

C. Robert Arvin VFW 2408

PO Box 970680, 616 West Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti MI 48197-0812

Phone: 734-482-6299

Web: www.vfw2408.org

Newsletter

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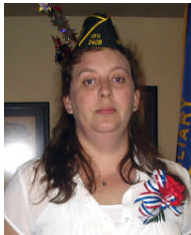
Honoring the Dead by Serving the Living with our Comrades and Friends

Commanders Corner

Hello Comrades,

It is hard to believe it is February; in just a couple more months it will be post elections, but for now we still have things to do.

Membership dues need to be paid for those of you that are not already life members.



VFW volunteers are needed to assist with the fund raiser

that Rounders Poker is generously helping us with, and they have to be VFW member volunteer's people, due to charity gaming rules and the such VFW members are the only ones who can legally handle the money. Please contact the post for information on how to assist with this fund raiser.

We are also starting a Wii bowling league. Interested parties should be at the club on Tuesday evenings by 7 pm. The first Tuesday in February will be setting up your characters and bowling a few games. If you have not had the opportunity to try Wii bowling, this is it, and it is a blast. Where else can you drink in the bowling pit and are guaranteed that the wax on your lane is the same as the next guys.

Come join us for super bowl Sunday. As always there is no charge to get into your club, however there will be a \$10 raffle ticket available if anyone wishes to participate in the tailgate style festivities of food, door prizes, and the grand prize drawing of a 32" flat panel television with a 2nd place drawing of 2 tickets to a Lions home game. If less that 75 tickets are sold the raffles is going to revert to a 50/50 drawing, so come on out, have a good time, and support the post and your community.

For those members who have not been around in a bit, you should take a trip in and see what's going on. We have been doing a little redecorating and I would like to personally thank those involved as most of what has been happening has cost the post nothing and it really looks great.

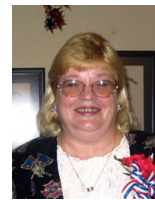
I would also like to welcome a new group into our home. The Patriots applied and were approved by our membership. They are having their first meeting this month and I wish them well in their endeavors to not only support veterans but support their community. Welcome Patriots.

Laura Honomichl, Commander

Ladies Auxiliary

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

January was a busy month at VFW2408. I hope you



can all come down soon and check the calendar for all the events coming soon. The dues are now past due and a post card mailing has

been done. The Auxiliary is having a membership drive during the month of February. Dues will be \$10.00 for the year! Sign up any new members you can find and pay up for the year.

Our meeting in February will be very important as we have officer positions open that must be filled in order to continue to do the work that needs to be done for the post. The attendance has been so low we barely had a quorum last month; we need your input and ideas to keep going. The Mid Winter Conference in Kalamazoo is this month and it will be great to see all the districts and people there. Happy Valentines Day in advance,

God Bless and Keep you all

Colleen Wolfe Duranso

Men's Auxiliary

Dear Friends:

This has been a great start to the new year. The membership voted to accept Ron Mackey's application so please join me in welcoming Ron to the Men's Auxiliary.

Our dinners are doing much better as we are having more people attend and even join us for some Karaoke. Come on out and see for yourselves.

Thanks to Cathy Baringhaus "Cat" we are repairing and painting walls, doors, and trim. Also Anita Berrey (Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer) steam cleaned carpeting in the Canteen. Oh what a difference.

Our Men's Auxiliary is planning a raffle for the Fire Cracker 400 in July. If our planning holds true, the 1st place prize will be a shotgun. I also hope there will be a great second place prize and maybe even a third. Only good things happen when great folks work together.

Please remember to pay your dues, if you have not done that already. Also just a heads up that elections are just around the corner in April. We will only get stronger as time goes on. Again Come and see us soon. Until next month --

Bart lee DeRossett, Sr.

From the Canteen

As we reported to you in last month's newsletter, we are attempting to provide better quality and variety meals at our Friday fund raiser dinners.



In January we had Chicken Enchiladas, Prime Rib, Chicken Parmesan, Catfish, Chicken Quesadillas, Lasagna, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Chicken Fajitas, and we have added a variety of snack food that several members suggested. On prime rib night, we were so surprised to be sold out before the first meal was served.

We also take this opportunity to

thank Donnie Burton of Effortless Entertaining for donating his time, effort, and some food for our fund raisers. Also big thanks to Bart DeRossett, Judy Arnott, Carol Sweda, Patty Diehl, Cathy Baringhaus, Jason Blanchard, and others who staffed the kitchen to make these great meals a huge success.

