific issue was just another link in the chain that China is trying to put around the necks of the Hong Kong citizens who enjoyed considerable freedoms as a colony of Great Britain.

Worse still, consider the Uyghurs of China. They are a minority ethnic group within western China, numbering near 12 million (in China, that's less than 1% of the population). They are largely Muslim and are viewed as 'religious

extremists” by the Chinese government – not that they’ve carried out any ‘religious extremist activities’, they just are not towing the Communist Party’s line. Up to 1 million Uyghurs have been or are being detained in detention camps, called “re-education camps” by the regime – trying to change their views to follow the Communist ideology. Many claims exist that the Chinese have been torturing and raping the Uyghurs in custody in these detention camps, though the Chinese deny such claims. Even those not in the camps are under near-constant surveillance. What are some of the ‘religious extremism’ offenses one could do to earn yourself a stay at a camp? Growing a beard, attending religious services, quitting smoking and/or drinking, or talking to friends or relatives in another country on the phone.

China does not value freedom. It couldn’t exist as it is today if it did. Technically, since there is a government in place in China, it is not a communistic country (in a true communistic society, everyone would be equal and no government would be necessary). It is a country run by a Socialist regime, where the state controls all aspects of society, from what companies can produce to the number of children you can produce.

There are certainly some very wealthy Chinese citizens since the State realizes that capitalism is the only way they can sustain their oppressive regime, but the benefits of capitalism are limited to a very small percentage of the overall population, and even then, they are not “free”. The locked-down economy for the majority keeps them living a meager existence and prevents them from aspiring to something better.

It is estimated that tens of millions of people have been killed by the Chinese Communist Party since it came to power in 1949 (though arriving at a firm number is not quite verifiable) – in an apparently successful attempt to thwart thoughts of liberty and democracy from bubbling up from the masses. When you live in a totalitarian state that seeks to control nearly every aspect of your life, and you have no arms to resist that regime, you tend to give up hope. You let your thoughts of freedom die because it’s just easier than trying to fight.

Of course, China is not the only country whose government seeks to minimize the freedoms enjoyed by their citizens, it’s merely the largest one to cite with several current event examples of life under such a regime. The perks of office of the few in power far outweigh the benefit to many of having a free society. Being able to control the actions, thoughts and desires of the people is what keeps them in their positions of authority. No one knows what their intentions are beyond their own borders, but let’s presume it would not be benevolent.

Very few, if any, who have been to war would say it was a great time and they’d love to do it again. “Come attrition, come the reek of bones, come attrition, come hell.” That’s what war brings us; however, in certain instances, the reasons we choose to go to war are worth it. Our way of life is precious to us all and we need to continue to be that Shining City on a hill to show others how truly wonderful life as a free people can be. And “this is why we fight” – or are willing to fight. We must always be prepared to fight for our freedom or deter others from trying to take it from us, and we must always be willing to offer what assistance we can with those around the world who seek that same God-given right to freedom. “When we die, we will die with our arms unbound”.

### **Happy Anniversary, US Coast Guard!**

What we today call the Coast Guard has been around in some variation or other since 1790. When it was founded in that year, it was known as the Revenue-Marine, and is the oldest continuously-in-existence seagoing service of the United States (the Navy had been unfunded for nearly a decade between 1785-1794). It had been established at the request of Alexander Hamilton, who was the Secretary of the Treasury at the time, with the purpose of collecting customs duties in the country’s ports.

By time of the Civil War, it had become known as the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. It wasn't until the Revenue Cutter Service was merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service in January of 1915 that it became known as the United States Coast Guard – so formally this month, we can wish our Coastie brothers and sisters a Happy 105th Anniversary!

The Coast Guard has a proud tradition as one of our five uniformed services and has been involved in every U.S. war from its establishment in 1790 through Iraq and Afghanistan. Their motto, “Semper Paratus” (Always Ready), tells it all – every time they've been asked to support and defend our nation – whether collecting duties, saving lives, drug interdiction operations, or combat support efforts in war – the Coast Guard has been a stalwart part of national defense. We are all grateful for their service!

“The Blue Book says we've got to go out and it doesn't say a damned thing about having to come back.” Captain Patrick Etheridge, USCG

Tad Brown  
Sr. Vice Commander

### **Membership Committee:**

We are working with many of the local schools (Tri-C, Cleveland State, Baldwin Wallace) to get a foot in the door with their Student Veterans Organizations. We will be meeting in January with BW's again – trying to foster a partnership with the student vets there, trying to come up with ways to support each other.

