



# The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

October - December 2019

## Commander's Comments



First of all, I must apologize for the delay in this newsletter. Everyone else was timely in turning in their information, but I have been running far behind.

As you all know, I am running for Strongsville Ward 3 City Council, and the demands of a campaign are unbelievable! I am a busy person as it is and many times could use a clone or two, but over the past couple months, a baker's dozen clones would have a tough time accomplishing everything that is coming at me. I will say this though - although it's extremely demanding, the experience has been quite incredible.



Every weekend, and even some weeknights, I go out walking the precincts and knocking on doors. I have had incredible experiences speaking with so many residents of Ward 3. I have no idea how many hundreds of conversations I had, or how many handshakes I have shared, but the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Some conversations were brief, while others were in-depth discussions on topics ranging from taxes to religion, business development to patriotism, and many topics in between.

I've been shooed away by a few but welcomed with opened arms by others. I've had tours of homes, offered cold drinks, and even a bite to eat. Many of these conversations will stick with me for years to come, but to this point, one will stand out above the rest.

I rang the doorbell of a gentleman who was 76 years old. I knew his name and date of birth by the voter registration sheet I held in my hand. For a moment, I wasn't sure if Joe was home, but after maybe 30 seconds, the door slowly opened and a man, somewhat bent over and moving slowly, said to me "may I help you?" With my normal spiel, I introduced myself and explained the purpose of my visit. As I spoke, he shook his head while he comprehended what I was saying. When I got to the part where I said I was a veteran, he perked up a bit and now the conversation really began.

He went on to explain that he was a retired special operator in the US Army. He was in the very first unit of the Army Green Berets and was commissioned by President John F. Kennedy. Subsequently, he served several tours in Vietnam and by what I witnessed a few moments later, his experiences were far more than the average soldier.

*continued on page 2*

As with all combat veterans I meet, I asked him if he was a member of a VFW. He said no but belonged to American Legion 610. I invited him to join me in visiting VFW Post 3345, saying perhaps we could have a drink, and I could show him our memorial and the memorabilia we have. That's when he said, if I had a few minutes, he would like to invite me in. Of course, I obliged, and as we walked into his beautiful home, I immediately realized why.

His home was an incredible history of his valor and service to our country. A museum of awards, citations, photographs, and miscellaneous relics of days gone by. The walls were adorned with heroism, of both he and many others who fought to defend our nation. I was in awe! No longer did the initial intention of my stop matter, or did it?

As we made our way thru his home, and back to the front door, I said to him "Joe, I don't care if you vote for me. What I care about is that you call me, and we meet at the VFW!" I then pulled out of my pocket my US Navy Chief and Post Commander challenge coin, placed it in the palm of his hand and said, "thank you for your service to our country, the kindness of your conversation, and for inviting me into your home."

Tears immediately filled his eyes; we shared a hug and I left his home with a far different mindset than when I first rang his doorbell. I once again realized how blessed I am to be in this situation, to meet these people and have these amazing conversations. No matter the outcome of this election, I feel like I have already won in so many ways!

A few weeks ago, I had my annual Wine & Dine, and what a great night it was. There are too many names to mention, but I can't thank all the support staff who helped me make this event happen. With everything going on in my life right now, a week before the event I had no idea how it was going to happen. Well, it did, everyone had a great time and I think we all look forward to next year's event.

Once Election Day has come and gone, I will start looking at plans for our New Year's Eve Party. Cruisin' will entertain us once again, and I will do my best to put together a memorable event. No matter how many times Ron and his band play at our place, they do a great job and we all have a blast.

Well, I want to get this off to Linda Burger so she may send it out, but I will give more updates about VFW topics, the holidays, and other happenings in the near future.

As always, I wish you all fair winds and following seas. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

Sincerely,  
Commander Tim Zvoncheck

# Senior Vice Commander



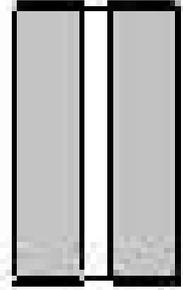
So we're different colours and we're different creeds  
And different people have different needs  
It's obvious you hate me though I've done nothing wrong  
I've never even met you, so what could I have done?

I can't understand  
What makes a man  
Hate another man  
Help me understand

People are people, so why should it be  
You and I should get along so awfully?  
People are people, so why should it be  
You and I should get along so awfully?

And now you're punching and you're kicking and you're shouting at me  
I'm relying on your common decency  
So far, it hasn't surfaced but I'm sure it exists  
It just takes a while to travel from your head to your fist

("People Are People" – Martin Gore – Depeche Mode)



So this is where we find ourselves in America as 2019 rolls to a close. It appears that decency isn't quite so common as it used to be (kind of like 'common' sense, actually!). Gone are the days when you could disagree with someone, shake hands at the end of the discussion, have a beer and call it a day. Not so much anymore.

In today's political environment especially, the tiniest variation from one side's dogma and you will be labeled as a heretic. Of course, it's harder and harder to keep up with what is the current, in-vogue political stance of some groups – it is constantly changing. In addition, there are such granular positions being taken, they can't help but exclude people. Like the transgender, hazel-eyed Capricorns for solar power; or vegan Lutherans supporting a Living Wage; or left-handed calligraphers for gun owners' rights. If you're not for us, you're against us!

As was stated in my Patriots' Day comments, it seems that there is some kind of effort afoot to find ways to separate us rather than work for the good of all Americans. One of the things I always appreciated about military service is you learn to work with anyone. That doesn't mean you have to like or agree with everyone – you just must learn how to work with everyone. And our goals were always in support of the best interests of the country, not for one group at the expense of another. We all worked together, side by side, regardless of your race, gender, religious affiliation, political party, or any other thing that today is cause for factionalizing Americans. (Admittedly, in the days when I was active duty, there were still some issues that were met with less tolerance than others, but still, for the most part, you had to find ways to get along.) I think those who play team sports have much of the same philosophy – learn to work with your teammates to get things done, regardless of how you feel about the other guy on a personal level.

While most of us can appreciate there are differences in the approach taken to tackle the issues of today, it should also be obvious that most of us really do want the same things. We want to feel safe, we want to lead productive lives, and have a peaceful nation where we can do the things we want to do – unfettered by an oppressive "big brother" government. But something has changed over the past couple of decades. There is, for lack of a better term, animosity bordering

on hate of some Americans toward other Americans. It has nothing to do with concrete, specific actions taken by some – but rather, by the thoughts and beliefs some have that differ from those of other groups.

And it isn't just mere disagreement like in a debate, where logic can enter the picture – there seems to be a feeling from one side toward the other that they are SO wrong and misguided in their views that there is no reason to talk. Minds cannot be changed, reason is out the window. That's a major sea change over the course of twenty or so years. "It's obvious you hate me though I've done nothing wrong, I've never even met you, so what could I have done?" Well – you disagree with me, so I hate you – what else is there?

It's a bit discouraging to think about how to change that – it certainly wouldn't be a quick fix! But there is something we all can do – and that is control how we behave towards others with whom we disagree. Most of us do on a regular basis, but we can all do better. There are times when we walk up on a conversation between some folks, and you can tell immediately that no one is actually listening to the other because they aren't saying what the other person wants to hear. Foul language is used to disparage the other side, and it's rather pathetic. Six-year old kids – maybe they can get away with that – but adults? C'mon!

That's why it was so refreshing to go to a town hall with our district's congressional representative, Anthony Gonzalez, on August 1 down in Wadsworth. He appeared at a town hall along with another freshman Congressman and former NFL player, Colin Allred. Anthony, a Republican, and Colin, a Democrat, shared the stage for an hour and discussed their approach to solving the problems that Congress is expected to do. It was absolutely civil, informative, and constructive! I didn't know folks in Washington could behave like that anymore. They discussed where their views overlapped on key issues and how they can work together to improve our nation – they wasted no time talking about things where they diverged, as that would be counterproductive.

Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, you should really hope to see more of this type of behavior amongst our elected representatives – otherwise, we'll be in turmoil perpetually. They totally countered the lyrics I cited today – "People are people, so why should it be, you and I should get along so awfully?" There's no need for that – find the common bond and build on that. A great lesson from some freshmen! Who knew?

Tad Brown  
Sr. Vice Commander

## Membership Committee:

To bolster our membership here, not only in retention but growing through new memberships, we would like to begin a formal Membership Committee. Previously, we've had several of us call those members whose annual memberships are up for renewal each month, but never really had a focused plan to also recruit. Shame on me!

I plan to change that during this year and going forward by establishing a standing committee dedicated to growth and retention. We can plan membership drives throughout the year, establish calling schedules and encourage our annual members to convert to Life (and perhaps encourage some Life members to consider Legacy membership!).

On the Life conversion topic, don't forget – Post 3345 offers a tremendous opportunity to our members: If, after your first year here, you want to become a Life member, we will pay for half of the total cost! You're not going to find a better deal! So, anyone interested in being a part of our Membership Committee (or becoming a Life member!), please contact me as soon as possible so we can get to work on this vital aspect of our Post's future!

Tad Brown – [srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz](mailto:srvcdr.vfw3345@wowway.biz) or cell: 440.376.7491





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November 11, 2017

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Cell: 440-376-7491

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# Junior Vice Commander Dan Dallas



Hi everybody,

I hope those who went to Kelleys Island all had a great time. I'm working of next year's trip already. Next trip I hope to have more involvement from the VFW Post and the Island itself. Stay tuned.

I have two events on the calendar. First is the Post Halloween Party. This will be on Saturday, October 26 and we will have Johnny R performing from 7 - ? Dress up, bring a dish or snack to share with your table. This is always a fun event.

Second up is what I'll call the Post's Pre New Year's Eve Party, Saturday, December 28 -- a warm up to the real deal on Tuesday, December 31st. Johnny R will also be here that event so get ready to party.

See you at the Post.....and always, Support our Troops!

Dan Dallas



*VFW 3345 Officers and Canteen Manager with Major Ben.*

## Kelleys Island 2019 Bus Trip





## *Honor Guard Don Kennett*



First of all, I would like to thank Dave Hrusch and Russ Tobel for covering for me in July while my wife and I cruised the British Isles. They were a big help to the Honor Guard and helped to make things run smooth.

We lost another Honor Guard member due to illness. Joe Bechtold contacted me and said that he could no longer continue to perform the duties due to the illness he was having. We are going to miss you Joe and hope you recover well and we will keep you in our prayers.

In September of 1898 two Spanish American War Veterans sat down in Columbus, Ohio and wanted to recognize their fellow veterans. These two gentlemen have been interned at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio. This remembrance is known as VFW Founder's Day. Again, this year our Honor Guard has been asked to lead the VFW 7th District officers along with all the other VFW districts in Ohio through the cemetery.

With fall upon us, our Veterans Day events are being requested and are always in great demand. Between the Post, community and school events, we are always proud and grateful to perform these duties as they recognize us as veterans and make us feel so appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Don Kennett, Honor Guard Commander

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

- October 5 – Honor Guard Meeting
- October 17 – Tour of Duty at Rittman
- November 2 – Honor Guard Meeting
- November 11 – Veterans Day Remembrance
- November 16 – VFW 7th District Military Ball
- December 5 – Tour of Duty at Rittman
- December 7 – Honor Guard Meeting

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# TAPS



**July, 2019: Jerome Kramer**

**August, 2019: James Blaha  
William Mehnert**

**September, 2019: William Isaace  
Arthur Petro**

## *New Members*

**July, 2019**

**Lester Krzewinski  
Gary Vitteck**

**August, 2019**

**Edward Kosakowski  
George Schmidt  
Emil Thomas**

**September, 2019**

**Steven Chaney  
Stephen Kaczor**

## *Donations*

### **July, 2019**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Honor Flight Cleveland	\$1,000
Strongsville Senior Center Craft Room Sponsor	\$250
Arts in Strongsville Day at the Chalet	\$50
American Legion Post 91 Golf Outing	\$100
Post 3345 Auxiliary Golf Outing Hole Sponsorship (2)	\$200
Polish Legion of American Veterans National Convention Program Ad	\$50
Greater Cleveland Young Marines Drug Demand Reduction 5K	\$100
Strongsville Kiwanis Patriotic Flag Sponsorship	\$200
Tunnel to Towers Foundation Gold Star Family Home Program	\$1,000
VA Hospital Visit - 8/15	\$1,000
City of Brook Park Home Days Parade	\$50

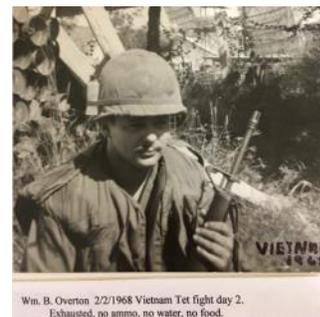
### **August, 2019**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Honor Flight Cleveland	\$1,000
VFW Post 2133 Golf Outing	\$250
Vin Rouge Pup Tent #1 Military Order of the Cootie	\$500
Veteran-In-Need	\$3,000

### **September, 2019**

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
Honor Flight Cleveland	\$750
VA Hospice	\$500
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps	\$500
Aaron Vojtus Benefit	\$250
2-337th Training Support Bn FRG	\$750

# *Service Officer Bill Overton*



Hello VFW 3345 members and friends.

Since we reported in the last issue of our Scuttlebutt, a lot of changes have been in the works with the VA and the processing of claims. New claims take between 3 months and 6 months. Appeals are running from 12 to 14 months. We think this is because the current Administration is pro-veteran and veterans' health needs.

Some of the things we're watching in Washington are not good for veterans such as the proposed Red Flag Laws. This will be especially bad for veterans who may have a PTSD diagnosis.

It was reported by Michele Malcom the VA's secretive database on "disgruntled" and "disruptive" vets five years ago. Under the VA policy on "patient record flags," federal bureaucrats can classify vets as "threats" based on assessments of their "difficult," "annoying" and "noncompliant behavior." The VA manual says the flags "are used to alert Veterans Health Administration medical staff and employees of patients whose behavior and characteristics may pose a threat either to their safety, the safety of other patients, or compromise the delivery of quality health care."

## **Do veterans want the Congress to have access to our information?**

**Update:** The Blue Water Navy Veterans Act is still in the hands of the Veterans Administration. There seems to be an argument about Navy Veterans and where they served off the coast of Vietnam and how far they were from land.

Last year we had a Halloween candy drive. We asked parents and kids who had unwanted candy to donate it to the VFW. We had volunteers who repackaged and distributed it to charities in Strongsville and in the Cleveland area.

## **Department of Veterans Affairs Time Line Facts:**

**1862** – During the Civil War, Congress passes a bill allowing the president to purchase land for national cemeteries. Between 1865 and 1870, 70 national cemeteries open for burial of Union soldiers.

**1865** – At the end of the U.S. Civil War, there are 1.9 million Union veterans. Congress authorizes the National Asylum of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, a system of residences for disabled and indigent veterans.

**1912** – Congress passes the Sherwood Act, guaranteeing pensions for Union veterans of the Civil War and veterans of the Mexican-American War, regardless of their health.

**1924** - Congress passes the World War Adjustment Compensation Act, a system of bonuses for veterans of World War I. Any veterans entitled to more than \$50 is given a certificate payable 20 years in the future and worth about \$1500.

Bill Overton  
Service Officer

Russ Tobel  
Asst. Service Officer



# *Canteen Manager*

## *Bill Sopko*



As usual summer seemed to zip right by again..I hope everyone had a safe one, Summer concerts went great and well attended, fantastic weather, great job by Dan Dallas putting this all together and the hard working Auxiliary who prepare and serve all the groceries. Back to the weather which was absolutely beautiful for all our outdoor activates. From the golf outings, Community Day, etc. couldn't have been any better.

Reminder, when you get back to your house on Halloween night make sure your wife goes through all the candy you bring home to make sure they're safe to eat.

It's that time of year when all you Jarheads will be celebrating the Marine Corps birthday, yes 244 years old. Ceremony will be at 1400 hrs. Nov. 10th, by the Maj Bender once again. The next day, Nov. 11th, our post will be honoring all our veterans. the ceremony will be at 1100 hrs. (11th.month-11th.day-11th hour) All are welcome to both events. Please try to attend Memorial Day service honoring all our veterans.

Your Post and Auxiliary have a lot of events/fund raisers planned . The dates and times will be posted in advance, and they fill up fast, so stop on in to your Canteen and keep abreast of whats coming up, don't get shut out.

Don't want to be redundant but once again I am getting complaints about the increase of vulgarity in the Canteen. The rules are clearly posted. We are trying to retain members and attract new veterans. They say "loose lips sink ships" lets keep ours afloat. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter

Please support your Post and Canteen.

With that, hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a safe and wonderful New Year.

Good health to all. Pray for our troops and families,

Till next year (where did 2019 go?)

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# House Committee Brent Newton



I would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the Ace Molar concert and the Community Days. I would also like to thank Tom Swansinger for helping set up every event we've had.

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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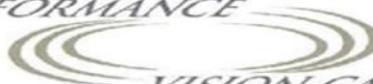
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Phil Galaska – Men's Auxiliary – Office Phone: 440-882-3760 x495

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

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# *Auxiliary*

## *Mary Ann Almashie*



Hi everyone, I want to start my newsletter by welcoming all new Auxiliary members. I hope you enjoy being part of this outstanding organization. If there is anything that any of our members need to discuss, please let me know.

The Auxiliary has been involved in a lot of great events this summer and I hope everyone enjoyed them as much as I have. I want to personally thank all members who have helped in these events. They could not be so successful without your help.

To summarize, as always, the outdoor concerts were a lot of fun and the food always delicious. The Bunkers in Baghdad event (golf clubs and balls) was a huge success and I am hearing of members already storing their clubs in their garage for next year's donation for this event (please remember we cannot store these at the post). Laura Green and I attended the Ohio Day for the National Home for Children. We were able to tour the Ohio house as well as other facilities. We delivered all the cleaning supplies and I have to say that Post 3345 came through again (as always) because my van was full. Thank you all for supporting the National Home. If you get a chance, take a day and drive up, you won't regret it.

The Auxiliary Golf Outing was another huge success and I would like to thank all golfers and workers. I would also like to thank all of our sponsors, who you will find on the next page of my article, for your support in sponsoring our Auxiliary Golf Outing. We could not do this event without all who have supported it and I send a huge THANK YOU.

We had the pleasure of having the veterans from the Wade Park VA Hospital visit our Post for a great dinner and bingo. Members from our Auxiliary as well as nine children from Incarnate Word Academy baked goodies, served dinner, helped our veterans with bingo and then cleaned. What a fantastic way to get our youth involved in supporting our veterans.

Our first Browns tailgate party was in September and oh my, the food was fantastic. Anyone who stopped up to watch the game enjoyed a great meal. A huge thank you to Diane Damian and Patti Perrin for the decorations and goodies they baked.

As far as our upcoming events which will be a lot of fun so please mark your calendars:

The Auxiliary Friday Dinners has been very enjoyable; members coming in for the Queen of Hearts drawing can enjoy a cheeseburger, hamburger or chicken tenders (all with fries) for only \$6.00. We will post in email blasts and on the canteen bulletin board the dates we are not cooking due to other events happening at the post. October 26th is the Auxiliary Oktoberfest from 5:00-8:00pm – tickets are on sale at the canteen for \$18.00. Dinner includes Schnitzel, Roast Chicken, German Sausage, Sauerkraut, Cabbage and Noodles, Spätzle's and German Chocolate Cake.

November 23rd we are going to do our Ribs and Raffle event. Tickets are \$11; we will start serving dinner at 6 p.m. Dinner includes a half rack of baby back ribs, French fries and coleslaw. We will also have tables and tables of baskets that are being raffled. What a great way to start your holiday shopping. Our chili cookoff will be on November 30th for the Ohio State/Michigan game. We will have side boards and a 50/50 drawing, so get your chili recipes out and get ready for another year of the Auxiliary chili cookoff.

In December we will be having our Annual Cookie Drive. As always, the Auxiliary will also be having their Auxiliary Christmas Dinner during our last meeting on December 9th. This year, instead of the Children's Christmas Party, the Auxiliary will be providing Christmas for four families of veterans.

As you can see there is a lot going on for the Auxiliary. I want 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.

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. Hope to see you there.

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

Mary Ann Almashie  
President Auxiliary

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# Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

## Dennis Pilny

Interviewed by Linda Burger



"I LOVE this Post! No matter where I am, I will always be a life member here, and this will always be home."

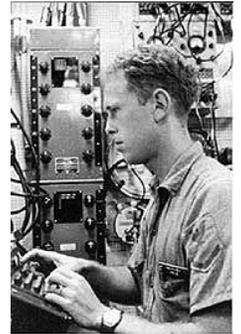
For Dennis Pilny and his wife Jackie, long time members of Post 3345, the decision to move permanently to their home in Seminole, FL was both difficult – and easy. "We've spent the last six years there, coming up for extended visits in the Spring and Fall," he explained. "But after working on many roofs in the middle of winter, I have no desire to see snow again!"

As a Cleveland native, Dennis has spent a lifetime dealing with snow! After graduating from Parma Senior High, and while working, he attended Cuyahoga Community College before being drafted.

Planning ahead, Dennis elected to take a 120 day deferment, signing up for 4 years with the U.S. Navy, which qualified him to attend Radioman "A" School. "After completing training, you had a choice – 1, 2, 3 which ranged from serving on the East Coast to a European Embassy. Somehow I was 'chosen' for the 7th Fleet in the Pacific. Hello Vietnam!" he said, with a laugh.



Dennis was later assigned on the USS Mt. McKinley, which was home to the Admiral of the Pacific Fleet. "There were about 500 Navy men on board and 250 were Radiomen, so we pretty much ran the ship," Dennis said with a laugh. "The food was great and we had it pretty good, which was a very nice change."

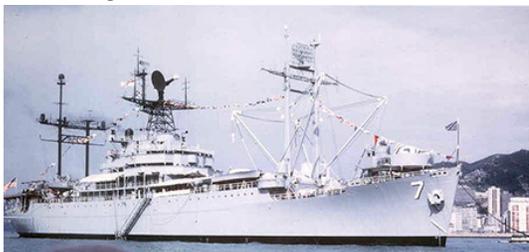


They were, however, responsible for any and all amphibious operations/landings in the Pacific Ocean and provided communications for the Naval and Air Force base at Da Nang, after they were attacked during the Tet Offensive. So the "nice change" description may be a bit of a mis-statement.

The biggest challenge was the conditions where he was at but the best was the camaraderie about ship, according to Dennis. "It was fantastic, there was no discrimination, it really didn't matter on our ship."

The most difficult part of his job was receiving mission reports with the names of those who were killed or missing in action. "There were so many, after a while it became like a fog, you had to, in order to be able to do your job," he said with a note of sorrow. "It was so bad that, when I visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall, I didn't recognize any names, even though I had processed so many of them. I don't know how guys in the Field handled it."

In total, Dennis served 27 straight months in the combat zone, from late October 1966 to January 1970, before returning to CONUS.



"I had considered staying in the Navy at the end of my tour but since the end of the Vietnam War was near, the number of open billets was slim so there was no opportunity for career advancement," according to Dennis, who left the service with the rank of 2nd Class Petty Officer.

Returning to Cleveland, Dennis became a Union Sheetmetal Worker and was involved in the construction of most of the buildings in and around the city.



As, sadly, with many other Vietnam veterans, Dennis received a very cold welcome upon his return from the service. “Even at the Post we weren’t really welcomed,” he said, with a shake of his head. “It took a long time, and a lot of persistence before we eventually meshed together and became friends.”

One of the first (of many) achievements Dennis enacted at the Post was the “décor.” “At that time, the Canteen was decorated with quite a collection of advertising beer signs,” he recalled, with a laugh. “They were very colorful but, I thought, maybe not the best thing for the Post.”

So he, and John Mahoney, who was also on the House Committee, began collecting badges and patches for a shadowbox display. Within two weeks, people began bringing in similar memorabilia – and then came the guns! “Now, when we have new members and guests, they look around the Canteen in wonder and the displays lead to many conversations and sharing,” according to Dennis.

That sharing is critical, he feels, since so many veterans, especially those who saw combat, carry a lot of baggage. “We often don’t know what’s going on with people below the surface and unless you, too, have seen it, it’s almost impossible to relate,” he explained. “There have tragically been many suicides as a result. But coming to a place like the Post allows you to connect with others who have also been there and who can understand.”

Once elected Post Commander, Dennis was dedicated to not only attracting and welcoming new members but also ensuring that the Post received recognition for the tremendous amount of contributions done by all members.



“Post 3345 was always extremely active and involved in serving veterans and the community but the work hadn’t been documented,” according to Dennis. “It was difficult getting the information from people but once we did, I created a spreadsheet that accurately reflected the outstanding volunteer spirit of the Post.”

As a result, Post 3345 received National Community Service honors for three years – and Dennis was asked to do seminars on how to do the paperwork!

