

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

WW II VETERAN BENEFITS

For those WW II veterans in our Post we want to remind you of two benefits that you may not be taking advantage:

1. You can claim the standard homestead exemption for disabled veterans without having been judged disabled. In Cook County this means that unless you live in a house that has an assessed value over \$250,000 you will not pay property taxes.
2. If you never got a bonus based on the number of months you were in the service you should apply for it.

COMMANDER

As we close the door on 2024 I hope you and your family had a wonderful Holiday season and are continuing to be healthy and safe as we enter 2025. Last year was marked with some good things as well as problems. The good things were:

1. We continued to go out in the community distributing poppies and using the money donated to help various veterans' organizations.
2. We gave 2 \$3,000 scholarships in the names of past members Wally Luettschwager and Bob Henderson.
3. We had a booth for recruiting at Arlington Height's Harmony Fest.
4. The Post activities included a bowling outing, a skybox at the Schaumburg Boomers and our Christmas party.
5. New recruits sworn in to our Post.

The problems were:

1. The death of beloved member and Color Guard Commander Dale Berg.
2. The continued inability of the Post to fill leadership positions of Junior Vice-Commander, Poppy Chairman, Service Officer and Poppy Chairman.

Stewart

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Happy Holidays! Of the current surviving estimated 167,000 World War 2 veterans, we are currently losing about 234 every day! Illinois has approximately 6,000 surviving World War 2 veterans. Do the math - at that rate it will only be 2-4 years before the Greatest Generation of Veterans is gone. A sobering thought.

Unfortunately Korea War and even Vietnam War vets will soon be entering the same downward spiral. This why it is so important to be always on the lookout for potential new members.

The VFW is only as strong as the number of members that belong.

Tom

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

STILL VACANT

Our next Post outing will be a Chicago Wolves game on Sunday February 23 at 3:00 PM. It will be a great opportunity to see future Blackhawk players as the opponent is the Rockford Road Hogs, the

Blackhawks'' farm team. Give your checks and reservations to Quartermaster Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Post Meeting – Wednesday (02/05)
- 4th District Meeting – Sunday (02/23) 12:00 PM, Am Legion 208
- Chicago Wolves Outing – Sunday (02/23) 3:00 PM
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (03/05)
- Post Meeting & Elections – Wednesday (04/02)

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:

None

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 email** (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.

POST HOLIDAY PARTY

On Saturday December 14, 32 members and guests of American Legion Post 208 joined 38 members and guests of our Post at the Legion Hall for a night of celebration.. Holiday decorations and an abundance of good food and entertainment made it a magical night.

Upon arrival everyone was given a place card to choose a table, and a wrist band to get drinks from the bar. Appetizers included shrimp, cheese and meat selections, and vegetables with dip.

Commander Stewart led us in the Pledge, Chaplain Luken said a prayer, and Vince Cipolla outlined the procedure to fill plates with Chicken or Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Green Salad and Rolls and Butter. Dessert was cupcakes with de-caf coffee available.

At 7:30 we were entertained by the group "The Difference for two hours with music which brought a number of attendees up for dancing.

Many thanks to Vince and Marcy Cipolla and Sharon Smogor for organizing and running the affair.



WALLY LUETTSCHWAGER/ BOB HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of Bob Henderson's family our Post is looking for TWO recipients of our Scholarship Grants for the Fall 2025 school year.

Any children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of our members would be eligible. Those living in the NW suburbs, especially the ones we serve, will have an edge over other applicants of equal credentials.

All the information and the application is available through our website:

www.vfwpost981.com.

POST 981 ELECTION NOTICE

At the March 5 2025 meeting nominations for elected Post Officers – Commander, Sr. Vice-Commander, Jr. Vice-Commander, Quartermaster, and One-Year Trustee – will be accepted.

Additional nominations can be made at the April 2 2025 meeting. You do not need to be present (or Zoom) at either meeting to be nominated, but, if interested, must submit a letter to the Adjutant, Phil Nagle, attesting that you will accept a nomination to a particular office. Only those members present (or on Zoom) at the April meeting are eligible to vote in the elections.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY /PATRIOTS PEN

On December 4, 2024, at our VFW Post meeting, our Post VOD/PP awards were presented to our four winners:

Voice of Democracy:

Emma Hartwig, a sophomore from Crystal Lake Central High School.

Patriot's Pen:

Theodosios Babaletskos, an 8th grader from Lake Zurich Middle School North.

Caroline Liao, a 7th grader from St. Theresa School in Palatine

Seraphine Zun, a 6th grader from St. Mary School in Buffalo Grove.

To my knowledge, in the ten plus years that I have chaired the VOD/PP essay competitions, Seraphine is the first 6th grader to win at our Post.

All four of our Post winners have been advanced to the VFW 4th District competition. The 4th District awards banquet will be held on January 19, 2025 at The Seville in Streamwood.

Congratulations and good luck to our winners on January 19!

Smokey



STEVENSON HS POPPIES

For the fourth year in a row Post 981 delivered 1,000 poppies to Stevenson High School for a Veterans Day reminder to the students. Stevenson High School, in turn, donated \$500 to our Poppy Fund.

POST MEMBER EDUCATES DISTRICT 23 STUDENTS ON VETERANS DAY

Phil Nagle attended his grandchild's Veteran's Day observance

NEW POST MEMBERS

No New Members Last Quarter

COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

Nov 11 Buffalo Grove Park District –
Veterans Day Celebration

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. If a veteran has passed away, as soon as is possible we request that family members notify the Post via email (listed on our website). 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. If a family wishes a rifle salute, bugle and/or flag folding, they should contact the Post via our email vfwpost981@gmail.com.

Those interested to join the Color Guard please contact, Commander Abbink.

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 HOCKEY TRIP



Chicago Wolves

Center Balcony Game Ticket & Hot Dog & Soft Drink

JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 23 AT 3:00 PM AT THE ALLSTATE ARENA IN ROSEMONT TO SEE THE WOLVES TAKE ON THE BLACKHAWK'S FARM TEAM, THE ROCKFORD ICE HOGS. ENTER AT VIP BUILDING NORTH OF ARENA. GO TO WILL CALL AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME. PARKING ONLY \$15.

Post Members, 1 Guest, & Grandchildren under 18 – \$5 **apiece**. Other Adults & Grandchildren over 18 - \$20

Send your reservations and checks (made out to VFW Post 981) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations - Friday February 14

Name _____

\$5 Guest _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

Arlington Heights, IL 60006

TO: