

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1st Weds. Of Each Month – Arlington Heights Am. Legion Post 208



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

Although the weather doesn't look like it, Spring is finally here. The Staff is hard at work planning the Post's upcoming events, outings, Poppy Days, the Memorial Day Parade, and the 2023-24 budget. Spring also brings Post Officer elections and although nominated I will not be returning as Post Commander.

Michele and I have decided to make New Orleans our permanent home. As most of you know, last year Michele's work in the TV industry temporarily transferred us to NOLA. I flew back and forth every month to take care of our house here and to attend our monthly Post meetings. We enjoyed it so much there, we're moving!

It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as Post 981's Commander and I thoroughly enjoyed it. We were able to accomplish quite a lot; we moved the Post back home to Arlington Heights, we've rekindled our dynamic partnership with American Legion Post 208, we celebrated our 100th Anniversary, we are an All State Post again and for the first time we also became All American.

None of this could have been accomplished without the hard and diligent work of the Staff and our membership. I have been a member of Post 981 since 1991, I joined the very same week I returned home from Desert Storm. I can honestly say that these last two plus years have been the most fun and rewarding. Thank you!

Semper Fi

Matt

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

As of this writing, our membership numbers stand at 162 Life Members and 12 Continuous (Annual) Members for a total of 174, for a 104% increase over last fiscal year. We added two new Life Members: John J. (JJ) Gallagher (transfer) and Paul Fadz (new). Unfortunately, we became aware of three Life Members who recently passed away: We continue to look for means to recruit new members. We recently sent letters to our twelve Continuous members reminding them that their annual dues may soon be in arrears. Several have already responded with their checks. Thanks! We are looking forward to our annual Poppy Days collections in May. We will also be staffing VFW recruitment booths at the Buffalo Grove, Arlington Heights, and Palatine farmer's markets this Spring/Summer. Volunteers to help out are most appreciated! We are looking forward to an active Spring/Summer with the return of local parades and festivals.

Smokey

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

We will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 25. For \$5 each, a Post member can invite one additional adult guest and any children under 18. We will be occupying a skybox with all you can eat lunch & refreshments (including beer). What a deal! Any other guests will cost \$25. Check out the flyer farther in our newsletter. See you there.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **Wolves Game** – Saturday April 8 7:00 PM
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (May 3)
- **Poppy Sales** – Saturday (May 20) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 27) Buffalo Grove
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Rolling Meadows 9:30 AM – Saturday (May 27)
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Arlington Heights 9:30 AM – Monday (May 29)
- **Post Meeting** (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 7)
- **Schaumburg Boomers Outing** – Sunday (June 25)
- **Home Fest Recruiting** Palatine – Saturday (July 1) & Sunday (July 2)
- **4th of July Parade** - Arlington Heights Tuesday (July 4)
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (July 5)

TAPS



The members of Arlington Post 981, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, pay their last tribute of respect to our departed comrades.

The following comrades passed away, or we have been notified of their passing, since the last newsletter came out:

Kenneth Halworth – US Army Vietnam

Richard Heller – US Army Korean War, owned Heller Lumber in AH.

Rocco Militello.

Chuck Shields – See obit farther on in newsletter.

Jerome Vesecky

As brave men and women they marched away with abiding faith in their God, their country, and their flag.

As soon as is possible we request that family members **notify the Post via telephone** (listed on our website) if a comrade has passed away. Too many times we must rely on seeing an obituary in the newspaper which leaves little or no time for members to pay their final respects. Also, our Color Guard needs time to organize the final salute to our members, whether at the wake or afterwards at the cemetery.

DONATING POPPY MONEY

The Post donated Poppy money raised in 2022. At our January meeting we presented a \$2,500 check to K9s for Veterans. There to accept it was the founder Mike Tellerino.

At our February meeting we presented a \$2,500 check to Veterans Closet out of North Chicago. (see picture) Mary Carmody, Founder and Executive Director, was in attendance to talk about their mission. Dale received a \$500 check for expenses for processing and sending out the Jerky to active duty troops.

Other prior donations have included \$1,500 to the VFW National Home, \$1,500 to Help USA Troops and \$200 for Lovell toiletries.



LUETSCHWAGER & HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship committee received 11 applications and has identified the 4 finalists. The committee will interview each finalist during April and make the decisions. All will have to bring proof of Veteran's direct relationship & a grade transcript.

POST PARTICIPATES IN LEGION CHILI COOK-OFF

On Sunday February 26 American Legion Post 208 sponsored a chili cook-off. Various veterans organizations were asked to participate and 3 members of our Post – Larry Bielski, Chris Maurer, and Tony Kochanny – rose to the challenge. Final count was 16 entries and over 90 people in attendance. One of the attendees, JJ Gallagher, was convinced to transfer to the Post from his old one. While none of our Post members received top vote prizes, raffles were conducted and a good time was had by all.

HONORING VIETNAM VETS

As the nation observed the 50th anniversary of the final withdrawal of troops from Vietnam, 3 local government bodies adopted resolutions honoring our Vietnam veterans.