The parking area has again surfaced as a concern and we have ordered some crushed stone to help smooth things out until spring arrives and we can make some more improvements.

And of course we take this opportunity to thank Sam's Club for their donation of \$875.00 to assist with building and property improvements.

From VFW National

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 18, 2008--

The national commander of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans is furious at the *New York Times* for not fact-checking the Jan. 13 article that portrays service members returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as mentally unstable and more likely to commit violent crimes than nonveterans.

"This is irresponsible journalism," said Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander George Lisicki, a Vietnam veteran from Carteret, N.J., "because it twists facts to perpetuate a myth



that combat veterans are crazy and more likely to commit violent crimes.

This dishonors the service and integrity of 1.5 million servicemen and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan."

The article, "Across America Deadly Echoes of Foreign Battles", cites 121 cases in which veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan either committed or charged with a killing. The cases ranged from vehicular manslaughter to first-degree murder. The reporters

then mixed in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injuries, domestic violence, substance abuse, and homelessness and unemployment verbiage "to build an untenable case against today's veterans, and to further strengthen their biased 'wacko vet' premise," said Lisicki.

"America's veterans serve their country and society honorably," said Lisicki. "We're not all perfect, but perpetuating the crazed veteran myth is no better than calling every news media organization irresponsible for the acts of a few reporters. I expect more due diligence from the nation's third largest newspaper. I can only surreptitiously surmise that one of the reasons behind this story was to attack U.S. policy regarding the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and using troops as their pawns."

"The Times documentation of 121 potential killings out of more than 1.5 million veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), divided by 6 years of conflict results in a murder rate of just 1.34 incidents per 100,000 veterans per year. That murder rate is far lower than the murder rate for the general population, demonstrating that the experiences of military service – including having served in Iraq and Afghanistan – actually made it less likely for returning veterans to commit murder once they returned home, than the general population."

Photo above: 2007-08 National Officers From left: Thomas Tradewell, junior vice; George Lisicki, national commander; and Glen Gardner, senior vice.

Past President's Corner

Hello to everyone and Happy Valentines Day. I just want to share with you how proud I am to see our post growing. We are having lots of fun and working together to bring great changes. Our Friday night meals are sure to please almost everyone's search for a great meal. We have new drink specials and prices to fit your mood and your wallet. And don't forget that we have Club Keno now.

Past President's Corner Continued

The bright future of our post depends on us, the members. Every day we have members volunteering just to help. I want to welcome all new members to our post and our newest group, The Patriots.



Check out our calendar! Put it on your refrigerator door to remind you to come down to all of our events. These great events are helping us build our programs and reach out to help the community and our troupes where we are needed.

Come to the post and join us in the fun, food, and comradery. Thanks again to everyone for all the help and keep up the good work. If you have not paid your 2007 dues, please send it or bring it to the post.

Judy Arnott, President 2006-2007

Any past Commander or President who wishes to contribute to this newsletter, please let us know by writing to the post or just give us a call.

Chet Edwards to Receive VFW Congressional Award

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, 2008-- America's oldest major veterans' organization has selected Texas Rep. Chet Edwards (D-17th) to receive its 2008 Congressional Award for his outstanding service to veterans, service members and their families. The congressman, who chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, will be presented the award March 3 at the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Community Service and Legislative Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in northwest Washington.

"This award is extremely important to the VFW," said VFW National Commander George Lisicki, a Vietnam veteran from Carteret, N.J.,

"because it recognizes a champion who is in our corner in Congress."

The VFW Congressional Award has been presented annually since 1964 to one member of the House or Senate for significant legislative contributions on behalf of those who have worn the uniform. Past recipients include strong national security and veterans' advocates, such as Mississippi's Sen. John Stennis (D) and Rep. "Sonny" Montgomery (D), and South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond (R), among many others. Last year the award went to Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman (I).

Edwards, now in his ninth term, has been a staunch supporter of the 50,000 veterans within his district, and for the tens of thousands of soldiers and family members at nearby Fort Hood. His successful fight to keep the Waco VA Medical Center from closing served not only his constituency, but is now benefiting those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through a research partnership with the Army to examine post-traumatic stress disorders. He helped block Pentagon efforts to raise military retiree Tri-care medical premiums, eliminated the Survivor Benefit Plan reduction for military widows, and is working to ensure every disabled military retiree receives their VA and military pay concurrently without offset. And, according to Lisicki, the congressman was a driving force behind the record \$6.6 billion increase to VA's discretionary budget this year.

"Our military, our veterans, and our families of past and present have no better friend in Congress than Chet Edwards," said Lisicki. "I am honored to present this prestigious VFW national award to him."

Edwards is the fourth Texan to receive the VFW Congressional Award. The others were Rep. Olin Teague (D-6th) in 1969, Rep. George H. Mahon (D-19th) in 1974, and Sen. John Tower (R) in 1983.

Judge in S.F. allows suit charging VA denies some vets health care

Veterans' advocates can proceed with a lawsuit claiming that the federal government's health care system for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan illegally denies care and benefits, a federal judge in San Francisco ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Samuel Conti, a conservative jurist and a World War II veteran, rejected Bush administration arguments that civil courts have no authority over the Department of Veterans Affairs' medical decisions or how it handles grievances and claims.

If the plaintiffs can prove their allegations, Conti said, they would show that "thousands of veterans, if not more, are suffering grievous injuries as the result of their inability to procure desperately needed and obviously deserved health care."

He said federal courts are competent to decide whether those injuries were caused by flaws in the health care system and the VA's grievance procedures.

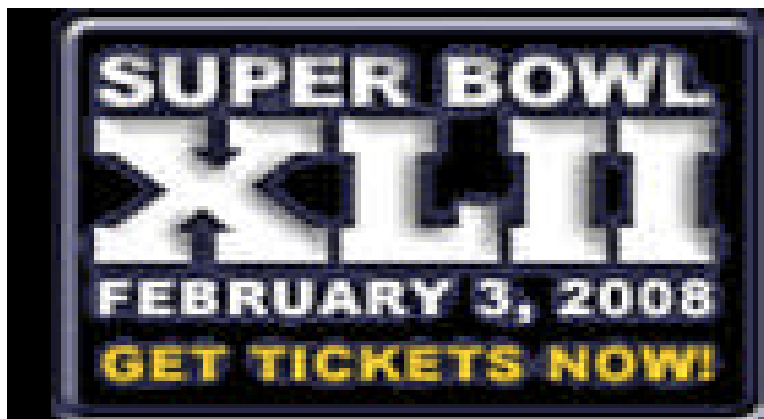
Conti did not rule on the adequacy of the treatment system, which will be addressed in future proceedings. But he decided one disputed issue, finding that veterans are legally entitled to two years of health care after leaving the service. The government had argued that it was required to provide only as much care as the VA's budget allowed in a given year.

A lawyer for the plaintiffs, Melissa Kasnitz of Disability Rights Advocates, said the judge had rejected the VA's "shameful effort to keep these deserving veterans from their day in court."

Raffle Ticket Purchases

Raffle tickets may be purchased with a credit card. Email the following information to Quartermaster mhomichl@honomichl.org. We need name on card, card number, expiration date, and security code on reverse side of the card.

VFW 2408



BUY YOUR TICKET TODAY!

\$10.00

DONATION

OPEN AT NOON!
DRINK SPECIALS ALL DAY!

TICKET INCLUDES --

**TAILGATE FOOD

**DOOR PRIZES

YOU COULD WIN ONE OF THESE!!!

32" FLAT PANEL TV --

2 LIONS HOME GAME TICKETS --

AND A LOT MORE!

PARTY EARLY WITH US!

GAME PARTY FROM 5:30 TO 11:00 PM!

C. Robert Arvin VFW Post 2408
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Ypsilanti, MI 48197-0812



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February 2008

Ladies Membership Drive Month \$10.00: Post Sponsored Poker; Touchdown's Café, Ann Arbor: See Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1 5:30 pm Catfish Fry	2
3 District Meeting 8:00 am Biscuits and Gravy 3:00 pm Super bowl Party & Raffle	4 6 pm Ladies Aux Mtg	5 Fat Tuesday 7 pm Wii Bowling	6 Dollar Day	7	8 5:30 pm Chicken Enchilada dinner	9
10	11 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor 7 pm VFW Meeting	12 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor 7 pm Wii Bowling	13 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor Dollar Day	14 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor 6 pm Men's Aux Mtg.	15 5:30 pm Parmesan Shrimp & Alfredo Pasta Dinner	16 2 pm Post Member Birthday Party Kids Game Day
17	18 7 pm Patriots Organizational Meeting	19 7 pm Wii Bowling	20 Dollar Day	21 7 pm Planning Meeting	22 5:30 pm Lasagna & Garlic Toast Dinner Guest Chef Kevin	23
24	25 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor	26 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor 7 pm Wii Bowling	27 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor Dollar Day	28 5:30 pm Poker Touchdown Café Ann Arbor 7 pm House Meeting	29 5:30 pm Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner	