



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Never Forget Pearl Harbor

By Commander Jarrod McReynolds



Comrades

I hope that you all had a great

volunteer time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Red Cross Outstanding Service Award is due to the leadership and tireless efforts of Jeff Jarosz, Richard Vosika, Steve Peterson, Janet Schaak, and Loraine Zeck, who have repeatedly ensured the Post building is a safe location for donations of life saving blood. The Outstanding Service Award is another recognition in a long line thanks to the efforts of our Post, and Auxiliary members, Staff, and our community.

While the post is closed for now, we are still assisting Veterans as we can, so if you know of a Veteran or their family that is in need please let me know so we can reach out to assist when possible.

Please stay safe, and I hope to see you all online for our next post meeting. details for connecting can be found on Page 10.

Thanksgiving, and are preparing for Christmas. While it is hard this year with COVID, we all know how to handle not being able to spend the holidays with everyone that we want. I ask that you all hang in there as there is hope over the horizon that this pandemic will be over soon.

Palmer Lake VFW is still planning to conduct its regularly scheduled blood drive on January 11, 2021. Come out and save a life with your donation! Every person who donates, or tries to donate and is rejected may enter the drawing for a \$50.00 gift card at Palmer Lake VFW Canteen.

The Palmer Lake VFW team has received recognition from the American Red Cross. The Post blood drive received an Outstanding Service Award for the many hours of

Stay Safe
Commander
Jarrod McReynolds

PALMER LAKE VFW POST #3915



www.palmerlakevfw.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Auxiliary News

The latest from our Auxiliary President Page 2

Prayer Corner

Page 3

Programs

Community Service	Page 3
Membership	Page 5
Youth Activities	Page 5
Honor Guard	Page 5
Veterans and Military Support	Page 6
Safety	Page 6
The Cootie Corner	Page 6
Veterans Issues	Page 7
Legislation	Page 8
Buddy Poppies	Page 8
Veterans and Post Activities	Page 9
Americanism and Citizenship	Page 10

The rest

Dates to Note	Page 10
The Canteen	Page 11

Auxiliary News

By President Tracy McReynolds

Greetings Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters,

As another December comes upon us, this year is different. We are reminded by our memories of Christmas past where our homes were filled with lots of friends, and family celebrating with Holiday Cheer. This year we will not have a lot of our family traditions that we have all come to know and **LOVE**.

We will get through this they keep saying. But I find myself questioning them and my sanity to boot. However, as we approach Christmas and the New Year I wish each and every one of you a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! It's not what we are accustomed to, it's not going to be the same, but may you find peace in the newness of it all and the smaller gatherings!

December 8th meeting will be held via Zoom at 6pm, with a small virtual social after if interested

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87865684621?pwd=_R3dDeS9xdk4ra2JRaEpoSExxSHJldz09

Meeting ID: 878 6568 4621

Passcode: 941035

Thank you all for your continued support in helping our veterans and their families.

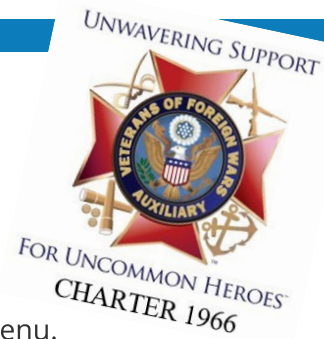
Hope to see you all soon.

Thank you for your support,

Tracy McReynolds, Auxiliary President

Palmer Lake VFW Post #3915 Auxiliary

Email: Auxiliary.vfw3915@gmail.com



Applebees: Free meal from a select menu.

Bubba Gump Shrimp: 20 percent off food and retail purchases.

Bruegger's Bagels: Free bagel and cream cheese.

Buffalo Wild Wings: Free small boneless wings and fries for veterans.

California Pizza Kitchen: Free entree from a select menu.

Chili's: Free meal from a select menu.

Chipotle: Buy one entree get another free.

Cracker Barrel: Veterans and active service members get a free Pumpkin Pie Latte or a slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake.

Davanni's: Veterans and active service members get a free solo one-item pizza and a free regular soda.

Famous Dave's: A free "two meat salute," which includes one side and a corn bread muffin.

Fogo De Chao: Veterans get a 50% discount off their meal, plus an additional 10% off for up to three guests.

Golden Corral: Free dinner for veterans and active service members.

HyVee: Free breakfast for veterans and active military members until 11 a.m.

Noodles & Company: Noodles has an ongoing 15% discount for veterans.

Olive Garden: Free entree from a select menu.

Red Lobster: Free appetizer or dessert from select menu.

Red Robin: A free Tavern Double Burger with bottomless steak fries.

Starbucks: Veterans, active service members and their spouses receive a free cup of coffee at Starbucks.

Texas Roadhouse: Free lunch for veterans and active service members until 4 p.m.

White Castle: Veterans and active military members get a free combo meal.

Disabled Veterans Property Value Exclusion for surviving spouses.

Assessment:

Classification

Short-term Rental Property Classification

Fifth Special Session 2020, Chapter 3, Article 8, Section 2

Amends Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 273.13, subdivision 25.

This section expands the definition of the 4b(1) classification to include short-term rental property rented for more than 14 days in the preceding year. Short-term rental properties under this provision are defined as non-homestead residential real estate that both:

Rents for periods of less than 30 consecutive days·

Contains fewer than four units·

Homestead properties are not considered short-term rental properties. The 4b(1) classification has a class rate of 1.25%.

History:

Prior to this change, properties determined to have a primary use as a short-term rental were classified as commercial.

Effective Date: Effective beginning with assessment year 2021, taxes payable in 2022, and thereafter.

Special Programs:

Market Value Exclusion on the Homestead of a Veteran with a Disability – Allowing a Surviving Spouse to Move

Fifth Special Session 2020, Chapter 3, Article 8, Section 3

Amends Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 273.13, subdivision 34.

This section expands the market value exclusion for the homestead of a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran by allowing the spouse to transfer their benefit to a different property if they move. The property must have an estimated market value less than or equal to the value of the original property at the time of sale of the original property. A surviving spouse is limited to one transfer under this new provision.

To qualify for the continuation of the exclusion on a new property, the surviving spouse must:

Make a new application·

Hold legal or beneficial title and permanently reside there·

Not have already received the exclusion on more than one property·

Not have remarried·

History:

Previously, once a surviving spouse sells, transfers or otherwise disposes of the property they owned with the qualifying veteran, they no longer were eligible for the exclusion.

Effective Date: Effective for applications in 2020, taxes payable in 2021, and thereafter.

Prayer Corner

By Chaplin Nate Gehl



Bob Whitcraft, continues his fight with cancer, please continue to send prayers and well wishes to him and his family.



Palmer Lake VFW is not only a Veteran's organization, but also a family. We grow, work, laugh and morn together.

Community Service

Senior Vice Janet Schaak



Greetings from your Community Service Chair.

HOW CAN I HELP?

There are many different way to help make a difference.

Regardless of how you choose to volunteer your time, always remember to log your community services hours in our community service log on our website.

[Click Here](#)

If you have questions or have an idea on a Community Service activity, feel free to send an email to the Commander (see link on the contact page).

Thank you everyone for your continued community service contributions.

Share the Veterans Crisis Line Number to Save a Life

Crisis Line. This confidential, toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hot line serves Veterans and their loved ones year-round. Reach qualified, caring Responders:

by phone at 800-273-8255,
via on-line chat on their website, or
by text message at 838255.

Membership

Junior Vice Elizabeth Nelson



This has been a slow year for membership we have not been able to go out and spread the word. We are calling out to the

members to reach out to friends and families to find veterans that qualify, so we can reach 100% membership by getting 17 more members. We need members to step by coming to and participating in meetings, attending events, and spreading the word of the VFW.

Youth Activities

Program Chair Janet Schaak



We were able to submit entries to district for Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy, stay tuned for updates in the coming months. Thank you all for your assistance with this program.



Honor Guard

Honor Guard Commander Robert Hystad

Palmer
Lake VFW
Honor
Guard at
Social
Distance
Formation



Veteran and Military Support

By Post Commander Jarrod McReynolds

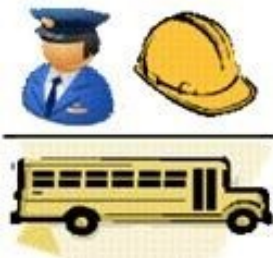
Some of you may or may not know that our own Past Commander and Past District Commander Scott Hanson has been the Department Veterans and Military Support chairman for many years.

The Veterans and Military Support program has many sub programs that are great for Veterans and the military.

During the fall conference in Saint Cloud Scott gave a great presentation, and while I would love to put the whole presentation into this newsletter there just is not enough room for it. However I have loaded it up to our website where it can be view in all it's glory.

<https://vfw3915.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=84370>

Safety



Have you entered into the
Community service report
your safety Volunteer
work?

If you have participated, or assisted in any work that deals with Pedestrian Safety, Drug Awareness, Recreational Safety, Highway Safety, Home and Fire Safety or other Safety projects please submit this on the [Community Service and Volunteer form](#).

Don't forget to also include Time spent donating blood anything that you do for the betterment of others has a place on the Community service and Volunteer form.

The Cooties Corner

By CCDB Terry Wagner



CCDB PT (Stickities) #66
Terry E. Wagner
Or phone at 612-581-2719
wagnerterry@comcast.net
E-mail at

To contact me:

CCDB Pup tent 66

Terry E. Wagner

As these trying times continue the Cooties will stand firm in our pledge of "Keep them smiling in beds of white".

We recently lost a long time member of nearly 21 years when Joseph Witt passed away, our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

With this pandemic still going on and with all the hospitals and long term care facilities on lock down we have been unable to make our monthly visits.



Veterans' Issues

By Post Service Officer Jeff Jarosz

If any member has questions about their earned VA benefits, Minnesota Veteran's benefits or questions about filing a VA claim, I can be reached at jajarosz@q.com or 763-434-9708

Jeff

With the covid-19 epidemic spiking this fall many things are cancelled or severely cut back in numbers of folks who can be in attendance at any meetings. The Anoka CVSO is not taking any appointments or walk-ins as the Anoka County courthouse is shut down from the second floor on up. The CVSO office is at full staff with 6 people working. This will be the norm for the rest of 2020 and possibly longer. John Kriesel and his team are working by phone, e-mail and fax. You can submit any necessary paperwork to a drop box located on 3rd avenue at the Anoka courthouse.

The Anoka CVSO will deploy a member with the National Guard in 2021

Flu shots available at the clinics on 9/24, 10/1, 10/8 and 10/15. Mpls VA flu shots available 9:00-1:00 on 10/3. 10/7, 10/8, from 9:00-3:00. 10/14 from 9:00-3:00.

Attached is a very important piece of information. With the implementation of the "Mission Act" these new benefits are available for home care givers. Please read this information and apply for these very generous benefits if you need help completing at least one or more daily living activities because of a service connected disability.

Page 6 Minnesota Legionnaire October 2020

VA expanding caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans, as of Oct. 1

Do you remember a \$52 billion piece of legislation called the VA MISSION Act? It was signed into law on June 6, 2018. It was the greatest reform to VA Health Care in history.

Two reforms within the multilayered legislation stood out to veterans and VA stakeholders like The American Legion.

One was an overhaul to VA's community care program, which took effect June 2019, allowing veterans more choice to care in the community.

The second major reform, taking effect Oct. 1, 2020, is an expansion to VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). This reform is expanding caregiver benefits to World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Persian Gulf War veterans.

The current Program of Comprehensive Family Caregivers is only available for post-9/11 veterans. I believe it was designed and implemented during the Global War on Terrorism, where a primary instrument of war used by the enemy was improvised explosive devices, known as IEDs. The use of IEDs left many men and women critically injured, resulting in amputations and traumatic brain injuries. Upon returning home, these young men and women struggled with their activities of daily living on their own and would need caregiver assistance.

VA's eligibility criteria for PCAFC is that a veteran has sustained serious injury in the line of service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, require personal care services to perform one or more activities of daily living or require supervision and protection based on symptoms of residuals of neurological impairment or injury and require the assistance of a family caregiver to live safely in a home for a minimum of six months.

If approved for PCAFC, veterans can select one primary caregiver and up to two secondary caregivers. Secondary caregivers serve as a backup support to the primary caregiver when needed.

The services you receive will depend on whether you are the primary or secondary caregiver. Primary caregiver receives a monthly stipend (paid directly to you as the caregiver); access to health care insurance through Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), if you do not already have health insurance; mental health counseling; certain beneficiary travel benefits when traveling with the veteran to appointments.

Note for specific details, speak to your caregiver support coordinator and at least 30 days of respite care per year, for the veteran. Respite is short term relief for someone else to care for the veteran while you take a break.

Starting Oct. 1, 2020, the expansion portion of PCAFC under the MISSION ACT will start in a two-phase expansion. First, VA will be enrolling those seriously injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. Then two years after the first expansion, VA will further expand PCAFC to those seriously injured in the line of duty between May 8, 1975, and Sept. 10, 2001.

For those veterans already enrolled and receiving PCAFC benefits, they are considered "legacy participants" and will have one year to be reassessed under the new program. Between Oct. 1, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021, if veterans wish to stay in PCAFC, an appointment will be scheduled to be reassessed under the new eligibility criteria set forth in the final rule.

If you're interested in this expansion or a legacy participant and have questions, please contact your local caregiver support staff and ask about PCAFC.

https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp

Jeremy Wolfsteller is the Department of Minnesota service officer. His email is jwolfsteller@mnlegion.org.



Legislation

By Program Chair Larry Fonder

Greetings Palmer Lake Comrades, Friends, & Family,

I'd like to expound on a piece of seemingly administrative legislation, that could easily go overlooked.

Legislation Introduced to Include DBQs on VA Website: Sens. Jon Tester (D-MT) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) recently introduced VFW-supported S. 4412, *to improve the ability of veterans to access and submit disability benefit questionnaire forms*. This important legislation would require VA to publish Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) on a public website.

The excerpt above is from the August 7, 2020 VFW Action Corps. Which was most probably glossed over as it sounds pretty administrative and the least exciting bill next to tax code adjustments – but this law has a very profound and direct impact on a Veteran's ability to obtain service connection for a disability or a rating for pension.

DBQs are formatted forms filled out by examining medical professionals in order to verify a diagnosis and assess the severity/chronicity of a claimed disability – they are an extremely efficient tool and institutionally intrinsic to rating a disability claim. Now, they are no longer available to the public, thus your private physician - who may have intimate historic knowledge of your condition cannot complete one on your behalf.

The VA has taken away the Veteran's choice to have a private medical provider complete a DBQ and thereby disadvantaged the Veteran. While the Veteran can still submit evidence from his/her medical provider, *it is as least as likely as not*, the DBQ completed by a VA examiner will carry more weight because it has the advantage of institutional familiarity, clarity, format, and literally mirrors the required terminology contained in the law (Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations) used to rate disabilities.

One cannot blame the doers at the VA; they are under enormous time pressure to produce rating

decisions, but shame on the VA's senior leadership for taking this advantageous tool away from Veterans and their medical providers.

Passing of this boring sounding administrative legislation will help to re-level the compensation & pension playing field for our Veterans. It will also help keep the evidence review process streamlined for VA raters, reduce costs by reducing the number of required VA compensation and pension exams, and it can shorten the wait for a rating decision.

Best regards,

Comrade Larry Fonder

VFW3915legislativechair@gmail.com



The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.

Regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

To view this week's edition: [Click here](#)



Buddy Poppies

Program Chair Past Dep. Commander Lee C. Arts

Poppy Distribution weekend has been postponed. Perhaps it will be rescheduled for June. Watch this column for further information.

What we are asking for you to do at this point is to send an email to Chairman Ulferts at lrulferts@gmail.com with your name and phone number if you are willing to join us in our efforts. When we find out details we will contact you. PLEASE.....PLEASE be willing to help.

Veteran and Post Activities

By Program Chair Blair Sorvari

Mike Marthaler and Dave "Booya" Thompson delivered \$2100.00 Of cub gift cards to Family Services for MN soldiers, raised from Booya 2020.



save the date February 20th for the Palmer Lake VFW
fishing event at the Vets Camp.

Americanism and Citizenship

Program Chair Jarrod McReynolds

Upcoming Holidays Dates

Date Holiday

Dec 1	Tuesday	Rosa Parks Day
Dec 6	Sunday	St Nicholas Day
Dec 7	Monday	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec 8	Tuesday	Feast of the Immaculate
Dec 11	Friday	Chanukah/Hanukkah (first day)
Dec 12	Saturday	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Dec 13	Sunday	National Guard Birthday
Dec 15	Tuesday	Bill of Rights Day
Dec 17	Thursday	Wright Brothers Day
Dec 18	Friday	Last Day of Chanukah
Dec 21	Monday	December Solstice
Dec 24	Thursday	Christmas Eve
Dec 25	Friday	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Saturday	Kwanzaa (first day)
Dec 31	Thursday	New Year's Eve

Dates to Note

Next Aux meeting December 8th at 6:00 PM in the hall and via Zoom - see Presidents letter on page 2

Next Post meeting December 9th at 1900 via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89563184205?pwd=T2JDNis0WU56Z1ZlZS9yOjNldG5KZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: PLVFW

By Phone 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: 269338

Up Coming Blood Drives

Monday, Jan 11th
Monday, Mar 15th
Monday, May 10th
Monday, Jul 12th
Monday, Aug 30th
Monday, Nov 1st

Next District Meeting Dec 12th 10AM via zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8567334261?pwd=KzU4TERUWWNlVnMzaINFdVF2YVZmOT09>

Meeting ID: 856 733 4261

Passcode: TheMighty7

By Phone 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: 079507

Canteen Calendar

Club Manager Andrea Moy

BAR CLOSED DUE TO COVID