

NEWSLETTER

SHELLSVILLE POST 9639 - 8926 JONESTOWN RD GRANTVILLE PA 17028-9524 - PHONE: 469-2195

COMMANDER - Fred Hechler

1st Qtr 2007-2008

LADIES AUX. PRES. - Linda Smith

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Dear Members,

As your new commander, I would like to first thank past commander, Glen Hoffer for his last two years of service. It has been a pleasure to serve as Senior Vice under his command.

Late summer or early fall, I plan to set a date aside to hold a meeting for the younger active members and our social members to attend. This will be an open forum to express your ideas, concerns and suggestions. I am looking forward to meeting with you and hearing what you have to say. The date, time and more information will be published in the next newsletter and the information will be available at the Post. Your input is valuable. When you see me at the Post, or when I'm out somewhere, feel free to approach me and let me know what's on your mind. If you have a computer and wish to contact me through email, my email address is: fhechler@vfw9639.org

I am sure many of you have passed by and have not even given a thought as you enter the Post to the table and single place setting by the entrance. This is one symbol of what this Post and every other Post is all about. It is known as the "Missing Man Table". Lying on the table is a document that I would like to call to your attention to. I would ask everyone to take the time to read this document on your next visit to the Post. Take a second to reflect on the table and its significance. Remember those to whom this tribute reflects upon and let us not forget them

Everyone have a nice, safe summer and remember our troops in your thoughts and prayers.



Fred W. Hechler
Post Commander

PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Sisters,

I want to thank you for voting your confidence in me to become your President. I hope I can add to our proud legacy. I also want to extend my personal congratulations to Fred on his promotion to Commander. The Auxiliary looks forward to working with the Post and all of its officers.

My focus for 2007-08 is going to be increasing our membership participation. I understand the many obligations we all have in today's society. I also realize that some of our sisters have already performed their share of duty to our Veterans and the Post. But we have 10 elected and 21 appointed positions being held by 15 people. Taking into consideration the half-dozen or so additional participating sisters, we have 100% of the work being done by about 5% of our membership!

I am looking for ways to help get more of you involved and ease the struggle we are currently facing. There are many different opportunities available at different levels of involvement. I would love to see some new faces at our meetings (would a time change help?) and events. Please be sure that your contact information is always kept current especially a phone number. Feel free to contact an officer and express any ideas you may have to help our Auxiliary.

Please keep in mind our many programs that help support our veterans and their families' through-out the year – Scholarships (VOD, Patriotic Art, Veteran's Tribute, Outstanding Young Volunteer), Recognition Awards (Patriot's Pen, Scouts, Teachers, Emergency Personnel, Youth Supporting Our Troops) and Funds (Cancer, Operation Uplink).



Smile, it's contagious!
Linda Smith, President

PAST PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Sisters,

For the past nine years I have served as your President. It is time for me to turn over this position to some one else. The new President will be Linda Smith. She is a great person and I know she will serve the auxiliary in an honorable way.

I thank you for everything you all have done for this Post, our auxiliary, the hospitalized veterans and our community. Please continue this. We have a great and caring Auxiliary and Post.

God Bless you! May our men and women come home soon. Keep them in your prayers.

I am not saying good-bye only so-long. I'll be around. My new positions will be Secretary and Hospital chairman.

Once again thank you for all the great things we have done together and wonderful memories.

As always,



Dorothy Mae Adams
Ladies Auxiliary Past President

Dates to Remember

- 7/4 - Fly Your Flag
- 7/11 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
- 7/15 - Dauphin County Meeting-Hummelstown-2P
- 7/19 - POST Auxiliary Meeting -7:30 PM
- 7/26 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 7/31 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 8/5 - 18th District Meeting - Gratz- 2 PM
- 8/8 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
- 8/12 - Family Picnic- Canteen Closed - 12-6 PM
- 8/15 - Road Clean-Up - 6 PM
- 8/16 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 8/23 - Active Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 8/28 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 9/12 - Veterans River Boat Cruise - 10 AM
- 9/20 - POST Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 PM
- 9/25 - VAMC Patient Birthday Party - 2 PM
- 9/27 - POST Active Meeting - 7:30 PM

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

Members of VFW Post 9639,

It's time to take **Pride** in our accomplishments during the past year under the leadership of Commander Glen Hoffer, and to look forward towards the upcoming year under the leadership of Commander Fred Hechler. During the past year we have not only provided benefits for our Post members, but additionally, we have provided benefits to our Youth and to our Community, as well as Veterans outside our community. I wish to address a few of the benefits we provided and activities that we supported during our past year, so that you may see just how involved we are, and how beneficial we are in our Community.

Post Veteran Members Support:

- Veterans' Death Benefits
- Veterans' funeral Honor Guard
- Flags for gravesites

Veterans Support:

- VAMC Veterans' River Cruises
- VAMC Veterans' Birthday Parties
- VAMC Senators Baseball Games
- VFW National Home for Orphans, and Scotland School for Veterans' Orphans

Deployed Soldier Support:

- Buddy Poppies
- Care packages for deployed soldiers
- Operation Uplink - Phone cards
- USO

Community and Youth Support:

- East Hanover Youth Baseball and Softball
- East Hanover Youth Football
- East Hanover Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Grantville Fire Company
- Grantville Food Pantry
- Adopt-A-Road Jonestown Road clean-up
- Arthritis Foundation
- American Diabetes Association
- Hospice of Central PA

These are but a few of our many programs.



**Be Proud and Support Your VFW
Tom Gordon, Quartermaster**



INFORMATION FOR NEXT OF KIN OR EXECUTOR OF FAMILY AFFAIRS

The worst that can happen to a family is the loss of a loved one. This is especially true if the individual is a veteran or the wife of a veteran. It is my wish that the following information will prove valuable in assisting those families in the time of need. Although we all know that this is a subject which people shy away from, it should be discussed between husband, wife, and family members. There is no set timetable established for the preparation of the inevitable, but early planning can alleviate much hardship and confusion.

PRIOR TO SERVICES:

1. Person(s) should select their choice of funeral home and burial site.
2. Person(s) should try to locate any funeral/ cemetery paperwork if previously taken care of, along with a DD 214, discharge certificate of veteran or certification of service.
3. The deceased veteran, spouse, or minor children are eligible for internment in a National Cemetery. National Cemeteries are closed on weekends and you cannot reserve a plot.
4. Person(s) should request a burial flag and submit paperwork for a headstone or marker, the funeral director can assist you with this.
5. Request a sufficient number of death certificates from the funeral home.
6. Widow/Widower or responsible person(s) should contact the Post Service Officer for more information if needed. Ph. (717) 469-2195.

AFTER SERVICES:

If a claim for VA benefits is going to be made, the widow with the help of a responsible person(s) will need to provide the following documents in most cases, and sign the following VA forms.

1. Support Documents:
 - a. DD-214 Discharge Certificate
 - b. Marriage license - Divorce decree(s)
 - c. If needed children(s) birth certificate(s)
 - d. Death certificate.
2. VA Forms: Provided by Service Officer
 - a. VA Form 21-22 Power of Attorney
 - b. VA Form 21-530 Burial allowance
 - c. VA Form 21-534 DIC claim form if eligible.
 - d. VA Form 21-4138 Statement in support claim.

Your Post Service Officer has all the necessary forms and will assist you in filling them out. Your claim will be forwarded to VARO Phoenix, and there is currently a 3-4 month waiting period while DVA makes its determination.



Yours in Comradeship,
Ted Zimmerman, PSO

Dear Members,

I would like to start by thanking everyone who helped with the 15 week picnic. Things went well and we had a very good turn out. Thanks to all who came out.

Due to many folks requesting more BBQ Ribs, we will be having them the first Friday of each month. Check out weekly specials, printed copies are located at the sign in counter.

With the addition of a raffle to our family picnic it could be as large as the 15 week picnic. So we are looking for volunteers to give us a hand with cooking and serving the food. If you are interested in giving us a hand contact myself or Fred.

I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work to improve the service in the canteen. As always if you have a comment or complaint see myself or Greg.

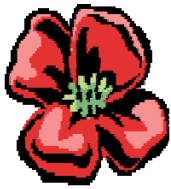
Kenneth Straub,
Canteen Manager

PIPE AND CIGAR BAN IN CANTEEN

Due to complaints by patrons of the Canteen, the Canteen Board of Directors has established the policy of no pipe or cigar smoking in the Canteen. The smoke-eaters are not capable of reducing the stronger smoke odors, and we are attempting to provide an enjoyable atmosphere for all Canteen members and guests. Thank you for your cooperation !

POST CANTEEN SURVEY

The Canteen Board of Directors are asking for your thoughts, suggestions and comments concerning our Post Canteen. If you use the Post Canteen, we would like you to tell us what you like about the Canteen, what you don't like about the Canteen, and any suggestions for improvement. Remember this is Your VFW Canteen. The survey forms will be located by the sign-in book, and will be available from June 13th through July 31st. Please be a part of this survey. The results will be published in the Fall newsletter.



BUDDY POPPY DISTRIBUTION

During this past Memorial Day weekend, 11 of our members volunteered their time to distribute approximately 3,000 Buddy Poppies to the public at K-mart, Wal-Mart, and Sam's Club. During the four day weekend the distribution of Buddy Poppies to the adults and American flags to the children brought in \$4,500 in donations. The Buddy Poppy distribution, during Memorial Day weekend and Veterans' Day weekend, is the Post's second largest source of income to support our Veterans' programs.

Thank You to the 11 members who volunteered their time during the Memorial Day weekend, and Thank You to all who donated and wore the Buddy Poppies in remembrance of our fallen veterans.

\$10 SUMMER RAFFLE & FAMILY PICNIC

This year we are rolling a raffle into our family picnic. We have printed 1000 tickets. There will be 50 prizes drawn and each ticket will have three chances to win. If you are interested in selling these tickets contact one of the canteen officers. Every Raffle ticket owner is welcome to the picnic. Tickets are also available at the Canteen, with-out the raffle option for children 4-9 for \$4.50 and for 10 and older for \$8.00. The picnic runs from Noon until 5 PM. Music will be by "Just Plain Country Plus".

HERSHEY ENTERTAINMENT & RESORTS

Thanks to all those who volunteered at Hershey Park so far this spring. A reminder that a **BINGO BASH!** will be held on 15 July from 4 PM - 7 PM. Everyone who worked at least one shift between 1 January and 8 July of this year is eligible to attend. Join in the Games, Food and Fun! You can remain in the park after the party. No Guests Please!



BUGLES ACROSS AMERICA

On the 15th of May our own Honor Guard Bugler Jay Megonnell participated in the Bugles Across America program at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. All total there were 14 buglers playing Taps with an echo effect across the cemetery grounds.

15 WEEK RAFFLE / FUNDRAISER

This fundraiser was again a big success. This event is the Posts biggest fundraiser. Thanks to all of you for purchasing the raffle tickets and a special thanks for those who sold our raffle tickets. This also supported the canteen during the drawings. This year we realized \$10,631 profit. That goes a long way in funding our many VFW programs.

MISSING MAN TABLE

As you enter the Post there is a table with a place setting and a document that I would like to call your attention to. It is known as the "Missing Man Table". In light of the events that have taken place over the past few weeks, I think it is important to note a few of these items and the significance represented.

- The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of the missing and the loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep faith, awaiting answers.
- The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol for our continued determination to account for our missing.
- A slice of lemon on the plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.
- The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

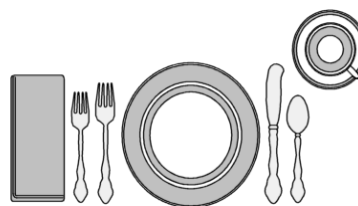
Please take a few minutes to read the document in its entirety and to remember those who this tribute reflects upon and let us not forget them.

Upcoming Friday Night Specials (subject to change)

Check The Menu Board for Daily Specials

- Jul 6 - Baked Haddock / Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo
- 13 - Prime Rib / Cabbage Rolls
- 20 - Rib eye & Crab Cakes / Baked Meatloaf
- 27 - Vegetable Lasagna / Filet Mignon
- Aug 3 - Crab Stuffed Poulabella / Swiss Steak
- 10 - Slow Cooked Roast Beef / Stuffed Flounder
- 17 - Broiled Crab Cakes / Mozzarella Chicken
- 24 - Seafood Fettuccini / Filet Mignon
- 31 - Chicken Supreme / Eggplant Parmesans
- Sep 7 - Stuffed Pig Stomach / Seafood Platter
- 14 - 16 oz T-Bone Steak / Baked Lasagna
- 21 - Rib eye & Shrimp / Chicken Pot Pie
- 28 - Lobster Tail / Stuffed Peppers

**COME OUT & ENJOY
A GREAT MEAL**



Kitchen Hours

- Tue & Wed
5 PM to 9 PM
- Thursday
4 PM to 9 PM
- Friday
4 PM to 10 PM
- Saturday
Noon to 9 PM
- Sunday
9 AM to 12 PM
4 PM to 8 PM

Fellow Veterans,

I want to take a few lines to say many thanks for all the support that you and the community have shown to myself and the members of Task Force Troy during my tour at Camp Victory in Iraq. The boxes of books and goodies were always appreciated not only for the contents of the boxes but also for just knowing the support from those at home. We shared the boxes with those in CJTF-TROY as well as the Infantry Battalions stationed at Camp Victory. Of course the goodies were enjoyed, but the books were the most sought after items. I placed three boxes of books on the shelves of the Hqs of the 4th Infantry Division (Multi-Nation Division - Baghdad) and they were emptied in days.

I always got a smile and smirk seeing where VFW Post 9639 pens were showing up all over Camp Victory. Some found their way to some very influential desks. Who knows what orders were signed with those pens? The Calendars were also landmarks to include the door to my shop. We would tell visitors to go down the hallway and look for the door with the VFW Post 9639 calendars. Saddam's Regime did not mark the doors with numbers in the building we were using so the Post Calendars were a great way to help direct lost staff officers.

I redeployed on 20 FEB to Fort Meade after a year in theater. It has been my great privilege to serve 24 years with some great Americans. I retired from active duty on 4 MAY at Gettysburg, but I will continue to work as a Defense Contractor. I start work the day after Memorial Day and will continue to work in support of our fight in the Global War on Terrorism. When I return to theater, I will continue to send you addresses of units so they can receive support from Post 9639. I hope to get VFW Post 9639 pens, calendars and goodies to additional locations so that more troopers know that Shellsville supports their sacrifices and efforts.

Yesterday, congress voted for the funding bill to continue our efforts and that is good news. If you ask a soldier what the exit strategy is, most likely you will hear victory. Sacrifices made in this struggle are significant and much is at stake. The Troopers forward always appreciate support from home and I hope we can make certain that they know we are behind them "All The Way." Do not underestimate the impact your support makes on those who are serving in harm's way.

Again Thanks for all you have done for those who serve in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Very Respectfully,
Gary Hetrick

America is number One thanks to our Veterans

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

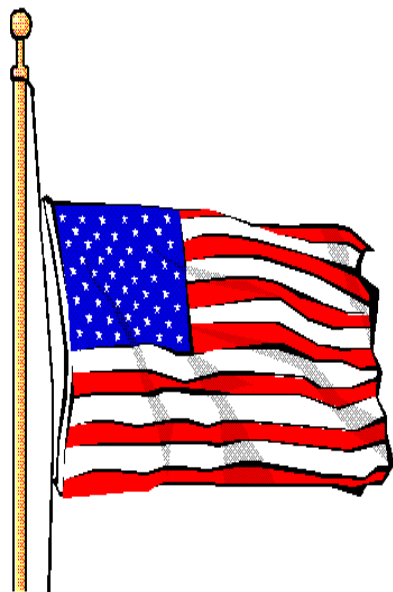
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRANTVILLE PA 17028
PERMIT No. 8

Address service requested



Lest We Forget

Departed Comrades - Sisters - Post Members



Glenn E. Bechtel
Evelyn Blantz
Jacob Braun Jr.
Macbeth E. Griest
Joseph Gudolonis
David C. Hultzapple Sr.
John H. Hyde Sr.
Erma Irvin-Syler

Gerald L. Jeffries
Victoria L. King
Donald L. Mader
William B. Miller
Sean M. Thomas
Harry C. Ulrich
Paul W. Walmer