



# The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

October - December 2020

## Commander's Comments



Hello everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and surviving the craziness that 2020 has presented us. Although I have addressed all of you many times via email blasts over the past six to seven months concerning issues, processes, procedures, and the status of Post 3345, this is our first true newsletter since January. So, the question is, where do I begin?

First, I want to address the information that I put in newsletters or in email blasts. I provide information regarding the VFW and our post. I also tell stories of personal experiences, or I provide an op-ed on recent or current events in our country, in government, or in society. The definition of op-ed is: opposite the editorial page, which expresses the opinion of the author, not that of the organization or other contributors to the publication.



Most of the time, I am thanked for the words I provide. Sometimes, however, I am ridiculed for them by those who disagree. That's okay, though. We live in America, and the First Amendment gives us the right to speak, to agree, or to disagree. You also have the freedom to read what I write or the choice to ignore it.

So 2020 - what a year! I recall seeing a post online last year that stated 2020 was going to be a perfect year. I believe that statement was based upon the meaning that 20/20 is perfect vision and that the year 2020 would be a perfect view of what lies ahead. I hope to God that is not the case! I think this year has been more like a hangover from the infamous MD 20/20, better known as "Mad Dog 2020." I'm sure many of you recall drinking a 20-ounce bottle of the 20% alcohol or "liquid death" and waking the next morning feeling like your head was in a vise, your stomach had been turned inside out, and wondering who painted the whites of your eyes a deep shade of red. I'm not sure about you, but I certainly have a hangover from this 2020!

We've gone from impeachments, to Covid-19, to massive economic shutdowns, to permanent closures of businesses, and even the loss of friends and family members. We are now going through what may be one of the most tumultuous elections in the history of America. I know both sides state during every Presidential election cycle that "this is the most important election of our lifetime." I do agree that every election is important, but we must thoroughly analyze what this election means. It means something different to everyone, but I believe the bottom line is that this election is a fight between capitalism and socialism.

*continued on page 2*

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Will the United States of America experience a disastrous transition of capitalism to socialism like that of the once wealthy Venezuela? Probably not in the lifetime of those reading this, but there is certainly that possibility. If the implementation of these ideologies begins by those in power, where will they end? What will happen to our America?

Look at the past seven months. I am not saying that the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic was incorrect, but look at the control they had over us. Small and large businesses were destroyed by closures and the stay-at-home orders. Food supplies were scarce, alcohol consumption increased, and suicidal ideation increased substantially during this time due to depression. We are mandated to wear masks, limit our social gatherings, and close our bars and restaurants earlier, all in the hopes that this will reduce the spread of the horrible virus. Once again, I state, I don't disagree with some of the actions taken to protect human life. However, I do look at the level of control the government has over us now, and my anxiety levels increase dramatically when I think about what will happen if our country transitions from its current form of governing to that of a more controlling or radical belief.

Not only has the pandemic negatively affected our way of life, but look at what has been happening on the streets of our cities and towns. Due to the radical beliefs of some local and state governmental leadership, many have become lawless havens that further breed hatred, crime, and total disrespect for all that is good. Personal property, personal safety, and the quest for the American dream is being destroyed by other radical groups no different than the likes of Al Qaeda, the Taliban, or ISIS. Their goals are to terrorize or destroy anyone or anything that represents a different ideology than their own. Domestic terrorism will never solve problems. All it does is create a further division of lawmakers, citizens, police officers, and political parties. Our founding fathers and those who fought to create this "Land of the Free" must be rolling over in their graves. It's sad, but we as true Americans must stand together and protect our country and our Constitutional rights. Protecting this American Dream takes sacrifice, laws and regulations, and leadership who is not afraid to stand up and speak those words. Let us never forget the sacrifices of those who have built the United States of America, and let us never stand back and let others destroy it!

As you mail in your ballots, or go to the polls on November 3rd, please do not vote based on your love or hatred of a specific candidate. Vote on policy, past performance, and the ability to uphold our Constitution and protect America as our forefathers intended it to be. The America that your fathers, grandfathers, and others fought for in the wars of the past. The outcome of this election scares me! So many have fought to defend the principles of this nation, and some of the radical beliefs that we have heard and seen over the past several months, and even years, threaten the degradation of the values, morals, and beliefs on which this country was founded. It threatens the right to life, the safety of our citizens, and the security of our borders. It threatens financial stability, independence, and the right to defend ourselves. Plain and simple, it threatens the Constitution of the United States of America.

Before closing the editorial section of this article, I would like to mention one more item. During my October membership meeting, I brought in State Senator Matt Dolan and State Representative Tom Patton. They came in to speak to our members about what is happening in our state. They spent about thirty minutes providing us with valuable information about Covid, financial assistance, and certain House Bills that are particularly important to our organization. Upon their completion, I made the following statement: "I brought these two gentlemen in to share this information with us. Not because there is an (R) after their names but because of the relationship I have with them. They have been extremely helpful to Post 3345, to the VFW, and to veterans in general. Yes, they are Republicans, but they are friends of mine and warriors for our cause. They are no different than Congressman Anthony Gonzalez. The party affiliation after his name makes no difference. The difference is the actions that these men take to help our veterans. When it comes to helping veterans in need, Congressman Gonzalez does not ask whether they are a D or a R. He helps ALL those in need."

For me, it is not about what these gentlemen are, but who they are. It's about the relationships that have been built through the years, the ability to pick up the phone and call them when help is needed, and the values that they share as true Americans!

I will sign out of this op-ed not as a VFW Commander, but as a member of Post 3345, a comrade, and a friend to all of you.

Sincerely,  
Tim Zvoncheck

Now on to Post business.

As we continue making strides to recover from the stresses of temporary closure, social distancing, and dealing with the fallout from this pandemic, the officers and staff of our post continue to do all they can to allow our "home" to be somewhat normal. We have made some adjustments to the seating based upon the guidelines of the Governor, and we continue to enforce the rules that his office has provided to us. We ask for your continued support and cooperation during these times, as we want you and all of our members to be safe.

Even though the year has been rocky, we continue to try to make improvements throughout our post. For those who visit on a regular basis, you will see that we removed the old OVFC electronic raffle machines, and replaced them with a new, more modern version with better reliability, sights, and sounds. Okay, maybe not sounds, because we still hear the same people grumbling when it eats their \$20 bill a little too quickly.

The VFW Department of Ohio has been working diligently to get the Ohio Senate to pass H.B. 282, which will permanently legalize these machines, so that we may continue to raise money for our charitable causes. This has been a long, drawn out fight between the Ohio Charities, and state legislature, and we certainly hope the Senate will pass this bill before the end of the year. The Ohio House passed this with a vote of 90-2, but getting the Senate to move on this is another story. We have the support of enough Senators to pass the bill, but we have not been able to get it moved to the floor.

There is a TRO (temporary restraining order) that was granted a few years ago to keep these machines in operation, but it is due to expire on 12/31 of this year. If the Senate doesn't move, these machines will go dark and we will lose the charitable funds they provide.

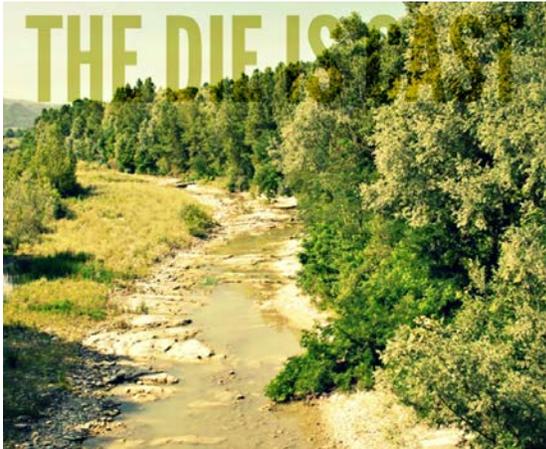
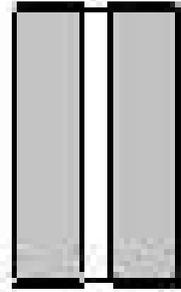
Well, this article is long enough, and our editor Linda Burger needs to get it sent out. I end as I always do and wish you fair winds and following seas. May God bless and protect you all, and may He bless the United States of America.

Respectfully,  
Commander Tim Zvoncheck

# Senior Vice Commander



Don't be discouraged, don't lose sight  
We stand together in this fight  
All, is at it seems  
There's no turning back on this dream  
After the die has been cast  
The course is now taken  
Resolve is unshaken  
And destiny calls us at last



True as an arrow, so we soldier on  
Right on across the Rubicon  
Straight and narrow, any doubts be gone  
Way on across the Rubicon  
Over the river to the rising sun  
Ride on across the Rubicon

And there's no way back from here  
In waters deep, but we still go on  
Straight on across the Rubicon

("Rubicon" John Wetton/Geoffrey Downes)  
(photo from [tworiversblog.com](http://tworiversblog.com))

A few years ago - well, in 49 BC actually - Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon River as he made his way to Rome. He had been serving as a Governor to an area north of Italy proper, and his term was expiring. The Roman Senate, who felt threatened by his "hero" status among the Roman citizens due to his skills on the battlefield, ordered him to disband his army and return to the capital. He was instructed not to bring his troops across the Rubicon, then the northern border of Italy. To do so would be considered an act of treason against the Roman Republic. Legend has it that he uttered the phrase "the die is cast" ('alea iacta est' in the native Latin) as he chose to ignore his orders while he and his army crossed the river. Following this act, a civil war ensued, eventually resulting in Caesar being installed as Dictator/Emperor, and ultimately, the establishment of the Roman Empire. (Note - for brevity's sake, that last sentence covers the years 49 BC until about 27 BC. Caesar was killed in 44 BC, but the Roman Empire endured in some form or another until 1453!) Quite a roll of the die that Caesar made!

