



The Scuttlebutt

WE ARE ONE!!

January - March 2023

Commander's Comments



Which came first, the chicken or the egg? I have no clue, but I do know that it is less expensive to purchase a whole, uncooked chicken than it is to purchase a dozen of its infertile offspring! The rise of these prices is truly no yolking matter.

Gone are the days when you could buy a dozen eggs for just a buck or two. It seems like every time we go to the grocery store, we are shell shocked by yet another increase in these succulent little beauties. What's the deal?



First of all, let's just take a moment to appreciate the versatility of the egg. It can be boiled, fried, scrambled, poached, you name it. But now, it seems like the egg is becoming more precious than gold.

The cause of the rising egg prices is due to a combination of factors such as the avian flu outbreak, high feed costs, and an increase in demand. But let's be real, it's probably because the chickens are finally unionizing, and demanding better pay and working conditions. Remember the \$15 per hour minimum wage thing? Well why should these hens be eggs-cluded?

So, what can you do to combat these eggs-orbitant prices? Well, you could start a backyard chicken coop and as the pun in the Posts' men's room states, be a chicken tender. But if you live in the city, that might not be a feasible option.

Another option is to start eating eggs in disguise. You could have scrambled tofu for breakfast or try out some egg-cellent recipes that use only egg whites. Who knows, you might even like it!

In conclusion, the rising cost of eggs is truly no yolking matter. But we can all do our part in cracking down on these prices by being "eggs-perimental" in the kitchen and finding new and egg-citing ways to enjoy them. So, let's all scramble to find a solution before we're left with egg on our face!

Ok, enough silliness. Now on to Post business.

Well, 2022 is behind us, and now so is the first month of 2023. Where does time go? We were just preparing for the holiday season, and just like that, they're over. Time flies faster than a \$20 bill in the electronic machines at our Post, but at this point, that's what we want. The winter doldrums behind us, and warmer and brighter days ahead.

Post 3345 had another successful year. We had wonderful events, put on by so many incredible people. Concerts, raffles, dinners, drawings, etc, all for the entertainment of our members.

There will be many more events coming up, including the annual Super Bowl Party, followed by Johnny R on February 25th, and of course our fish fries.

Membership continues to be strong at our Post, even with many other posts throughout the organization struggling. We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful facility, incredible members, and a VFW that truly perform the duties of our motto "Empowering Veterans While Strengthening Community".

Throughout the weeks and months ahead, especially as you see so many events and functions taking place, never forget that this is a volunteer organization. Those who plan, prepare, and host these events all take time out of their lives to make them happen. Please take the time to thank them for all their efforts, and this includes the fish fries.

As I attempted to put a little comical twist on the rising costs of eggs, we all know that the cost of everything has risen. Fuel, energy, groceries, personal items, etc. Well, so has the cost to VFW Post 3345 and our Canteen. Just like your gas, electric, and grocery bills have risen at home, so have ours.

Although the cost of our bar products has increased multiple times over the last three years, we have not increased our prices since 2019. Unfortunately, we can no longer hold off. Effective on or about March 1st, most of our products in the Canteen will increase in price. This increase will vary based upon the product cost, but the average increase will be 50 cents. Some will be more, some less, but we must make these changes in order to operate in the black.

The Post canteen is not meant to be a large profit center, but it must be self-sufficient, and be able to operate on its own without external funding. Thank you for your understanding on this important matter. Although the cost of your favorite adult beverage may increase to \$2.50, it's still far less than any other public bar or restaurant, and we certainly want to make sure our canteen and post continues to succeed.

Time to wrap this up and get it out for publication. As always, I wish you all fair winds and following seas. I ask God to bless you and watch over you, your family, and the United States of America.

Respectfully,
Tim Zvoncheck Commander

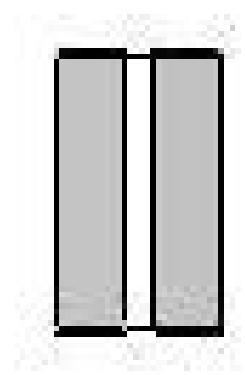
Senior Vice Commander



*This is not America
Sha-la-la-la-la*

*A little piece of you
A little peace in me will die
(This is not a miracle)
For this is not America*

**(“This is Not America” David Bowie,
Lyle D Mays, Pat Metheny)**



Many of us probably listened to Mike Trivissono on WTAM on occasion. He frequently said after reporting on some news item, “I’m living in a world I don’t understand.” Sadly, he’s no longer living in this world, but I wonder if where he’s at now, he has any better understanding of what’s going on. I certainly don’t.

Reading or listening to the news these days, I find myself learning about things going on in this country that I never imagined would be happening. In many large cities across the country, violent crime is at near-record highs, including murders and homicides. It does appear that murders are dropping from 2021’s high, fortunately, which nearly matched the highest murder rate on record, which occurred in 1996.

Some large cities have District Attorneys that seem to be making it harder and harder to get arrested – they direct their attorneys to not prosecute many cases on all but the most egregious cases. Cashless bail is becoming the norm – allowing defendants to be released without posting any bail, something that has been used for centuries as an “incentive” to come back when their court date is scheduled (get your bail back if/when you show up). It also lets them back on the street to possibly commit more crimes since they don’t need to arrange any money to be released.

Who is not shocked when hearing about criminals being “allowed” to shoplift, as long as it’s not over some ludicrous limit? This is especially true in California. Since the theft of up to \$950 worth of goods has been reduced to a misdemeanor, and the DA’s in the big cities won’t bother prosecuting, it’s almost like the stores have a sign up that says “First \$950 in goods is on us! C’mon in!” So now, we see people walking into stores and just grabbing stuff while store employees, who have been directed to not interfere, and other customers just watch or record the scene on their phones.

Hearing of some violent crimes – thugs beating up elderly people, randomly hitting people in the back of their heads with baseball bats, pushing people onto subway tracks – all makes you wonder what is happening to our society? Road rage is on the rise, some incidents resulting in fatalities – 30 people are killed every year lately because someone cut someone else off, or honked at them! The value of human life is dropping.

America was established on the rule of law as paramount. The Declaration of Independence has the famous line, “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness -...”

More pertinent to some of the items above, one of the sources used by Thomas Jefferson while penning the Declaration was George Mason's draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. Section 1 of that document states, "That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety."

"Houston – we have a problem!" Clearly, what is happening across America is ample demonstration that our society has gotten away from what got us to be the greatest nation ever. We are not making it a priority any longer, at least in some of our largest cities, to protect the unalienable rights we all possess. Lives are being devalued, personal property is only protected when it crosses a specific threshold, and safety is at risk when criminals are released back into society without bail or being charged with crimes. Our government – or our 'state of society' in George Mason's words – is failing to do its job effectively.

We need to make our elected officials at all levels accountable to upholding the ideals upon which this country was founded. I fear we have been pulled off that track, primarily by those who think we were unjustly founded, and are trying any way they can to fundamentally alter our society. If what we see happening today is their vision for the United States, we should soundly reject it in my opinion.

As is often said, voting has consequences – we need to make sure that we fulfill our civic duties by conducting our due diligence every time we go to the polls to vote! And that means don't just vote for "D" or "R" candidates that align with your party affiliation. Put some effort into your selections for office holders!

We also need to be responsible citizens on our own, whether in public office or not. Society is not merely the government. It is the government as well as governed – forming a community of people living in a particular country and having shared customs, laws and organizations. American society has been instrumental in setting the hallmark for the world, and sometimes I'm concerned that with the way things are changing, or trying to be changed, that "this is not America."

Tad Brown
Senior Vice Commander

Membership Committee:

SENIOR VICE/MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

We're doing pretty well on our renewals this year, as well as having gotten some nice new members to join our organization and Post. Let's keep it up!

If you meet anyone who served, ask them if they are VFW eligible! If they don't know, please give them my name and number (440.376.7491) or email (SRV@VFW3345.COM) and I will help them out!

Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Advertisers

Those of you who have previously advertised in the Scuttlebutt should have received a letter from me indicating the renewal costs.

If you would again like to be included in the newsletter, please let us know.

Also, if you are considering becoming an advertiser, see the information on the next page regarding the costs for the various sizes of ads. Print out the form and send it in to my attention, or our newsletter editor, Linda Burger.





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

January, 2023

Post Newsletter Advertising Application

1. **Ad sizes available:** Business Card single, 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 \$100.00 Yr.
Business Card double, 3 1/2 x 3 \$200.00 Yr.
Top or Bottom Banner, 1 1/2 x 7 \$200.00 Yr.
2. **Includes:** 6 bi-monthly issues, plus 24/7 coverage on Post website
3. **Circulation:** Emailed to 1,400 Post members
4. **Graphics and Text:** All graphics and pictures must be in any of the following formats: Jpeg, Tiff, Gif or Bitmap. Text should be in MS Word. Submit ad design for approval. Newsletters and Calendars are produced in MS Publisher.
5. **Payments:** All payments are due before printing; future payments are due prior to the end of the 12-month cycle. Your cycle begins with the month your first ad is printed. Your ad cost is protected for at least three years. All checks should be made out to Strongsville VFW Post 3345 with "Newsletter" noted on the memo line.

Application

Name of Business: _____

Name of Contact: _____

Billing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Ad Size Requested: _____

Ad Graphics or Text Submitted:

Date Submitted: _____ Date Approved: _____ Date of 1st Ad: _____

Submit all ad material on separate sheet, or preferably by digital format to email listed below. Design assistance is available.

Contact information: Tad Brown, Sr. Vice Commander

Cell: 440-376-7491

Email: srv@vfw3345.com



Junior Vice Commander

Upcoming Events



1/6/23- Queen of Hearts resumes and will still take place in the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.

2/12/23- Super Bowl party

2/25/23- Karaoke with Johnny R.

See flyers for additional info.





Honor Guard Don Kennett



We, as an Honor Guard Team, would like to wish everyone a happy and safe New Year.

We have lost a good and dedicated member of our Honor Guard. Russ Tobel has elected to leave the Honor Guard due to health reasons. He was a valuable member of our team and he will be greatly missed since serving the last eight years with us. That's commendable to say the least.

The Honor Guard is still looking for new members to join our ranks. If you are interested in joining our team or if you would like to have a better understanding of what we do, please do not hesitate to contact me at 440-665-7751, and I will be happy to discuss our mission with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Kennett,
Honor Guard Commander

Calendar for: January, February, March

January 7th –	Honor Guard Meeting
January 25th –	Tour of Duty at Rittman
February 4th -	Honor Guard Meeting
March 4th -	Honor Guard Meeting
March 15th –	Tour of Duty at Rittman



TAPS



October, 2022: Frank Heege

November, 2022: None

December, 2022: None

New Members

October, 2022

No New Members

November, 2022

Gerardo Navarro
Steve Karas

December, 2022

Shawn Weppleman
Dick Schaedler

Donations

October, 2022

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
City of Strongsville (Christmas Display)	\$500
Alzheimer's Association	\$500
Children's Center of Medina County	\$1,000
Altenheim Foundation	\$500
Post 2133 Fundraiser (Veteran in Need)	\$2,000

November, 2022

VFW National Home for Children	\$250
Southwest General Hospice	\$500
North Royalton Food Pantry	\$2,000
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency	\$500
Strongsville Chamber of Commerce	\$1,000

December, 2022

VFW National Home For Children	\$250
North Royalton Food Pantry	\$2,000
Coats For Kids	\$1,000
Strongsville Rotary - Christmas for Needy	\$500



Canteen Manager

Scott James

I hope everyone's Holiday season was festive and you were able to spend time with all your loved ones.

By the time you receive this, we will have had the Chili Cook-Off during the Army/Navy game on Dec. 10th which is a favorite amongst our members.

Then on December 18 we held our Canteen Christmas party. Even though I had family obligations and was unable attend I want to take this time to publicly thank all my Canteen employees for their hard work, dependability, and flexibility to make the Canteen run smoothly. I couldn't do it without you!

Our Ohio State Buckeyes made it to the college playoffs. Hopefully you can come in to cheer them on.

The Darters are having a good time on Tuesday nights. If you don't know how to throw darts, you're welcome to come and enjoy some fantastic wings cooked by Frank Zullo.

Lent season will be starting in February, so look for information about the Fish Fry's. It's the best fish fry in town!

Due to the Fish Fry, the Queen of Hearts drawings will move to Sundays during the season.

As always, look in the Canteen for up coming events. Let's pray for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Scott James
Canteen Manager



Auxiliary President

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Happy New Year 2023 VFW Auxiliary!

We started off the year with a small group at our January meeting, inducting 2 new members. It is great to see the membership growing.

Be sure to attend our next meeting on February 13th at 7pm. We are looking forward to seeing you there. Bring your ideas and be ready to discuss and support your brothers and sisters.

We are looking forward to an updated VFW Post directional sign on the telephone pole on Pearl Road at Strongsville Blvd. Working with the regular membership, we designed a new sign and it is in production now. Stay tuned for more details.

We are back up and running with the Queen of Hearts Food Friday on the first and third Friday of the month. Very reasonably priced and always tasty. Stop in and see what we are cooking up.

Also, there is some work coming up in the kitchen storage room. New stainless steel shelving will be installed to insure we are in compliance, as well as making them easy to clean. Reach out to Tracey Damian if you would like to stop up and help keep the post looking great for all at one of the post cleaning days.

Mike Lungo, Auxiliary President



Auxiliary Junior Vice President



Come visit us for the Annual Lenten Fish Fry! It will be available each Friday from February 17th thru April 7th. The Fish Fry is open to members from 4 to 8 p.m. and to the public from 5 to 8 p.m. Come early in case we sell out.

There is a sign up sheet in the canteen for the Soup – er –Bowl on Sunday, February 5th at 1 p.m. Let us know if you can make it and what kind of soup you will bring!

Mike Zdravecky
Junior Vice President
Post 3345 Auxiliary

Our Members. Our Friends. Our Heroes

Mike Priola

Interviewed by Linda Burger



Letters from home. A lifeline to good memories, hope and love. An anchor to another life, and the light at the end of the tunnel.

For Mike Priola, those letters from families, friends and neighbors are what kept him going while serving in Vietnam. "The letters kept your mind going where you wanted to be," he explained. "They kept you on track, literally kept you sane in the midst of all the insanity."

"After graduating from West Tech, everyone in the neighborhood was either being drafted or worrying about being drafted," according to Mike. "I decided to get ahead of the game and talked to a recruiter. Surprisingly, he told me to wait a few weeks.

"He must have been clairvoyant because when I got home, my draft notice was waiting for me," he said with a laugh.

After completing his Basic Training at Ft. Gordon, GA, Mike was assessed at having skills necessary for Military Police and went on to additional training. Upon completion, he became part of the 716th Military Police, 18th Brigade.

"I had never traveled before, never been on a plane," he said. "Then, suddenly, I was on my way to Vietnam."

"It was pitch dark when we landed, they had blown up the airport the night before, there wasn't even a terminal standing," added Mike. "You had no idea where you were going to end up, what your job was going to be. It was quite an introduction to the War."

As an MP, Mike was assigned to Saigon where his duties included guarding fellow military personnel when they came in to town, as well as protecting structures and generally, keeping the peace, such as it was.

"There were constant street fights involving gangs, who called themselves cowboys, who were intent on beating up soldiers on leave. Plus, on a weekly basis, we had to deal with Buddhist Monks who would set themselves on fire in protest of the War," he recalled.

"In addition, there were the terrorists who were continually blowing up vehicles and buildings. In one such incident, I lost three friends, including one of my roommates."

The MPs were also responsible for patrolling the perimeter, in an effort to keep the city safe and to check on the activities of the Vietnamese Army. "We had a purpose, and we were determined to do our job, do what they told you and to keep safe, as best you could," he added.





Even with the saving grace of the letters from home, the effects of being in Vietnam were devastating to Mike, as they were to so many of the servicemen. "When I was discharged and came home, I wasn't the same person my parents had raised. It was extremely hard to adapt to being back, so much so that I basically stayed in my room for almost six months," recalled Mike.

He did eventually take a job as a draftsman but was laid off in 1972. Again it was a neighbor who came to his aid, suggesting that Mike take the test for the Brookpark Police Department.

He passed and joined the force, where he served for a number of years before joining the Cleveland Police Department. Mike was assigned to the Second District and, like with Vietnam, struggled to never bring the job home, never wanting to re-live it.

He retired from Cleveland in 1999 but about 8 years later "un-retired." "The Chief of the Olmsted Falls Police pulls into my driveway and the next thing I knew, I had agreed to become a Community Service Officer," Mike explained, with a laugh.

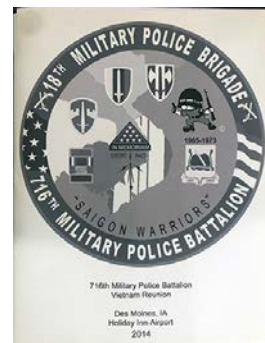
He admitted that he loved the job, though, especially the people with whom he worked.

It was while a Brookpark Police Office that he met his wife Belle. "She was a waitress at Denny's where we would stop for lunch," Mike reminisced. "She always put honey under the tea I ordered and I knew then she was someone special!"

They've been married now for 45 years and enjoy traveling, especially to California to visit family. Soon they are planning a very special trip, possibly to Hawaii, as a "pre-50th Anniversary celebration."

Mike and Belle also regularly attend reunions from his Unit, as well as other Military Police groups. "We're family now, it is great to be with your friends, those with whom you served, as well as making new friends," he said.

Those are some of the same reasons Mike joined VFW Post 3345, about 12 years ago – for the socialization and camaraderie. "The joke you often hear is that veterans join the VFW just for the drinking," he explained. "That really is a myth. I, like so many others, got that part of our lives over with a long time ago. Now, though, it is the friendships and support that draws us together."



Mike Priola – for your service to our Country, and to our communities, we are proud to have you as a member of VFW Post 3345.

What's Cooking!

*Our Post is very fortunate to have many great chefs, cooks and bakers!
Every event brings delicious donations that are enjoyed by members and guests.
And everyone always asks for the recipe!*

*If you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share, please email it to vfwpost3345_1@gmail.com
or drop it off at the Post, in the Auxiliary mail slot.*

*This issue we feature a recipe from Gail Radick, for
a dish that's been a family favorite for generations!*

Baked German Potato Salad

¾ cup diced crisp bacon (4 – 5 slices)
1 small chopped onion
3 T flour
1 1/3 cup hot boiling water
2/3 cup cider vinegar
2/3 cup sugar
3 t salt
½ t pepper
8 med. Potatoes (cooked) cubed or sliced

Cook bacon, drain off fat

Measure fat and return ¼ cup to large skillet. Add onion; cook 1 minute.

Blend in flour. Stir in hot water and vinegar and cook, stirring constantly until mixture is thick and bubbly.

Stir in sugar, salt and pepper.

Pour mixture over potatoes and bacon.

- Slice, layer sauce and bacon and potatoes

Pour into a greased 3 quart casserole.

Bake at 350 degrees, 30 minutes

SCUTTLEBUTT PUBLISHING!

Newsletter publication: As a reminder, the Scuttlebutt newsletter and calendars have been switched to a quarterly electronic delivery - either as an email attachment we send to you, or by visiting the Post's website - www.vfw3345.com. Pictures from some events have been uploaded to the Post website, check out the fun. We are continually uploading pictures from various events held throughout the year so check it out frequently.

If you have pictures you would like to share, please email them to vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com.

Please send your electronic contact information, and any updates to your home address, to svcdr@vfw3345.com and we will make sure you are added to our email distribution list.

NOTE: If you include your birth month and day, we will also add you to the Birthday List. There is also a Birthday Book behind the bar in the Canteen, where your information can be added.

Share Your Celebrations!

You can now share the good news and celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Graduation or other Special Event in the Scuttlebutt Newsletter! One-time, quarter page ads can be purchased for \$25 per issue. Photos and other images can be included - and we'll even help with the design.

Information can be submitted via email vfwpost3345_1@yahoo.com or by contacting Linda Burger at lewburger2@gmail.com.

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

Linda Burger
Scuttlebutt Editor



February 6, 2023

VFW Visits Forward-Deployed Troops: The VFW is continuing its long tradition of visiting forward-deployed troops. VFW National Commander Tim Borland and VFW Washington Office Deputy Director Ryan Gallucci traveled to Camp Kościuszko, Poznan, Poland, to visit with U.S. service members and learn about the American mission supporting NATO allies amid tensions with Russia. “This Corps is in great hands,” said Borland speaking of V Corps and USAG — Poland leadership who provide services and support to deployed service members. “I am very impressed with the esprit de corps in this unit.” The VFW views trips to visit deployed troops as an essential part of our mission so we can learn what our service men and women need in real time.

House Announces Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Members: The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has announced its members. Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), a Marine Corps veteran, will lead the committee as chairman. The former chairman, Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) will assume the role of ranking member. The VFW has worked productively for years with both Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano in their previous roles, and we look forward to continuing that strong relationship. Other members of the committee, including many veterans, have been assigned to various subcommittee roles.

VA Infrastructure Bill Introduced: Sen. Jon Tester (MT-D) has introduced VFW-supported S. 42, BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023. This legislation would streamline efforts to reduce the infrastructure backlog and improve the overall management of the capital asset programs of VA. “The BUILD for Veterans Act will require VA to develop and implement plans to remedy this infrastructure problem that has plagued VA for years,” said VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray. The bill is cosponsored by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Mark Warner (D-VA).

VFW Commemorates National Black History Month: The VFW celebrates our nation’s African American service members, veterans, and their families during National Black History Month. We salute them all for their indelible contributions to our freedom and way of life