Our first action with them was paying the postage of 10 very nice care packages sent overseas to brighten the Christmases of several of their deployed fellow students. We may be having some fund raisers hosted here as well so stay tuned for that!

We also are going to try some other approaches to bolster our new member growth. Dave White proposed having some kind of incentive for each new app received, so stand by for more on that! Also, Cait Timm brought up a thought that she's going to dig into a bit more before we talk about it, but it could be a lot of fun and get some younger vets to come here for a specific event and get exposed the VFW and our wonderful members and decide this may be the place for them!

And as always, if you have some ideas about how to help us grow, please contact me and share those ideas! We're always open to suggestions to keep us growing and thriving!

I can be reached at [srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz](mailto:srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz), or call/text me at (440) 376-7491.



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

January 1, 2020

**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: [srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz](mailto:srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz)



## *Junior Vice Commander Dan Dallas*



Hi everyone,

I will list here all the upcoming events that I have booked so far.

Sunday, 2 February is the Post Super Bowl party. If you were lucky enough to purchase a square on the big board you will have a chance at a nice payout. First quarter, halftime, 3rd quarter & FINAL score will pay out \$600.00!

If you're not lucky enough to win a square there will be a great meal and domestic draft and well drinks available from 4 to 10pm. A great time for sure. Dinner only tickets are available behind the bar for \$20.00.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL!?

Pizza at half time.

That's it for February. In March, Johnny R karaoke will return on Saturday the 28th. (7 pm to midnight.) Johnny R will return to the Post on Saturday 30 May (7 pm to midnight).

Now, the summer outdoor concert lineup:

Saturday, 11 July is the band MOXIE featuring our own Mike Zullo on bass guitar....I've been trying to get this band before but our schedules just didn't work out...but, I got them this year. Get the word out and let's fill the property and the Canteen for this event!

Following MOXIE the next outdoor concert will be on Saturday, 01 August with CRUSIN'...A Post favorite that will certainly not disappoint. Finally, on Saturday, 22 August let's rock the Post...hell with the neighborhood..with another Post favorite the band ACE MOLAR featuring Todd Meany. I believe this may be the best Summer yet for our outdoor concerts. Make sure to spread the word to family and friends as the Post is open to the public on concert nights.

Once the outdoor concerts are over Johnny R will return. His first appearance will be on Saturday, HALLOWEEN NIGHT for the Post's Halloween party. Now, how cool will that be! Annette Coyne has purchased new Halloween decorations to update the atmosphere....we are hoping to have a BOOdaches time!

Still pondering a bus trip to K.I. in September and perhaps one this winter to close by Posts. If you would be interested in a bus trip let me know.

See ya.

DAN DALLAS





## *Honor Guard Don Kennett*



I would like to wish everyone at our Post a happy and safe new year.

Last year we attended eighty-six events. Of those eighty-six events, twenty-one were private funerals for passing veterans especially in remembrance back in March as we lost a close friend and fellow Honor Guard member, Walter Tomon, he has been missed.




The Honor Guard was very busy during the week of Veterans Day this past year. We attended three facilities to honor veterans, one in Middleburg Heights one in North Royalton and one in North Olmsted, along with two local elementary schools and our own post celebration . We also attended the VFW 7th District Military Ball.

The Honor Guard is looking for some more members to join their ranks. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at 440-665-7751 or Dave Hrusch at the Post.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Don Kennett, Honor Guard Commander

### **Calendar for: January - February - March**

January 4th	–	Honor Guard Meeting
January 23rd	–	Rittman Tour of Duty
February 1st	-	Honor Guard Meeting
March 7th	-	Honor Guard Meeting
March 12th	-	Rittman Tour of Duty



**Thomas C Nevans Jr**  
REALTOR®

1321 Industrial Park North, Ste. 800  
Brunswick, OH 44212

Cell: (216) 544-0000  
Office: (330) 225-2880  
Fax: (330) 220-7355  
Email: tomnevans@remax.net

**A Veteran, Serving Veterans!**

# TAPS



**October, 2019: John Sopko**

**November, 2019: Roy Pierpoint**

**December, 2019: None**



## *New Members*

**October, 2019**

**Louis Chapman  
Zachary Scanlon**

**November, 2019**

**Matthew Cox  
Jeff Hess  
Mark Keres  
Peter Gibson  
David Mathis  
John Oprzadek**

**December, 2019**

**John Egan**

## *Donations*

### **October, 2019**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Alzheimer's Association	\$500
Volunteers Of America	\$100
Eagle Scout Project	\$50
City of Strongsville (Christmas Display)	\$500
Strongsville Food Bank	\$500

