

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

December 2012

Next regular meeting: The next regular meeting will be January 2, 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/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 2012/2013 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, Teacher of the year, Women's Veterans Fair, Veterans Legislative action, Boys Town JROTC, Creighton SROTC and other projects.
 - **Membership:** 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.

- 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 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.
- 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.
- **Patriots Pen:** Dillon P. Ryan, 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.



Past Events

- **Creighton University ROTC Army cadets and University of Nebraska Air Force ROTC POW/MIA run.** *Picture below left.* We had our VFW Post 1581 table set up. Some cadets have prior military service and could become members of our VFW Post 1581. *Picture below right.* Dr. Greg O’Leary, VFW Post 1581 Surgeon, spoke to the group regarding POW/MIA. Dr. O’Leary is alumni from Creighton University and has an undergraduate degree, medical degree, ROTC, served in Vietnam, returned for a surgical residency at Creighton University.



The picture below left is Dr. O'Leary (in the brown jacket) speaking to the cadets. Picture below left and right, is Dr. O'Leary and Lt. Col Michael Vick, Commander of the Creighton University ROTC (in Army uniform).



Picture below left is Dr. O'Leary speaking. Picture below right is VFW Post 1581 members (Chris Leighter-Commander - left and Ann Thieman – Chaplain – right. VFW Post 1581 members attending this event are Dr. Steven Youngberg-Quartermaster/Adjutant, Dr. Greg O'Leary – Surgeon, Chris Leighter – Commander and Ann Thieman – Chaplain.



- We had **our Buddy Poppy event** 11-10-12 at Hy-Vee 132nd and Dodge and 156th and Maple from 8AM to 12PM. Picture below left and right, Boy Scout Troop 408 helping with Buddy Poppies. The picture below is 156th and Maple Hy-Vee.



The picture below is from 132nd and Dodge Hy-Vee Buddy Poppy event.



- November 12, 2012, Veteran's Day (observed) Hy-Vee 156th and Maple, **veterans breakfast**. **Picture below left**, VFW Post 1581 had a table set up. **Picture below right**, VFW Post 1581 table and veteran's attending the event.



Below is a picture of 132nd and Dodge Hy-Vee.



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

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