



COLORADO VETERAN

and Auxiliary News

“We honor the dead by helping the living”



March, 2010

Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
and its Ladies Auxiliary Official Publication

Volume 49, Issue 5 2009 - 2010

“Does America Still Have Heros?”

It is August 18th, 2005. Sergeant Daniel Lama has been shot and wounded near Yarmook Traffic Circle, downtown Mosul, Iraq. Lieutenant Colonel Erik Kurilla, US Army 1-24 “Deuce Four” infantry battalion, leads his squad through the streets of Mosul, hunting for the culprit. It is hot, and the troops are fully outfitted in heavy flak jackets and desert ACUs. They run down an alleyway, LTC Kurilla at the front right point of a rectangle of four men. Michael Yon is a combat journalist. He trails behind, documenting the scene. The alleyway widens slightly into a small, open square.

And LTC Kurilla is shot three times, one bullet shattering his femur.

He doesn't crumple, he rolls forward into a seated position and returns fire. Completely exposed on bare concrete, he continues to fight until help arrives, the battle is won.

If not for men and women like LTC Kurilla, I might not be here today, typing on my own laptop, writing out my own thoughts and views. I certainly wouldn't be writing about America, because America wouldn't exist.

This fact has been true since my nation's inception; America will cease to exist the day that it can no longer be called “land of the free, and home of the brave.” The United States will be truly dead if there ever comes a day when no heroes may be found there.

And we're not dead yet.

People like Michael Yon, making sure that the stories of people like LTC Kurilla are heard, my Father, an officer in the US Air Force working to defend America, and my Grandfather, a retired Marine passing on a proud legacy, are my idea of heroes.

With people like this striving to defend our nation, how could anyone question the presence of heroes in America?

If we no longer have heroism in our country, what was it when the passengers of United Airways flight 93 overpowered their hijacker on September 11th, 2001, saving who knows how many lives?

If heroes no longer live in America, what can we call the Marine who threw himself on a grenade to protect his comrades, posthumously earning the Medal of Honor?

And if we have no heroes, then what of every single soldier fighting even now in Iraq and Afghanistan to preserve and protect America's principles, sacrificing themselves for our sake, even while certain among us betray their sacrifice with slander and insults?

How can we be so unable to appreciate the heroism present in our country today? We sit, complacent and bloated, on a throne of our own troubles and preoccupations and private obsessions. We are more worried about our petty inconveniences than about the life of an American soldier fighting for our lives and our freedom thousands of miles away.

Today, we complain about everything, and politicize all that we discuss. We moan about the cost of gas, politics, poor internet reception, when across the sea there is a young man wearing two-hundred pounds of gear in 120-degree weather, worrying about his remaining ammunition, the time it will take for air support to arrive, how he will staunch the blood gushing from the hole in his thigh.

How often do we pause to remember that the only reason we have any of these things, free and unrestricted access to internet, television, radio, the right to elect our own legislators, let me repeat that, the right to choose who will lead our country, a right defined and exemplified by America, how often do we just stop and remember that we might have none of this if it hadn't been paid for in lives. How often do we show our gratitude for the lives that have been and are still being paid?

Do we still have heroes in America? What kind of a question is that, anyway? How could anyone fail to see the sacrifice and selfless service exhibited every day by so many Americans, not just soldiers, but thousands of every-day people who just took a moment, gave up a brief minute of their time to *do the right thing*?

Or is our definition of heroism just warped? What is heroism, really?

Heroism is self-sacrificing, the willingness to give oneself for a person, a principle, a right.

Heroism is selfless, the readiness to give everything for nothing.

Heroism is principled, recognizable by what it stands for, and what it will not stand for.

It is our duty as citizens to become American heroes too. It is our responsibility to protect this nation and the core principles on which it stands. It is our obligation to ensure that it remains “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” It is our mission to exemplify America's soul, to show through our words and actions what it means to

live in the greatest nation on earth.

1st Place Voice of Democracy
Speech Essay Winner 2009-2010

Robert Wilson
Sponsored by District #5 and VFW
Post #3917 and Ladies Auxiliary

2010-2011 Theme

“Does My Generation Have a Role
in America's Future?”



Commander Esch, President Lattin, Chairman Richards, Robert Wilson, PDC Don Smith and Steve Van Buskirk, National Representative.



Voice of Democracy students, chairmen, National Representative, State Commander Esch and President Lattin toured the Weld County Atlas Missile Silo Museum Saturday morning.

In Memory

Charles P. Baca

Past Department Commander 1980-1981
VFW Post #61 Pueblo, CO

Sunrise
April 28, 1918

Sunset
January 1, 2010

Rest in Peace, Your Work is Done

MARCH DISTRICT MEETINGS

NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
1	3/06/10 Saturday	Post No. 2797 Denver	11:00 am Meal Meeting to follow	Jim Mauck Carolyn Simon
3	3/14/10 Sunday	Post No. 2121 Greeley	12:00 Meal Meeting to follow	Darrell Anderson Charlotte Lattin
6	3/21/10 Sunday	Post No. 2411 Las Animas	12:00 Meal 1:00 pm Meeting	Bruce Dolan Eileen Vegoren
7	3/07/10 Sunday	Post No. 3228 Monte Vista	12:00 Meal 1:00 pm Meeting	Ron Davies Cindy Anderson
10	3/21/10 Sunday	Post No. 9644 Sheridan	11:00 am Memorial Service Joint meeting Lunch after meetings	John Holland Val Fowler

APRIL DISTRICT MEETINGS

2	4/25/10 Sunday	Post No. 5812 Pueblo West (Election & Installation of Officers)	12:00 Meal 1:00 Meeting	Ron Davies Charlotte Lattin
3	4/11/10 Sunday	Post No. 41 Loveland	12:00 Meal 1:00 Joint Memorial Meeting to follow	Steve Rylant Carla Vaglianti
4	4/11/10 Sunday	Post No. 2551 Ft Morgan	11:00 am Memorial Service 12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Meeting (Election & Installation)	Ron Davies Terryl Roane
5	4/18/10 Sunday	Post No. 4051 Colo Spgs	1:00 pm Lunch Meeting to follow (Election & Installation)	Bruce Dolan Cindy Anderson
6	4/10/10 Saturday	Post 2411 Las Animas	12:00 noon meal 1:00 pm Meeting (Election and Installation)	Dick Wellensiek
7	4/11/10 Sunday	Post No. 899 Alamosa	12:00 noon meal 1:00 Meeting (Election & Installation)	D J Alberts Ginny Burris
8	4/17/10 Saturday	Post No. 11411 Lake George	12:00 noon meal 1:00 Meeting Memorial Service - Election of Officers	D J Alberts Cindy Anderson
9	4/03/10 Saturday	Post No. 4265 Craig	11:00 am Meeting Lunch to follow (Election & Installation)	Bill Esch
12	4/11/10 Sunday	Post No. 5181 Dove Creek	11:00 am Joint meeting 12:00 noon Lunch Memorial service Meeting to follow (Election & Installation)	Bill Esch Carolyn Simon
13	4/11/10 Sunday	Post No. 9700 Cheyenne Wells	2:00 pm (Election Officers) Lunch after installation	Bill Esch Charlotte Lattin

MAY DISTRICT MEETINGS

NO.	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REPRESENTATIVE
1	5/15/10 Saturday	Post No. 5061 Denver	11:00 pm Joint Mtg 12:00 noon Lunch Meeting to follow (Election & Installation)	John Holland Ginny Burris
3	5/02/10 Sunday	Post No. 2841 Brighton	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Meeting (Election & Installation)	Bruce Dolan Cindy Anderson
8	5/15/10 Saturday	Post No. 8661 Bailey	12:00 noon Meal 1:00 pm Meeting Installation of Officers	Ron Davies Charlotte Lattin
10	5/16/10 Sunday	Post No. 4331 Arvada	1:00 pm (Election of Officers) Dinner and Installation	Warren Tellgren Charlotte Lattin
11	5/02/10 Sunday	Post No. 784 Montrose	9:00 am Registration 10:00 am Memorial Service Joint Session 12:00 noon Lunch 1:00 pm Meeting (Election & Installation)	Bill Esch Carolyn Simon

Colorado VFW Warriors Report

First, let me welcome the newest chapter of the VFW Warriors, District 2. Members from Penrose Post 2788 are the first members and we are confident that other VFW Posts will follow and that these Warriors will have a positive impact on their Posts and District. We now have VFW Warrior Charters in Districts 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12. If your district is interested in forming a District Warriors Chapter, please contact me or Department Headquarters.

The Department of Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization serves several important purposes in our great organization. It gives us a way to demonstrate that we exist for more than just a bar to drink beer and tell war stories. It is also attracting the current conflict veterans that we desperately need to keep the VFW moving into the future. It is also proving to be a way to attract some of our old Viet Nam Veterans to join that had not previously been interested in joining. Right at this point I would like to thank all of the Warriors that came out to meeting Commander in Chief Tommy T during his visit to Colorado. There was at least one Warrior at each one of his 8 stops, in spite of the weather. Dave from District 3 and Rocky from District 5 even rode their motorcycles to two of the sites. That's what I call hard core! Commander Bill and CIC Tommy, both being riders, particularly appreciated meeting the Warriors and getting to know about our organization in Colorado. A BIG THANKS TO YOU VFW WARRIORS!

In addition, because we have so many you veterans in the District 5 VFW Warriors group, we have some unique opportunities to do what we are chartered to do, help veterans. On October 5, 2009, Scott Riebel of the Dist 5 VFW Warriors received a communication from a fellow Warrior, Jonathan Hill. Jon (known by the Warriors as Hagar) was stationed at Command Operation Post Keating, near the village of Kamdesh when it was over run by the Taliban. They had to call in an Air Strike to destroy their post, and they lost everything except their weapons and the clothes on their back.

Scott and I got the word out with the help of Ann Mauck at Head Quarters and the care packages started flowing to Hagar and his troops. Money was raised and Target matched the money. \$30,000 was made available in three states for these troops. VFW Warriors from District 5, 3 and 10 joined with the American Legion Riders on October 24 to spend \$5,000 in gift cards, along with a pallet of \$5,000 worth of goods to re-supply the soldiers of B Troop 3/61CAV 4BCT. Thank you to all that sent care packages, the VFW Warriors and Legion Riders, and a special thanks to Scott Riebel and Rocky Russell for coordinating the project. And thank you to Target for their generous donation to our troops!

Steve Rylant
VFW Warriors Motorcycle Chairman

Contact Steve Rylant if your Post & District would like to form a VFW Warriors

POST & AUXILIARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR WILL BE MOVING.

NAME: _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP NO. _____ VFW POST NO. _____

NOTE: YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IS ON THE BACK SIDE OF THIS NOTICE.

**MAIL TO: DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO VFW,
1400 CARR ST., LAKEWOOD, CO 80214**

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EDITOR**

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406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111**

Commander's Column Bill Esch



Dear comrades and sisters, my how time flies when you are having fun! My term as your state commander is more than half over and I have truly enjoyed my time as such. As your state commander I have really enjoyed traveling throughout the state meeting as many of you as possible. I have also enjoyed being able to help as many veterans as possible, because that is what we do..."We honor the dead by helping the living." Believe it or not, our ability to help veterans is directly and indirectly effected by our membership. As a department, the money we receive from national headquarters is directly tied to our membership. Our membership is indirectly tied to our ability to help veterans in that the more members we have the more clout we have with our legislators.

I would like to thank all the posts and districts that have been working very hard on membership. There are currently 19 posts that have reached 100 percent or more in membership and there are many posts that need five or fewer new or reinstated members to reach 100 percent. One good way to get members is to contact each unpaid continuous member **in person**, and encourage them to pay their dues. If they say they can't afford to pay their dues, offer to pay it for them...that is what the dues relief fund is for. Remember, that personal contact will be more effective than a phone call. The State of

Colorado VFW membership is over 93% and we need only 1400 new or reinstated members to reach 100%.

We just held our Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet the end of January and it was wonderful meeting the five finalists and their families. For the second year in a row, we had contestants from every district in the state...my congratulations go out to the Voice of Democracy Chairpersons throughout the state who helped to accomplish this. Thanks also go out to Joe Richards and Caroline Gelatt, the state VOD chairpersons, for their hard work. This year's winner is Robert Wilson from Colorado Springs. Robert and the other four high school students presented some very nice speeches. Robert will be going to Washington, D.C. in March to tour our Nation's Capitol and meet the winners from the other states.

In closing, the next Council of Administration will be held in Fort Morgan on March 28, 2010. This meeting is open to all members of the VFW who wish to attend. If you have never attended a Council of Administration, it is where the state and district officers meet to conduct the business of the VFW for Colorado. I would love to see you there!

Get On Board the VFW

May you always have fair winds and following seas!

Bill Esch
State Commander

Jr Vice Column Ron Davies



I was at a Yellow Ribbon event yesterday with PDC Jim Mauck and two fellow Comrades from Post 5061. In the brief case I was given to set up our display table there was a magazine for us to use for recruiting along with a dozen or more other recruiting printed material. I didn't pay much attention to the book for awhile but picked it up during a lull. It blew me away with the information it had in it and I thought to myself... this is what the VFW is about! I could hardly put it down when the newly returned troops and their spouses came out of their respective

classes. From that point on I made sure all that visited our table left with one of the books in hand. In my estimation the day spent at that table was very successful. When I left a 2 P.M. the two Comrades from 5061 had at least 12-15 new VFW members in their pockets (each) and I had 3 for 9644.

The magazine so impressed me that I went to the National VFW home page and found the article. I want to share this publication with all of you and hope you order some for your Post and use it, pass it out show people who we are and what we do. It is called "To War and Back".

Thank You!
Ron Davies
Department Jr. Vice Commander

Gary Kurpius Commander-in-Chief, 2006-2007

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

National Representative for Mid-Winter Conference
Fort Mogan, CO



Gary Kurpius, of Anchorage, Alaska, was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 31, 2006, at the VFW 107th national convention, held in Reno, Nev. He is the first member to be elected to this office from Alaska.

Gary served in the U. S. Army from 1967-69. In Vietnam he served with the 541st Transportation Company providing convoy security throughout the central highlands. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Ser-

vice Medal with four bronze service stars and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1970, Gary joined VFW Post 1539 in Babbitt, Minn., where he became a life member in 1976. He earned the title of All American Post Commander in 1977, and in 1983 was named All American District Commander. Gary transferred to VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, Alaska, in 1985 and is currently a Life Member of VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla.

Sr. Vice Column D J Alberts



I hope this will turn out to be a short exercise this time, simply to leave room for news for the upcoming Convention stuff on p. 8.

I want to make special mention of the cooperation between the Greeley and Evans posts and auxiliaries on last month's VOD weekend. The interaction was a wonder to behold, and aided greatly in making the events truly delightful. Congratulations and Thank-yous to the members of both that did the work! Now, if more posts would only cooperate with each other in doing things like this, that would make their districts stronger and thus the Department stronger. Think about it.

My representational visits to Districts 3, 10, 9, and 11 were exceptionally enjoyable. In three of those four visits, the numbers of posts and individual members

attending were almost eye-watering: in one case it literally was standing room only and in another, very close to it. (I don't want to anger anyone in District 5, but I wasn't the Rep at the last meeting and shouldn't comment, but it was also very well attended, by the way.) However, in one of the districts most recently visited, the attendance was less than ideal: in fact, it was terrible. But, that didn't keep the meeting from being enjoyable to me, because under Good of the Order, those that were there exchanged various ideas on how to improve membership, recruitment, and the district as an organizational entity. A lot of good food for thought there, and I for one hope that some of those ideas end up in actions taken.

I'll save my pleas to you to send in your delegate fees, attend the State Convention, and stay around to vote (unless, of course, there are no contested elections whatsoever) until next month.

Yours in Comradeship,
DJ Alberts
Department Sr. Vice-Commander

"To War and Back"

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 18, 2010—VFW magazine's latest special publication, **To War and Back: Afghanistan and Iraq — A New Generation of Veterans**, is now available. The magazine's editors created **To War and Back** to honor the sacrifices of today's warriors.

This special publication deals with matters of critical concern, including the latest information on TBI, PTSD, the GI Bill, medical care, medals, memorials and other relevant issues.

The booklet contains information you won't find anywhere else. Compact chronologies chronicle combat in both wars from their beginnings through 2009. All Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Cross and Navy Cross recipients are compiled on two convenient

pages. Also, find employment resources especially for veterans, and read how families cope with the strains of wartime.

To preview the booklet online, please visit www.vfwmagazine.org/towardand-back.html.

Copies are perfect for overseas deployment and welcome home ceremonies.

To order **To War and Back**, fill out the form that is online and mail to the address below or contact Shontaye Davis in the Membership Department at: National Membership Department Veterans of Foreign Wars 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111 816 756-3390 Fax: 816-968-2728 E-mail: membership@vfw.org

Legislative Update

You made a difference last year with Congress. Your phone calls, e-mails, visits, faxes and letters resulted in significant advances for veterans who so admirably have served or are serving our country and their families.

We face new challenges during the second session of this Congress. As I write this, the on-going healthcare bill being debated by the Senate doesn't protect veterans healthcare. The House passed version has language protecting VA and TRICARE benefits but that language isn't included in the Senate version. Then, even if the language is included, the protections must survive the Conference Committee. Past experience has proven that these well-intentioned efforts prior to the conference action often don't survive the negotiation process of the Conference

Committee. Further, the total impact on TRICARE beneficiaries of the \$500 billion slashing of future Medicare is an unknown and won't be known for many years in the future.

In the final analysis, we need to work together to stop the war on our earned benefits and let our member of Congress know where we stand. Contact our Senators and Representatives to insure their support of our goals. Defending your earned benefits has never been more important!

Sign up for the VFW's weekly *e-mail* Washington Weekly. This will provide you with timely and factual information regarding your legislative concerns.

Warren "Chief" Tellgren,
State Legislative Director - National

Eagle Scout of the Year

Eagle Scout of the Year entries are due to the Department Chair by April 1, 2010. Eagle Scout of the Year entries were due to the Posts on March 1, 2010. Posts who have received entries have until April 1 to submit their selection to the Department Chair, Dave Stone, 6740 Goldfield Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 89011. Please contact Dave if you have any questions 719-391-9470 or email davestone23@gmail.com. Dave Stone, Department Eagle Scout of the Year Co-Chairman

Thank You Colorado

To all my VFW & Auxiliary friends - Thank You so much for cards, letters & expressions of good will on my recent hospital stay. Hopefully, things got straightened out so I can be around awhile! Again, thanks much!
Ray Ammerman

**Department of Colorado, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80214**

**GENERAL ORDERS NO. 5
March 1, 2010 2009-2010**
Please remind all Posts that you MUST be 100% +1 to qualify for All State. Deadline is April 30, 2010. Entry forms will be mailed to all that qualify.

1. As prescribed by Sec 217 & Sec 221 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Posts having two (2) meetings a month will hold nominations at the first meeting in April with elections at the next regular in April. While Posts with only (1) one meeting a month will hold nominations in March and elections in April and that all members must be notified of such elections.

2. Proof of Eligibility Requirements for Officers: All Posts, Districts and Department should be reminded of the provisions of Sec. 216(c), 316, 414(c), and 515(d) of the National By-Laws and Manual or procedure that officers, elected and appointed, shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted to the respective Adjutant for review.

3. Registration for the VFW National Convention: Posts are urged to complete and mail registration forms and payment of delegate fees in accordance with the requirements of Sec 222 of the National Constitution and By-Laws, which mandates each Post to register, in advance, at least one delegate to the VFW National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. **Delegate fees are \$10.00 if paid prior to the Convention and should be sent directly to the Quartermaster General at National Headquarters.**

4. Attention is directed to Sec. 213 of the National By-Laws concerning arrearages of Posts for National, Department, or District Dues, National Convention registration, poppy money, supply money or other financial obligations, or failure to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National By-Laws, or failure to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Reports. Posts that are delinquent in any of the aforementioned shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings, District, Department and National Conventions.

5. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Sec. 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed by the Trustees, in detail, at the close of each quarter, one of which ends March 31st. Commanders are reminded that all funds are to be under the custody and control of the Post Quarter-

master. Persons other than the Post Quartermaster who may handle Post funds, such as club manager, bingo chairman, or committee chairmen are responsible to the Post Quartermaster to maintain accurate records and accounts and should be properly bonded. Post Trustees are to ensure that the financial records of these special funds are also audited in the same manner as the other accounts of the Post Quartermaster.

6. Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 2010 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. To qualify for Post All American, VFW Posts must order a minimum of five (5) Buddy Poppies per member for the program year from Department Headquarters.

7. All-State Commanders and Quartermasters. Entry forms for All-State Commanders and Quartermasters **will be mailed to all qualified persons.** Posts and Districts must be 100% + 1 in membership by April 30, 2010, in order for the Commanders and/or Quartermasters to be eligible for this award. The Commander's Department Leadership Manual, along with the entry form, must arrive at Department Headquarters not later than close of business on Monday May 10, 2010, to be judged. Post Quartermasters need only submit the entry form by the same deadline date.