### **November, 2019**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Wreaths for Western Reserve	\$500
Gifts For Yanks	\$1,000
Wreaths Across America (North Royalton Cemetary)	\$500
Southwest General Hospice	\$150
Veteran/Veteran Families In Need	
	up to \$2,000
Strongsville Food Bank	\$500

### **December, 2019**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Strongsville Rotary (Chili Open)	\$500
Semper Fi Fund	\$250
Child Safe Community Fund	\$250
Combs, Comedy, Bentfield Cancer Fund	\$1,000



## *Service Officer Bill Overton*



Wm. B. Overton 2/2/1968 Vietnam Tet fight day 2.  
Exhausted, no ammo, no water, no food.



There's no report from Service Officer Bill Overton, as he recovers from his recent surgery  
and medical issues.  
Get well soon, Bill!

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**Strongsville VFW Post 3345**  
17900 Strongsville Blvd • Strongsville, OH 44149  
(440) 234-0250

**A Place to Share Your Experiences  
with Your Military Brothers & Sisters**

Sponsored by Ohio VFW Charities



## *Canteen Manager Bill Sopko*



Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Your Canteen had a very busy Fall season, topping it off with the "always a good time" Army/Navy game and a Canteen Christmas appreciation day - everyone seemed to have a great time. A big thanks to all the members who helped put everything together, attended and assisted with the clean-up.

Speaking of clean-up, hats go off to the House Committee and Auxiliary for their continuous effort in keeping your Post as clean as they can. It always looks great. Also to Frank and Marie Bohac for decorating the two Christmas trees and Bob and Diane for their personal Christmas Post decorations - everything looked great.

Winter is upon us so please be careful. The Post tries its best to keep the parking lot plowed and salted along with the sidewalks, but at times it is hard to keep up with Mother Nature. And please be aware of the notorious "Black Ice" - we don't need any slips, falls or broken body parts.

Stop by and have a beverage or two, catch up on the posted upcoming events.

We want to thank everyone for supporting the Canteen in 2019 and hope you continue into the new year. Pray for and support our veterans and their families. Stay warm and God bless the U.S.A.

'till spring  
Dave & Bill

Some things to ponder:

1. Does the Little Mermaid wear an algebra ?
2. Why is there an expiration date on sour cream ?



**BENTLEY**  
Restoration and Remodeling  
*"Re-Feathering Nests Our Specialty"*

★ Insurance Claim Specialist ★  
★ Fire ★ Smoke ★ Water ★ Wind ★ Damage ★  
★ 24 Hour Board-Ups ★ Contents Cleaning ★  
★ General Contractors ★

**DAVID P. SCHEEFF**  
11111 Detroit • Suite 101  
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Office (216) 221-1284  
Fax (216) 221-1204  
Cell (216) 355-7769  
Email [scheeff21@aol.com](mailto:scheeff21@aol.com)





## House Committee Brent Newton



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

Thank you,

The Housing Committee

### Permanent Floors Carpet One

"We're the store for your perfect floor"

Veteran owned and operated since 1947

Carpet  
Ceramic Tile  
Hardwood  
Laminate  
Vinyl Flooring  
Wood Refinishing



Located  
On Ridge Rd.  
North of Snow,  
South of Pearl.  
One mile south  
of I-480

5620 Ridge Rd. \* Parma \* 440 884-3300



LIFE IS COMPLICATED BUT IT'S

## EZ2INSURE

Insurance ♦ Retirement ♦ Employee Benefits  
Auto, Business, Health, Home, Life, Pension

**Main Office:** 5610 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129  
Phil Galaska – Men's Auxiliary – Office Phone: 440-882-3760 x495

**Lakewood Office:** 1386 Bonnieview, Lakewood, OH 44107

**Solon Office:** 33610 Solon Road, Suite #5, Solon, OH 44139

**EZ2Insure of Florida, LLC**  
39047 Griffin Landing, Lady Lake, FL 32159

[www.ez2insure.org](http://www.ez2insure.org)

PERFORMANCE  
  
VISION CARE

Daniel J. Uzi, O.D.

Rockside Corners Plaza  
6901 Rockside Road  
Independence, OH 44131

tel: (216) 525-0740  
fax (216) 525-0750

[www.performancevisioncare.com](http://www.performancevisioncare.com)



# *Auxiliary*

## *Mary Ann Almashie*



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Auxiliary had a lot of great events since the last newsletter. To summarize:

The Auxiliary Friday Dinners (cheeseburger, hamburger or chicken tenders (all with fries) for only \$6.00) has been very enjoyable. We took a little break during the holidays but will be back on January 17th. We will end the Friday Dinners when the Fish Fry starts (I believe we only have 5 weeks left before the Fish Fry). Volunteers are needed every Friday to help with the Friday Food and will be needed for the Fish Fry. Any help is greatly appreciated.

I hope all who attended the 2019 Oktoberfest had a great time. I don't think anyone went away hungry because the food was EXCELLENT!!!!

Ribs and Raffle. What can I say, this event was an overall success in every way you can imagine! The food was great, the baskets were excellent and the band "Air Chiefs" afterward was a lot of fun. I would like to thank Frank Zullo and his team for preparing the great food. I would also like to thank Linda Tobel and her team for the exceptional baskets. All the baskets were donated, and I know her team put a lot of hours into this event. Thank you to all.

Our chili cook-off during the Ohio State vs Michigan game was a lot of fun and the chili was again very delicious. Congratulations to our first-place winner Commander Tim Zvoncheck, our second-place winner, Linda Tobel and third-place winner Bob DeHart. Our judges said it was very hard to judge the chili because all the chili was so good. Congratulations to Rosie Toomey who won the TV. Thanks to all who brought in chili and supported this event.

In December, the Auxiliary had their annual Christmas cookie sale. I want to give a special thank you to Rosalie Bruno for again volunteering to take charge of our Christmas cookie sale this year, and to our bakers and packers for volunteering their time making and packing the delicious cookies. You all did a great job! All the cookies were sold out again this year, and a lot of money was raised for our auxiliary.

I hope those who attended our auxiliary Christmas dinner enjoyed the food and great atmosphere. This year we tried something a little different by having our dinner at Dino's.

I would personally like to thank Frank Zullo and all our auxiliary members who volunteered their time in 2019.

I would also like to thank all members for their continued support of our organization. We are always in need of volunteers to help in our events or on our Auxiliary Post Work Parties, please consider helping. Please see the Post calendars for dates for the Post Work Parties. Volunteering is a lot of fun because we have such an outstanding group of Auxiliary members who are a lot of fun. For our new members, volunteering is also a great way to get to know your brothers and sisters of the Auxiliary.

Get your calendars ready because your Auxiliary is going to have some fun events coming your way: You will never hear “no soup for you” on January 26th because this is our annual Soup R Bowl event. Bring your homemade soup (no store bought) to the post; the event will start around 1:00. Take a chance on winning some \$\$\$\$. First place is \$100, second place \$75 and third place \$50; we will also be having sub sandwiches available.

On February 17th we will be having our first Celebrity Chef with Jamie Debenham preparing his famous Shepherd’s Pie. Cost for this event is \$12.00; tickets are on sale at the canteen.

On March 21st, the Auxiliary will be having a Reverse Raffle. Get ready for this one: For the cost of a \$40 ticket your dinner will include: Ribs, Wings, Pulled Pork, Mixed Greens, Corn, Coleslaw, Cornbread and Deep-Fried Potatoes. WOW what a menu! Your ticket will also include any \$2 beer, domestic bottles, or well drinks. Finally, you will also have a chance to be the winner of the \$1,000 Reverse Raffle grand prize. This event will be one for the books so don’t get shut off.

March 30th will be our second Celebrity Chef with our very own Jerri Zavatchen. Details will be forthcoming.

Our post Fish Fry will be starting in a few weeks. Please see the post calendar for dates.

We have tried to contact everyone who did not have their annual dues paid by the end of December. I am hoping that everyone got their dues paid and processed in time. If not, get them in now to remain a member in good standing. If you’re not already a life member, please consider becoming one – the rates are more than reasonable.

Please remember to keep your address, phone and email updated with the Auxiliary. You can either log into Malta and do this yourself or provide your updated information to our Secretary, Linda Burger or Treasurer, Denise Klusker. In order to receive email blasts from the Auxiliary, please provide your email information to Linda Tobel who sends out all Auxiliary email blasts; this is a great way to keep updated on Auxiliary business.

If you would like to receive the Scuttlebutt Newsletter and post email blasts, please provide your email information to Linda Burger who sends out post related email blasts and who is the editor of the Post newsletter. If you would like your birthday published in the post calendar, please provide your birth month and day to Linda (there is also a birthday book behind the bar at the canteen to place this information – see one of the bartenders).

If you have not attended an Auxiliary meeting lately, we would love to see you come back. Our Auxiliary meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Please bring any ideas to our Auxiliary meetings for future events to discuss and/or ideas for items to raffle off. As you can see above, our events are a lot of fun. Hope to see you at our next meeting.

On behalf of all my auxiliary officers and myself, I would like to wish a healthy and happy 2020 to all of you and your families. We wouldn’t be the kind of post we are without all the good and supportive people that are here. Thank you all for your support of our post and our auxiliary.

As always, please continue to keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers throughout the year...

Mary Ann Almashie  
President Auxiliary

# Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

## Bill Overton

Interviewed by Linda Burger

Football star. Soldier. Entrepreneur. Business Owner. Industry Leader. Inventor. 32nd Degree Mason. Husband. Father. Veteran's Advocate.

All of these titles describe Bill Overton but even all taken together, they don't do justice to the many, many accomplishments he has achieved. And yet, if you talk with him, he will modestly brush off all praise and recognition, saying "I'm just doing my job."

"Doing his job"- and doing it well began at an early age for Bill. Born in West Virginia, later moving to a farm in West Richfield, OH and in 1963, he and his Mom moved to Cleveland, where he starred on the West Tech football team before graduating in 1965.



"After graduation, I went to the Marine Recruiting Office, to enlist," said Bill. "But at that time, it meant a three-year commitment, rather than two with an almost certainty of ending up in Vietnam, so I decided to pass," he explained, with an ironic chuckle. For, just a year later, he was drafted, by the Army.



Bill's leadership skills became evident early on when, during basic training at Fort Benning, he was made acting Sergeant. He was then sent to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO for infantry training. "As we exited the bus, I noticed a poster, looking for football players and asked if I could try out," he said. "Turned out I was the fastest guy on the team and became the Running Back. And since the Coach was a full bird Colonel, I never did make it to training school," he added, with a laugh.

The Colonel later approved a MOS and certificate of completion as a Clerk Typist, although, as Bill readily admits "I couldn't spell and I couldn't type."

The plan included serving at a Post Office in New York City until the next football season but, once again, Uncle Sam intervened and Bill received orders to be shipped to Vietnam in 1967. "When I arrived in Qui Nhon City, they quickly realized I didn't have any office skills, so I became a driver," according to Bill.



On January 31, 1968, during the Tet Offensive, Bill, along with about 20 other soldiers was trapped in an outpost with no food, water and ammo. "We were surrounded by the enemy but, thank God, they didn't know we were there, they kept looking in the wrong direction," he explained. It was during this ordeal that Bill's Mom later told him he came to her in a dream, saying he needed help. His Mother contacted their Pastor and an intense prayer group began on his behalf.

After three days, the trapped soldiers were rescued by a group of MP's, with gun jeeps who got them all out safely. "Even though I didn't know then about the prayer group,



my faith was enormously strengthened during this ordeal,” Bill revealed. “I firmly believe it was only through God’s intervention that I made it through this incident, and many others while serving in Nam.”



*Cherished possessions - handmade vases, obtained through a trade with a villager, sent home wrapped in a field jacket.*

He also vividly remembers the battle of Khe Sanh, that raged for days, where his unit lost 95 soldiers, and the Marines lost 155.

After a quick training session, Bill was later assigned to a Search and Rescue Team, going out in helicopters to find wounded or stranded soldiers. He later became part of the 1st Air Calvary/Assault Team.

He left Vietnam on July 14, 1968 and officially returned to civilian status on the 21st. “I had been back about 6 or 7 months when a group of us decided to go to a local Bowling Alley/Bar. There I met a lovely lady, Barb, who, it turned out, lived just a few blocks from me and who also graduated from West Tech,” he fondly reminisced. And just a few months later they were married and a strong, loving partnership began.

Bill and Barb owned the franchise rights to the first 7-11’s in Ohio, as well as three Dairy Mist stores. Although a Home Improvement business they also ran was successful, in the winter months jobs slowed down to the point Bill applied for a position as a truck driver with Great Western Juice Corporation, a local fruit juice and beverage business. In another serendipitous moment, since both owners were World War II combat veterans, they selected Bill for the job, primarily based on his military service.



