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Newsletter

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Honoring the Dead by Serving the Living with our Comrades and Friends

Commanders Corner

Comrades,
March makes way for April and hopefully soon winter will be OVER. I am ready to start planting my garden and spending some time with my family outside of the walls that have held us all winter, as I am sure the rest of you are. But on to some business. . .



April is election month. Our meetings have not been changed they are still the second Monday of the month at 7 PM, 1900 hrs for all of you operating on

military time. Attendance is important, so hopefully we will see more faces.

June 30 is the cut off to renew your membership, so if you haven't already lets get to it. \$25 is all it takes.

There is so much coming up that people really need to check out the calendar. Dinners are going well; remember we have them every Friday night starting at 5:30. Volunteers are always welcome and you too can be a guest chef. Come to a planning meeting; let us know what you want to cook and we can make it happen. We are interested in getting things on the menu that

people want to have so if you can't cook, or just don't have the time suggestions are welcome. Now to the unpleasant part of being your commander, there have been a number of incidences of rowdy members in the canteen area. The house committee is doing their best to handle the situation and get the bartenders trained, but lets face it folks, we are all adults, know your limit and don't give our volunteers a hard time when they think you have reached yours.

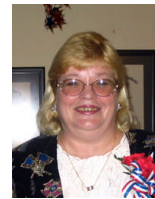
Parking has become an issue also. I know that the lot is always full and this is a good thing, just use caution when backing out so you don't hit someone else's vehicle. Sitting through hours of tape is not anyone's idea of fun. Remember also that you can park in the vet's parking lot, just don't block his drive-ways and please do not park next to his building.

Remember, check out the calendar, and come check things out. The place has really been jumpin' lately. Laura Honomichl
Commander

Ladies Auxiliary President

Hello Brothers and sisters,
This is a very important month for the Ladies Aux 2408. The last meeting we did not have enough members for a meeting. This coming April 7, 2008 at 6pm if we do not

have enough members for a meeting, there can be no election, as there were no nominations last month, this may be the last meeting for the Ladies Aux 2408. No election means no Auxiliary.



I have tried letters and post cards and I have no phone list for our members. We can do nominations and elections in one meeting but it will

be a long one. I would like to thank all those who have helped with the meals; Patty, Bradley-Diehl, Anita Berrey, Judy Arnott, Carol Sweeda, and those who bought the meals. We are also supposed to fill out the delegate forms for June convention. The next District 6 meeting is May 4th 2008 in Ann Arbor at 10:00 am anyone wishing to attend should be at the VFW post at 9:45 am that Sunday, or call me at 734-945-7637. Anita Berrey is again the contact for the Memorial Day Parade in Ypsilanti, call me for contact info. I thank VFW Post 2408 VFW, and Commander Laura Honomichl for their support of the Auxiliary and their efforts on our behalf. So many of you ladies have been such a joy to me during this year, Thank you all and God bless and keep you.

Colleen Wolfe Duranso, President

Men's Auxiliary

Howdy,
March is over and I'm looking forward to bugs hitting my windshield again. The smell of spring is so sweet and so is the returning sounds of nascar racing; We got it all at the VFW Men's Auxiliary. Our Auxiliary is going to raffle two tickets to M.I.S for the June 08 race we have plans for one heck of a party. We hope to have this by the first Charlotte race, but of course it all depends on the license and when we get them. We are still doing the catfish dinners so come on in and enjoy some of the best you have ever had. Dues are coming in great and for those who have not made it in, please do so. We have to pay our share of to the post for our Liquor License.

Well that's all I have for this month so have a great April.

Bart Lee DeRossett SR, President

Post Everlasting

It is with regret that we report the passing of Kevin Perkins on Sunday, May 30, 2008. Kevin was one of our post's newest members. He recently had successful heart bypass surgery and was released to return to work several weeks ago. Kevin supported our post in many ways cooking many meals for our fund raisers and was known for his mastery of the Michigan Food Laws and was helping with training and inspections. We will all miss Kevin. At the time of this newsletter, final arrangements had not been determined.

From the Canteen

March came in like a lamb (kind of) but it sure left like a lion dumping all of that wonderful snow and helping to further erode our parking lot.

Even so and even with the frost laws still on, we hauled in nine yards of crushed asphalt and with the help of Ernie and Shane Smith, Dave Bruemmer and Rick Hall, we managed to fill most of the

holes and create a temporary fix until our Parking Lot Committee can



come up with a better solution. It seems like our parking lot situation is a continuing saga of problems followed by ideas and temporary fixes, none of which have worked out to our satisfaction in the past. Please see our calendar of events for April. The first Saturdays of each month, we now have breakfast starting at 10 am. Considering the lack of interest in Wii bowling, we have taken that off the calendar for April and we are considering installing an electronic dart board and are now trying to determine if there is enough interest. If there are ideas for meals, live entertainment, or other games that we do not now have, please leave us a note at the bar and all suggestions will be considered.

Our annual post clean up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 19th starting at 9:00 am (weather permitting of course). All members are invited to help with the clean up and we will be having special drink prices and other goodies for those who participate in the afternoon.

From VFW National

KANSAS CITY, March 28, 2008
The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recently debuted its entry into NASCAR with the combat veterans organization's "Celebration for Our Heroes" troop-support special event, held Thursday in Kernersville, N.C., the headquarters of VFW NASCAR partners Kevin Harvick, Inc. (KHI).

Special guests for the event included more than 140 soldiers from Fort Bragg, including 40 wounded soldiers, as well as approximately 60 soldiers with the 2-325 Infantry Regiment who returned home March 22 from duty in Iraq.

During the VFW-sponsored celebration at KHI headquarters, Fort Bragg soldiers toured the racing facility and spent time with team co-owners Kevin and DeLana Harvick, as well as the VFW Racing drivers, Ron Hornaday and Cale Gale.

According to several VFW officers who attended the daylong troop-support event, everyone enjoyed their NASCAR experience, including

Harvick and Hornaday who extended their scheduled appearances to spend more time with the soldiers.

"Kevin even led a group tour," said VFW Junior Vice Commander Tommy Tradewell, a Vietnam War veteran from Milwaukee, adding that many of the soldiers he had talked to had little knowledge of NASCAR before the event. "Now they all are fans!"

One of the reasons VFW entered the racing scene was to honor today's military members and to generate troop-support for America's heroes.

"It's a fact that NASCAR fans love America and arguably are the most patriotic citizens in our county," said Tradewell, adding that the patriotic and colorful VFW Racing paint scheme on Ron Hornaday's Number 33 truck and on Cale Gale's Number 77 car should create a lot of excitement and garner support for servicemembers and their families. "What a great way to show them that VFW, KHI and America stands behind them and will continue to stand behind them as long as they are required to serve."

Tradewell said he believes loyal NASCAR supporters also will help VFW meet the escalating need for VFW services to the military. "They understand how important those services are at a time when the need has never been greater," he said.

The first of eight 2008 seasonal races for the KHI and VFW Racing team will be this weekend at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. Preceding each race, VFW Racing will host special troop-support events. VFW Racing will be a partner in every NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series and Nationwide Series race this season, both on and off the track.

"Everyone at KHI is excited to be working with the VFW on their first NASCAR effort," said Kevin Harvick. "VFW is an incredible organization, and we expect this program will help educate the public about the tremendous work they do."

VFW Completes "Dream House"

When Staff Sgt. Luther Richardson and his wife, JoAnn, first saw their new house, they knew it was their dream home. But the house wasn't wheelchair accessible, which was a problem for Richardson.

While stationed in Kuwait, he seriously injured his neck, back and legs in a car accident. But the Richardsons were determined not to let the injuries hold them back. With a little help from the VFW, their dream house became a reality.

Darrell Webb, commander of VFW Post 6022 in Cottondale, Ala., organized the effort to help the Richardsons. The Veterans Administration would have provided a ramp, but only after months of paperwork. Post 6022 thought their fellow veteran deserved his ramp right now.

Webb and his comrades asked local construction companies to donate their time and labor for the project. Post 6022 donated the cost of materials.

"We all got together and fixed him up," he said. "We're really grateful for everyone who pitched in."

The Richardsons have been through a lot in the past few years. After Richardson was injured, the family's life was thrown into disarray when Hurricane Katrina hit their home in Baton Rouge, La. Their experience with Katrina prompted them to move further inland.

Richardson still spends much of his time at the Malone House at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and he makes periodic visits home. The family is still unsure when he will be home for good, but for now, he can get inside his house with ease.

Richardson has always been impressed by the work of organizations like VFW. "The veterans are like a family," Richardson told the Tuscaloosa News. "Veterans have been looking out for each other for generations."

Webb said the VFW was happy to help a family who has been through so much. "When you help someone, it always feels good, especially when you know they appreciate what you've done," he said. "It was great to see this family so happy." For Webb, helping veterans like Richardson is part of his job.

"We're here to help," he said. "Looking out for other veterans is part of the same old day-to-day routine."

Facts and Benefits We Should Know About

Do I get extra monies from Social Security because I served in the military?

In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Your military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings.

The information that follows applies only to your military service earnings from 1940 through 2001. Under certain circumstances, special earnings for your military service from 1940 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. The extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. (No additional earnings are granted for inactive duty training.) Social Security cannot add these extra earnings credits to your record until you file for Social Security benefits. Here's how the additional earnings are granted:

Service from 1978 Through 2001: For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings.

Service In 1957 Through 1977: You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service In 1940 Through 1956: If you were in the military during this period, including attendance at a service academy, you did not pay Social Security taxes. However, your Social Security record may be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service from September 16, 1940, through December 31, 1956, under the following circumstances: you were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or you were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or you are still on active duty; or you are applying for survivors benefits and the veteran died while on active duty.

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