Caesar knew he had passed the point of no return - which is the figurative meaning of "crossing the Rubicon" today. He set in motion a series of events that no one knew where they'd end. I rather believe we find ourselves in a similar situation with this year's election. Whatever happens, this will be a significant "sea change" in America. Whether it is a change for the better or not will be borne out by history. However, with the animosity between our two political parties today, it seems that regardless of the declared winner, things will not be calm and settled on the home front like I presume most of us wish.

This election will have a huge impact on what kind of future we Americans will have. Some on the right fear a Democratic win (including potentially the Senate as well as the Presidency) would result in the repeal of the Second

Amendment, ending the filibuster in the Senate, stacking the Supreme Court with 12 justices or more to allow for a more liberal-leaning Court, and an attempt to institute a socialist economic and social agenda on our citizens. (Three quarters of the States would need to vote on a new amendment repealing an existing one, so Congress could not do that on its own, though they could certainly try to limit the scope of an existing amendment.) Some on the left fear the reelection of President Trump would result in the addition of more conservative justices on the Supreme Court to challenge, and eventually overturn Roe V. Wade as well as the Affordable Care Act, the establishment of an authoritarian government, and other frightful things that I'm sure would be claimed as being likely with four more years of a Trump presidency.

No one can predict the future, but it seems fair to say things will change either way. After the tumultuous four years of his first term, a second Donald Trump term in office will yield more of the same, resulting in another four years of constant charges of something or other that should be grounds to remove him. His rather brazen attitude toward his opponents and those who disagree or challenge him, and in-your-face Tweets do not sit well with many. The election of Joe Biden would signify a significant turn to the left of America. While he claims that he is a Centrist, those around him are espousing a much more pronounced socialist-oriented agenda. It is ironic that our efforts in Korea and Vietnam, as well as the Cold War, were all conducted to stem the spread of Socialism/Communism, and now we have a very real prospect of electing someone who supports some of that ideology as President of the United States and/or placing others who favor that ideology in significantly influential roles in his Administration.

Regardless of who wins, we will not be revisiting the Era of Good Feelings ushered in during the Presidency of James Monroe to say the least. That is rather unfortunate. I would like to see our country return to a less partisan approach to everything but am not holding my breath. We will be crossing our own Rubicon – casting the die and heading down a path that will not be easily reversed if we later determine we chose the wrong one.

As those who swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, we should not take this election lightly – nor any election for that matter. No American – veteran or not – should slough off any election. They are too important, and we cannot take them lightly. We all know people who are doggedly for one candidate or the other – and we should be fully in support of “our” candidate. You should vote FOR someone, rather than AGAINST another – it demonstrates that you have been deliberate in your choice of candidates, focusing on one's platform and vision for the country (state, city, etc.) and that is what I hope all of us do – understand what our vote really means should our preferred candidate win.

It is getting harder and harder to get straight facts when the traditional media outlets all have a bias, on both the right and left. You need to do your homework and understand that if your candidate wins, you should be happy with the trajectory of our nation – if they do what they said they would do. But on the other side, you should accept the outcome of the election even if “the other guy” wins. This is not a Participation Award event where “everyone wins” – elections have consequences as we have been told. Someone wins, someone loses. The winners get to make the calls on a lot of things! We need to accept that and make the best of whatever outcome we get. If your candidate wins, hold them to his or her promises; and if ‘the other guy’ wins, work harder to beat him next time around if you so choose. But do not try to subvert the legitimate outcome of the election by throwing obstacles at every turn because ‘your guy’ lost. Soon the “die will be cast” and we will have to see what the result is and move forward from there, always with the goal of working for the betterment of America. Hopefully.

“Over the river to the rising sun - Ride on across the Rubicon. And there's no way back from here. In waters deep, but we still go on - Straight on across the Rubicon.”

Tad Brown  
Sr. Vice Commander

## **Membership Committee:**

Another reminder – each one of you is our best recruiter! You know how special this Post is and the positive impact we have on Strongsville and neighboring communities.