Though now officially “Southerners”, Dennis and Jackie do plan to come back North, to visit family and, of course, the Post. “I would never leave this Post, it is the last thing in the world I would ever do,” he declared.

And, Dennis Pilny, we will never let you go! 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 [vfupost3345\\_1@gmail.com](mailto:vfupost3345_1@gmail.com) or drop it off at the Post, in the Auxiliary mail slot.*

*This issue we feature two recipes from Betty Slatinsky, Auxiliary Lifetime Member, Past Auxiliary President and a mainstay of the Post!*

## BETTY'S FAVORITE RECIPE

Ingredients:  
Black Velvet  
Water  
Ice

Using 8 oz. glass, pour in a generous shot of Black Velvet. Add water to half fill glass (or to taste). Add ice as desired. Stir gently

## BETTY'S SECOND FAVORITE RECIPE - BETTY'S BEST COOKIE RECIPE

Ingredients:  
1 pound (2 cups) butter or margarine, softened  
1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar  
4 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 Tablespoon vanilla extract  
5 cups all-purpose flour  
1 Tablespoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 pound (3 3/4 cups) chopped walnuts  
2 bags (10 ounce each) peanut butter flavored chips

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugars. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Combine flour, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture and mix well. Fold in the nuts and chips. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 for 10 - 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Yield: 12 dozen

# 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!

Have a great summer!

Linda Burger  
Scuttlebutt Editor

**Cash for Lionel Trains**

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



**October 21, 2019**

**House Passes Legislation to Expand the Veterans Legacy Program:** On Wednesday, the House passed VFW-supported H.R. 2385, which would permit 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 the National Veterans 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. The VFW applauds all the members of the House who showed their support for this important program that promotes civic engagement and fosters respect for service and sacrifice. Now it is time for the Senate to do the same and send it to the president's desk.

**Veteran Bills Advanced for House Vote:** This week, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs advanced six bipartisan pieces of legislation to the full House for a vote. The six bills covered a wide range of veteran benefits and protections to include improvements for homeless veterans, student veterans, veteran-owned small businesses, and improved reporting transparency within VA. These six bills are just some of the important work the Veterans' Affairs Committee has worked on this session, and they have shown a commitment to work for veterans in a bipartisan manner. Now, the bills will be up for a vote by the full House of Representatives in the coming weeks.

**VFW Visits Defense Health Agency:** On Wednesday, VFW Washington Office Executive Director B.J. Lawrence and VFW Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs, Robert Jackson met with Lt. General Ronald J. Place, Director, Defense Health Agency. They discussed electronic health record modernization and interoperability and TRICARE. Modernizing the Military Health System electronic health record and establishing seamless medical data sharing between the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the private sector will improve care and treatment for our military service members and veterans.

**Defense Health Agency Realignment of TRICARE:** Since October 2018, The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has been undergoing a realignment of the TRICARE system and new medical retirement changes. DHA began integrating all military treatment facilities (MTFs) under their command. This integration will also combine TRICARE and Operational Medicine into one single medical command called the Military Healthcare System (MHS). By October 2021, DHA will have direct authority over all MTFs and will give local medical leaders the authority to effectively move funds and people in order to responsibly coordinate patient-centered care.

**TRICARE Open Season (Update):** TRICARE Open Season will run from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9. It is important to note that new retirees have only one year to enroll for TRICARE Prime. If they forget to enroll in TRICARE Prime, individuals are no longer going to be automatically enrolled into TRICARE Select and will have to wait for the next Open Season enrollment period. If an individual is already enrolled they can change their TRICARE coverage, if eligible. If you want to stay in your current TRICARE plan, you do not need to do anything.

**Holiday Overseas Mail Deadlines Approaching:** Military and U.S. Postal Service officials have issued suggested mailing deadlines for holiday packages and letters to military locations overseas in time for Christmas. To get them there in time for Hanukkah, which starts on Dec. 22 this year, subtract 3 days from the deadlines. According to Military Times, the deadlines for various methods of shipping are the same for most APO/FPO/DPO (diplomatic post office) zip codes, with the exception of some mail going to APO/FPO/DPO Zip Code 093, which covers overseas contingency areas. The Postal Service has also created a “military care kit,” which consists of the items most often requested by military families and it is free.

To sign up new veterans’ advocates, visit: <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>.



## TAKEOUT

### Stop in or Call Ahead!

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