

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

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2008



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

Commanders Corner



Comrades,
May is here and the post is looking great. Thanks to Rob Devine, who generously volunteered his services to do the shingles on the roof and from what I have heard donated the tiles to do the bathroom floor as well. I would also like to thank Jim Waters for taking card of the outside lights and getting our flag lit up again at night.



Donations are being accepted in the form of Hostas so that the tank can be lined with them. It will be a nice addition especially

since they will require little maintenance and will multiply and fill in the blank spaces.

The Arvin golf outing is this month and I am personally asking everyone to make a donation in some way. It can be a small monetary donation or a donation of time.

Speaking of donations, it's Poppy time again. Stop by and pick yours up. There is a sign up sheet on the black board for people who have the time to solicit and if you just can't get out to see us, we always accept donations by mail.

Memorial Day is also this month and that means we have a memorial procession to get organized,

thank you Anita for your dedication to this project and the many others you so tirelessly work on. (See May calendar for Procession route and schedule)

Elections are done and there was not much of a change in personnel. On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me the past year to make our little place "a place to be". I would also like to say I look forward to the coming year.

Now I have to make a few announcements. It has come to my attention that there is business being conducted in the canteen area and I should not have to remind members that business is to be discussed during business meetings and this goes for more than just VFW members. I also need to remind all organization members about their language. The post is seeing more and more new faces and we are a family oriented place, so please check the language at the door.

I need to address service in the canteen. Here's the deal folks. We are going to be checking membership cards and effective 1 May if your dues have not been paid, then you will not be served. This is happening after a rash of duel members decided that they do not have to pay their dues because they are also legion members. This is not true folks, you became members of

the VFW organizations to show your support, not to be able to drink cheaply.

Together we will make our post an even better place in the coming year.

Laura Honomichl, Commander

Ladies Auxiliary President



Hello Brothers and Sisters, May is here and that means POPPY SEASON. I

hope all of you will sign up at the post so we can continue our

programs for our members soldier's and their families. I would also like to congratulate the new Auxiliary President for this year, Phyllis Kuchnichi; way to go Phyllis!!

There is also a new procedure that will become effective on May 1st regarding membership status and bar services so please pay up in order to continue coming in and having all this fun. The post needs you. June is fast approaching and the Department Convention is at Dearborn. Anyone wishing to go please contact myself or Phyllis. I hope you can all make the May 5th meeting at 7pm and the June 2nd meeting at 7pm These are exciting times for the Post and can be for you also. I hope all of you have a safe and happy summer, God Bless you and keep you safe.

Colleen Wolfe Duranso, President

Men's Auxiliary

Well hear I am again; another month, economy bad, gas prices are high, but hear at the VFW we are still having a good time. Fun for you and fun for the family. The 1st Friday of the month, I plan on having cat fish, Tilapia Cod with that good breeding.

Our election was held in April and our new officers for 2008-2009 are President, Bart Lee DeRossett SR, Senior Vice, Keith Mathis, Jr. Vice, Ron Mackey, 1Year Trustee, Dave Bremer, and 2nd Year Trustee, Eddie Crislip. I will be appointing a SGT of the guard and Adjutant shortly. We still need a 3 Year Trustee. Any Men's Auxiliary member can run for this job so come join us at a meeting on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. Again dues need to be paid by May 1st and you have to pay Men's Auxiliary dues to have access to our canteen. If you are Legion or SAL, to get served you must pay your men's auxiliary dues.

Bart Lee DeRossett SR
President

From the Canteen



It's spring again and along with spring comes our annual post clean up day which was held on Saturday, April 19th from 10 am until 2 pm.

Thank you to all who came out and helped us gather up what mother nature left us from 2007 and of course the holds in the driveway from a pretty severe winter. We now have completed some temporary repairs to the driveway, repaired all of the security lighting, replaced the flag pole light, and are now in the process of sprucing up the deck for what is sure to be a very busy spring and summer. Yes, the steaks are on, as are the fish fries, Friday meals followed by Karaoke, and we are trying hard to do a daily lunch menu. More about that later.

We will be checking membership cards soon so that we are in compliance with LCC regulations so if you

have not paid your 2008 dues, please do so as soon as possible. The 2009 cards will be available July 1st.

From VFW National

Illinois Post Donates \$157,600 for Veterans and Troop Support
One Illinois Post has stepped up to provide much-needed funds to help hospitalized veterans in its home state, as well as soldiers in Iraq. In August 2007, Post 3854 in Skokie, Ill., donated \$100,000 to DMS Pharmaceuticals Group, sponsors of the Fisher House of Illinois at the Hines VA Medical Center (VAMC) near Chicago.

"The Fisher House project came to our attention this past year and was of immediate interest to our membership," said Robert Oberwetter, Post senior vice commander. Fisher Houses are located at major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to their loved ones during hospitalization. The Fisher House program provides free temporary housing to more than 10,000 families each year.

"We are grateful and appreciative for the leadership donation from members of VFW Post 3854 and its Ladies Auxiliary," Fisher House Foundation President David A. Coker said. "The 16,800-square-foot, 21-suite Fisher House that will be built at the Hines VA Hospital will serve veterans and their families, so it is fitting that Illinois veterans show their support. We applaud their generosity."

Post 3854's fundraising for the donation didn't come all at once, but culminated after years of steady activity.

"We have a rather unusual situation at our Post in that we haven't been running specific fundraisers to provide these contributions," Oberwetter said. "Most certainly, the funds have come from years of hard work by our comrades and auxiliary members from fish fries and other activities, and we are now enjoying the fruits of our labors."

The Post donated an additional \$27,600 to the Spinal Cord Injury

and Disorders (SCI/D) Center at Hines VAMC. The money will be used to furnish four patient rooms and two family waiting rooms in the 58,000-square-foot facility, which opened in 2005.

"The new Hines Spinal Cord Injury unit was looking for the furnishing of some of rooms," Oberwetter said. "Again our members responded." The SCI/D Center provides specialty care to veterans from eight states. The program provides rehabilitation services for paraplegic and quadriplegic veterans, as well as care of ventilator-dependent spinal cord disorders. Outpatient services include psychology, telemedicine consultations and follow-up.

Dogs in War Zones Relieve Stress

Later in the year, Post 3854 found another cause worth of its generosity. When Post members heard about the America's VetDogs program in a Chicago Tribune newspaper feature article, members got involved right away. The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind in Smithtown, N.Y., trained two dogs to be sent to troops overseas.

"The total cost to breed and train one of these dogs is \$30,000," Oberwetter said. "We were fortunate to sponsor one of two black Labradors that were trained to go to Iraq to the 85th Medical Battalion in December 2007."

The two specially trained dogs interact with service members in war zones. These dogs are reported to be the first dogs to be used in a combat zone for therapeutic purposes, as they are intended to relieve stress.

"I felt more relaxed after being able to spend some time with [the dog]," said Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Rich, 1st BCT, 101st Abn. Div. (Air Assault) Medical Operations, told Camp Victory public affairs. "For a few minutes it was just me and the dog and nothing in this environment seemed to matter."

Post 3854 was chartered in 1943 and still has a handful of members from those days, Oberwetter says. (Story courtesy of VFW Magazine)

Captain C. Robert Arvin Foundation

Annual Golf Outing and Awards For Excellence Dinner

The Golf Outing this year will be held on Monday, May 12th, 2008 at the Washtenaw Country Club, 2955 Packard Road, Ypsilanti, MI. Registration begins at 9:00 am and there will be a shotgun Start at 10:00 am. Donations for the outing this year are: Golfers \$125, Bag Tags-Donations \$200, Hole Sponsors \$100, and Supporting Contributor donations any amount. **VFW members may golf for the discounted amount of \$65.00.** You can use the multi-purpose form below to register for the golf outing and/or the Banquet Dinner.

Annual Awards For Excellence Banquet Dinner

Friday, June 27th, 2008: 6pm cash bar, 7pm dinner, 8pm program

The Awards Banquet will also be held at the Washtenaw Country Club and the Donations for the banquet are: Eight Banquet Dinner \$440., Four Banquet Dinner \$240, Two Banquet Dinners \$125, One Banquet Dinner \$65, and/or Supporting Contributor any amount. Again you can use the multi-purpose form below to register for the Banquet Dinner. Our Awards Dinner Guest Speaker this year will be LTG Daniel W. Christman, who is Senior Vice President for International Affairs at the United States Chamber of Commerce. He is responsible for representing the Chamber before foreign business leaders and government officials and for providing strategic leadership on international issues affecting the business community. Gen. Christman, a career military officer who retired from active duty in 2001, served for five years as the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He also served for to Dchiefs of Staff, during which time he Christopher. He was involved during Syria as a member of the Secretary's resented the United States a a mem- gium. Gen. Christman graduated was a class mate of Bob Arvin. Sub- public affairs and civil engineering ors from the George Washington Southeast Asia, where he com- 1969. On four occasions, he has Service Medal, which is the Defense Department's highest peacetime award.. Gen. Christman and his wife, Susan, live in Alexandria, Virginia. They have two daughters and one grandchild.



years as Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint traveled with and advised Secretary of State Warren this period with negotiations between Israel and Middle East Peace Team. Further, Christman rep- er of NATO's Military Committee in Brussels, Bel- first in his class of 596 cadets from West Point and sequently he received MPA and MSE degrees in from Princeton University and graduated with hon- Law School. He is a decorated combat veterans of manded a company in the 101st Airborne Division in been awarded the Army and Defense Distinguished

Golf Outing Registration

Please highlight or circle your choice of participation.

