

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

## VFW Newsletter March 2010

WILLIS POLHEMUS POST 9215

250 BIRCHWOOD AVE., UPPER NYACK, NEW YORK 10960

“Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”



### OFFICERS

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#### Adjutant / House Chair

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#### et Chaplain

**OPEN**

#### Service Officer

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#### Trustees:

**TBD - 1 yr**  
**Bubba Lennerton 2yr**  
**James Gurrere -3 yr**



**Next Meeting**  
**5 April 2010**  
**19:30 Hrs.**

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

Welcome to Spring: We should have some great weather in front of us. It's time to start up the lawn mower and get out the rake and shovels. Here at the post we want to keep the momentum going. We have much planned for 2010 and we need all the support we can get to accomplish our plans. We need members who are willing to help out! Volunteers!! We desperately need a Poppy Chairperson. This is our fund raiser for our Relief Fund that goes directly to help veterans, their families, and other charities. We plan on distributing Poppy's in May. We'll give you exact dates when the permits are approved. Keep an eye out for details. We also need a Memorial Day Parade Chairperson. We will be participating in the Nyack Parade and we need someone to get involved. Please contact me if you'd like to volunteer. I'd also like to congratulate and thank Nick DellPizzo and Dr. Richard King for being elected as Judge Advocate and Duty Surgeon respectively. I'd also like to congratulate and thank Vince Knight for being elected as the 1 year Trustee. They all make fine additions to our post officers. Don't forget, this April is elections. If you are interested in running for office. Let me know.

One of our comrades, Paul O'Donoghue, a long time member passed away. We honored him at a joint service on Feb. 3, along with the American Legion Post. May he rest in peace.

I'd like to thank our Adjutant Bill Dailey and his wife, Elissa Kirwan Dailey for doing a spectacular job cleaning up the post kitchen. It looks great and is ready for use. They exemplify the volunteer spirit. Thank them when you see them. Thank you to all that have paid their dues. If you haven't, please do so Now! Contact our Adjutant if you have any questions.

On February 2 we visited Comrades Harrington, Brosnan, Coleman and Christian. They all were in good spirits and enjoyed the visit. If you can find the time, stop by and see them. I'm certain they would be happy to see more of you.

I will keep you informed as to the progress of our participation in the Eagle Scout project and the Recycled Rides Program.

God Bless America,

Guy Gebbia,

Commander

#### Feb 1 Meeting Summary (11 Comrades were present)

1. Two new member applications were reviewed and approved. Michael Tritt and Danyel Baron were accepted.
2. Minutes were approved and accepted as read.
3. QM Report: Disbursements: \$50, Receipts \$00.00
4. Comrades in Distress – Visits were made to comrades Hollands, Brosnan and Harrington. A visit is planned to see Comrade Christian and we are doing a joint funeral service for Comrade O'Donoghue.
5. House Committee – Kitchen cleanup accomplished by Comrade Dailey and his wife Elissa Kirwan Dailey. Post rentals will be focused on post comrades, family and friends. Chair will manage petty cash jar funds.
6. Membership plan to reach out to younger vets was presented by Sr. Vice. Dinner with comrade Gessel & Ritchie to gather ideas. Some are; Get involved in upcoming visible events. Street Fairs, Memorial Day Parade. District Commander suggested tax records at town hall for names of veteran's exemptions.
7. Comrade Ritchie investigating putting post on Facebook. Comrade Tritt investigating a website for Post.
8. Eagle Scout Project with Sean Flynn is complete. Post will be invited to Court of Honor when scheduled.
9. Fund raising – Adjutant Dailey suggested two a year. 50/50 or 100 Club. Jr. Vice Cush to provide input.
10. QM bonded up to \$10K through Dept of NY VFW.
11. Buddy Poppy's received. Permits in progress for Shop Rite, Deccios, Nyack Street Fair, Library, Post Office. Baseball caps will be ordered and given FREE for all who help distribute Poppy's.
12. Garrison Caps – If you want to order one contact Commander with information. Comrade Dell Pizzo suggested it be put in newsletter.
13. Home Depot forms for \$2500 will be submitted for possible grant. No guarantees.
14. F.A.V.O.R. program in county clerks office making effort to improve program. Sign up if you haven't.
15. Recycled Rides program has identified a vet in our post. Danyel Baron. Application approved.
16. Post elections. Judge Advocate Nick DellPizzo elected. Duty Surgeon Dr. Richard King elected.
17. Opening, Closing and National Home lead by Adjutant Dailey.
18. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. Next meeting April 5. NO MEETING IN MARCH.

### **Announcements:**

Next Post meeting on Monday April 5, 2010 at 19:30 Hrs. A 50/50 raffle will be held to help pay for snack after the meeting is concluded.

### **Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels**

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to 20% off the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. Give agent special discount ID number 62615 at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels. Call 877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

### **Car Rental Discounts**

Whether it is business or pleasure, receive discounts for car rentals from Hertz, Avis, Alamo and National:

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: CDP164126
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification number: A9935000
- Budget: Call 1-800527-0700 VFW identification number: V026800
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification number: 42592
- National: Call 1-800-227-7368 and request VFW Contract ID 5180005.
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### **Save with Sprint!**

Switch to Sprint cellular service and save! Sprint has joined with the VFW to offer members, employees and their families several incentives with the purchase of a new wireless device and subscription through this exclusive program. Not only will you receive a 15% monthly discount on your cell phone service, but you will also receive additional gift cards or accessories with your order.

Already a Sprint customer? Refer another member who signs up for new service and receive a \$25 prepaid debit card. These offers are only valid at: [www.sprint.com/vfw](http://www.sprint.com/vfw) or #866-869-6686.



**Willis Polhemus VFW Post 9215**  
**250 Birchwood Ave.**  
**Upper Nyack, New York 10960**

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### **VA Claims Process a Key Legislative Objective**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has named improving the VA claims system a top legislative priority in 2010.

Following a federal investigation of the VA in March 2009, the VA's Inspector General released a report stating that one-fourth of files have errors, or, in other words, 200,000 files may be incorrect. In addition, the typical wait time for a claims decision is six months to a year. Then, if the veteran disagrees with the decision, an appeal could take as much as four years or more.

A recent *60 Minutes* report raised public awareness of veterans' frustrations with the VA claims process.

"We envision a day when a veteran gets their claim done correctly the first time within a reasonable timeframe," said Eric Hilleman, Director, VFW Legislative Service. "We are working with the VA and Congress to find constructive ways to address the shortcomings of the system.

"The VFW believes that automation of processes, accountability for decision-making, and consistent training of VA staff are the keys to improving the quality and timeliness of claims," said Hilleman. "We adamantly support the use of Congressional oversight authority to ensure true leadership at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)."

"The VFW is the VA's strongest ally in Congress and sometimes its loudest critic, but we recognize that only by working together will the claims backlog problem be solved," said Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., VFW National Commander.

"We are a willing partner in helping to find a permanent solution so that our government can better care for those who have worn the uniform."

*If you need help filing for VA benefits, find a VFW-trained service officer near you at [www.vfw.org/vetservice](http://www.vfw.org/vetservice). Last year alone, VFW helped almost 95,000 veterans to recoup more than \$1.2 billion in earned compensation and pension.*