We do take the VFW's motto to heart – “no one does more for veterans”. We live those words everyday by trying to help our fellow veterans and their families, as well as providing a supportive environment for our members.

Please keep an eye out for any veteran you meet as a possible member. The power of the VFW lies in having 1.6 million members behind our representatives on Capitol Hill and we need to keep that membership level up to force Congress to keep their promises made to service members and their families.

Feel free to provide them with my cell number if they have any questions! (440) 376-7491 -

Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

## **Advertisers**

All of you that are currently advertisers – we will be sending out invoices for your continued support starting in 2021. You can see the rates elsewhere in this newsletter, so if you'd like to be proactive and send in your payment, feel free to do so!

## **General Announcements**

Anyone interested in obtaining a VFW garrison cap (the brown garrison cap with yellow piping), we will be taking orders and submitting one request rather than one by one or having various sizes of them on hand. They run about \$45/cap, which includes the embroidering of STRONGSVILLE, OH on the left side.

Please contact Tad Brown or Bill Sopko with your size should you like to have us order one for you.



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

October, 2020

**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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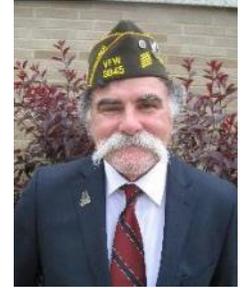
Contact information: Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Cell: 440-376-7491

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



# Junior Vice Commander Dan Dallas



Greetings everyone,

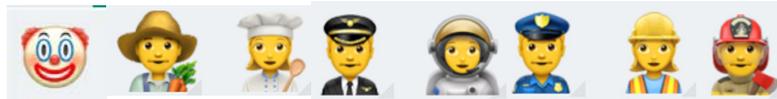
In an attempt to escape from the madness of the year so far, the Post will be holding its annual Halloween bash. Unfortunately, as in prior years where masks were encouraged but not required, this year all are required to mask up.



So, be creative with your mask and or costume and let's have some fun. Halloween falls on Saturday this year so the Post Halloween party will actually be on Halloween for once! A Full Moon  is predicted that night .....we all know the affects of that lunar occurrence.

Johnny R will be on hand to provide the entertainment for the evening so be ready for some scary GOOD TIMES!

What will your costume be?



Stay safe, be well, see you at the Post.

DAN DALLAS, Junior Vice Commander

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# *Honor Guard Don Kennett*



As everyone knows the Honor Guard has been trying to recruit new members for our team. I would like to introduce three new members:

Phil Toomey, Marine, Vietnam veteran, lives in Strongsville

Gary Vitteck, Navy, Cuban Blockade veteran, lives in Parma

Charlene Sanford, Marine veteran, has Honor Guard experience at Arlington National Cemetery, lives in Olmsted Falls

These three new members will be a welcome addition to our team; Welcome Aboard.

One of the biggest changes due to COVID-19 for the Honor Guard is the changes at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery (OWRNC) at Rittman. We are using the Public Information Center (PIC) building by the front entrance as the Honor Guard team assembly/break area.

And, as it looks right now, there will be changes to our scheduled duty days. We will not be on an every seven-week Thursday schedule, but will be asked to add additional days to help out because of the volunteer units dropping out due to the pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Don Kennett, Honor Guard Commander

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

<b>November 7th</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>Honor Guard Meeting</b>
<b>November 11th</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>Veterans Day Remembrance</b>
<b>November 12th</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>Scheduled tour of duty at Rittman</b>
<b>December 5th</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>Honor Guard Meeting</b>
<b>December 31st</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>Scheduled tour of duty at Rittman</b>

# TAPS



**July, 2020:** None

**August, 2020:** James Criswell  
Ronald Finley

**September, 2020:** Thomas Nicholas

**October, 2020:** Ray Haseley  
William Reese  
Lou Yaneff

## *New Members*

### **July, 2020**

Jeffrey Bacha  
Thomas Barry  
Randy Knapp  
Peter Nuti  
Sean Stanton

### **August, 2020**

No New Members

### **September, 2020**

Theodore Reich

### **October, 2020**

Paul Brown

## *Donations*

### **July, 2020**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Strongsville Kiwanis Patriotic Flag Sponsorship	\$200
Stronsville Food Bank	\$500
VFW Post 1082	\$2500
Wounded Hero Fishing Event	\$1000

### **August, 2020**

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Hanson House Golf Outing	\$500
Strongsville Firefighters Golf Outing	\$100
Blue Star Mothers	\$100

### **September, 2020**

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
VFW Post 2133 Golf Outing	\$500
VFW Post 1066	\$500
VFW Post 2850	\$1000
Veteran-In-Need	\$400

### **October, 2020**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
City of Strongsville Christmas Display	\$500
Baldwin Wallace Student Veterans Organization	\$200
District 7, VFW Department of Ohio	\$500

# *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!

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# *Canteen Manager*

## *Bill Sopko*



Your Canteen is up and operating again, with a few mandates from the state, after a 20+week closure. There were still bills to pay during our down time, gas, electric and water to name a few.

