

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: Lloyd Coates
Two year trustee: John Liebsack
One year trustee: Bob Burns



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Bill Montoya Post 1581, Omaha, Nebraska

Newsletter

February 2013

Next regular meeting: The next regular meeting will be March 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, at Phoenix Food and Spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120th and Blondo) private room. Mark your calendars, "plan to attend".

We have a new Post 1581 web site. Go to the following link: <http://vfwpost1581.org/>

You can change your personal VFW membership information: go the www.vfwpost1581.org home page, scroll down to this link, [Change your personal VFW membership information](#)

You can change the items below:

- Pay your dues
 - Sign up for autopay, ensuring your membership always stays current
 - Update payment and billing information
 - Become a Life Member or Legacy Life Member
 - Access prepared patriotic holiday speeches
 - And much more!
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- **Latest news for post 1581** - Our post website www.vfwpost1581.org , has stories created with valuable information. Scroll down the home page, on the right side, see the latest news for post 1581.

Future Events

We have plans for future events for 2011/2012 FY. **If you can assist with upcoming projects or committees** contact Commander, Chris Leichter 712-308-3184.

- Committees:
 - Membership, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Boys Town, Awards Banquet, Buddy Poppy events, Boy Scouts, Partnership with military unit, Law Enforcement of the year, Emergency Medical Technician of the year, Firefighter of the year, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the year, Women's Veterans Fair, Veterans Legislative action, Boys Town JROTC, Creighton SROTC and other projects.
- **Membership:** If you are an annual member and you have not renewed by 12-31-12, your membership is not valid. When you receive your annual membership dues notice for 2012/2013, please remit your dues right away. We are attempting to hold 100% membership from last year. 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.
- We have a program of "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.
- **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.
- 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. Paste this link into your computer browser to see the article <http://www.nebraska.va.gov/TheLink/2012/04AprilTheLink2012.pdf>
- **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 ROTC program. Contact Post 1581 Quartermaster, Dr. Steven Youngberg if you are interested in helping 402-715-4469.
- **Officer Nominations:** Officer Nominations for Post 1581 will be at the March 6, 2013 monthly meeting, 7 PM, at Phoenix Food and Spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120th and Blondo), private meeting room.

Past Events

- Our VFW Post 1581 **Awards Banquet** was January 16, 2013 at Anthony's Steakhouse, 7220 F Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127, 6 pm to 9 pm. Awards were be for students in our VFW programs, businesses that support our VFW efforts, JROTC, ROTC, etc. Our post website www.vfwpost1581.org , scroll down the home page, on the right side, see the latest news for post 1581.

Picture below left is John Hilgert, Master of Ceremonies, Post 1581 Jr. Vice Commander, State Veteran's Affairs Director. Picture below right are the attendees.



- Picture below left is Major Edward Adams, Creighton ROTC that was a speaker. Picture below center – left to right- is VFW Post 1581 Commander – Chris Leighter, Mr. Craig Wiles - Teacher of the year Winner and Ann Thieman – VFW Post 1581 Chaplain and Chairperson of the School projects. Picture below right are the Patriots Pen winners and teacher from Saint Wenceslaus School.



Award being presented to organizations that support our VFW activities throughout the year. Picture below left, left to right, Dr. Steven Youngberg-post 1581 adjutant/Quartermaster, Col. Kevin Lee-Boys Town JROTC, Tom Bizzarri- post 1581 Sr. Vice Commander.

Picture center, left to right, Tom Bizzarri- post 1581 Sr. Vice Commander, Cory Garner-Hy-Vee 132nd and Dodge, Dr. Steven Youngberg-post 1581 adjutant/Quartermaster.

Picture right, left to right, Tom Bizzarri- post 1581 Sr. Vice Commander, Pam DeLozier, Hy-Vee 156th and Maple, Dr. Steven Youngberg-post 1581 adjutant/Quartermaster.



- **VFW Post 1581 Web Site:** We have an On-Line Store for VFW Nebraska and VFW National. Access the On-Line Store by going to our post 1581 website (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 Post 1581 Web Site:** We have a "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 below.



VFW Mid-Winter Conference in Lincoln Nebraska January 24-26, 2013 VFW Post 1581 donated \$250.00 to the Patriots Pen to one of the contestant finalist (VFW state competition) and \$250.00 to one of the VOD contestant finalist (VFW state competition). Below left and right, representing VFW Post 1581, in the pictures right to left is Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander and Ann Thieman-Chaplain. You can go to the www.vfwne.com website home page to see the event pictures and videos.



Legislative Bill 405 - taxes would be eliminated on retirees, including military veterans: Gov. Dave Heineman announced support of Legislative Bill 405 by the Department of Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Council of Administration. The event was 1-6-13 at the Nebraska capital. Attending from Post 1581 were John Liebsack and Dr. Steven Youngberg. Go to the www.vfwne.com website, home page, see links on home page for additional information.

Email: vfwpost1581@cox.net

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

Our current members have signed up several new VFW members to our post. If you have a potential VFW candidate, please contact – John Liebsack 402-210-5198 for further steps in the process.

Ordering VFW items

VFW NE on-line store at this link: <http://www.vfwdepartmentstores.org/nebraska/>

If you need a VFW military style hat, use this link: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=25525>

The general VFW online catalog, use this link: <http://www.vfwstore.org/>

You can call the VFW Store at 1-800-821-2606 (you can order a catalog)

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

Chris Leighter **Commander**