On Monday March 20 the Arlington Heights Trustees approved a proclamation. On hand at the meeting was Dale Berg and Vince Cippola. Dale

accepted the proclamation on behalf of all Vietnam Veterans. (pictured below)

On March 23 it was High School District 214's turn. Commander Voss and Don Luken represented our Post at the meeting.

Finally, Rolling Meadows honored Vietnam vets on March 28. Vince and Smokeymike were on-hand at the Rolling Meadows meeting.

See the end of newsletter for the proclamations.



R. I. P. CHUCK SHIELDS

The Post has learned of the passing of former Commander Chuck Shields. Chuck was Commander from 2009 – 2013.

Chuck was 89 when he died. He was an active duty Marine from 1951 – 1953 who served with the 1st Marine Division in Korea during the war 1952 – 1953.



TODD HATFIELD – TEACHER OF THE YEAR

At our January meeting Todd Hatfield, Art, English and Technical Instructor at Hersey High School, was chosen as our Post Teacher of the Year. Steve MacInnes, District 4 Commander, announced that he is also the District 4 nominee to the state. In the state competition Todd finished 5th.

During the past 20 years Todd has received numerous awards for his teaching ability. Since 2015 he has been a member of A Soldier's Journey Home. This organization builds homes for disabled veterans. Todd has not only participated in the builds, he has involved Hersey students in the documentation of these efforts. As Technical Instructor he has guided his students in preparation of videos about the veteran experience and other patriotic themes.

Todd's personal experiences include his father, a Marine veteran of Vietnam who suffered from PTSD. His father finally sought help through Todd's veteran grandfather who directed him to the resources of the Veterans Administration. The VA turned Todd's father's life totally around.



POST 981 2022 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Chuck Vassallo was named the Post 981 member of the year by Commander Matt Voss at the March meeting.

VOD/PATRIOTS PEN

On January 15, 2023, the VFW 4th District held its annual Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Awards Banquet at The Seville in Streamwood. As usual, Joe Wein and the 4th District crew did an outstanding job. The 4th District Color Guard was there to present/retrieve the Colors.

Our Post had one Voice of Democracy entry and three Patriot's Pen entries at the Banquet. Happy to report that one of our Patriot's Pen winners was awarded 3rd Place by the 4th District: Lucy Olson, from St. Theresa School in Palatine, Illinois. She received a plaque and a cash award for her efforts. Unfortunately, Lucy was unable to attend the Awards banquet so her award was proudly accepted by our Post Voice of Democracy Chairman and later conveyed to her parents to present to Lucy.

Congratulations to Lucy and to all the VOD/PP participants!

Smokey

NEW POST MEMBERS

J J Gallagher transferred into our Post. As a Marine he served in the Persian Gulf, finally retiring from the Marine Reserves. He is an electrician.



Commander Voss cited Chuck's leadership and work in putting on the October celebration of the Post's 100th year of existence.

The honor was delayed due to Chuck's health – related absence from the most recent meetings.

POST 981 COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

Jan 7 Memorial Service – Joseph Riefski

Jan 21 Memorial Service – James A Murphy

Up Coming events:

May 15 Commencement Ceremony Oakton
Community College

May 29 Memorial Day Parade – Arlington Heights

Sept 3 Buffalo Grove Day Parade

Even if you cannot march you can participate in wakes and funerals. In addition, there are many other activities that we are involved in that you could participate in. If you would like to learn more about joining the Color Guard and the commitment level please contact Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

If a family wishes a rifle salute, they should contact Dale Berg at the number listed on our website - 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

Dale Berg

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

SKY BOX BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

JOIN US ON JUNE 25 AT NOON (1200 HOURS) IN SCHAUMBURG (SPRINGINSGUTH RD & ELGIN-OHARA XWAY) FOR A SKY BOX EXPERIENCE FEATURING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FOOD & DRINK ALONG WITH THE GAME. ENTER AT FRONT OFFICE GATE & GO TO WILL CALL. MENTION POST 981

Post Members, 1 Guest, & Grandchildren under 18 – \$5 apiece. Other Adults & Grandchildren over 18 - \$25

Send your reservations and checks (made out to VFW Post 981) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Dr, Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations - June 7 Meeting. Your name with amount of each type guest & total paid needed.