Golfer \$125.00
Includes: Continental Breakfast, Hot Dog at the turn,
Beverage cart Service, Door Prizes and Lunch

Bag Tags—Donation \$200.00

Hole Sponsor \$100.00

Supporting Contributor \$_____

Banquet Dinners

Eight Banquet Dinners \$440.00

Four Banquet Dinners \$240.00

Two Banquet Dinners \$125.00

One Banquet Dinner \$65.00

Supporting Contributor \$_____

Payment Type: \$_____ check enclosed payable to Robert Arvin Foundation

\$_____ charge to my Visa or Mastercard # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____/____

Signature: _____

I am a VFW member and this registration includes my discount to \$65.00 per player _____

Mail by May 5th to: CPT. C. Robert Arvin Foundation, 206 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Captain C. Robert Arvin Foundation

Background and Information



Captain Bob Arvin graduated from Ypsilanti High School as Valedictorian in 1961. Bob had captained the wrestling team and quarterbacked the "Braves" football squad. In addition, he had been student council president, president of his class for one year and the 1961 Michigan 154 pound wrestling champion. He became a plebe at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in July of 1961. The following summer, at Camp Buckner, New York, he distinguished himself by winning both the Triathlon (swimming, cross country and rifle) and "Recondo" competitions; in the latter, a hand to hand combat pit fight, he was the last man standing among better than 700 classmates. In his remaining years at the Point, he became Cadet First Captain and Brigade Commander, captained the wrestling team, and graduated 44th in a class of 596, and won the Varian Award for highest military efficiency.

As a 2nd Lieutenant, Bob completed "Ranger" and "Airborne Jumpmaster" schools. He was attached to the 505th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. Lt. Arvin went to Vietnam and served as military advisor to the 7th Battalion of the 8th Vietnamese Airborne Division in Thua Tien Province on June 1, 1967. He was wounded in the left arm in September 1967 by enemy fire and after a short period of recovery went back in action. Lt. Bob Arvin and his men were ambushed by Vietcong forces on October 8, 1967, and Bob was killed in that action at the age of 24. The much decorated hero was survived by his wife of fourteen months, Merry Lynn, his parents, and brother David. He is buried at West Point. On February 25, 1989, West Point dedicated their gymnasium and re-named it the Arvin Gymnasium.

On June 15th, 2002, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2408, Ypsilanti, Michigan celebrated it's 70th Anniversary and dedicated the Post in honor and memory of Captain C. Robert Arvin. The Post also established "The Captain C. Robert Arvin Educational Fund". The Purpose of this organization is to insure that the legacy of Bob Arvin to this community would continue to live-on through the youth of each generation to follow by recognizing and encouraging young men and women to pursue academic excellence, develop leadership skills, and perform selfless service to the community in the manner exemplified by Captain Carl Robert Arvin.

Over the last four years, 39 High school Seniors from five schools in this area have shared in over \$34,000 awarded from this program. Effective this year, 2008, the "Fund" has been re-designed and established as a Michigan nonprofit corporation. The purpose remains the same, however the new organization reflects a desire to expand the scope of fund raising activities and promote the establishment of an endowed fund to perpetuate recognition of Captain Arvin's legacy of excellence.

Our program provided Awards For Excellence over the past four years to:

2004 Awardees

Ghufran Alsheemary, Nicole Anguilm, Andres Domenech, Alisha Ferrell, Alisa Ryan, Emily Satanski, Traci Taylor, and Julie Weidmann

2005 Awardees

Deanna Arrieta, David Butzin, Katie Chapman, Augtin Engle, Bethany Michowiski, Susanna Phillips, Sara Pusilo, Mallory Sherwood, and Robin Snyder

2006 Awardees

Alexanra Adams, Sara Adcock, Kimbery Buddin, Cortney Darnell, John Good, Jeremy Keeney, Tim Liederbach, L'Oreal S. McKissack, Andrew Patton, Amelia Rowley, Christina Williams, Lin Yang

2007 Awardees

Lauren A. Burdick, Carolyn A. Chan, Rebecca A. Facer, Zachary R. Goldsmith, Eve N. Lasswell, Victoria L. Lucas, Megan E. McClure, Scott C. Opfermann, Cari E. Steinman, and Jane J. Yang.

All participants were from Ypsilanti High School, Lincoln Highschool, Willow Run High School, Cavalry Christian, or Faithway Baptist.

Buddy Poppy Program

May 9th, 10th, and 11th (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)

A message from our 2008 Chairman, Louis Vaughn



Among all the flowers that evoke the memories and emotions of war is the red poppy, which became associated with war after the publication of a poem written by Col. John McCrae of Canada. The poem, "In Flander's Field," describes blowing red fields among the battleground of the fallen.

For more than 75 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well being of their dependents.

The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

It was during the 1923 encampment that the VFW decided that VFW Buddy Poppies be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with some form of financial assistance. The plan was formally adopted during the VFW's 1923 encampment. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name "Buddy" Poppy.

Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.

The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans.

Again this year, we are asking our VFW members, and our Ladies and Men's Auxiliary organizations to help us support our Veterans Relief Program. Our Poppy Program is the main source of funding each year and without these funds, we cannot help those veterans who are in need and for which there are no other funds available. Whether it is just helping a veteran get home, assistance with food and shelter, temporary displacement due to a fire or other disaster, or helping the family of a veteran in need, we rely very heavily on our Poppy Program.

To contribute to our program this year, we ask that you send a check or money order payable to the C. Robert Arvin VFW Post 2408 to the attention of Mark Honomichl, who is our Quartermaster and write on the check Poppy Program. Please mail to PO Box 970680, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. If you would like to use a credit or debit card to make your donation, please complete the form below and mail to the post.

Yes, I would like to use my credit/debit card to make a donation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2408 Poppy Fund. This donation will be used for veterans relief fund.

Master Card or Visa Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date ____/____

Name on Card _____

Billing Zip Code _____

Your contributions are tax deductible under IRS rules 501c19. The post will issue a written receipt upon request.

C. Robert Arvin VFW Post 2408
PO Box 970680
616 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI 48197-0812



Applied Security Systems & Engineering, LLC

- Computer Services; repair, virus removal, updates
- Business Consulting Services

Cliff Arnott, Manager & Member
PO Box 970885
Ypsilanti, MI 48197-0815
734-474-5454 FAX 734-557-3968
Email: cliff@cliffarnott.com

ROD'S BARBER SHOP

1450 Ecorse Road
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198-5914

(734) 483-9227

Store Manager
Dave Collins



MAYNARDS AUTOMOTIVE

Brakes and Suspensions • Free Estimates

Custom Pipe Bending
Minor Engine Repair
Shocks/Struts and New & Used Tires
Motor Home Repair
Wheel Alignment
Tune Ups
No Start
Electrical

M-F 8-6
Sat 8-4
1535 Ecorse Rd.
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Easy Off/Easy On I-94, Ext. 185
734-485-2550



Donnie Burton

334 South Ford Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734 485 9940 office, 734 972 9553 cell
donnieburton@aol.com

May 2008

MEMORIAL DAY PROCESSION: The Memorial Day Processional continues the time-honored tradition of honoring America's Fallen. Join us as we remember those who gave so much for us and our country. The processional begins at 9am, and is sponsored by the VFW. Line up for processional is at 8:30 at Ferris & Huron. The Processional begins at 9:00 am and the route is down Huron to Cross (stop on bridge for wreath ceremony) Then proceed to River to Highland Cemetery.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Membership Dues and ID Checks Begin</i> 7pm Euchre	2 5:30 pm Men's Aux Catfish and Cod Dinner	3 10 am Breakfast Men's Aux 7pm Euchre
4 6th District AA 10 am Training 1 pm Meeting	5 Cinco De Mayo Celebration 6pm Ladies Aux	6 Dollar Day	7 Dollar Day 7 pm Legion House	8 7pm Euchre	9 Poppy Days 5:30 pm Steak Dinner	10 Poppy Days 7 pm Euchre
11 Poppy Days 2 pm Mother's Day Free drink to moms	12 9 am Arvin Golf 7pm VFW Meeting	13 Dollar Day	14 Dollar Day 7 pm Legion Elections	15 7pm Euchre	16 5:30 pm Ladies Aux Goulash	17 Armed Forces Day 2 pm Birthday 7 pm Nascar All Star Race party 7 pm Euchre
18	19 6pm Men's Aux	20 Dollar Day	21 Dollar Day 7 pm Legion Mtg	22 7pm Euchre	23 5:30 pm Steak Dinner	24 6 pm Chili Cook-off 7 pm Euchre
25 5 pm Nascar Coca Cola 600 Race Party	26 8 am Memorial Day Procession 6pm Planning 7pm House Mtg.	27 Dollar Day	28 Dollar Day	29 7pm Euchre	30 5:30pm Guest Chef Dinner	31 7 pm Euchre