



# 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:** John Liebsack

**Two year trustee:** Bob Burns

**One year trustee:** Lloyd Coates

## Newsletter June 2014

### **Next regular meeting:**

The next regular meeting will be July 2, 2014 - 7 PM, at Phoenix Food and Spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120<sup>th</sup> 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 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](http://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](http://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](http://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, C. L. Leighter 712-308-3184.

See the [vfwpost1581.org](http://vfwpost1581.org) website calendar

### Committees:

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

**Buddy Poppy Event** , November 8, 2014 (Hy-Vee (132<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge and 156<sup>th</sup> and Maple) (8AM to 12 noon)

**Veterans Day Event**, November 11, 2014 Monday (Hy-Vee (132<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge and 156<sup>th</sup> 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

See the [vfwpost1581.org](http://vfwpost1581.org) website calendar

**2015 awards banquet** set for 1-14-15 Wed night, 6-9 PM



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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.

## ***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.

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.

## ***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](#)

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.



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## Past Events

### Creighton ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

May 16, 2014 was the Creighton ROTC Commissioning Ceremony. Tom Bizzarri—Sr. Vice Commander—VFW Post 1581 attended this event. Picture below is the 2014 class that was Commissioned.



Picture below—reception for cadets

### Creighton ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Picture below—reception for cadets



Picture below—reception for cadets





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### Buddy Poppy event at HyVee 5-24-14

VFW Post 1581 members and Boy Scout Troop 408 distributed Buddy Poppy's at the HyVee 156th and Maple. Picture below left to right is Marty Riemanschider VFW State Director of Information, Ivan Weaver Post 1581 member and a Boy Scout.



VFW Post 1581 members and Boy Scout Troop 408 distributed Buddy Poppy's at the HyVee 132nd and Dodge. Picture below left to right is customer, C.L. Leighter—Commander, Arlan Stratman, Dan Dawson—Judge Advocate and a Boy Scout.



### VFW Nebraska State Convention 2014

VFW Post 1581 received a presentation of a white hat. The white hat is presented to the top 11 posts in Nebraska. VFW Posts need to meet 16 + requirements such as, 100% membership, VOD, Patriots Pen, Americanism, Community Service, etc. There is one award in the white hat category called "Captain of the White Hats". Only one Commander and one Quartermaster in Nebraska can win this. Dr. Steven Youngberg—Adjutant/Quartermaster—Post 1581 and C.L. Leighter—Commander—Post 1581 are the Captain of the Quartermasters white hats and Captain of the Commanders white hats for the State of Nebraska. There are 141 VFW Posts in Nebraska.



C.L. Leighter—  
Commander—  
VFW Post 1581,  
left



Dr. Steven  
Youngberg—  
Adjutant/  
Quartermaster,  
VFW Post 1581,  
left



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### VFW Nebraska State Convention 2014

Teacher of the Year—Grades K-5—Winner from Post 1581, District 10 winner and VFW NE State winner. Sue Adamson—Fire Ridge Elementary. Sue received 3 awards. Picture below.



Teacher of the Year—Grades K-5—Sue Adamson—below



### VFW Nebraska State Convention 2014

Teacher of the Year—Grades K-5—Sue Adamson—below



John Hilgert—Director of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska spoke to the State Convention of VFW Veterans. John Hilgert is the Jr. Vice Commander of Post 1581.





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## ***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.

## ***Patriots Pen:***

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

## ***Teacher of the Year:***

Program from March 2014 to November 1, 2014.

## ***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

## ***Ordering VFW items***

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

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](mailto:vfwpost1581@cox.net).

- VFW NE on-line store at this link: [Click Here](#)
- If you need a VFW military style hat, use this link: [Click Here](#) You can contact John Liebsack at 402-210-5198 and he will place the order for your hat.
- 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](#)

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

Email: [vfwpost1581@cox.net](mailto:vfwpost1581@cox.net)

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

**VFW Bill Montoya Post 1581**

**C. L. Leighter**

**Commander**