



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 October 2013

Next regular meeting:

The next regular meeting will be November 6, 2013 - 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

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:

- Membership
- Voice of Democracy
- Patriots Pen
- Teacher of the year
- Boys Town
- Buddy Poppy events
- Awards Banquet
- Boy Scouts
- Partnership with a military unit

- 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

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.



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Annual Membership Dues Increase:

You need to renew your annual membership before December 31, 2013, the cost is \$30.00 for the year. After January 1, 2014 the annual membership cost will be \$40.00 per year. You may want to consider life membership to save money over the lifetime term of your membership with the VFW.

Membership:

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.

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-

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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Voice of Democracy:

2013/2014 theme will be "Why I'm Optimistic About our Nation's Future".

Patriots Pen:

2013/2014 theme will be "What Patriotism Means to Me".

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



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Past Events

VFW-Retirement Community Veteran Involvement

VFW Post 1581 has been working with Elk Ridge Independent Living, 19303 Seward Plaza, Elkhorn, NE 68022 Veteran's Group.

The Elk Ridge Vet's Club, consists of 4 - Air Force, 14 - Army, 2 of which are women who served in the Army, 11 - Navy.

Some of the areas we are investigating together are the following:

- Speaker for Creighton SROTC
- Speaker at Boys Town JROTC
- Veteran's in the classroom
- Military events at Posts
- Veteran's day activities

On 8-15-13 Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant/Quartermaster-post 1581 and Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander-post 1581 spoke to the Elk Ridge Retirement Community Veteran's group concerning the VFW, our post 1581 and activities we are involved in.

On 9-5-13 Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant/Quartermaster-post 1581 hosted an event that involved Douglas County Veteran Service Officer, Frank Bracken. Frank Bracken spoke to the group concerning benefits that they could apply for with the help of the Veteran Service Officer office. If you need help with Veteran's Benefits call (402) 444.7180. Their website is <http://www.douglascounty-ne.gov/veterans/>. Picture below left is the Veteran's Group and picture right is Frank Bracken.





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Past Events

VFW-Retirement Community Veteran Involvement (Continued)

VFW Post 1581 has been working with Elk Ridge Independent Living, 19303 Seward Plaza, Elkhorn, NE 68022 Veteran's Group.

On 10-3-13 Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant/Quartermaster-post 1581 hosted an event that involved speaker to be John McNally, Deputy Director-Nebraska Veteran's Affairs. John McNally spoke about his background in the military, Nebraska Veterans Aid, Nebraska State Cemetery, State Service Office at the VA Regional Office, State Veterans Homes and upcoming legislation for Veteran's. Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander-post 1581 was also at this event.

Dr. Steven Youngberg-VFW Post 1581 Adj./QM left, John McNally Deputy Director-Nebraska Veteran's Affairs center, Tom Bizzarri Sr. Vice Commander VFW Post 1581, (below)

John McNally Deputy Director-Nebraska Veteran's Affairs Speaking to Elk Ridge Retirement Community Veteran's Group (below)



John McNally Deputy Director-Nebraska Veteran's Affairs Speaking to Elk Ridge Retirement Community Veteran's Group (right)





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Flag Day Observance

Crestridge magnet school

During summer school, Mr. Craig Wiles, teacher at the school, holds a flag day ceremony. This year, it was held on June 14, 2013

In addition to the entire school body being involved, Mr. Wiles invited Ann Thieman-VFW Post 1581-Chaplain and Bob a bus driver, to participate. Bob is an Army Veteran.

Story by Ann Thieman-VFW Post 1581-Chaplain.



Ann Thieman left, Bob right



Ann Thieman behind, Mr. Wiles left, Bob right



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Email: vfwpost1581@cox.net

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

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

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](#)

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.

VFW Bill Montoya Post 1581

Christopher Lee Leighter **Commander**