We had a daily work crew that did a whole lot of cleaning and hired a professional company to super sanitize every square inch of the Post, for the well being of all our members. so come on down and enjoy a cold one or two. Remember as of now, MASKS ARE A MUST.

Though most of this year's main fund raisers and concerts were cancelled, we are still trying to have a MARINE CORPS birthday celebration, a Karaoke night or two, tailgate party. So stop on up for a libation and check the bulletin boards for the dates and times.

You may have noticed that a few prices have been raised to keep up with the ongoing cost increase of the products. When you just stop and look around at all the products the canteen has to buy and maintain, from toilet paper to the maintaining the HV/AC units, and plowing and salting your parking. At some point, to keep the post financially stable, the increases were necessary.

That's about it for now. WELCOME BACK

Pray for our troops and may GOD BLESS THE U.S.A

Happy trails  
Dave and Bill

? Why are Hemorrhoids called Hemorrhoids instead of Assteroids.



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# 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

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# *Auxiliary*

## *Mary Ann Almashie*



Hi everyone, I am hoping you are all doing well and staying safe!! What a year we've had so far. Who would have ever thought we would be going through a pandemic and wearing masks and social distancing being our norm. However, we have to do whatever we can to keep our loved ones safe, and if that means wearing a mask wherever we go, so be it.

Since our last newsletter, we have had our elections of officers for the 2020\2021 year. Thank you for trusting in me to be your president again this year. Please see the officers board at the post in the main hallway for your 2020/2021 list of officers. Thank you to all my current officers and chairs for accepting these positions. I am so glad that members are volunteering for these positions and I am grateful for everything you all do.

I am so glad we are getting a little bit back to normal at the post. We have had our regular Auxiliary meetings every month and I am happy to report that many of our members feel comfortable attending our meetings. As a reminder, our Auxiliary meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month – starting at 7:00pm. We do ask that you wear your mask and adhere to social distancing, based on the rules by the Post Committee. If you still do not feel comfortable attending the meetings due to the pandemic, I completely understand. My main goal is for everyone to be safe!

Letters went out about a month ago to annual members regarding their annual dues. Please note that dues need to be paid and entered into Malta by the end of December to be in good standings with the Auxiliary. If your dues are not paid and entered into Malta by the end of December, come January, your key card will be turned off and you will not be able to attend any auxiliary meetings. If you are not already a life member, please consider becoming one – the rates are more than reasonable.

We have had quite a few new members join our Auxiliary and I want to say Welcome to each of you. If you have any questions about our Auxiliary or need to discuss anything, please feel free to reach out to me. I am here for each of you.

Unfortunately, we did have to cancel many of our major annual events this year. However, we have had the clearance and discussed the below upcoming events in our Auxiliary meetings.

Every Friday, the Auxiliary is cooking a Fish Fry dinner from 5:30 – 8:00 (or until sold out). The cost is \$7.00 and consists of a nice size piece of fish and fries. Stop in before the Queen of Hearts drawing, have dinner and take a chance at winning the queen. I would like to thank everyone who has been volunteering their time with this event.

For the past two months, the Auxiliary has been selling T-Shirts. If you have already ordered a t-shirt, please see me, they are in. If you have not already paid, the cost is small – XL \$15.00, 2XL+ is \$18.00. If you would like to order a t-shirt (great Christmas presents), there is an order form on the Canteen bulletin board.

This year our Auxiliary is gathering and organizing care packages to be sent to the Ohio National Guard Unit 16th EN BRIGADE to which VFW member Christina Majewski is assigned and currently serving in Kuwait.

We will be sending these packages for the next few months so please consider donating items – everything is needed. A few examples brought up during our Auxiliary meeting was fruit and nut bars, jerky, ramen noodles, word books, magazines, etc. There is a box in the office to place your items.

On Tuesday, November 3rd is Election Day. Our veterans died for your right to vote, so please be sure to cast your vote.

On Thursday, November 12th, from 12 – (sold out), stop in for a Halfway to St Paddy's Day Corned Beef Sandwich for only \$8.00.

In December we will have having our Annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale so pull out your recipes and consider baking for this years Bake Sale. Volunteers are needed to bake and help pack the cookies. Rosalee Bruno has done such a great job with this in the past and has volunteered to head up this year's bake sale. More information will be provided at our next Auxiliary meeting or in email blasts.

At our next Auxiliary meeting we will be discussing our Auxiliary Christmas Dinner so if you have any suggestions, please bring them to our November 9th meeting.

Looking into next year, on Sunday, January 3rd starting at noon, we will be having our annual chili cook-off during the Browns vs Pittsburgh game so pull out your chili recipes and let's have some fun. We will again have 50/50 and sideboards during this event.

The Auxiliary Celebrity Chef event that was scheduled for this summer has been postponed until next year. If you have already purchased a ticket and would like your money back, please see me either on Wednesday or Friday. If you would like us to hold your money until the event takes place, just keep your ticket and it will be honored when we have the event.

The Auxiliary is needed to help with dusting the pictures and displays, wiping off the tables and washing down the kitchen cabinets. Volunteers can stop in at any time but be sure to record your time spent. Note, you can drop off your hours in the Auxiliary mailbox in the office. Even if you sign the Post book when volunteering, you also need to report it to the Auxiliary.

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.

Since our next newsletter will not go out until next year. On behalf of all my auxiliary officers and myself, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season to you and your family and I hope 2021 will be much better than 2020. 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, veterans and first responders in your thoughts and prayers throughout the year...

Mary Ann Almashie  
President Auxiliary



**Jack Egan**  
Broker/Realtor  
Cell: 216-780-3534  
OhioGoodGuys@yahoo.com

4118 Center Road  
Brunswick, Ohio 44212  
Office: 330-220-4780

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**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING US FREE!**

Do you know of anyone looking to buy or sell a home?  
If so refer them to me and when the home transfers,  
**I'll donate 10% of my commission back to the  
Strongsville VFW Post 3345.**

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

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# Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

## Al Jablonski

Interviewed by Linda Burger

Who says the Army doesn't have a sense of humor?

Certainly not Al Jablonski who right from the start learned what a kidder Uncle Sam could be. "After we graduated from Valley Forge High School, my best friend and I decided to enlist in the Army," he recalled. "At that time, they were offering a 'Buddy Plan' where you could go through your training and service together, so we wanted to take advantage of it.

"The day before we were to leave, we were told we would do our basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY. Then, three hours before we left, I was suddenly assigned to Ft. Jackson, SC and we never saw each other again until we were out of the service!" he said with a laugh.

After completing his Basic Training, Al was assigned to Ammunition School at the Redstone Arsenal, AL where he quickly learned the importance of packing and shipping the right kind of munitions together. "We found out right away that loading crates with different kinds of ammunition on the same transport vehicle could lead to very unexpected – and loud and dangerous consequences!" he explained.



Graduation from Redstone led to the next Army "comedy act." "We were all in formation and they started calling out names," he recalled. "They called the first 30 and announced they were going to Korea. Then, more names, going to Vietnam. Then, even more names, going to Vietnam.

"Each time we didn't hear our name, we started to relax a little, thinking we had gotten lucky," he went on to say. "Finally, they said – 'if we didn't call your name – you're going to Vietnam, too.'"

While in Vietnam Al was responsible for loading convoys and for setting booby traps along the perimeter of the camp – trip wires, trip grenades, claymores, and so on. "I must have done a good job of it, since I never blew anything up," he said with a laugh.

Following a year in Vietnam, Al was shipped to Okinawa, where an airborne rigging company needed an ammunition specialist. And, once again, the Army exhibited its sense of humor. "After I had been there just a short time, I received a 48-hour call to go back to Vietnam, even though I wasn't supposed to have to return," said Al. "Luckily, instead, I received a three-month duty temporary duty station in Thailand, working with the Thai Army."

This turned out to be a very positive experience, one with many good memories. "Right from the start, I treated the Thai soldiers like they were my brothers and they, in turn, treated me like a cherished friend. On my paydays, we drank American whiskey and beer together. On their paydays we drank their beverages. Believe me, I preferred my paydays way more," he said laughing.

Al remembered one soldier with whom he became very good friends, so much so that he presented Al with a medal that had been in his family over 200 years. "The medal is for good luck in your travels. It served me very well in Southeast Asia and throughout my life," he added.



It was back to Okinawa then, to the Air Force Base in Sukeran, the largest city in the country. “For some reason, the High School there frequently received bomb threats and since the EOD was an hour and a half away, they would call me,” he explained. “It was kind of fun, especially since they were all false alarms. But there would be all these Colonels and Majors standing around and, since I was in command of the situation, I got to tell them what to do!”

Then there was one opportunity for the Army to pull a joke on him. “I also wanted to go airborne, and to do a jump,” Al recalled. “I had completed the first of a two-week training class before the opportunity in Thailand came up but never had the chance to go back.

“While on Okinawa, they were going to let me experience it. I was all suited up, ready to go, when a Captain appeared and stopped me at the last minute,” he ruefully remembered.

One of his fondest memories was the week he spent on Iwo Jima, where he saw the actual site of the famed flag raising. Al also enjoyed his R & R in Australia, and ever since then, has loved to travel.



He was discharged two weeks early – no joke – and arrived back in Cleveland on January 14th. “Even though it was below zero, I wanted to kiss the ground!” he recalled.



While in the service, Al, an SP4 Corporal, earned the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two stars and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device.

After taking a month off to meet up with old friends – including the buddy with whom he enlisted – Al resumed his career with TRW, where he had worked several months before entering the Army. He stayed there, primarily in the Maintenance Department until TRW closed down but still gets together regularly with fellow employees to shoot pool and reminisce.

It was at TRW that he met his wife, Rose, who also has the travel bug. “So far we’ve been to Europe, visiting seven or eight different places,” he said. “We also enjoy taking cruise, particularly in the Western Caribbean.” And, when it is once again possible, they plan to visit Spain, Greece, the French Riviera and Italy.

A member of Post 3345 for the last eight years, Al first joined the VFW in the mid-70’s and was active in a Cleveland Post where an Uncle and Cousin were Post Commanders. He proudly recalled how his Cousin was one of the main speakers at the Fire Base Cleveland event in 1988.

After his relatives both passed, Al and Rose looked for a Post closer to their home. “I really like 3345 – the people, the Post, what they do, we’ve made a lot of friends here,” he explained. Stopping in for lunch and the weekly drawings, Al also volunteers for the Poppy Drive each year and helps out whenever needed.

“I proudly served my country, learned to live with the protests, to remember to the good things and forget the bad,” said Al. And, to remember that even the Army has a sense of humor – sort of!

Al Jablonski - for your service to your country, for your fellow veterans and, on behalf of our Post, 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 or drop it off at the Post, in the Auxiliary  
mail slot.*



*This issue we feature a recipe from Frank Zullo,  
Auxiliary Junior Vice President, Lifetime Member,  
King Of The Kitchen and Master Planner of many,  
many successful and fun events!*

## ONE OF FRANK'S FAVORITE RECIPES - FRANK'S FANTASTIC MEATLOAF

### Ingredients:

5 lbs. ground meat  
10 eggs  
25 oz. of Italian breadcrumbs  
One bunch parsley, chopped very fine  
12 oz. pureed roasted red pepper  
3 cloves garlic, chopped very fine  
Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients very well. Form into a nice meatloaf and bake at 325 degrees until internal temperature is at 155 degrees.

Top with your favorite gravy, whether it be a beef gravy, ketchup or barbecue sauce.

# The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award

The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award  
aka. "What'd Ya Need" Service Award  
at VFW Post 3345



To honor the memory of Sam Lupica, Life Member of the VFW 3345 Auxiliary, who always stepped up to lend a hand, saying "what'd ya need?" and meaning it. Sam never sought the spotlight, recognition, or attention for his service. Not many know that Sam served our country in the National Guard in the late 60's.

This volunteer service award's purpose is to recognize individuals who also generously and humbly volunteer his or her service to the VFW, and/or to Strongsville and surrounding communities;

## When:

The award ceremony will take place annually on or around October 5th  
The first award will take place in December 2020

## Criteria:

- A nominee can be a member of VFW Post 3345 or a member of the community
- A Nominator can be a member of VFW Post 3345 or a member of the community
- A nominee must be nominated by someone other than themselves
- A nominee shall volunteer in a manner that is not self-promoting
- A nominee shall volunteer his or her time regularly
- A nominee's volunteer activities can be at events and/or day to day happenings at the post or within the community

## Award:

- An award ceremony, along with a dinner, will take place at the VFW Post 3345
- A Sam Lupica Service Award plaque will be presented to the recipient, with his or her name and the date of award engraved on the plaque
- A \$200 Gift Card will be presented to the recipient

## Nomination process:

- A nomination form will be completed for each individual being nominated.
- The nomination form will have the volunteer activities that the nominee has performed over the past year, as well as a narrative about the nominee.

The nomination form will be returned to: The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award

16330 Hummel Rd  
Brookpark, OH 44142

or

SamLupicaVolunteerServiceAward@gmail.com

Except for this year, the form must be received by September 1st each year; this year the form must be received by November 16, 2020

A 5-7 person selection committee will be formed

This committee will review the nominations the first or second week of September each year (this year the week of November 16th 2020)

Funding and Donations:

The annual award will be funded privately by donations

Monies received will be used only for award plaques, gift cards for recipients, and cost of the Award Dinner.

Checks or Cash only will be accepted:

Make checks out to: Nancy Nebenzahl

Award Coordinator

Memo line should stipulate: Sam Lupica Service Award

Mail checks to: The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award

16330 Hummel Rd

Brookpark, OH 44142

Please find the nomination form on the following page.

Please print and complete the nomination form and mail to:

The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award

16330 Hummel Rd

Brookpark, OH 44142

or

Print and complete the nomination form, scan it back into your computer and then email to:

SamLupicaVolunteerServiceAward@gmail.com

The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award  
aka. "What'd Ya Need" Service Award  
at VFW 3345

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you nominating the above individual? \_\_\_\_\_

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Nominee's Volunteer Activities and location of activities:

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Return completed form BY NOVEMBER 16, 2020 to:

The Sam Lupica Volunteer Service Award

% 16330 Hummel Rd

Brookpark, OH 44142

or

SamLupicaVolunteerServiceAward@gmail.com

\*\*\*If additional space is needed, use reverse side or separate piece of paper\*\*\*

# 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**



**October 23, 2020**

**VFW-Supported Mental Health Bill Becomes Law:** The VFW-supported version of S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, was signed into law last Saturday. This law supports VA as it continues to make improvements to veterans' mental health care by covering a strategic plan for veterans transitioning from active duty, pilot programs integrating alternative therapies, establishing a VA and DOD clinical provider treatment toolkit, improving care and services for women veterans, and expanding the mental health medical workforce.

**National Suicide Hotline Bill Becomes Law:** Last Saturday, S. 2661, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 was signed into law. This legislation designates 9.8.8 as the telephone number for the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. The existing hotline, which can be reached by dialing 1.800.273.8255, is operated by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line. Both hotlines offer confidential support from qualified responders 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many of the responders with the Veterans Crisis Line are veterans themselves.

**National Veterans Small Business Week:** Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) the week of Nov. 2 - 6, 2020, for the seventh annual National Veterans Small Business Week. This week is a way to bring service members, veterans, National Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses together to celebrate the veteran- and military-owned small business community. Every day of the week, SBA will highlight different aspects of the veteran entrepreneurship journey from transition assistance, to accessing capital.

**Monument Honoring Women in the Military Unveiled:** On Saturday, the Washington, D.C., area's first monument to honor women in the military was unveiled at the Women in Military Service for American Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The Pledge, sculpted by Susan Bahary, is a bronze statue of a kneeling service woman in full combat gear, locking eyes with her working military dog, meant to honor the promise of loyalty made between a soldier and their combat dog in faithful allegiance to our country. Following the unveiling, Sgt. Britany Gavit stated, "I've been a dog handler for four years now, and to see a female statute for the first time, it feels great ... She could be any one of us, in any rank of the military, and it's so significant."

**Update to TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee to Start Jan. 1:** DOD announced that TRICARE Select Group A retirees will be required to pay an enrollment fee beginning on Jan. 1, 2021. Congress directed the Defense Health Agency in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to implement TRICARE Select retiree enrollment fees, but delayed the implementation. Group A is comprised of retirees and their family members if the sponsor's initial enlistment or appointment occurred before Jan. 1, 2018. The enrollment fee is waived for medically retired individuals and their family members, and for survivors of active-duty deaths. During TRICARE Open Season, which will run from Nov. 9 to Dec. 14, beneficiaries must set up an allotment with their regional contractors for the enrollment fee to begin on Jan. 1, 2021. Beneficiaries who do not set up their allotment by the deadline will be unenrolled due to nonpayment. These individuals would have previously had 90 days from the termination date to request reinstatement. However, recently the Defense Health Agency has agreed to extend the reinstatement period to 180 days.

**Need Help With Voting?:** The general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020, is less than two weeks away. If you or anyone you know needs assistance with voting, please visit the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's website. The website has information on voting accessibility for disabled Americans, as well as other important topics such as voting by mail, in-person voting, and election security.

**Poll Workers Still Needed in Some Locations:** Healthy elections require poll workers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, election officials in some parts of the country are still reporting shortage of poll workers. Without sufficient numbers of poll workers, it is possible that polling locations could have long lines, lack of staff to assist voters, or possible closures of polling locations. The VFW encourages any member, advocate, or supporter, who is healthy and willing, to consider becoming a poll worker for the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The Stanford-MIT Healthy Election Project has partnered with Power the Polls, which helps to follow up with applicants, confirm their commitment, and assist them in completing the process. If you signed up through the special VFW link, you should have been contacted by Power the Polls, a partner organization, or your local election administrators. If you have not yet been contacted, please reach out to see if your assistance is still needed.



## 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