

VFW POST #17 AMERICAN LEGION POST #24 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS POST #13 NEWSLETTER

Mar-April 2007

Editor: TBA

FROM THE VFW COMMANDER

Thanks to Sebert and Nelson for taking over for me on the last newsletter.

On Feb.10 we had our homecoming party for the 452nd that returned from Iraq in October. They have not had weekend drill for a couple months and now seemed the right time for us to have a party honoring them. We had a very good turnout with 2/3 of the unit attending. Thanks to Gloria Hartze and the Ladies Auxiliary for preparing the food. We had karaoke and all seemed to have a good time. I had hoped that we would have had a better member turnout where more could have personally thanked them for their service and commitment. It was a good time to meet some of our youngest group of Veterans.

I went to the Armory in the morning and visited with Lt. Vetter. In our discussion I found out that when the members come to Aberdeen for weekend drill that they have to pay for their lodging and mileage out of their own pocket. I found this completely disgusting. When I think of the millions and billions that are spent and some wasted, it just seems that we could take better care of our troops.

This week I visited with all three offices of our elected officials in Washington. I mentioned that it seemed that we should be taking better care of our citizen soldiers by giving them mileage and lodging when they attend drills. I hope this effort will start the ball rolling. Members of Veterans organizations should also contact these people and do what they can.

We have been asked if we can get some volunteers to help out at the VA CBOC (Community Based Outreach Clinic). I'm not sure what the volunteers will be doing but if you are interested, contact Sebert, our Ladies Auxiliary or myself.

Nuff said; hope to see more members at our monthly meetings. We need more participation

and help to carry out our missions and programs. We also have elections soon. If asked please seriously consider getting into a leadership role. Stay Warm!

Al Waltman, Commander

QUARTERMASTER QUIPS

As I mentioned in the Jan-Feb newsletter, I have been concerned for quite some time about the needs of our Post and the Income from the Canteen which keeps our Post Home going. We can not continue to operate in the "red" almost every month. Maybe our leadership is wrong and membership does not care that we have a nice large Post home, and they think that we should down-size or something. We can not control many of the ongoing expenses which seem to always be going up. We try to be frugal in repairs etc. So it seems to me that increasing our revenue is the only solution to our shortfalls. We are trying the Friday nite meals with two or three choices all at a very reasonable price. We do need to know how many you will be bringing, at what time and what the choices are. This helps to reduce leftovers and assures that you get what you want. During Lent we plan to have fish also on the menu. All of us need to eat and this is a good way to support our Post Home.

Al Sebert, Quartermaster

American Legion Commander Briefs

As I write this article, we just finished with our annual Memorial Service remembering all Past Commanders and other members who have contributed much to our Post, as well as those Legion Members of our Post who have died this past year. It was very impressive and I would encourage everyone to attend one. (You need not lose a loved one to attend)

Coming up very soon, we will be working with the City Schools to select Boys State candidates for this year. This is a quite expensive project,

but we feel is very worthwhile.

Also coming in May are the Horse Races. We always need a lot of bodies for this. Volunteer, you will not be asked to work alone in an unfamiliar job. This is a good fund raiser for us. I am shortening my article in order to insert some important information on the Clinic and Baseball. Please read these articles.

Al Sebert, American Legion Commander

Disabled American Veterans

I would start by saying that if you know of a member of our local Chapter who is hospitalized, in a nursing home etc. Please contact our new Chaplain, as he in turn will send appropriate greetings to those individuals. He is willing and wanting to make sure that we remember those in need. Scott Nelson is our new Chaplain.

We will be starting a raffle to raise funds for the next van. Most people would be very surprised as to how many miles are on the van already. But the Van usually puts on 450 miles a day, five days a week. That adds up in a hurry and we must be ready when the need to replace the van is necessary. We will be raffling off an All Terrain Vehicle 4x4. All of the details are not yet worked out but be watching for this as we will be needing all members to help. The drawing for the ATV will be held during the celebrity pheasant hunt.

Our Chapter is doing the necessary paperwork to be a part of the "Cookouts" at both the Sizzling Summer Nites and The Arts in the Park. It is a fun time and helps the Chapter. We need you!

Our Chapter voted to send \$250 to the Fitzmaurice Soldiers Home. This is something that our Chapter can do and be proud of in not forgetting our aging and disabled comrades.

We are planning to be a part of the Youth Bicycle Safety Course. The program teaches youth to ride safely and to obey the laws and rules established for bicyclists. At the conclusion of the program, the youth will be receiving a license for their bike to help identify it in the case of theft or loss.

I cut my remarks short as to save space for the comments of the Vietnam Dedication.

The next DAV Chapter 13 Meeting will be held at the VFW in Aberdeen on Mar 13, 2007 at 7PM. See you there!

Allan Ochsner

Chapter 13 Commander

Veterans Clinic

The Veterans Administration had a town hall meeting in Aberdeen. The outcome of the

meeting is that the Clinic will now be run by the VA instead of Contracted as it is now. This will save the VA considerable money which will be used to serve more Veterans. Volunteers are needed for pulling files, calling to remind patients of appointments etc. There are some details to be worked out yet in the orientation and also background checks for those who would volunteer. This is a very confidential area in dealing with someone's medical records. I believe that we will need around 10 people for this and if you are interested please contact me or an officer of the Veterans organizations.

Al Sebert, Legion Commander

Baseball

With this issue of the newsletter you will receive a dozen tickets. These will be for cash prizes this year. This is a joint effort this year between the Legion and the VFW to support the Aberdeen Baseball Programs. Both organizations have their Special Teams which we want to support and this joint effort does just that. As stated on the ticket information, you need not be present to win and no purchase is necessary. However, I encourage you to not only purchase the tickets, but to come out to sell more. We will have plenty at the Legion/VFW office. I am sure our Auxiliary Ladies who do not receive this newsletter would welcome the chance to support our youth. Approach them with a book of tickets. Our first time selling them was during the recent Fishing Seminar at the Mall. We will also sell them a couple times before the Horse Races then every day during the Races. We feel this is a very worthwhile project for our youth and both young and mature Veterans would be pleased to be a part of the project. Call Steve Nemmers, Al Waltman or myself to offer a couple hours of your time.

Al Sebert, Legion Commander

World War II Forum

At the request of Andrew Johnson, President of the History Club at NSU, we had nine WWII Veterans address an audience of NSU students and members of the community. The Vets were asked to talk about their time before, during and after the war. A very informative evening. Thanks to Sam Holman, Al Kolb, Bernie Jacob, Ed Lambert, John Ruckman, Syd Mortenson, John Thomas, Curt Misslitz and Vern Bunsness. The two hour meeting gave great insight about things that our Veterans experienced during their time spent in the military. There may possibly be more like forums in the future, watch for it.

The Vietnam Memorial Dedication was held in Pierre during the weekend of September 16, 2006. Our newsletter has been soliciting "After Action Reports" of the events and impressions from some of the Vietnam Veterans who attended. Following are some comments which were received.

Thoughts while traveling to Pierre-What a wonderful effort SD was making as a tribute to Vietnam Veterans; I was thinking about how overdue it was to have something like this for those of us who served during the time; Wondering what to expect, and remembering back to my time spent in the service; Way to late; Apprehension of what to expect and what might happen with weather, but it was unfounded.

Most memorable moment-At the Wall, flowers placed by every deceased Veteran whose name appeared on the Wall; Seeing my classmate's name on the wall and a white cross in the Fallen Sons and Daughters area; The Governor did a good job and the Fly-by; When strangers would stop you on the street to shake your hand and pat you on your back and say "Thank you"; Placing a rose on the base of the Wall of a friend of mine

Any negative comments-Not enough hueys, (all other comments-"NONE")

Were there any emotional times-Moments honoring Veterans, no matter the War or time; When a close friend of mine from back home opened up and discussed his involvement for which he was awarded the "Purple Heart"; Watching the parade, listening to National theme songs, seeing 32000 people honoring Vietnam Vets; Just to reflect on how we were treated when we got home, you cannot make up for that; Seeing the giant flags, loud rock music and the sound of hueys flying over; While driving the DAV van we were saluted, thanked and cheered; A Vet came to me while I was looking at the wall, he began to sob for the loss of a dear friend and his time in Nam. We held each other for a few moments and talked further about the hell we went through

Was the Memorial timely- It came in 2006, what's the use in saying it should have been in 86 or 96; I feel bad for those already deceased and those in bad health that could not attend but yes better now than even later; It was later than it should have been, but was much sooner for Vietnam Vets than it was for WWII Vets; Too late; The timing was good because I think a lot of bitterness has alleviated over the years; It should have been held closer to '75 when it ended because many of those Vets have died over the past 30 years. Also, I believe that many Vets didn't heal emotionally as they might have if they would have been received home as the Veterans of the Iraq War are being received and honored. It has been shown that a positive outlook contributes to physical health and well being and if Vietnam Vets would have been treated better many of them would have lived longer

Entertainment etc. Although somewhat cold and wet, we thoroughly enjoyed all of it; Very well organized; Great; Everything on schedule; Golf carts to take you anywhere; Volunteers were absolutely amazing

The sound of a chopper flying over has left nearly all Vietnam Vets with instant recall of what the sound means to them. Listed are some of those responses.

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| -Officers coming in | -Wondering if I will ever get a ride out, either |
| -Reinforcements | dead or alive |
| -Supplies | -If we should anticipate enemy attack |
| -Getting wounded out | -Getting the dead out |

During the ceremony, with a cloudy sky, it was noted by many that a patch of blue sky opened and gracefully soaring above was an eagle. Calm, graceful as if to say "Job Well Done, Vietnam Vets."

CALENDAR OF POST HOME EVENTS

Mar 07

Mar 9-Potluck 6PM

Mar 16-Dinners 5:30-8PM

Mar 17-Wedding

Mar 18-Aman Family 1:30-5:30PM

Mar 23-Wedding

Mar 31-Wedding

Apr 07

Apr 6-Dinners 5:30-8PM

Apr 7-Wedding

Apr 13-Pot Luck

Apr 20-Dinners 5:30-8PM

Apr 21-Baseball Fund Raiser 8-12

Apr 22-Starliters 1:30-5:30PM

Apr 27-Builders Exchange

If you are planning a birthday, anniversary, wedding or party please contact our Club manager, John "Pickle" Meier at 229-4336 or 225-9975 for bookings.

The cost of using the VFW Post Home for catering parties and special events is very competitive in price and quality. We are in most cases more reasonable and there is never a problem with parking.

Our Friday nite dinners are needing a boost. Reservations are needed to assure proper ordering of food etc. Call in advance, and support our club.