ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Website – vfwpost981.com **Fall 2026 Newsletter**

FAREWELL STEWART ABBINK

Our past Commander, Stewart Abbink, is transferring to a VFW Post closer to his home after becoming acquainted with the McHenry vets on his recent Honor Flight.

Under his leadership our Post attained All-State and All=American status this last year. In addition to serving as Commander, Stewart was our Scout Liaison, VOD/PP Coordinator and Color Guard Commander. His departure will leave some leadership holes to be filled.

COMMANDER

As we move into the Fall season, I will start my remarks on the need of leaders for our Post. The jobs of Scout Liaison, Service Officer, VOD/PP Officer, and Color Guard Commander all need to be filled. Anyone taking on the responsibility has the resources of the previous leaders for questions and guidance. If you have never been a staff member, or have not been one in a while, please see me and I'll get the ball rolling.

Currently about 25 of our VFW members are also Legion 208 members. In theory, it could be 100%! Both organizations exist for the same reasons.

We will be donating $750 from our Poppy Fund to the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights in support of their November Breakfast for Veterans. American Legion 208 has pledged the same amount. If you haven't attended in past years, check it out - it's well worth it and FREE to Veterans. Check the article farther in the newsletter about other veteran-related activities in the area.

We have been diligently updating our Program Activity Reports (PAR - formerly called X-sheets). We are currently up to date.

Finally, a note about membership issues. Wear your military hats and shirts often. Engage fellow veterans at the local Jewel, Home Depot, etc.. It actually works. It would be nice if each of our Post members recruited at least one new member. I know I'm preaching to the choir. Thanks for listening.

Rich

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Our Post has accomplished many things this summer but once again face Fall with new challenges. The biggest objective now is getting our membership up with your help. We are losing fellow Veterans at an alarming fast pace and must do our best as a post to gain NEW members to replace them.

Our VFW motto is "No One Does More For Veterans". Those are words of encouragement to continue to do more for those Veterans who need help. I am hoping all members will try to obtain qualified new members asap. Nothing is easy and changes in the VFW Illinois and District 4 will always be there but how we meet or exceed these changes is up to us. Nothing stays the same, we must adjust accordingly and continue to help VETERANS AND OUR COMMUNITY the best we can. I am hopeful we raise our membership and accomplish all our goals. We must grow each year and this year we have been hit hard with the loss of so many members due to age. Now we brush off the dust and go back at recruiting new members with a

stronger drive than before. Your staff has adjusted to the many changes already but need your participation and attendance in all Post activities. We all help in any way we can and now need your family and friends to join us in helping those who cannot help themselves anymore, aka our fellow Veterans.

You are the best advertising we have so PLEASE talk it up and among your acquaintances about joining our Post. Be proud to be a Post 981 VFW Veteran. Always remember Flag etiquette at our meetings and wherever you see our country's flag displayed. Teach Patriotism by example.

If anyone has questions regarding membership or our 50% off VFW Life Membership by age, please contact me at vfwpost981@gmail.com.

Tom Rakowski Senior Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The Post Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 19 in conjunction with American Legion Post 208. Starting time will be 6:00 PM at the Legion Post. Appetizers will be followed by dinner and entertainment,. The bar will be available throughout the night. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

James Jones

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Post Meeting – Wednesday (11/4)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (12/2)
- Post Blood Drive – Monday (12/7)
- Post-Holiday Party, American Legion Post 208 – Saturday (12/19) 6:00 PM
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (01/06/2027)

POST BLOOD DRIVE

On Monday December 7 our Post will be co-hosting a blood drive at American Legion 208 hall on Douglas in Arlington Heights. Please try to give yourselves and encourage friends and relatives to come.

As a recipient of blood at various times in my life and a donor until I developed my blood cancer, I know the value of giving up a little time and a pint.

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.

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** 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. The Post Color Guard is ready to pay final respects at the wake and render a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps at the cemetery.

BURIAL PLOTS

Do you know that the Post is in possession of 9 cemetery plots in Memory Gardens Cemetery on Euclid just west of Rand Road? These are available to Post members and their families. Here are their locations and numbers of plots:

1. Vet Honors, Lot 274, Block B, Space 1. It has a double concrete vault which allows 2 casket burials or 3 cremation burials.
2. Garden of the Apostles, Lot 155, Block B, Spaces 1-4. No vaults, one burial per space.
3. Garden of Savior, Lot 58, Block B, Spaces 1-4. No vaults, one burial per space.

The process for obtaining title to any of these is a visit to the cemetery with an officer of the Post. Note that there are other expenses associated with using the plots.

1. Opening and closing of the grave.
2. Purchasing a concrete vault for the ones without one.
3. Vault handling fee
4. Grave marker. For veterans, it would be the granite base to accommodate the bronze marker the government provides. For non-veterans it would include the marker and base.

DO YOU NEED A LIFT?

Do you want to be an active member of the Post but due to limitations cannot drive to our monthly meetings or events?
Send an email to the Post – vfwpost981@gmail.com – with your telephone number and address. Someone from the Post will get in touch with you and make arrangements for pickup and return to your residence.
Our Post is determined to stay in touch with all members and helping members to attend a Post meeting is a beginning.

SECOND PLACE AGAIN

For the 5th time, which is how many times I have entered, our Newsletter got 2nd place in the VFW Publications Contest at the state convention.
I feel like Rodney Dangerfield not getting any respect or the 1950's Sox always finishing 2nd behind the Yankees.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DATES

Commander Rich Dunne would like you to be aware of the following happenings this Fall:

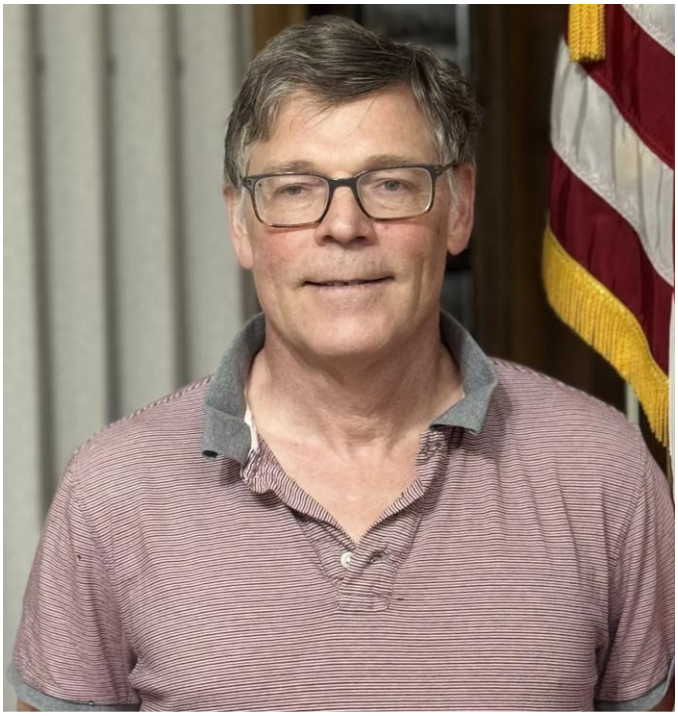
- Oct 24 – Persian Gulf Memorial Dedication Washington DC
- Nov 1 – Am Leg. 208 Pancake Breakfast
- Nov 7 – Veteran Breakfast Luther Village call 847-670-7200 for Reservations
- Nov 10 – Marine Corp Birthday
- .Nov 10 – Veterans Lunch Elk Grove HS
- Nov 11 Veterans Day at Arlington Park Museum
- Nov 14 – Rock the Troops Am Leg 208
- Nov 15 – 4tth District Meeting Al Larsen Cultural Center Schaumburg
- Nov 26 – Am Leg 208 hosts Great Lakes recruits at Post building.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOTS PEN

The theme for 2026-2027 have been announced by VFW National. Both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen - "What a Veteran Taught Me About America".
The deadline for entries is November 1, 2026. If you are aware of anyone in grades 6-8 (Patriot's Pen) or 9-12 (Voice of Democracy) please send them my way.
Rich Dunne

NEW POST MEMBERS

Peter Everett joined to our Post in August. He is a graduate of West Point who served in and retired from the National Guard after active duty. He was activated and served in Iraq during Iraqi Freedom.



Everyone say hello to Peter as you encounter him at our meetings or outings.

POST COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:
July 4 - Arlington Heights July 4th Parade

Up Coming events:
Nov 11 - Veterans Day Celebration
Dec 7 – Post Colors at Am Legion 208 for Blood Drive
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. Those interested in joining the Color Guard please email the Post.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 981

Invites you and your guests to join your comrades and American Legion Post 208 for a

Holiday Celebration

Saturday, December 19

APPETIZERS 6:00 P.M., DINNER 7:00 PM, DJ MUSIC

AMERICAN LEGION POST 208

121 N. Douglas Arlington Heights, IL

*Cost is $20 **each** per Post member and up to 2 additional guests*

Dinner will be catered from Nino's in Buffalo Grove.

Unlimited coffee, tea and soft drinks. Unlimited bar access.

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Send your reservations and checks (made out to **VFW Post 981**) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. **Deadline for reservations** – Friday December 11

Member Name _____

Name of Guest(s) _____

Amount enclosed ($20 **each** for you and guest(s)) $_____

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

Arlington Heights, IL 60006

TO: