

NEWSLETTER

Shellsville Post 9639 - 8926 Jonestown Road Grantville Pa 17028-8654 - Phone: (717) 469-2195

COMMANDER - Tom Gordon

Winter 2010

LADIES AUX. PRES. - Linda Smith

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Members,

Many articles throughout this newsletter are about fundraising activities such as the Post's 15-week Raffle, and Buddy Poppy distribution. While fundraising is important to the financial survival of our VFW Post and Post Canteen, it is

equally important that we share friendships as VFW Post and Canteen members. Please support as many of our activities as possible. The funds raised enable our VFW Post, Ladies Auxiliary and Post Canteen to provide the many programs for our Veterans and deployed service members, community, and youth.

During the past three months our VFW Post has supported the Youth through the East Hanover Youth Football Association, and the VFW National Home for Children. We have supported our Community through the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank, our Community holiday parade, and the Grantville Fire Company. We have supported our Veterans through the Wounded Warrior Project, the Fisher House Foundation, and the VFW Homeless Veterans Fund, as well as sending care packages to our deployed service members. During the next three months, we will be supporting our Veterans at the Lebanon VA Medical Center, the VFW National Military Service Fund, Grantville Food Pantry, and Boy Scout Troop #201.

Please continue to support our fundraisers and our many worthwhile programs that benefit others, and Thank You for all that you do in the name of Shellsville VFW, our "All-American Post".



Yours in Comradeship
Tom Gordon, Post Commander

PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Sisters,

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Join us in celebrating the December Holiday Season at our December 16th meeting at 6 PM. The Auxiliary will provide an entrée and non-alcoholic beverages. We ask that you give us approximately 2 hours (meal plus our meeting) and a favorite covered dish. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow Sisters.

The Auxiliary (and our District) was honored to be able to contribute to the Wreathes Across America program. Some of our Sisters contributed on their own to recognize related deceased Veterans also. I HIGHLY recommend you attend the prestigious and moving ceremony held before the placing of the wreathes at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. It all starts at 12 Noon on December 11th.

At the January meeting we will be collecting Valentines (signed and unsigned) to distribute to our Veterans at the Lebanon VA Hospital, and overseas, and the children at National Home.

While our January 20th and February 17th meetings are already scheduled, I want to stress that the safety of our Sisters is paramount. If the weather puts travel safety in question, do not take the risk to come to our meeting. On the other hand, if you are already at the Post, I expect you to finish your meal and or beverage in a timely matter and then join our meeting. Your attendance and opinions are valuable to your Auxiliary.

Make peace with your past
so it won't screw up the present,
(or the future = 2011)



Linda Smith, President

Dear members,

Throughout this past year Shellsville VFW Post 9639 has grown in membership. It's great to see the new members in the Post Canteen and becoming active in Post activities. The Canteen has been flourishing as well, providing quality meals and beverages at reasonable prices with good service. Remember, our VFW Post and Canteen are non-profit organizations which means every cent above our costs go towards the maintenance of the Post facilities, programs for the veterans, deployed service members, community and youth. Please continue to enjoy the use of our Post Canteen and support our many programs.

This brings me to **the primary fund-raiser of the Post, the 15-week Raffle.** The 15-week raffle tickets should be available by Thanksgiving, at the bar or from many of our members. The raffle ticket cost is \$15 and provides you 173 chances to win from \$25 to \$2500 as well as admission to the Raffle picnic on Sunday, June 5, 2011. The picnic alone is a great time. The prizes of the raffle total \$18,000 and only 2500 tickets are sold. The first drawing is held on February 23, 2011 and each Wednesday for 14 weeks up to the final drawings at the Picnic. **This is our primary fundraiser to support our many programs.** Please buy 15-week raffle tickets. They make great holiday gifts too!



Fred Hechler,
Post Quartermaster

15-WEEK RAFFLE / FUNDRAISER

This raffle is the Post's biggest fundraiser. We are gearing up for a big start. Tickets should be available beginning around Thanksgiving, just in time to use for Christmas presents.

Drawings will be starting February 23rd and will be held every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. The final drawing will be on Sunday June 5th at our picnic grounds. Come out to the drawings and try to punch out your own number. Come to the final drawing and enjoy the food and entertainment. The final drawing is for ticket holders only. Food will be served from Noon until 5 PM but not during the raffle drawing. We ask that you take all you can eat, BUT eat all you take. Please, No Tables Reserved unless you stay with the table.

Disability Questionnaires Will Streamline Veterans Claims Process

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released three new disability benefits questionnaires (DBQ) for physicians of Veterans applying for VA disability compensation benefits. This initiative marks the beginning of a major reform of the claims process for injured or ill Veterans.

These new questionnaires are the first of 79 DBQs that will guide Veterans' personal physicians, as well as VA physicians, in the evaluation of the most frequent medical conditions affecting Veterans.

Accurate and timely medical evaluations are a critical element of the VA's continued commitment to high-quality and prompt decisions about the nature and degree of conditions afflicting Veterans. Streamlining this process by directly involving Veterans' treating physicians in providing specific information needed to evaluate their claims will lead to completeness in the examination and faster compensation decisions.

The DBQs are part of VA's automated health records system which prompts VA physicians conducting disability examinations to include precise information in a standardized way to assist claims adjudicators in ensuring Veterans receive the benefits they deserve. These VA examination results are electronically available to claims adjudicators in VA regional offices.

The first three questionnaires cover B-cell leukemia (such as hairy-cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease. VA recently published a final regulation to be implemented October 30, 2010, that will establish the presumption of eligibility to VA disability compensation benefits for Veterans with one of these three conditions who were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam or Korea.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war who have a "presumed" illness do not have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" establishes eligibility to VA compensation if their condition is disabling to a compensable level.

For additional information on the VA disability compensation program or additional presumptive disabilities for Veterans exposed to herbicide agents, contact your Post Service Officer for an appointment.



Audrey Bergstresser,
Post Service Officer
(717) 884-1705

KITCHEN UPDATE



The
Manada Hill
Inn, Inc.

Dear Members of the Shellsville VFW Post 9639,

As we enter the winter season of 2010-2011 we think of the very good fortune we have to be associated with a club and Board of Directors that take pride in their operation. We are constantly reminded of the many civic deeds performed by VFW Post 9639 and our hats are off to the volunteers involved with these achievements.

Winter time need not be a time of hibernation for club members. The club is always a warm and friendly place to meet and take advantage of our ever expanding specials and great prices. Our food is gaining popularity. We are becoming known as the best place to get top quality restaurant food at club prices. We are considering new ideas and have included our wintertime list of specials in the insert to help members weather the long winter season. We are also working with Canteen Manager Tammy Grove on a few new activities and special events to keep your attention.

Thanksgiving is almost here. Don't forget to make reservations for our big Thanksgiving Buffet. The Board has again afforded us the opportunity to serve the public on Thanksgiving, so reservations will go fast. We would love to serve your family.

Also, fried oysters are back. We have some oyster specials listed on the special sheet. Again, make reservations. The seating and the oysters go fast!

We trust that the membership will have a joyous holiday season and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope you will celebrate the New Year with us.

Sincerely and in service,
Mike Lawyer and Grant Kyler
The Manada Hill Inn, Inc.



Should I salute or place my hand over my heart?

Pubic Law 110-181 states "All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute.

All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

CANTEEN UPDATE

Dear Members,

Wow, another holiday season is right around the corner. With all the hustle & bustle don't forget to renew your membership, as soon as possible.

Upcoming events:

Saturday Dec 4th Dave Heilman Acoustics at 7:30 PM
Sunday Jan 16th Karaoke 6-9 PM
Sunday Feb 20th Karaoke 6-9 PM

The kitchen will be serving a limited menu on the Sunday Evenings we have Karaoke.

A Sunday pool tournament will be held the first Sunday of each month. If interested contact Liz at 469-8478.

Please join us Monday, Nov 29th at 6 PM for an evening of fun while we decorate for the holidays.

Wishing you & yours a blessed and safe Holiday season.

Tammy Grove,
Canteen Manager

Dates to Remember

- 12/4 - Dave Heilman Acoustics at 7:30 PM
- 12/7 - Pearl Harbor Day - Fly your Flag
- 12/16 - POST Auxiliary Meeting -
Dinner 6 PM, Meeting 7 PM
- 12/18 - Children's Christmas Party - 12-1 PM
- 12/23 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 12/23 - Canteen Meeting - Following Post Meeting
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve- Canteen open 11AM - 6 PM
- 12/25 - Christmas - Canteen Closed
- 12/29 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 1/1 - Happy New Year - Canteen Closed
"Peace, Good Health and Much Happiness"
- 1/16 - Karaoke 6-9 PM
- 1/20 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 1/21-22 - Mid Winter Conference - Gettysburg
- 1/26 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 1/27 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 1/27 - Canteen Meeting - Following Post Meeting
- 1/30 - 18th District Meeting - 2 PM - Steelton
- 2/13 - 18th District VOD Banquet - Hummelstown 2PM
- 2/14 - Valentines Day
- 2/17 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:00 PM
- 2/20 - Karaoke 6-9 PM
- 2/23 - First 15 Week Drawing - 7:30 PM
- 2/23 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 2/24 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 2/24 - Canteen Meeting - Following Post Meeting

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 18th

12 Noon to 1 PM Ages 10 and Under

All children attending the Christmas Party MUST be pre-registered by December 4th.
See a bartender to register.

Raffle Tickets are available

For chances on a
Wagon Full of Toys
\$1.00 per chance or \$5.00 for six chances



Xerox Corporation of Harrisburg asked VFW Post 9639 to assist them and the Market Place Grocery Store in their Xerox Community Involvement Program. The Post identified deserving Veteran families and assisted with distribution of Thanksgiving Dinners. The Post was given 50 bags containing frozen turkeys, boxed potatoes, boxed filling, canned gravy, and canned vegetables to distribute.

THANKS XEROX

HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

There will be a Stand Down in the Harrisburg Area in mid January to provide much needed assistance to our homeless veterans. To help our less fortunate veterans, we are collecting basic comfort and hygiene items. The following items have been requested and may be dropped off at our Post Canteen during the month of December.

- Men's T-shirts and Under-shorts
- Warm Socks
- (Due to health concerns only new packaged undergarments and socks may be accepted.)
- Men's Winter Coats (Gently Used)
- Winter Gloves L, XL
- Winter Hats (Gently Used)
- Work Shirts and Pants (Gently Used)
- Rain Parkas
- Soap, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Combs and Shampoo

Please give from the Heart,
and help these veterans.



Buddy Poppy Distribution

During this past Veterans' Day weekend, 16 of our Post members volunteered a total of 160 hours of their time to distribute approximately **3,500 Buddy Poppies** to the public at K-mart, Wal-Mart, and Sam's Club. During the Veteran's Day weekend, the distribution of Buddy Poppies to the adults and American flags to the children brought in more that **\$4,000** in donations. The distribution of Buddy Poppies, during the Memorial Day weekend and Veterans' Day weekend, is the Post's second largest source of income to support our Veterans' programs. Please consider volunteering a few hours next Memorial Day weekend to help distribute Buddy Poppies.

Thank You to the 16 Post members who volunteered their time during the Veterans' Day weekend, and **Thank You** to all who donated and wore the Buddy Poppies in remembrance of our Veterans.

ESSAY CONTEST

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), VFW Auxiliary, and VFW Junior Girls are eligible to enter the contest. The theme is: "My Hope for America's Future. It must contain 200-300 words. The theme should be the title. Prizes are a plaque and \$100 for VFW and Auxiliary members. VFW Junior Girls winner also gets a plaque and \$100. They are due no later than 30 April 2011 to the VFW Post 9639 office staff.



One of our Active members currently deployed. SGT Matthew Hetrick was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with a "V" device for Valor during a ceremony in August at Combat Outpost Sen-gary near Kandahar Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Gates presented the award while visiting units in Afghanistan. The Valor award was for actions taken by Matthew during a 3 hour fire fight between the platoon Matt is assigned in D Company, 1st Battalion 502d Infantry, and a Taliban insurgent cell. All insurgents were killed or captured as a result of the engagement.

Matthew Deployed with the 2d Brigade Combat Team (STRIKE) of the 101st Airborne Division in May 2011. His previous deployment with 2d Brigade was in Baghdad Iraq in 2008. Matt is an Infantry Squad Leader with D/1-502d Infantry.

Subject: Christmas Poem written by a Marine

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my god, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honors so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa,
It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

Eshleman-Pankake-Wolf
Shellsville VFW Post 9639
8926 Jonestown Road
Grantville PA 17028-9524

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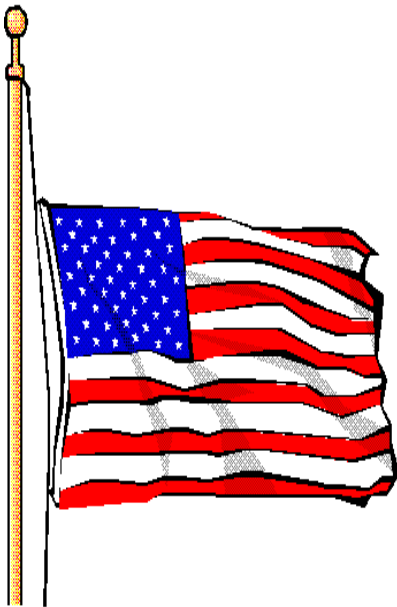


Address service requested



Lest We Forget

Departed Comrades - Sisters - Post Members



Vernon B. King
Charlotte M. Lindsey
Dorothy B. Louge
Robert T. Miller
Paul M. Watkins
Paul V. Weaver

America is number One thanks to our Veterans

The Manada Hill Inn, Inc.

At The Shellsville VFW POST 9639

PRESENTS

Winter Specials To Keep You Warm

Tue- Nov 30-AYCE Chicken Pot Pie	\$ 5.95	Sat- Jan. 1- Happy New Year - Kitchen Closed	
Wed- Dec. 1- Lasagna	\$ 6.25	Sun- Jan. 2- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
Thu- Dec. 2- New England Fish Fry	\$ 8.95	Tue- Jan. 4- AYCE Chicken Pot Pie	\$ 5.95
Fri- Dec. 3- BBQ Spareribs	\$ 9.95	Wed- Jan. 5- Lasagna	\$ 6.25
Cajun Catfish	\$ 9.95	Thu- Jan. 6- Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
Sat- Dec. 4- AYCE Fried Oysters ..	\$11.25	Baked Meat Loaf	\$ 6.25
Sun- Dec. 5- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12		Fri- Jan. 7- Fried Shrimp and Clam	
Tue- Dec. 7- Chicken and Waffles ..	\$ 6.25	Basket	\$11.25
Wed- Dec. 8- AYCE Spaghetti and Meat		N Y Strip Steak	\$10.95
Sauce	\$ 6.25	Sat- Jan. 8- AYCE Fried Oysters ...	\$11.25
Thu- Dec. 9- Baked Meat Loaf	\$ 6.25	Sun- Jan. 9- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
Fri- Dec. 10- Surf and Turf w/ NY Strip		Tue- Jan. 11- Tuesday Buffet	\$ 6.95
and Crab Cake	\$13.25	Wed- Jan. 12- Stuffed Shells	\$ 6.25
Sat- Dec. 11- Flat Iron Steak	\$ 9.95	Roast Turkey Dinner.	\$ 6.25
Sun- Dec. 12- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12		Thu- Jan. 13- Baked Ham Dinner ...	\$ 6.25
Tue- Dec. 14- Beef Burgundy	\$ 6.25	Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
Wed- Dec. 15- Chicken Parmesan ...	\$ 6.25	Fri- Jan. 14- Surf and Turf with Strip	
Thu- Dec. 16- New England Fish Fry	\$ 8.95	Steak and Crab cake .	\$13.25
Roast Beef Dinner	\$ 6.25	Sun- Jan. 16- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
Fri- Dec. 17- Prime Rib Dinner	\$13.95	Tue- Jan. 18- Filled Chicken Breast .	\$ 6.25
Sat- Dec. 18- CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS Party		Belly Buster Fish	\$ 7.95
Special Lunch Menu		Wed- Jan. 19- Chicken Parmesan ...	\$ 6.25
Sun- Dec. 19- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12		Thu- Jan. 20- Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
KIDS (under 12) EAT FREE TODAY ONLY		Roast Turkey Dinner.	\$ 6.25
Tue- Dec. 21- Filled Chicken Breast ..	\$ 6.25	Fri- Jan. 21- Crab Stuffed Flounder..	\$10.95
Wed- Dec. 22- Stuffed Shells	\$ 6.25	Sat- Jan. 22- FABULOUS PRIME RIB BUFFET	
Thu- Dec. 23- Crab Stuffed Flounder.	\$10.95	W/ Seafood, Chicken, Pork,	
New York Strip Steak.	\$10.95	Chilled Shrimp, and Many Other Items	
Fri- Dec. 24- Christmas Eve- Kitchen Closed		THIS Event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	
Sat- Dec. 25- Merry Christmas - Kitchen Closed		Non Members	\$15.95
Sun- Dec. 26- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12		Members and Their Guests..	\$13.95
Tue- Dec. 28-New York Strip Steak ..	\$10.95	Sun- Jan. 23- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
White fish, au gratin ..	\$ 6.95	Tue- Jan. 25- Chicken and Waffles .	\$ 6.25
Wed- Dec. 29- Chicken Parmesan	\$ 6.25	Wed- Jan. 26- AYCE Spaghetti and Meat	
Thu- Dec. 30- New England Fish Fry.	\$ 8.95	Sauce	\$ 6.25
Roast Turkey Dinner..	\$ 6.25	Thu- Jan. 27- Beef Burgundy	\$ 6.25
Fri- Dec. 31- Special New Year's Eve Buffet		Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
Prime Rib, Fried Oysters, Chilled		Fri- Jan. 28- Delmonico Steak	\$12.95
Shrimp, Breast of Chicken, and many		Sun- Jan. 30- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
other items	\$13.95		