Name _____

\$5 Guest _____

Of Children (under 18) \$5 _____

Number of Other Adults \$25 _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

High School District 214 Proclamation
50th Anniversary of Vietnam Veterans Day
March 29, 2023

WHEREAS, between 1964 and 1975, more than 3 million Americans left their homes and families to serve overseas in the battles and conflicts of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, these young men and women, through their service in Vietnam, exemplified - as had many generations of Americans in uniform before them - the very meaning of courage, honor, service and sacrifice

WHEREAS, March 29, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the day that United States combat and combat support units completed their withdrawal from South Vietnam, thus ending one of the longest conflicts in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, members of the U.S. Armed forces who served bravely and faithfully in Vietnam returned home to a country deeply divided over the war, often negating the pride and gratitude due to them for their sacrifice and service; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of pride and gratitude, it is long since time to honor the accomplishments of all Americans who served in Vietnam, including the 58,000 service men and women whose names are listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall for making the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, almost 3,000 Illinoisans are counted among those killed or missing in action during their service in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, many who served courageously were from the Northwest Suburbs and, in many instances, were High School District 214 graduates; and

WHEREAS, the same Vietnam War veterans who served and contributed to country through military service have, in the 50 ensuing years, faithfully served and contributed to their communities; and

WHEREAS, many Vietnam War veterans have for the past five decades worked tirelessly to shine a light on the need for communities to empower veterans and assist them in adjusting to civilian life after military service; and

WHEREAS, District 214 has long been committed to supporting all veterans within our community through various means, including, but not limited to, the construction of homes for veterans returning and acclimating to civilian life; NJROTC visiting veterans in veterans' hospitals; and

WHEREAS, we must never forget the sacrifices of the men and women who fought in the name of freedom and democracy for all; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a day to welcome home Vietnam veterans is an appropriate way to honor those members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in Vietnam;

NOW, THEREFORE, the District 214 Board of Education proclaims that it is our duty to – upon the occasion of this Vietnam Veterans Day – to pay tribute to all who served in Vietnam and to vow that we have not forgotten - and never will forget - the men and women who served so honorably in the Vietnam War. Their legacy of patriotism and dedication to country is an inspiration to all Americans

So it is unanimously proclaimed by the Board of Education on this 23rd day of March, 2023.



William J. Dussling
President, Board of Education

Mildred Palmer, Vice President
Mark Hineman, Board Member
Alva Kreutzer, Board Member
Dan Petro, Board Member
Andrea Rauch, Board Member
Leonard Walker, Board Member

**Village of Arlington Heights Proclamation
50th Anniversary of Vietnam Veterans Day
March 29, 2023**

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC to commemorate those members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the U.S. during the Vietnam War were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the U.S. in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, March 29th marks the 50th anniversary of the day that combat and combat support units withdrew completely from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Veterans of the Vietnam War faithfully served and contributed to the military and, in the 50 years since, have faithfully served and contributed to their communities since returning home; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam War veterans have worked for the last 50 years to promote awareness of the importance of communities empowering veterans and the necessity of helping veterans readjust to civilian life after military service; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam War veterans have worked to assist veterans returning from other conflicts, including wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a day to welcome home Vietnam veterans is an appropriate way to honor those members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War;

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Thomas W. Hayes, along with the Arlington Heights Village Board of Trustees, honor this 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Veteran's Day and recognize the Veterans for their service and sacrifice during that conflict.



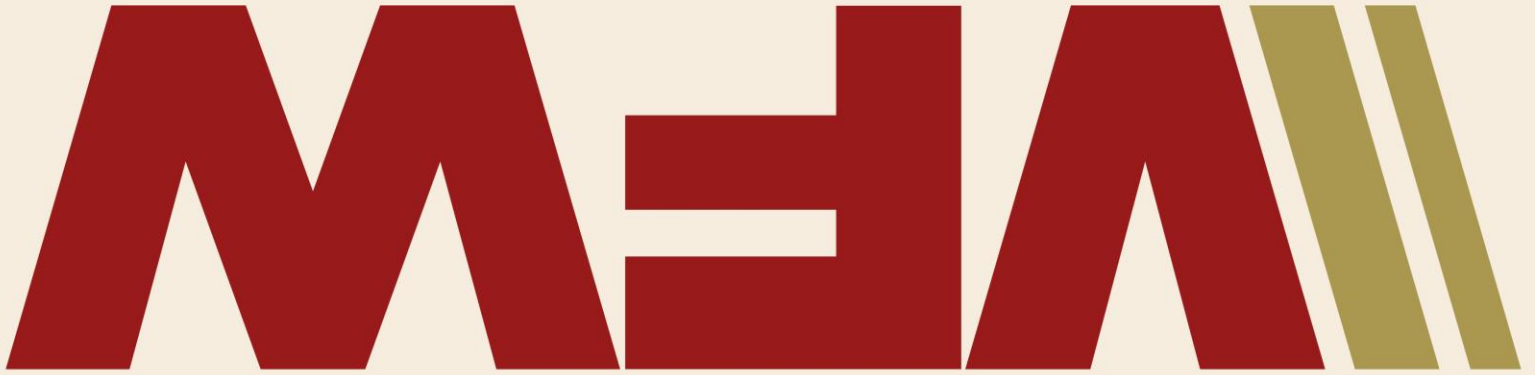
Thomas W. Hayes

Trustee Richard Baldino
Trustee James Bertucci
Trustee Mary Beth Canty
Trustee Nicolle Grasse

Trustee Robin LaBedz
Trustee John Scaletta
Trustee Tom Schwingbeck
Trustee Jim Tinaglia



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

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TO: