



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Department of Nebraska

Bill Montoya Post 1581, Omaha, Nebraska

Commander: *Chris Leighter*

Sr. Vice Commander: *Tom Bizzarri*

Jr. Vice Commander: *John Hilgert*

Quartermaster/Adjutant: *Dr. Steven Youngberg*

Chaplain: *Ann Thieman*

Service officer: *Bob Burns*

Surgeon: *Dr. Greg O'Leary*

Judge Advocate: *Dan Dawson*

Three year trustee: *Bob Burns*

Two year trustee: *Lloyd Coates*

One year trustee: *John Liebsack*

Newsletter February 2014

Next regular meeting:

The next regular meeting will be March 5, 2014 - 7 PM, at Phoenix Food and Spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120th and Blondo), private meeting room.

Future meetings: First Wednesday of every month. 7 PM

Visit our Post 1581 web site. Go to the following link: <http://vfwpost1581.org/>

You can click on the links below if you are viewing this newsletter in a pdf document.

Post 1581 Newsletters: Did you know that you can view, download and print the VFW Post 1581 current and archived newsletters. Go to navigation "news and media" select the drop down menu item.

VFW Nebraska Network News: All of our events and Post 1581 veteran's information are on the new Post 1581 web site. To easily find an event, use the calendar and place cursor on event or click on the event for further information. Use the website navigation to look around. Use "VFW Nebraska Network News" on the home page, right side, and scroll down.

You can change your personal VFW membership information on-line: The home page, scroll down to this link, "Change your personal VFW membership information".

On-Line Store for VFW Nebraska: We have an On-Line Store for VFW Nebraska and VFW National. Access the On-Line Store by going to our post 1581 website (www.vfwpost1518.org) place your cursor over the navigation, right side and select from the drop down window, On-Line Store for VFW Nebraska and VFW National.

"VFW Nebraska Forum / Discussion Group": You can access it by the VFW1581.org website home page, scroll down until you see the "VFW Nebraska Forum / Discussion Group" and select that icon to the right.



VFW Post 1581 Membership Only Area: Go to our post 1581 website (www.vfwpost1581.org) and select "VFW Post 1581 Membership Only Area". Use the password "militaryhelp". Keep the password confidential (for VFW Post 1581 Members Only).



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Future Events

Future Events

We have plans for future events for 2013/2014 FY. **If you can assist with upcoming projects or committees** contact Commander, Chris Leighter 712-308-3184.

Committees:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • Voice of Democracy • Patriots Pen • Teacher of the year • Boys Town • Buddy Poppy events • Awards Banquet • Boy Scouts • Partnership with a military unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement of the year • Emergency Medical Technician of the year • Firefighter of the year • Women's Veterans Fair • Veterans Legislative action • Boys Town JROTC • Creighton University SROTC • and other projects |
|--|---|

Mid-Winter Conference – Lincoln, NE February 13-15, 2014. Legislative day

Buddy Poppy Event May 24, 2014 156th and Maple, 132nd and Dodge (HyVee), 8 AM to 12 PM.

Veterans Day Event, November 11, 2014 Monday (Hy-Vee (132nd and Dodge and 156th and Maple) (Breakfast 7AM to 11 AM)

Voice of Democracy 2014-2015 theme will be "Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future" March to November 1, 2014

Patriots Pen 2014-2015 theme will be "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans" March to November 1, 2014

Teacher of the year 2014-2015 March to November 1, 2014

Boy Scout of the year 2014-2015 July 1, 2014 to March 1, 2015

Law Enforcement of the Year 2014-2015 March 2014 to November 1, 2014

EMT of the Year 2014-2015 March 2014 to November 1, 2014

Firefighter of the Year 2014-2015 March 2014 to November 1, 2014



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Membership:

Approximately 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.** To consider your options of overall cost, paying annual membership versus becoming and life membership go to our Post 1581 web site for this analysis, <http://vfwpost1581.org/>, place your cursor over the navigation "Join VFW", drop down selections, choose "Life Membership Analysis", enter your current age and life expectancy age, you can see the saving of "Life Membership" over the long term versus annual membership. There is an Excel file "link" you can also download. Contact John Liebsack 402-210-5198.

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 for further steps in the process.

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.

Membership:

Legacy Life Membership:

We have a program called "**Legacy Life**" membership (Gold, Silver or Bronze) which is a step above a life member. 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.

Veteran's legislative action committee:

Our post is looking for members that would like to be active in our **Veteran's legislative action committee**. You would be active with Veteran's bills in the Nebraska legislature. Contact John Liebsack 402-210-5198.

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](#)



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Past Events

Past Events

VFW Post 1581 Awards Banquet

We had 51 people in attendance 1-15-14. You can go to www.vfwpost1581.org homepage, scroll down to “**VFW Post 1581 Awards Banquet Review**” OR click [HERE](#) to see all of the pictures and videos.

VFW Post 1581 2013/2014 Patriots Pin Winners all from St Wenceslaus School.

Olivia M. Holloway—below

Isabel C. Lukins—below



VFW Post 1581 2013/2014 Voice of Democracy Winner—Kara M. Stickler, Millard North High School



Sue Adamson, Fireridge School, 19660 Farnam street, Elkhorn, NE 68022 VFW Post 1581 2013/2014 Teacher of the Year winner grades K-5. Sue is also the winner of the District 10 awards.

Sue Adamson is also the VFW Department of Nebraska (State) winner. Sue Adamson will be entered in the VFW National competition representing VFW Department of

VFW Post 1581 2013/2014 Patriots Pin Winners all from St Wenceslaus School.

Adria Grace Straka - No Picture

Sue Adamson—Teacher of the Year—below

Jack A. Barrett—below

Seth A. Johnson—below





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Past Events

VFW Post 1581 Awards Banquet

Speaker—Bob Reisser—WWII B17 bomber pilot—below



Speaker—MAJ Jared Sutton - Creighton University ROTC—below



MC—John Hilgert – Director NE State Veterans Affairs—left

Past Events

VFW Post 1581 Awards Banquet

Charlie Janssen —Veteran, VFW Member, State Senator and Candidate for Governor (right) visits with (left to right) Lt. Col. Kevin Lee Boys Town JROTC and CPT. Aaron Lee—below



Awards or appreciation for partnering with VFW Post 1581 during the year



MAJ Jared Sutton - Creighton University ROTC—left

Lt. Col. Kevin Lee Boys Town JROTC and CPT. Aaron Lee (Infantry, just returned with 27 months combat in Afghanistan — right





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Past Events

VFW Post 1581 Awards Banquet

HyVee Stores for Buddy Poppy and Veterans day breakfast support—Marcus Fischer and Devon Hartman. (below) (VFW Post 1581 Commander Christopher Leighter –right—presenting)



HyVee Stores for Buddy Poppy and Veterans day breakfast support—Pam DeLozier - HyVee 156th and Maple (left), Dr. Steven Youngberg post 1581 QM (right)



Mike Terrell – Scout Leader - Boy Scouts troop 408—below



Past Events

VFW Post 1581 Awards Banquet

Mr. William Huben—Principal—Saint Wenceslaus School –below



Joan Ertz – Teacher - Saint Wenceslaus School—below



Creighton University ROTC Group—below





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Past Events

Past Events

VFW District 10 Awards Banquet

The VFW District 10 Awards Banquet was held 1-26-14 at VFW Post 3421. Below are the winners.

Picture below, Ladies Auxiliary-District 10 President-Carol Tschampl-Diesing (left), District 10 Commander Mike Miloni (center), Sue Adamson - Teacher of the Year - grades K-5 (right) Also VFW Post 1581 winner.



Picture below, Ladies Auxiliary-District 10-Carol Tschampl-Diesing (left), Arlis Scanlan - Teacher of the Year - grades 6-8 (center), District 10 Commander Mike Miloni (Right)



VFW District 10 Awards Banquet

Picture below, Ladies Auxiliary-District 10-Carol Tschampl-Diesing (left), Doug Smith - Teacher of the Year - grades 9-12 (center), District 10 Commander Mike Miloni (right)



Isabel C. Lukins - Patriots Pen - 3rd place winner (not available for picture) Also VFW Post 1581 winner.

Picture below, Sharon Cooper-District 10 Program Chair-person (left), Emily C. Martin - Patriots Pen - 2nd place winner (center), Dennis "Mike" Sweeney - District 10 Quartermaster (right)





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VFW District 10 Awards Banquet

Picture below, Sharon Cooper-District 10 Program Chairperson (left), Cally D. Rodger - Patriots Pen - 1st place winner (Cally's dad accepted the award for her) (center), Dennis "Mike" Sweeney - District 10 Quartermaster (right)



VFW District 10 Awards Banquet

Picture below, Sharon Cooper-District 10 Program Chairperson (left), Kara M. Stickler - Voice of Democracy - 2nd place winner (center), Dennis "Mike" Sweeney - District 10 Quartermaster (right)



Picture below, Sharon Cooper-District 10 Program Chairperson (left), Voice of Democracy - Jackson A Blalock - 1st place winner (center), Dennis "Mike" Sweeney - District 10 Quartermaster (right)



Picture below, Sharon Cooper-District 10 Program Chairperson (left), Mary Frances LaPorte - Voice of Democracy - 3rd place winner (center), Dennis "Mike" Sweeney - District 10 Quartermaster (right)





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Email: vfwpost1581@cox.net

Web site: <http://vfwpost1581.org/ne/>

Voice of Democracy:

2014-2015 theme will be "**Why Veterans are Important to our Nation's History and Future**", Program from March 2014 to November 1, 2014.

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

Patriots Pen:

2014-2015 theme will be "**Why I Appreciate America's Veterans**", Program from March 2014 to November 1, 2014.

Ordering VFW items

- VFW NE on-line store at this link: [Click Here](#)
- If you need a VFW military style hat, use this link: [Click Here](#)
- The general VFW online catalog, use this link: [Click Here](#)
- You can call the VFW Store at 1-800-821-2606 (you can order a catalog)
- VFW National online Store: [Click Here](#)

Teacher of the Year:

Program from March 2014 to November 1, 2014.

We need your ideas and participation, please plan to attend upcoming monthly meetings.

JROTC/SROTC:

We are working with Boys Town in regards to their JROTC program. We are also working with Creighton University in regards to their SROTC program. Contact Post 1581 Quartermaster, Dr. Steven Youngberg if you are interested in helping or attending events 402-715-4469

If you are able to participate in VFW post 1581 events or projects contact Chris Leighter, Commander 712-308-3184 or email vfwpost1581@cox.net.

VFW Bill Montoya Post 1581

Christopher Lee Leighter
Commander