

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.org

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

A LOSS FOR THE POST

Dale Berg, Color Guard Commander, contributor to the Post in many ways, and Commander of American Legion Post 208, died suddenly on June 25.

Dale was one of those genuinely nice guys who gave his all for his fellow veterans. He served in the Army from 1969-1971 with duty in Vietnam. While he was there he earned a Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star with V/device OLC, two Purple Hearts and an Air Medal with V device 3/device. When I told my wife about Dale's death she asked "Wasn't he the guy that was always on the dance floor at the Holiday Party?" Here is Dale on his 2018 Honor Flight



COMMANDER

I'm honored to be your Post Commander for 2024-2025. We, as a Post, accomplished much in the past

year. Hopefully we will continue to accomplish much more. We have retained most of our Staff from last year. Larry Bielski, who was a Three-Year Trustee, is now a full Two-Year Trustee. Phil Nagle has stayed as Post Adjutant. Mike Smogor has stayed on as VOD and Patriots pen. It is with a heavy heart that I report the death of Our Color Guard Commander Dale Berg, who had just been unanimously reelected as Commander of American Legion. He will be missed. Our membership numbers have been dwindling due to members passing on. Not to steal Tom's thunder, Membership is important to the post and the VFW is every one's part to recruit a new member not the Senior-Vice. Remember - turn in your receipts at the end of each quarter for reimbursements (end of June, September, December, and March). Late turn in of receipts is being a problem and may result in you not getting reimbursed for them. During the two Poppy Day weekends we collected almost \$4000. Loss of a Jewel location and lack of volunteers left us behind previous years. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave us their time again this year. And thanks again to Henry Mueller, our Poppy Chairman, for putting it all together! At our last Staff meeting, we discussed ways to our collections by dropping Non-productive locations and replacing them with better locations. Again - this all depends on securing enough volunteers to staff these locations. Our new business cards, when reordered, will have, in addition to the VFW logo, our meeting date, time, and location. So, when you pass out your card the recipient has all the information, he/she needs to

find us number and a transcribed message to the Commander's email.

Stewart

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Membership is key and we need everyone's help in getting more members. We are hoping this major move will show our Post is active and looking for more members. Our Color Guard has been doing an outstanding job and is also looking for more members in it. Our Post must grow and will grow with your support.

Any event our Post has join in as the more involved you are the greater feeling of belonging to a great organization is felt. Wear you military affiliation caps always it will advertise and get people to talk to you and possibly ask how I join the VFW Post 981. The more we show our selves the better. We are the only ones who can show our military affiliation and YES we are proud of our service and have joined the VFW for the comradery of knowing what we have done and want to do to help other Veterans.

Please advertise all you can and YES talk it up as it is a great organization. Everyone is a recruiter and I'm hoping we all can find new members this year. We have to be aggressive in getting new members in a nice way but we have to keep trying always. Post 981 HAS TO GROW NOW.

Tom

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

VACANT

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **July Post Meeting - CANCELLED**
- **August Post Meeting - Wednesday (8/7)**
- **Post Picnic – Sunday (8/11) Deer Grove East Pavilion #4 11:00 AM-4:00 PM**
- **September Post Meeting – Wednesday (9/4)**

- **October Post Meeting – Wednesday (10/2)**

TAPS



The members of Arlington Post 981, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, pay their last tribute of respect to our departed comrades.

The following comrades passed away, or we have been notified of their passing, since the last newsletter came out:

Dale Berg

Frank Fanbianski = WWII Army

Warren Lynch.

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 telephone** (listed on our website) if a comrade has passed away. Too many times we must rely on seeing an obituary in the newspaper which leaves little or no time for members to pay their final respects. Also, our Color Guard needs time to organize the final salute to our members, whether at the wake or afterwards at the cemetery.

POST ELECTIONS

Here is the elected Post leadership for this year:

- **Commander Stewart Abbink**
- **Senior Vice-Commander Tom Raskowski**
- **Junior Vice-Commander VACANT**
- **Quartermaster Mike Kolbuk**
- **Three-Year Trustee Don Luken**
- **Two-Year Trustee Larry Bielski**
- **One-Year Trustee James Jones**
- **Chaplain Don Luken**

Appointed Post Officers:

- **Service Officer (Temporary) Stewart Abbink**
- **Adjutant Phil Nagle**
- **Officer of the Day Pat Hickey**
- **Judge Advocate Jack Vrett**
- **Color Guard VACANT**

Committee Chairmen for this year:

- **Poppies VACANT**
- **Publicity/Newsletter Mike Kolbuk**
- **Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Mike Smogor**
- **Club Chair Don Luken**
- **Scouts Chair Stewart Abbink**
- **Scholarships Don Luken & Vince Cipolla**



RIP FRANK FABIANSKI

One of our two active WWII members, Frank passed away on April 11 2024 at age 102. During Frank's short time as a VFW member he experienced two things that made the papers. The Post held a ceremony to replace his lost Purple Heart (He joined our Post when his family contacted us about replacing it). Last October he journeyed to France and Belgium where he had

fought with the 104th Infantry (Timberwolves) and was honored at dinners and with parades. Both the medal replacement and Europe trip gained media coverage.



POST AWARDS BOB HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIP

At the June Post meeting Brian Cantieri received the \$3,000 Bob Henderson Scholarship Grant from Bob's daughter Lynn Munson.

Brian is a resident of Mount Prospect and graduated in 2024 from Prospect High School. He played 3 varsity sports there as well as other academic and leadership achievements. He is an Eagle Scout. He will be attending majoring in Systems Design and Engineering. By the way, his brother Kevin won the Wally Leutschwager scholarship in 2022.

Lynn has graciously funded this scholarship for another year.



POPPY DAY COLLECTIONS

Our Poppy Chairman, Henry Mueller continued his fantastic job organizing this valuable fund raiser. On May 18 Post members were at 6 locations in Arlington Heights and at 5 locations in Buffalo Grove on May 25.

The final collection total was \$2,250 in Arlington Heights and \$1,720 in Buffalo Grove. This was down from last year by over \$1,800. Loss of the Jewel on Rand Road in Arlington Heights due to another charity getting preference and less locations due to no volunteers affected this year.

A list of worthwhile organizations will be submitted to the Post to receive our Poppy money. Ideas for spending the Poppy fund are always welcome. Henry has retired from his duties. In appreciation for all his hard work the Post honored him at the June meeting.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/ PATRIOTS PEN

The themes for 2024-2025 have been announced by VFW National: Voice of Democracy - "Is America Today Our Forefathers Vision?"; Patriot's Pen - "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

The deadline for entries is November 1, 2024. If you are aware of anyone in grades 6-8 (Patriot's Pen) or 9-12 (Voice of Democracy) please send them my way.

Smokey

BOOMERS OUTING

Another sell-out outing took place on Sunday June 23 as 16 Post members and 19 guests filled the skybox. The weather was perfect for baseball. Food was the Italian package with Italian beef, sausage, ravioli with chicken and pasta salad. All were available for all-you-could-eat. Unlimited soft drinks, some beer ordered by the Post, cookies and lots of popcorn completed the menu. The Boomers pitchers had a rough time of it, and the Boomers batters couldn't hit, so the game ended with the Boomers routed 14-2..



NEW POST MEMBERS

Dave Silbaugh was in the Army and served 23 years including Korea, Desert Storm and Afghanistan.



Greg Smith was in the Army and served from 1968-70 with duty in Vietnam.



Welcome them to our Post when you see them at our activities.

POST PAYS FOR CLUBS

If you are interested in joining a club that is open to all members, or starting one yourself see Don Luken. Based on participation and cost the Post will reimburse expenses.

There are already 4 approved – Fishing (Don Luken), Golf (Smokeymike), Beer Brewing (Mike Kolbuk) and Breakfast.

You must be an active member of the Post - participating in meetings, activities and such.

COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

May 13 - Commencement Ceremony Oakton Community College

May 27 - Memorial Day Parade

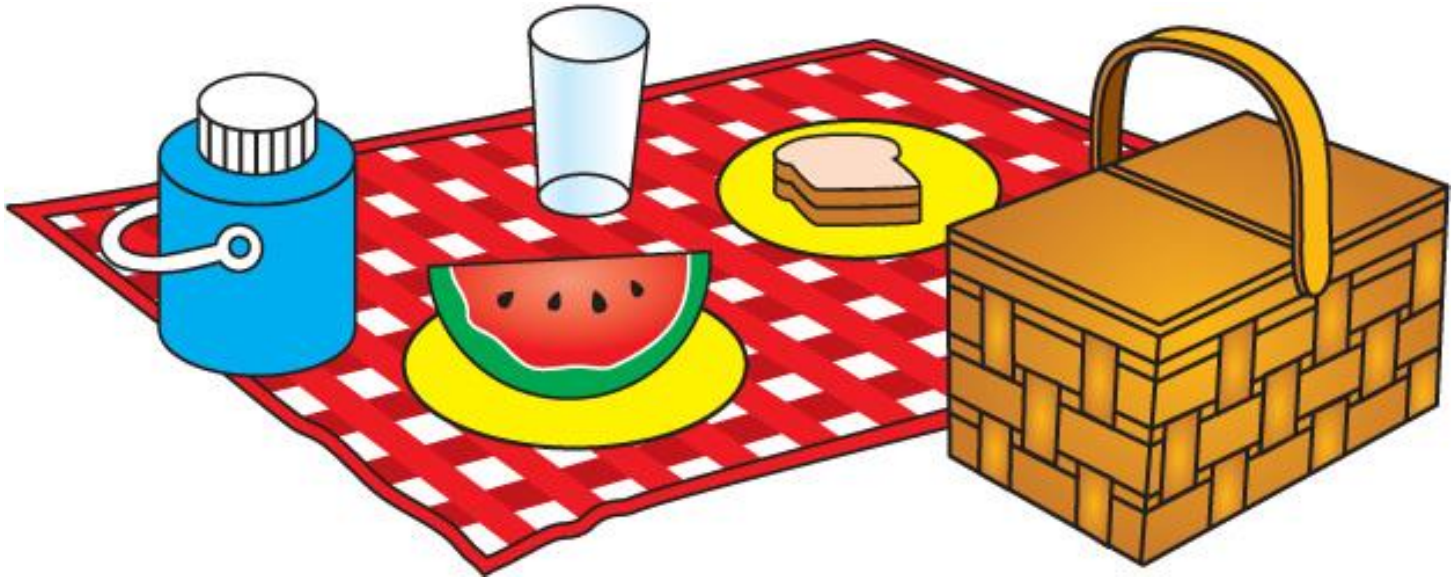
Up Coming events:

July 4 - Arlington Heights July 4th Parade

Sept 1 - Buffalo Grove Day Parade

Our color guard's marching in the Memorial Day Parade was featured on WLS Channel 7 News and in the Daily Herald and weekly Journal & Topics newspapers, while a picture of the Post 981 float also made the Daily Herald.

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 AUGUST PICNIC



Deer Grove East – Grove #4

Entrance is Dundee Rd West of Hicks Rd

JOIN US ON AUGUST 11 FROM 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM.
POST WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT, UTENSILS AND CONDIMENTS.
YOU PROVIDE YOUR BEVERAGES AND A SIDE DISH TO SHARE.

TABLES ARE AVAILABLE UNDER A WIDE SHELTER AND THE
BATHROOMS ARE NEARBY. BRING YOUR OWN SEATING AND
GAMES TO PLAY IF YOU LIKE. FAMILY & FRIENDS WELCOME.

NO CHARGE! But, we need a count.
Sign up at August Post Meeting; Email
vfwpost981@gmail.com

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®

MFA

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

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TO: