



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Department of Nebraska

Bill Montoya Post 1581, Omaha, Nebraska

2019-2020

Commander: Chris Leighter

Sr. Vice Commander: Dan Hennings

Jr. Vice Commander: James Kelter

Quartermaster: Dr. Steven Youngberg

Adjutant: Dr. Steven Youngberg

Chaplain: Ann Thieman

Service officer: John Liebsack

Surgeon: Patricia Whitebear

Judge Advocate: Daniel Ortiz

Three-year trustee: Rob Herman

Two-year trustee: James Miller

One-year trustee: Marty Riemenschneider

Newsletter March 2020

Future Events

- **Buddy Poppy Event** November 7, 2020 Saturday 8 AM to 12 noon, HyVee stores, 156th and Maple, 132nd and Dodge, 90th and Center
- **Veterans day Breakfast**, November 11, 2020, HyVee stores, 156th and Maple, 132nd and Dodge, 90th and Center
- **VFW post 1581 Awards**, December 12, 2020, 9 AM after the post meeting.

Visit our new VFW Post 1581 web site. Go to the following link: [CLICK HERE \(vfw1581.org\)](http://vfw1581.org)

Facebook Page: [CLICK HERE](#)

YouTube: [CLICK HERE](#)

Email: vfw1581@gmail.com

Future Events

- **Texas Roadhouse** (Giving Back to Veterans program, partnering with VFW Post 1581—ongoing.
- Texas Roadhouse—New Visions
- Texas Roadhouse-Veterans Court
- **Boys Town pass and review** May 6, 2020
- **Buddy Poppy event**, May 25, 2020 Saturday 8 AM to 12 noon, - **HyVee** - 156th and Maple, **HyVee** 90th and Center, **HyVee** 180th & Pacific.

- See vfw1581.org website, calendar for all events [CLICK HERE](#).

Next regular meeting: April 11, 2020, 7 AM to 9 AM, free breakfast included, Hampton Inn, 11201 Davenport Street, Omaha, NE 68154 (Old Mill – South of Dodge), large meeting room (Husker).

Map [CLICK HERE](#) Future meetings: Second Saturday of every month. 7 AM (place and time, same as above) see the schedule on page 7.



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Past Events

Past Events

Omaha Student Awarded Top National VFW Scholarship

Picture below, Left to right, VFW national Auxiliary President, Shruthi Kumar, VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz.

Omaha Student Awarded Top National VFW Scholarship

Kumar awarded first place, \$30,000 scholarship prize out of more than 51,000 entries

WASHINGTON (March 3, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce Shruthi Kumar, a senior at Marian High School in Omaha, Nebraska, was named first place national winner and recipient of the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship award in its 2019-2020 Voice of Democracy scholarship program.



The announcement was made during last night's Parade of Winners ceremony at the 2020 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., where Shruthi was presented with her \$30,000 award and [delivered her winning speech](#). VFW Post 1581 in Omaha, Nebraska, sponsored Shruthi.

Picture below, Left to right, VFW NE State Auxiliary President, Shruthi Kumar, Joseph Smith-VFW NE state Commander

"The more than \$200,000 awarded tonight makes a grand total of \$3 million presented at the national, state and local levels of our competitions, and I know will help ensure the doors of opportunity are opened wide for this talented group of young people," said VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz.

Open to eligible high school students in grades 9 through 12, the VFW's annual Voice of Democracy audio-essay program requires entrants to write and record a three- to five-minute script on a democratic, patriotic theme. This year more than 51,000 high school students from across the world reflected on the theme "What Makes America Great," with national finalists competing for their share of \$154,000 in scholarships and awards. Sponsored Shruthi.





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Past Events

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Picture below, Shruthi Kumar giving her submission speech.

Picture left to right, VFW national Auxiliary President, Large donation to the VFW Program, Shruthi Kumar, VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz.



Picture left to right, VFW national Auxiliary President, donation of Dell laptop computers to all award winners. to the VFW Program, Shruthi Kumar, Picture left to right, VFW national Auxiliary President, Large donation to the VFW Program, Shruthi Kumar, VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz.





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Past Events

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Picture below, Left to right, Joseph Smith-VFW NE state Commander, Shruthi Kumar, VFW NE State Auxiliary President

Picture below, Left to right, Dr. Steven Youngberg-VFW Post 1581-Adjutant/Quartermaster Shruthi Kumar, John Liebsack-Post 1581-Membership chairman and NE Adjutant/Quartermaster



Picture below, Left to right, Dr. Steven Youngberg-VFW Post 1581-Adjutant/Quartermaster. Joseph Smith-VFW NE state Commander, Shruthi Kumar, John Liebsack-Post 1581-Membership chairman and NE Adjutant/Quartermaster, VFW NE State Auxiliary President, VFW NE Legislative Director/Chairman- Jeff Baker, Joseph Smith-VFW NE state Commander





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Past Events

Past Events

Nebraska VFW post 1581 wins National early bird contest / legislative conference contest

VFW Post 1581 won first place in the National early bird contest / legislative conference contest. Post 1581 placed 1st, competing with 555 worldwide posts in membership category 5.

Dr. Steven Youngberg was at this Washington DC legislative conference event to receive the VFW Post 1581 award. The VFW Post 1581 Commander and Quartermaster were recognized.

Picture below, left to right, Dr. Steven Youngberg-VFW Post 1581 Adjutant / Quartermaster, VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz.



Nominations for positions 2020-2021 year

Commander: Chris Leighter

Sr. Vice Commander: Mark Araujo

Jr. Vice Commander: James Kelter

Quartermaster: Dr. Steven Youngberg

Adjutant: Dr. Steven Youngberg

Chaplain: Ann Thieman

Service officer: John Liebsack

Surgeon: Patricia Whitebear

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Current Events

Past Events

Texas Roadhouse (Giving Back to Veterans program, partnering with VFW Post 1581 –ongoing project

We ran the program from November to December 2019 at Texas Roadhouse, 156th and Dodge location..

We have provided to catering veterans in the past years

- New Visions 40 Veterans
- Eastern Nebraska Veterans home 116 Veterans
- Student Veterans of America at UNO 40 Veterans
- Veterans Court 40 Veterans

VFW Auxiliary: VFW Post 1581 is working on establishing an Auxiliary. We need 25 members to start. Annual dues are \$25.00. For qualifications and more information [CLICK HERE](#) OR John Liebsack 402-210-5198

Progressive Insurance Keys to Progress If you know of a deserving Veteran that needs a car, contact VFW Dept. of NE-John Liebsack 402-210-5198

When VFW Post 1581 members work on a project or provide help in the community, please fill out an online report.

- Go to VFW NE website vfwne.com
 - go to resources
 - drop down window, go to program reporting
 - Direct Link to Report [CLICK HERE](#)
-

VFW Post 1581 Members that have been attending our monthly meeting the Saturday of every month said they had conflicts the first Saturday of each month. We no have the monthly meetings the second Saturday of every month. The place and time of the meetings, 7 AM to 9 AM, free breakfast included (Rolls/Donuts, Coffee), **Hampton Inn, 11201 Davenport Street, Omaha, NE 68154 (Old Mill – South of Dodge)**, Husker Room— meeting room.

Below is the new VFW Post 1581 monthly meeting schedule going forward:

Following meetings for the 2020 calendar year

- January 11, 2020 [Completed](#)
- February 8, 2020 [Completed](#)
- March 14, 2020 [Completed](#)
- April 11, 2020
- May 9, 2020
- June 13, 2020
- July 11, 2020
- August 8, 2020
- September 12, 2020
- October 10, 2020
- November 14, 2020
- December 12, 2020

We will continue to provide a meeting reminder the day before the meeting.

Check the calendar on the VFW Post 1581 website vfw1581.org for any recent changes to information /

Calendar Link [CLICK HERE](#)



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Future Events

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VFW Post 1581 is trying to create a Auxiliary for our post.

VFW Post 1581 Auxiliary

- o Need 15 members to start
- o 16 years and up.
- o There is a \$25.00 fee per year.

Start a new Auxiliary

When you start a new Auxiliary, you're not just increasing the VFW Auxiliary's membership. You're expanding our ability to serve veterans, active-duty military and their families while promoting patriotism in your community.

Whether a VFW Post decides on its own that it wants an Auxiliary or whether a member or non-member sees the potential for a new Auxiliary, the steps for creating an Auxiliary are the same:

A VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority to have an Auxiliary. (An Auxiliary can never exist on its own without a Post and can never be started without that Post's permission).

The Department (state) President appoints the official organizer of that Auxiliary and he/she must be a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

A minimum of 15 eligible applicants must be on the application for the Charter (transfers are not eligible).

Eligibility Requirements for VFW Auxiliary Membership:

Members must be citizens of the United States or a United States National, and at least 16 years old.

Those eligible are:

- Husband/Wife
- Widower/Widow
- Father/Mother
- Grandfathers/Grandmothers
- Sons/Daughters
- Grandsons/Granddaughters
- Brothers/Sisters

Of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Those eligible for membership in the VFW are those that have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

Step and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran. Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant.

We have 5 people now, 3 others possible.

For people interest in the VFW Post 1581 Auxiliary contact John Liebsack 210-5198 OR johnl@vfwne.org



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VFW Post 1581 Members Only Area

Go to our post 1581 website (www1581.org), click on the login on the right side of the homepage, click on "members only", enter your VFW member number in login, enter you last name in the password. (meeting minutes , member information, contacts, etc.) Direct Link [CLICK HERE](#)

Current Members Membership Control

Fortunately, managing your VFW membership doesn't have to slow you down. We put you in control of your membership record by conveniently offering many services right on our website, www.vfw1581.com home page.

Simply log in, and you'll have access to your membership account and all that comes with it. [CLICK HERE](#)

Military Sexual Trauma:

Ann Thieman member of VFW Post 1581 has first-hand experience with military sexual trauma and has provided an interview with the VA. You can access this article in the VA Link magazine, April 2012, page 9 and page 13. [Click Here](#)

Become a VFW Post 1581 Life Member

Over one half of our post members are **life members**. Why not consider turning your **annual membership into a life membership** so that you do not need to renew your membership every year. As a life member, your membership continues on. **Life membership has a one-time pay or a monthly payment plan over 12 months.** Membership information [CLICK HERE](#) OR [Contact John Liebsack 402-210-5198](tel:402-210-5198).

Control your VFW Membership at VFW National HQ [CLICK HERE](#)

VFW National Online store [CLICK HERE](#)

VFW Post 1581 Newsletters: [CLICK HERE](#)

If you or someone you know wishes to continue their VFW membership but are having a difficult time financially, Post 1581 has a program to help financially with the annual membership. Contact [John Liebsack 402-210-5198](tel:402-210-5198) for assistance for further steps in the process.

Our current members have signed up several new VFW members to our post. If you have a potential VFW membership candidate, please [Contact John Liebsack 402-210-5198](tel:402-210-5198) for assistance for further steps in the process.

Check out the **VFW Nebraska HQ Website** at (www.vfwne.com) There are many resources for you to use.

Email: vfw1581@gmail.com

Web site: vfw1581.org

VFW Bill Montoya Post 1581

C. Lee Leighter

Commander

VFW Post 1581 Annual Members: Check your membership status on your card. Your membership may have expired. You can renew online—see the vfw1581.org website. Select navigation-resources, See "Current Members Membership Control" to set-up your VFW member account. OR call John Liebsack 402-210-5198. [CLICK HERE](#)