

**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

January 2013

**Next regular meeting:** The next regular meeting will be February 6, 2013 - 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,** at Phoenix Food and Spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120<sup>th</sup> and Blondo) private room. Mark your calendars, "plan to attend".

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

- **Update your email address for our records by signing up for our VFW Post 1581 newsletter on the upper right side of the web site home page. You can create an account to change or update personal membership information (address, email, etc.) on the home page of the new Post 1581 web site (to the right of the commander's picture).** See new web site calendar for all events.

### Future Events

We have plans for future events for 2011/2012 FY. **If you can assist with upcoming projects or committees** contact Commander, Chris Leighter 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/ne/>, 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.
- Our VFW Post 1581 **Awards Banquet** will be January 16, 2013 at Anthony's Steakhouse, 7220 F Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68127, 6 pm to 9 pm. Awards will be for students in our VFW programs, businesses that support our VFW efforts, JROTC, ROTC, etc. Go to [www.vfwpost1581.org](http://www.vfwpost1581.org) web site, home page, select awards banquet in the navigation, right side, register, and submit. All post 1581 members and a guest are invited to attend. For information contact Lloyd Coates 402-498-0837. **Register today**
- 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.

### Past Events

- **Patriots Pen:** Dillon P. Ryan (see picture below), Saint Wenceslaus School, one of the seven post 1581 Patriots Pen winners that was submitted to District 10, has won the District 10 judging and will be submitted to the Department of Nebraska VFW for State judging.



- **Teacher of the Year:** Mr. Craig Wiles (see picture below) from Crestridge School has won Post 1581 and District 10 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Craig Wiles will be advancing to VFW NE state judging. State winners will be announced June 2013.



- **Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home** Christmas party. Post 1581 donated \$300.00 to the residents for their use on their electronic accounts. Post 1581 also distributed calendars and pens, donated by VFW Department of Nebraska.

The picture below left, right to left is Post 1581, Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander, Chris Leighter-Commander, Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home representative and Gary Steckelberg-VFW NE Hospital Chairman.

The picture below right, left to right, Chris Leighter-Commander, Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander and Ann Thieman-Chaplain – VFW Post 1581. These were the three people that represented VFW Post 1581 at this event.



- VFW Post 1581 donated \$256.00 to Boy Scout Troop 408 for their help during VFW Post 1581 Buddy Poppy events. The picture below left to right, Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant/Quartermaster, Mike Terrell-Boy Scout Troop 408 Scout Leader, Ann Thieman-Chaplain, Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander, and John Hilgert-Jr. Vice Commander / Boy Scout troop 408 Assistant Scout Master. The picture below right is Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant / Quartermaster, Ann Thieman-Chaplain, Mike Terrell-Boy Scout Troop 408 Scout Leader, and Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander presenting the check.



**Military themed blankets made by Boy Scout Troop 408 for the residents of the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH).**

This event was December 29, 2012, 1PM at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home.

VFW Post 1581 donated \$200.00 for the Boy Scout Troop 408 blanket project. VFW Post 1581 works with Boy Scout Troop 408 on other project and attended this event at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home. VFW Post 1581 members from left to right are Chris Leichter-Commander, John Hilgert-Jr. Vice Commander/Assistant Scout Master, John Liebsack-two year trustee-Department of Nebraska Adjutant/Quartermaster, Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant/Quartermaster post 1581 and Tom Bizzarri-Sr. Vice Commander.



Drew Grandgenett is a Boy Scout with Troop 408. Troop 408 is affiliated with St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Omaha. Drew is a senior attending Millard West High School. Drew is currently a "Life" rank scout and working towards his "Eagle" rank. To attain the Eagle Rank, a Boy Scout must lead a service project that benefits a group in the community other than Boy Scouts of America. Picture left is Drew Grandgenett, picture center, left to right, is John Hilgert (left) and Drew Grandgenett (right), picture below right is Drew Grandgenett.



For the first part of the project, Drew sought and received donations from family, friends, and other veterans related organizations to purchase enough fabric and supplies to make a military themed "tie blanket" for each of the 115 members residing at ENVH. The blankets are approximately 5 feet by 5 feet in size and are made from two pieces of fleece fabric. One piece has a military pattern for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard and the other piece is a solid color.

Drew Grandgenett lead volunteer scouts and parents who were at ENVH and Drew gave a short speech and then the blankets were picked up by or delivered to the members. Each of the members living at ENVH received a blanket with one side bearing the design of the branch of the service that the member (or the member's spouse) was in as a thank you gift for the veteran's service to our country.

Drew thought this project would be a nice way for him, his fellow scouts, and everyone who helped him to honor and thank the residents of ENVH that have faithfully served and protected our country and helped to provide the wonderful "blanket of freedom" that all Americans live under.

John Hilgert, Jr. Vice Commander of VFW Post 1581 is an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 408 and has been kind enough to serve as a mentor for Drew for his project.

**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](http://vfwpost1518.org)) place you curser over the navigation, right side and select from the drop down window, On-Line Store for VFW Nebraska and VFW National.

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

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](mailto:vfwpost1581@cox.net).

**VFW Bill Montoya Post 1581**

*Chris Leighter* Commander