Our Memorial Day Mission

Remember all those students we recently visited on Veterans Day? They are now thinking of warmer weather and sunshine and their coming summer vacation. Not to mention exams, and for some – Graduation. It will be a busy time for them in April and May, as they plan for their future.

We Veterans also have our responsibilities. It is up to us to educate these young people about the past and what history teaches. They need to know what Memorial Day is all about and how it came to be. And why we honor those that have come before us, making the ultimate sacrifice.

We can share some of our experiences and tell them of our Poppy Day and why poppies are important to us. We can tell them who our heroes were and how they inspired us. There are many, many things that we can teach them, some of which are not taught in detail in the schools.

So this, then, is our mission for April and May. Teach the next generation by sharing our experiences in a way so they can understand WHO we are and WHY we do what we do.

From the Commander of the American Legion

欢迎来到第三季度的 Legion 年度。2 月为美国主义月份，且总是由例来代替。因此，当我们在实际执行中规划时，会帮助做出 All State again this year. 然后我们工作在所有。它将很值得做这个回看。

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Bill Staur, Commander

Poppy Day VFW

The Veterans of Foreign Wars have been distributing “Buddy” Poppies since 1922. The proceeds from the “Buddy” Poppy Campaign are used exclusively to assist disabled and needy veterans, as well as helping the widows and children of deceased veterans.

More than 1,300 children of veterans have been or are being cared for in the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. A portion of this cost is raised through the annual distribution of the VFW “Buddy” Poppies. Nearly 500,000 men, women and children donate considerable time and effort every year conducting the distribution of the Poppies, and do you know that the VFW Poppies are assembled by disabled veterans themselves in hospitals throughout the United States?

Poppy Chairman Marshall Erickson

Veterans of Mount Prospect Illinois

Memorial Day Monday 25 May Parade participants will line up at Emerson Street & Busse at 0915. Parade begins at about 0940. In front of Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson Street. The parade route follows: south on Emerson Street to Lincoln Street to the Veterans’ Memorial Band Shell at Lions Park for a special ceremony. Any interested citizens can march in the parade, and veterans are especially encouraged to join in. A Memorial Ceremony will take place immediately following at the Veterans Bandshell in Lions Park. For more information, visit vfw1337.org.

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Ron Vlek Adjutant American legion Post 525

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American Legion Post 525 and VFW Post 1337 place American flags on the grave of our deceased members annually the Thursday and/or Friday before Memorial Day. This year the dates will be Thursday, May 21, 2020 with an alternate rain date of Friday, May 22, 2020. This date is not overly flexible due to cemetery restrictions and wanting the flags to be in place on the graves before the Memorial Day observance without being removed, if placed too early.

We will be gathering at Mr. Allison’s restaurant at 1711 E. Central Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 at 8:00 am for breakfast. My yearly financial contribution to the post has been paying for breakfast. I will cap that this year. I will pay for breakfast up to $150.00. Assignments and flags are given out after breakfast. Most volunteers are sent to All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines and then on to Memory Gardens in Arlington Heights. In years past we have finished placing flags anywhere from 2 to 5 o’clock. When the work is completed, volunteers have gone for dinner/lunch and drinks at Emerson’s at 113 S. Emerson St, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Everyone is responsible for their own bill. Dana Betzner is the POC (847) 749-6926.

A great time had at the 2020 Shining Star Awards Night for Leshaw & Carol Ohm

Congratulations!
Comrades and Posts 1337/525 family. It’s good times for both posts, both in growth and expanded programs. One of the most noteworthy things we see are post 9-11 veterans attending meetings and getting involved. Knowing that unlike us older veterans that have somewhat more time, they are in the busiest time of their lives. The other factor is the warmth of our membership, we truly welcome new and old members. Another factor is our education on veteran benefits which I harp on all the time. You all take that knowledge go out in the community and I as your post service officer constantly get calls for assistance. This in itself helps the VFW & American Legion, the veteran or their family get an understanding of what we do as service organizations. You will see here information for an upcoming workshop. SIGN UP! A membership armed in knowledge is paramount for success.

**Veterans Benefits Workshop Will Feature The “Pros”**

On 9 May 2020, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1197 of Batavia, assisted by other VFW Posts, volunteers and sponsors, will host a comprehensive workshop for veterans, active duty military and their friends & families about the many benefits available to them through the Veterans Administration as well as how to apply for and receive them.

**Do You Know What's UP? Understanding Veterans Benefits**

**Saturday May 9**

**Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from the best!**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** Veterans, active duty military plus family & friends. Any one who wants to help veterans get the benefits they earned!