8. Council of Administration meeting will be March 28, 2010 at VFW Post No. 2551, 208 W Beaver, Fort Morgan, 8:30 am for Joint Meeting. Pre-Council meeting will be March 27 at the Post home 3:00 pm.

9. State Convention is scheduled for Sheridan, Colorado, June 16 through June 19, 2010. See Page 8 of the Colorado Veteran for pre-registration, hotels and Convention Book ads.

10. The Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars Loyalty Day Parade will be in Calhan, CO., Saturday May 1, 2010 10:00 am line-up time. Please contact Jim Crim 719-541-2650 or Rowland Hannon 719-347-2522 for further information.

11. Applications for the Department State Convention Site for 2011 can be obtained by contacting State Adj./Qm. Dick Wellensiek, 1400 Carr St., Lakewood, CO. 80214, (303) 421-1630. A check for \$300.00 deposit must accompany the bid application.

ATTEST BY:
Richard L. Wellensiek, State Adj./Qm.
BY COMMAND:
William E. Esch, State Commander

VFW National Home for Children

It is only 31 days until VFW National Home for Children "Awareness Week". That week is March 21 through March 27, 2010. It is dedicated to the VFW and its Auxiliaries members to learn how they can use the National Home to help people in their community and to share this information with military and veterans families. I am asking all VFW and Auxiliaries members, to help in this effort. For those needing information and materials for the National Home Awareness Week please visit the National Home Awareness Week website at www.vfwnationalhome.org/awareness or call the National Home at 1-800-424-8360. Of course you can always call me, John R. Wigle at 720-282-3192 for assistance and/or National Home presentation to your District, Post and joint meetings.

Also, anyone can participate in a

Awareness Week fundraising contest. This fundraising contest is used to raise money for the National Home by online computer system, through March 31, 2010. The person that raises the most money, via the online system wins the right to be called the "2011 Awareness Week Honorary Chairman" for the 2011 Awareness Week. The winner will receive a National Home shirt with their embroidered name and honorary title. Also the winners name and honorary title will be used on official communications for the 2011 Awareness Week. For additional information and explanation see website www.vfwnationalhome.org/awareness/contest.html.

John R. Wigle
Department National Home Chairman

Surgeon's Column Bruce Dolan



I hope this finds everyone well and warm.

As we approach the end of our year already,

please don't slow down on your hospital reporting. There are several Posts that have not reported at all, and I'm sure we've all done something to support our nursing homes and hospital residents. Remember, the deadline is the end of April, so please try to get the reports to Headquarters.

I have had a couple of calls concerning the nursing home in Trinidad. Some have asked why the State wants to sell it, and on and on. I'm entirely sure of all the details, but from what I do understand, it is a complicated mess. Some people would understandably like to see it stay open. There will have to be changes made since it is not owned by the State. If you live in the Trinidad area, or anywhere for that matter, send me your thoughts and/or questions and I'll try to write more in the next newsletter.

If you were in the Navy during the Vietnam war, and served on a "brown water" support vessel, please contact your Ser-

vice Officer and ask about your eligibility for Agent Orange disability. There is a policy (211) notating the vessels and dates of service that can be obtained from the DVA. If you served on a vessel with one of the following designations, you may be eligible. IFS, LST, LCVP, PCF, PBR, and several ships that operated in or near inland rivers.

I was recently informed the President has submitted a budget request for the DVA for an increase of 7% to \$60.3 billion to ensure our veterans are properly cared for. I don't care what your persuasions are, I say good for him. Part of this funding would be used for the new hospital right here in Denver.

With all the hoopla with a dumb golfer and the rock star funeral at the Staples Center in LA, I sadly wish to inform everyone of the passing of a true "Great One" last June. DARRELL "LEFTY" POWERS died June 17, 2009 of cancer.

I look forward to visiting with our folks in Las Animas, Cheyenne Wells, and Colo. Springs at your District meetings in the coming months.

God bless everyone, and pray for our veterans and troops in harms way.

Bruce R. Dolan
Department Surgeon

Quartermaster's Column Dick Wellensiek



It is March already, where did the year go? The 3rd Council of Administration is

coming up March 27 & 28 in Fort Morgan. On Saturday the 27th of March we will have instructional classes by Commander Esch and myself. Terry Jacobson, the Department Service Officer will be helping Veterans with claims, and Steve Rylant will have a VFW Warriors meeting.

There should be a lot of time for a Q & A session. Some of the subjects will be the Liquor Enforcement Div., over the article in the February Bulletin that went out to every Post Commander. There will be information brought back from the Voice of Democracy & Legislative Conference in Washington DC, 990's can always be a good discussion. It is time once again for nomination and elections of officers in April or May (NOT in March), Election Reports, Bonds, Delegate Fees (Dept. & Nat'l), and National trying to get a set of Bylaws for all the VFW motorcycle groups. It should be interesting and fun!

We have a Goal that we are still working for! Getting your Post 100%+1 so that

your Commander and Quartermaster are in the running to be All State and maybe Captain of the Team. How do we do this! Getting new and reinstated members? Getting the continuous members to PAY THEIR DUES? Be visible in the community with VFW Programs? Be visible in town parades? Help Veterans and their families? Make Veterans aware of what the VA does for Veterans and help Veterans get their claims filed? If you answered one or all of the above (and some I forgot) you are absolutely correct! We, you, have to be the Sales Person for everyone of these VFW functions! Attract Veterans to you by wearing service or VFW clothing (Navy Hat or Coat or VFW cap), or vice-a-virsa, or if someone has a scout shirt on, let them know about our Eagle Scout Program. Join the Chamber of Commerce and go their meetings and let them know what the VFW can do for the Town.

We assume that people know the VFW and what it does. I guarantee you that there are people out there that don't have an inkling of what the VFW does! Everyone of us has to sell the VFW on a daily basis!

Looking forward to seeing you in Fort Morgan.

Dick Wellensiek
your Department Quartermaster

WWII VETERANS TO BE HONORED THIS SUMMER IN EUROPE

Small villages and large cities in Europe are busy planning festivities for this summer, as the 65th anniversary of Victory in Europe will be celebrated. On May 8th huge celebration will take place in Reims, France where the Peace Treaty was signed in General Eisenhower's headquarters 65 years ago. Any visiting WWII veterans will be transported in horse-drawn carriages through the huge parade route and then honored with a wonderful reception at the City Hall. On June 6th the usual D-Day services will be held at the American cemetery on Omaha Beach honoring our veterans. Dr. & Mrs. Brooks Ranney of Yankton, SD will again be taking groups over, which visit Paris, the Beaches of Normandy, Reims, Patton's Grave, the Battle of the Bulge area, Germany with the Remagen Bridge and a Rhine River cruise, the Dachau Memorial Camp and Hitler's Eagles Nest. If you wish to travel with the Ranneys, please call their home 605-665-3596 today for a colorful brochure.

VFW Post Membership by District as of February 23, 2010

Number/City	2009	2010	%	Number/City	2009	2010	%
DISTRICT #1				DISTRICT #8			
1 Denver	795	717	90	859 Leadville	45	45	100*
501 Denver	531	485	91	1166 Buena Vista	194	193	99.5
2461 Denver	175	171	98	3820 Salida	124	118	95
2797 Denver	53	57	108*	8661 Bailey	184	170	92
3971 Denver	123	118	96	10721 Minturn	102	101	99
5061 Denver	416	408	98	11411 Lake George	51	50	98
6616 Denver	199	182	91	12009 Conifer	68	78	115*
TOTAL	2292	2138	93%	TOTAL	768	755	98%
DISTRICT #2				DISTRICT #9			
61 Pueblo	157	139	89	2371 Walden	58	51	88
984 Trinidad	87	82	94	3311 Oak Creek	34	32	94
2643 Walsenburg	57	54	95	4264 Steambt Spgs	104	99	95
2788 Penrose	69	66	96	4265 Craig	175	162	93
3641 Pueblo	143	119	83	5261 Rangely	16	15	94
4061 Canon City	519	491	95	5843 Meeker	45	39	87
5812 Pueblo West	186	180	97	9374 Kremmling	48	47	98
7305 Colo. City	53	44	83	9471 Hayden	12	11	92
8301 Pueblo	13	13	100*	TOTAL	492	456	93%
8898 Boone	59	54	92	DISTRICT #10			
12063 Westcliffe	61	52	85	322 Englewood	160	149	93
TOTAL	1404	1294	92%	3471 Morrison	110	94	85
DISTRICT #3				3631 Aurora	419	407	97
41 Loveland	335	327	98	4121 Idaho Spgs.	79	76	96
807 Boulder	88	74	84	4171 Golden	658	641	97
1771 Lafayette	430	429	99.8	4266 Parker	39	44	113*
1781 Ft. Collins	373	345	92	4331 Arvada	314	305	97
2121 Greeley	256	233	91	4444 Cmmrc Cty	274	270	99
2585 Johnstown	104	106	102*	4666 Littleton	161	155	96
2601 Longmont	650	561	86	6331 Aurora	133	125	94
2841 Brighton	202	174	86	7563 Black Hawk	24	22	92
4334 Ault	85	85	100*	7945 Thornton	483	463	96
6011 Platteville	86	76	88	8449 Bennett	36	34	94
6624 Evans	350	324	93	9014 Lakewood	26	23	88
7206 Louisville	36	35	97	9644 Fort Logan	753	620	82
9565 Broomfield	149	140	94	10736 Fdrl Heights	35	31	89
9741 Dacono	29	30	103*	TOTAL	3704	3459	93%
TOTAL	3173	2939	93%	DISTRICT #11			
DISTRICT #4				784 Montrose	153	140	92
2551 Ft. Morgan	325	309	95	1247 Grnd Jcnctn	365	340	93
3378 Yuma	79	79	100*	3571 Delta	82	77	94
3541 Sterling	159	149	94	3981 Grnd Jcnctn	125	131	105*
3551 Brush	53	48	91	4041 Ouray	21	20	95
3951 Ovid	33	32	97	4267 Gunnison	136	132	97
3961 Otis	29	27	93	4663 Clifton	111	101	91
4191 Crook	24	25	104*	5485 Parachute	72	64	89
4671 Wray	77	73	95	8309 Fruita	50	50	100*
6482 Holyoke	88	81	92	9221 Cedaredge	159	142	89
7153 Fleming	49	45	92	9304 Silt	43	41	95
8064 Akron	64	55	86	9333 Hotchkiss	48	43	90
TOTAL	980	923	94%	TOTAL	1510	1281	94%
DISTRICT #5				DISTRICT #12			
101 Colo. Spgs.	426	418	98	4031 Durango	260	248	95
3917 Security	758	713	94	5181 Dove Creek	50	51	102*
4051 Colo. Spgs	929	864	93	5231 Mancos	100	98	98
5221 Calhan	86	80	93	5241 Cortez	83	72	87
6051 Wdln Park	48	46	96	6068 Dolores	54	49	91
6461 Fountain	294	266	90	9058 Nucla	30	32	107*
7829 Monument	29	39	134*	9398 Norwood	24	24	100*
9669 Colo. Spgs.	58	58	100*	9695 Pagosa Spgs	44	43	98
10649 Elizabeth	36	34	94	TOTAL	645	617	96%
TOTAL	2664	2518	95%	DISTRICT #13			
DISTRICT #6				3411 Kit Carson	31	26	84
336 Ordway	128	123	96	6491 Burlington	87	86	99
2411 LasAnimas	125	119	95	6492 Seibert	11	11	100*
3621 Lamar	64	59	92	6612 Hugo	60	59	98
4001 Springfield	55	51	93	9491 Deer Trail	28	28	100*
4091 Rocky Ford	89	85	96	9700 Chynn Wlls	37	37	100*
4281 Holly	41	37	90	TOTAL	254	247	97%
TOTAL	502	474	94%	15006 MAL	2129	1980	93%
DISTRICT #7				TOTAL DEPT	20851	19508	94%
899 Alamosa	194	175	90	IS YOUR POST 100%?			
3228 Monte Vista	54	52	96				
4849 La Jara	77	65	84				
6101 San Luis	85	69	81				
8121 Del Norte	69	66	96				
TOTAL	479	427	89%				

2010 VFW Publication Contest

Every Post and District in the State of Colorado that has a newsletter to their membership are eligible to enter the 2010 VFW Publication Contest. Entry forms are available from Department Headquarters. Deadline for three (3) of best publications must be in Headquarters by March 25, 2010. Only newsletters between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009 are to be submitted.

Entry forms will be mailed to newsletter editors that have Department Headquarters on their mailing list. All others must call for an entry form to be mailed to them.

MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

The State Commander is getting a little cranky. So we need to get busy and get 975 members to get him on his cruise. Then he will be happy back on a ship! Of course it will be a NAVY ship.

At the Council of Administration meeting in Fort Morgan, I will pass out to each District Commander, an unpaid list of members for every post in their District. Check with your District Commander for the names and addresses. The members are out there, we just need to get busy and get those dues collected.

If we can help give us a call and we will do what we can.

Remember you need to be 100% + 1 to qualify for All State Commander and All State Quartermaster by April 30, 2010. Those that qualify will receive a letter from Department Headquarters with the entry form that needs to be filled out.

Some of you may be thinking, why should I fill it out, I can't win. You can win, if you will fill out the form, and

you have submitted community service reports, audits on time and correct, participated in the programs, attended District and State meetings, etc. This is all decided on a point system, and the requirements are in your Colorado Membership Book. Be sure to check your book that you received the first of the year and if you cannot find it, call Headquarters and they can send you another copy. If you qualify and receive the form and don't fill it out and send it back in, you will not be judged and you will not be on the All State Team. We would like to have a full team this year and that is 18 Commanders and 18 Quartermasters that will be honored at State Convention.

Thank you for all that you have done this year and all that you will do before State Convention time.

Jim Mauck
aka Dr Fat Albert
303-588-7518

Thank You Colorado

To all the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members, I want to say "Thank You" for all the cards, phone cards, e-mails, prayers and your true show of concern for my health and recovery since Christmas time. Every day when the cards came and phone calls were made to the house or my cell phone, or when Ann came home and told me that you had inquired about my health, I felt truly blessed to be a member of this great organization.

As many of you know, VFW has been my life and I guess my hobby for many years and it is really hard to say I have to slow down. I have slowed down, but I am still very much involved in the VFW and always will be as long as I can. I did have to give up bartending. I intend to work for the Department of Colorado, my District and my VFW Post for as long as they will let me.

My health is better, and I am really trying to do what the Dr's and Ann and my family tell me to do and again I say "Thank You" and I will see you all in Fort Morgan.
Jim Mauck PDC

Thank You

To all my comrades and friends who sent cards and well wishes during my recent illness, I want to express my deepest "Thanks" for all your "get well" wishes and prayers during this time. It meant a great deal to me and I am grateful to have all of you as friends and comrades. I am doing well and hope all of you are doing the same.
Tony Wasinger PDC

**Chaplain's Column
John Holland**



My last article stressed the need for us to volunteer our time, efforts and resources.

My last article neglected to mention just HOW to volunteer.

I have watched good prospective volunteers walk away for lack of a welcome, and someone who would put them to work.

You might be surprised at how a crew that desperately needs to help can look like they don't.

When you are at your Post or Auxiliary meeting, ASK who, what, when, where an event that interests you will be. Then show up.

Here's the hard part. But only the first time... DO something. We VFW/AUX types don't tend to take care of what ever task is at hand. If you come to an event, no one is likely to put you to work. If you see something (perhaps dirty dishes on a table at a breakfast, or someone needing a "third hand" putting up a poster), start in on it. You'll be surprised at how soon you fit in with the crew!

As I said, this will only be difficult the first time, because you will find out just how welcome you are.

By the way, I speak from experience.

Welcome Home

John Holland
Department Chaplain

TAPS

- Post 41: Dan W. Crockett, Charles Bergerud, Henry E. Berschauer, Howard D. Cary, Donald L. Way
- Post 61: Charlie P. Baca PDC
- Post 2841: Dick Povich
- Post 3820: Henry L. Benson
- Post 3981: La Vern A Hubbard, Keith H. Paris
- Post 4051: Angelo Christopher, James Gravit, Robert Kushnir, David Frohardt, Ernest Kelly, Gerald Madden, David Gonzales, John Kuhn, Everett Powell, Harry Mellinger
- Post 4444: Byrd W. Thompson
- Post 5231: Louis F. Eppich, George H. Wayne, John M. Wilden, Henry D. Williford, Robert J. Gentry, Lester J. Goff
- Post 5241: Billy D. Watson
- Post 5485: George H. Helfenbein
- Post 6068: Randall Davies
- Post 11411: Bruno Ochsner, Marvin Anderson, Millard F. Carr





282nd Engineering Company was given a going away party for 21 Army Reserves from the Western Slope and their families before they left for Iraq. Western Slope will be looking after the families while the Reservists are away from home.



In honor of President Lattin's theme "Hats off to Veterans", the ladies tip a variety of hats. L-R: Betty Rogers, Alice Saunders, Dept. President Charlotte Lattin, Janet Lobato, Queenie Barz, Monica Noland.



Teresa Smithson, a Delta County civil engineer working in Baghdad, while home on leave, presented two American flags to Post 9221, Cedaredge and Post 3571 Delta. Both of these flags were flown over one of Saddam Hussein's palaces on Veteran's Day 2009. Teresa thanked the Posts for the support they give the troops in Iraq. Jenny Baker, Auxiliary 3571 musician, played the "Star Spangled Banner" on her flute for the ceremony and Delta County Commissioner Bruce Hovde spoke words of thanks as did Post 9221 Commander Gary Tollefson and Auxiliary President 3571 Linda Stahly.

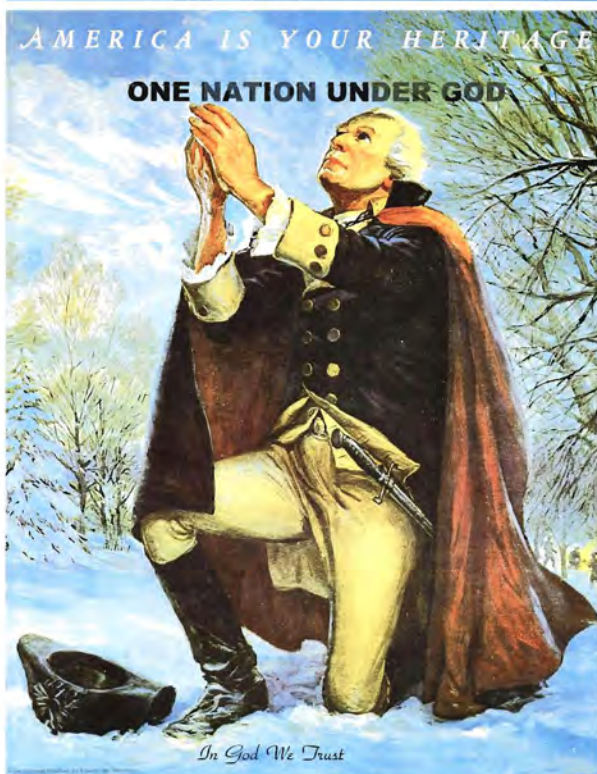
L-R: Gary Tollefson (Commander Post 9221), Teresa Smithson, Bruce Hovde, Jenny Baker, Bob Sage (Commander Post 3571), Linda (Auxiliary 3571 President) and Mike Stahly (Senior Vice Commander Post 3571).



Members from Evans VFW Post 6624, Ladies Auxiliary and Jr Girls made their annual trek to the Cheyenne VA Nursing Home for the VAVS Post Holiday visit, January 17. Zipper jackets, pants, tee shirts, socks, ladies night gowns and robes along with a variety of fruit were delivered and also over 40 lap robes. If the resident could not make it to the dining hall the Jr. Girls were glad to go from room to room and spread a little cheer. Residents are very pleased when they take the time to sit and visit with them, so many organizations come to drop off items and leave. Thank you to each of you for always remembering the residents in Cheyenne.

Department of Colorado
Loyalty Day Parade
Calhan, CO

Line up 10:00 am - Parade 11:00 am



May 1, 2010 Lineup 10:00am Calhan, CO
 Sloppy ye dinner 30 min. after end of parade
 Dept + Post Chairman - Jim Crim 719-541-2650
 Start 11:00am



L-R: State President Charlotte Lattin, "Patriot Pen" Essay winners, State Commander Bill Esch and District 4 Commander John Yost at District #4 Awards Ceremony.



Retired Optician Helps Other Veterans See



Frank Montijo, Korean War Veteran, has helped 21,500 with their glasses, only charging a handshake and a smile. Frank makes weekly rounds at the Denver VA Medical Center. On his cart on wheels are spare frames, screws and nose pads. He can replace frames with his vintage frying pan filled with talcum powder and salt, tighten loose screws or nose pads. Frank served his country with honor, and every week, he takes pride in serving it again.