His talents, hard work and integrity quickly got their attention and they convinced him to stay on. Bill later advanced into sales and, after landing one of their biggest accounts ever – Red Lobster – they “had to promote me,” he said with a laugh.

The owners so believed in his abilities that they arranged for him to attend classes, at night, on weekends and with tutors and mentors. Bill later obtained his degree, specializing in Finance, Business Investment and Marketing.

The “guns” like you see at the Post Canteen were one of Bill’s specialties. No, not the ones on the walls, the ones behind the bar. “We perfected the beverages that were provided at bars and restaurants through the push button dispensers,” Bill explained. “By creating a good, and tasty, mix of flavors, we made it easier and faster to serve customers.”

His creativity lead to many of these flavors, as well as developing a system for dispensing Margaritas and 7-and-7’s, a very popular drink at the time. “I would go to our scientists and tell them, this is what we need to come up with and they would tell me, that’s not possible. And then they would do it,” he remembered, with a laugh. Now found everywhere, Bill also introduced the first Slushies to the Cleveland area.

Following the death of one owner, Bill became Company President in 1993 and later added CEO in 2009. In 2013, Bill and Barb sold the company and he “retired.”

Their children include Michelle, a Director at Cleveland Clinic, Mandy, a Nurse in Charlotte, South Carolina and son David, who is involved with MMA fighting. They have two granddaughters with whom “there are no rules at our house – just don’t get hurt,” Bill said, with a laugh.

A charter member of the Berea/Brookpark VFW Post, Bill transferred to the Strongsville Post in 2005, with 40 years in the VFW. He is also a 45-year member of the American Legion. After retirement, Bill quickly became bored and, when Commander Tim Zvoncheck asked him to become Service Officer, he jumped at the opportunity. What began as sending cards to veterans in hospitals grew into a life mission and commitment to helping veterans and families obtain benefits to which they are entitled.

“I realized there was a void, that there was no one to assist these people in working their way through the governmental systems,” he explained. With his natural talents and tenacity, Bill went to work and when he achieved his first major success helping a veteran obtain benefits, the man described it as “winning the Super Bowl or the World Series” and Bill was hooked.



To date, through Bill's efforts, and those of others at Post 3345, more than 75 cases have been won, resulting in \$1 million in compensation for veterans within the Post, \$2 million if including other veterans.

“It is the best feeling, for a veteran to help another veteran through the system,” said Bill, in explaining his devotion and dedication to his new calling. “Through the knowledge and contacts we've developed, we are determined to do everything we can to ensure veterans receive the support and benefits they deserve.”

Although a person who prefers to stay in the background, Bill speaks with great pride and awe of receiving the Commander's Award in 2017. “It really meant a lot, especially since it came from my peers,” he revealed. “I couldn't do it without the help of so many people, especially Russ Tobel, Mary Ann Almashie, Jim McCann and, of course, Commander Tim. And the support we receive from Congressman Anthony Gonzalez is invaluable.

“Knowing they've got my back and are always there for me, and for the work we are doing, makes it all worthwhile,” he added.

Bill, for always “being the back” for hundreds of veterans throughout our Post, Ohio and the 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 [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 Rosalee Bruno, Auxiliary Lifetime Member, Queen of the Pizelles and the Cookie Drive!*

*While Rosalee and Joe are basking in the Florida sun, she shared her Shrimp Bisque Soup - a cold weather favorite.*



## ONE OF ROSALEE'S FAVORITE RECIPES - SHRIMP BISQUE SOUP

### Ingredients:

- 1 can Cream Of Celery soup
- 3 cans Potato soup
- 2 cans Cream Of Shrimp soup
- 1 Quart of Half & Half
- 1/4th lb Butter
- 1 medium Onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 lbs Cooked Shrimp, chopped

Saute onion and butter, set aside.

Combine all three soups in a large pan and slowly heat. Gradually add the Half & Half cream, then the onions and butter.

Add the shrimp at the last minute. Cook until hot.

# 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@wowway.biz](mailto: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](mailto:vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com) or by contacting Linda Burger at [LWBurger@aol.com](mailto:LWBurger@aol.com)

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

Happy Holidays!

Linda Burger  
Scuttlebutt Editor

**Cash for Lionel Trains**

**Call Bob at (440) 759-2573**





**January 24, 2020**

**Memorializing Veterans Act Now Law:** Last Friday, the president signed the VFW-supported Memorializing Veterans Act into law. The new law permits VA to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP). Under the current program, the VLP awards contracts to universities, colleges, and institutions to develop educational programs to teach students and others about the veterans interred in national, state, or tribal cemeteries in their communities. Transitioning to a grant-based program would broaden the reach of the VLP beyond large universities to smaller groups that wish to engage with VA in memorializing veterans. “Perpetuating the memory and history of our dead is one of the VFW’s founding principles,” said Carlos Fuentes, Director National Legislative Service. “The Veterans Legacy Program ensures the memories and stories of the brave men and women who have worn our nation’s uniform are preserved in perpetuity.” The VFW thanks Rep. Connor Lamb (D-Calif.), Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) for introducing this legislation, and for their efforts to promote civic engagement and foster respect for service and sacrifice.

**Legislation Introduced to Add New Presumptive Diseases for Agent Orange Exposure:** Last Wednesday, Representatives Josh Harder (D-Calif.) and Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) introduced VFW-supported H.R. 5610, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act. This important bipartisan legislation would expand the list of presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to include parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension, and hyperthyroidism. In October 2019, it was revealed that White House officials impeded the inclusion of these diseases as presumptive conditions despite a recommendation from former Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin that they be added. In a press release, Representative Harder stated, “No more studies. No more excuses. Everyone seems to think this is the right thing to do except for some Washington bureaucrats – it’s time to stop playing games and give our vets the benefits they earned.” The VFW has long advocated for the inclusion of these diseases on the list of presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure, and thanks Rep. Harder and Rep. Stauber for introducing this legislation.

**VA Inspector General Finds Long Wait Times for Community Care:** Last Thursday, the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report that addressed the consult process for community care appointments in VISN 8. VISN 8 is composed of the seven VA Medical Centers (VAMC) in Florida and one in Puerto Rico. The report found that the average wait time in VISN 8 for community care appointments under MISSION Act authority is 106 days. VA OIG found that while contributing factors included staffing shortages and a higher community care workload than VAMC directors had planned, the average time to forward a community care consult between offices within the VAMC itself was 10 days and an additional 18 days were spent waiting for VA to authorize the care. The report cites an example of ophthalmology care at the James A. Haley VAMC in Tampa where of the 66 days it took on average to receive treatment, 34 of those days were spent “waiting for community care staff to create an authorization for care.” Wait time goals under the MISSION Act are 20 days for primary care and 28 days for specialty care. Recommendations to remediate the issues identified in the report include hiring to fill staffing shortages, adjusting assignments to cover the workload, and better monitoring of staff processing time.

**New Navy Aircraft Carrier to be Named After Doris “Dorie” Miller:** On Monday, the Navy announced that it will be naming a new aircraft carrier after Mess Attendant 3rd Class Doris Miller. Miller was the first black service member to receive the Navy Cross for valor. On Dec. 7, 1941, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller got his mortally wounded officer to a safer location and manned a machine gun to fire at the Japanese aircraft until he was ordered to leave, even though he had never been trained to operate the machine gun. Miller continued his service in the Navy after the Pearl Harbor attack, he died when the carrier he was serving on was sunk by a Japanese torpedo.

**Army Holds Town Hall on Housing Issue:** On Tuesday, military leadership hosted a town hall meeting with residents of Fort George G. Meade to address housing concerns and questions regarding mold issues. Maj. Gen. Omar J. Jones stated that, “until we get to the point where every resident in Fort Meade is satisfied, you have to tell us and use any of those means of communication that are out there and let us know until we get it right.”

**Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Information:** The VR&E program commonly known as Voc Rehab is an excellent benefit offered by VA that is not utilized by as many eligible veterans who may need it. VR&E services can assist eligible veterans with resume development skills, job search training, employment accommodations, and education in order to keep employed through different avenues. The VR&E program offers individual counselors to accommodate the different needs of the clients they serve. We encourage all veterans to learn more about VR&E services to see if you may be eligible for this great benefit.



## TAKEOUT

### Stop in or Call Ahead!

- ☎ 216.309.1570
- 📍 8467 Memphis Avenue Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
- 🌐 [www.momspierogies.com](http://www.momspierogies.com)
- ✉ [teampierogi@momspierogies.com](mailto:teampierogi@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