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?** How to identify & locate the many benefits available through the VA as well as how to apply for and receive them.

**WHO WILL TEACH ME?** Experienced Veteran Service Officers who are experts at locating the applicable benefit rules and guiding you through the paperwork. You will learn from the pros!

**WHAT ABOUT FOLLOW UP?** Free pamphlets & booklets and contact information about VA benefits will be available for you to take home.

**Sponsored By**

**VFW Post 1197**

**VENICE MARKETPLACE**

**9-11** 2020 Sign in & Breakfast 0800 to 0900. Program 0900 to 1000.

**WHERE:** VFW Post 1197, 665 S River St, Batavia, IL 60510

**COST:** $10 includes breakfast & lunch

**REGISTRATION:** [www.vetworkshop.org](http://www.vetworkshop.org)

**QUESTIONS? Call 630-714-2585**

**E-MAIL** info@vetworkshop.org

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

For additional information about this workshop, including time and location details, please see the website: [www.vetworkshop.org](http://www.vetworkshop.org)

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**Veterans and supporters with James Miks during award ceremony at Hersey High School Arlington Heights 26 November L-R veterans advocate Greg Padovani, Jim Miks, VFW Post 1337 Commander Les Durov, veterans advocate Dave Wietrzak, VFW Department of Illinois Americanism Director Tom Davidson and VFW 4th District Commander Joe Scanlon, Photo John Novak**

This November at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights Illinois, in front of a 2,000 strong student body and faculty, Veterans of Foreign Wars Prospect Post 1337 Commander Les Durov presented to James D. Miks a certificate which honored him for being the High School Teacher of the year for Post 1337, James is an English teacher at Hersey High School.

This is the first step of many to reach the most prestigious honor as VFW National High School Teacher of the year. From our local post, James will move on in competition to the VFW 4th District Department of Illinois. He is competing against award winners from 15 other posts in the 4th District. The next step is competing against the 17 VFW Illinois District winners.

To reach National, he would be competing against the winners in each of the 50 states.

Jim, the son of a Vietnam Veteran, has been instrumental in numerous projects and events that have touched perhaps thousands of lives. His latest project is working on the “Tiny Homes” project building a “tiny home” community. As part of the Nine Line Foundation, this Veterans Village provides shelter to homeless veterans in their transition back into society. Jim gets support from his students in almost every endeavor he undertakes, making volunteerism a true learning experience.

One of our newest VFW members Mike Snow retired 8 February after 37 years of service in the US Air Force & US Army Congrats Mikeli

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**Service Report**

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**13 December 2019 Julia Valentini a student at Lincoln Middle School Mount Prospect, accepts a certificate and check from Commander Les Durov Veterans of Foreign Wars Prospect Post 1337, Julia won The VFW Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest for post 1337 and shall now advance to the District level (District 4 VFW Department of Illinois). She advanced to the Department of Illinois. The contest is extremely competitive and the subject matter was “What makes America great”. She was picked from many different schools and entrants in the northwest suburbs.

**Holiday party 2019 Thanks to all our Volunteers**

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**What Makes America Great?**

**by Julia Valentini**

**VFW District 4 Patriot Pen Finalist**

What makes America great? Is it the industrialism, which has shaped the path of history through its genius inventions? Maybe it is the documents, like the Constitution, or the Declaration of Independence, that have helped to create our strong government and build unity throughout the nation? There are many things that make America great, but I believe what truly does is the people.

First off, there are undeniably brave soldiers who fight for the safety and honor of our country. Our military is made up of amazingly courageous souls who are ready to risk their lives if it means defending America, and that is one of the main parts that defines our country. It is also important to recognize veterans, who have served the country in equal ways, and reserves, who go through demanding boot camps to be ready to stand up if needed. The people behind the armed forces in America can undoubtedly be considered great.

To add, the great people in America are the benevolent ones who lend a helping hand to others. An example of this would be the people in a community who come together to donate food to pantries so that those around them have enough to eat. Furthermore, there are people in America who support those in other states during natural disasters or other crises—whether it’s sending over goods or helping victims of the catastrophe find shelter. You can even add that the people in America who send food and resources to those in other countries, who are going through poverty and starvation, are part of what makes America great.

Finally, America is great because of people from the past. Our Founding Fathers, who united the 13 colonies and started America, made our country what it is today. There are so many different instances, like when the industrialism of America invented the Steam Engine or Telegraph Communications, where people in the past have helped the evolution of America.

To reemphasize, what makes America great is the people. And there are so many examples of those people, like soldiers in our military, reserves, and farmers. Moreover, the leaders of the past and compassionate human beings in our present, are what makes America, my home, so great.

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