Tue- Feb. 1- AYCE Chicken Pot Pie	\$ 5.95
Wed- Feb. 2- Roast Beef Dinner	\$ 6.25
Thu- Feb. 3- Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
Fri- Feb. 4- Flat Iron Steak	\$ 9.95
Shrimp and Clam Basket ...	\$11.25
Sat- Feb. 5- Prime Rib Dinner	\$13.95
Sun- Feb. 6- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
Tue- Feb. 8- Tuesday Night Buffet	\$ 6.95
Wed- Feb. 9- Lasagna	\$ 6.25
Thu- Feb. 10- New England Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
Beef Stroganoff	\$ 6.25
Fri- Feb. 11- Crab Stuffed Flounder	\$10.95
Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$10.95
Sat- Feb. 12- Special Valentine's Buffet	
This Event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	
Members and Their Guests Only	\$12.95
Non Members	\$15.95
Sun- Feb. 13- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
Tue- Feb. 15- Roast Beef Dinner	\$ 6.25
Chicken and Waffles	\$ 6.25
Wed- Feb. 16- Shrimp Newburg	\$ 7.95
Pan Fried Whitefish	\$ 7.95
Thu- Feb. 17- Baked Ham Dinner	\$ 6.25
Fri- Feb. 18- Almond Chicken	\$10.95
Delmonico Steak	\$13.25
Sat- Feb. 19- AYCE Fried Oysters	\$11.25
Sun- Feb.20- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	
Tue- Feb. 22- Pork and Sauerkraut	\$ 6.25
Wed- Feb. 23- Fish Fry	\$ 8.95
Broiled Whitefish, Macaroni	
and Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes	\$ 6.25
Thu- Feb. 24- Filled Chicken Breast	\$ 6.25
Stuffed Shells	\$ 6.25
Fri- Feb. 25- Surf and turf with Strip Steak and	
Crab Cake	\$13.25
BBQ Spareribs	\$ 9.95
Sat- Feb. 26- Almond Chicken	\$10.95
BBQ Spareribs	\$ 9.95
Sun- Feb. 27- Sunday Brunch Buffet 8-12	

The Manada Hill Inn, Inc. would like to thank our friends at VFW POST 9639 for your continued support.

Please remember that we are a full service caterer both in the banquet hall and off premise. Call Grant for your catering needs and any reservations. 717-829-3432.

Food Service at VFW POST 9639
 Provided by The Manada Hill Inn, Inc.
 Grant Kyler and Mike Lawyer