

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Post 9785**

*Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries*

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**"All American Post"**



**FEBRUARY 2012**

**Commander**

**Marty Harris**

**Ladies Auxiliary President**

**Tina Stoddard**

**Men's Auxiliary President**

**Al Stoddard**

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Sure is nice to be through the holidays, I'm hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 1165579

The Post sure has had a good year thanks to all the volunteers and members who have contributed to the post. I'm sure that this year will be as great, if not better, than all the rest.

We have a lot of good people doing wonderful things for the post, like Tina Stoddard who has dedicated her time and efforts to the Post newsletter for over 7 years. Some things seem to be taken for granted, as were her tremendous efforts to put together this form of information on Post activities each month. I sure have appreciated her work at making the newsletter such a huge success. Tina has expressed her desire to relinquish her volunteer duty and we hate to see her go. We all recognize that the newsletter has been of value to members especially those in the lower 48. Not all her efforts have gone unrecognized, as I recently discovered, our newsletter has received recognition at nationals by coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place of all newsletters. What can we say, but Tina – you rock! I sure hate to see Tina let the newsletter go and hope she will reconsider.

Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook. This form of information is real time, being handled by Tony Sanchez and his crew of helpers, who are doing a great job. If you would like information

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## LADIES AUXILIARY

Our first month of the 2012 year has passed us by and here we are into February already. Mid-Winter Conference is scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and is being hosted by Northland VFW Post 10252 and Ladies Auxiliary in Anchorage. This Conference is open to all Ladies Auxiliary members (in good standing, if you've paid your current 2012 membership dues), and I encourage you to attend. This Conference is one of many ways you can learn more about our organization, especially on a Department level. If you are in need of a list of scheduled events during the Conference, please let me know and I will be more than happy to e-mail it to you. You can reach me at [TinaStoddardWorks@yahoo.com](mailto:TinaStoddardWorks@yahoo.com). 54425

Our Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9785 "Mid-Winter Escape Travel Package" Raffle went very well. Chris Creech won the \$3500 travel package. Congratulations Chris! I want to thank all of our Ladies Auxiliary members who got out and sold tickets and helped towards making it the success that it was. I've heard from a few members who would like to see us do another travel package raffle again in the future. This is something for us to consider and discuss doing again as I've heard a lot of positive feedback on it.

We have had very low attendance in our meetings and not many members helping with various fundraisers, events, or functions within our Ladies Auxiliary the last several months. Without your support, we cannot continue to be the great organization that we were founded on to be. It takes the teamwork of our membership pulling together to help make things happen. The work

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

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posted in Facebook, please contact Tony with your submission. 5075

And finally, I want to stress the best way to find out what is happening at the post:

**VISIT your post and attend your monthly meetings.**

Sincerely,

Marty Harris



Commander

## LADIES AUXILIARY

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should not be left to just a certain few members each and every time something needs to be done. One way to help support our Ladies Auxiliary is by helping with the various projects and/or programs our Ladies Auxiliary works on throughout the year, or by volunteering to help with a project when we vote to do something. Another way to support our Ladies Auxiliary is by supporting us through your generous donation(s) or financial support during a fundraiser. If you aren't sure what you can do to help, please do not hesitate to ask. It's not always our leaders/officers who make things happen, but our members as a whole working back in the shadows/background that help work on the small details. 780736

Each year, our Ladies Auxiliary has obligations to pay towards Department and National level veteran and youth related programs. We also want (and vote) to donate towards various outside veteran related programs, youth scholarship funds, youth related sports or scholastic endeavors, Military Units for various events, Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets, and other things. Without these fundraisers, we would not have the available funds to donate towards anything, or to help our Ladies Auxiliary or Post with various events.

My question to you is: Why did you join the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States? Was it to get a cheaper drink as compared to going to another local bar or pub? Was it to gain a place to socialize with your friends?

Was it to gain a notation on your resume' for having membership status within a non-profit veteran related volunteer organization? Or did you join to help our veterans in some small way or another? Yes, there may be times when we may not care to help with a particular project, program or job. Or there may be a certain member we like to socialize with more than another due to personality conflicts or whatever other reasons/issues. But let's all pull together, grit our teeth a little, and get the job done. Then we can go about our way and do other things we'd rather be doing instead.

Our meeting this month is on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. If you want your voice to be heard or you want to cast your vote towards something we plan to do, attend your monthly meetings. The success and survival of our Ladies Auxiliary greatly depends on you, our volunteer members.

Loyally,

Tina Stoddard



Ladies Auxiliary President

## SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Former Post member Charlie Osha is out of St. Elias and is now back in Arizona.

Post members visited Joe Opalka and he is motoring right along, as remarkable as ever.

Betty Hand is getting along well thanks to Bryant's and others' help (thank you ALL of you) and hopes to be feeding the eagles soon. Two Post members have volunteered to help her.

John Dillivan is undergoing treatments, keep him in your prayers, also Donna Hightower.

Doug Boyer is out and about after having neck surgery; we've even seen him at the Post.

Jane Keller's back from Washington state and her procedure.

Ya'll take care out there in the cold now, ya hear?

Suellynn Wright Novak

Post Service Officer

*Happy Valentine  
to you and all  
those you love.*



## MEN'S AUXILIARY

Hello everybody. Winter is here and it's a new year.

We are helping out with Friday night steaks and we are going to start a Spaghetti night on the first Saturday evening of the month, the same night as Karaoke. If you would like to help out on steak nights or help with the spaghetti night, let Mike Garganta or myself know. Everybody needs to get involved and help support our Post. These are only two ways for you to have a way to help out. 9009441

We need more volunteers around the Post so help out your fellow Post and Auxiliary members. There is Friday Night Steaks, Sunday Breakfast and other special events always going on around the Post. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be drawing the winning ticket on the Vietnam Commemorative Knife Raffle. The Tickets are on sale now, so get your tickets early. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

This month's meeting will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend. If you are in the Post at this time, you must attend the meeting.

Thanks to all the volunteers who help out around the Post.

Al Stoddard



Men's Auxiliary President

### **WHERE POST 9785 STANDS as of 20 January 2012**

*2010-2011 Membership – 1495 members*

*2011-12 Membership – 102.01%*

<b>Life Members</b>	1392 (+3)
<b>Continuous Members</b>	90 (+55)
<b>New Members</b>	28 (+7)
<b>Reinstated Members</b>	15 (+2)
<b>Unpaid Members</b>	87 (-10)

***Are you an unpaid annual member?  
Consider upgrading to Life. It's easy.  
Talk to your Quartermaster. He has options.***

## LEGISLATIVE

As elections begin to kick into high gear during election years, I begin to ponder about our Candidates and Legislatures at the state, local, and national levels. Here are some of my questions I ask myself each year: As the candidates dwindle down to a few, which one did you actually think might make a great candidate for that office? Are they backing another candidate that was maybe another possible choice? How well did they articulate their ideals and goals? Of the candidates supported, did they support our Veterans? How many would listen to our Priority Goals?

Now is the time we Alaskans can really start taking a hard look into the current legislatures (local, state, and national) report cards or voting records. How are they voting on the VFW Priority Goals? Is there someone, a Veteran, who would make a difference for our Veterans in the National Offices? Again, things to ponder each election year as we begin to see the signs and mantra of the trashing each other and pulling out all the stops for a whole year. 5111

Our Congressional Leaders are back in Juneau, Washington DC and at the local levels. Have concerns, please call their offices or write them a letter in your words and thoughts. Express to the leaders your ideas. You may think "they won't listen to me". Believe me, you may not be the only one thinking the same thing! If enough people write their candidates, they will take action. Then they become the Congressional Leader you need representing you, the people.

Penny Mosher Ladies Auxiliary 9785 Legislative

Please keep our Troops in Afghanistan and around the world in your thoughts and prayers. And for those troops coming back home, settling into the routines of home again.

## ADOPT-A-UNIT

### Adopt-a-Unit:

The VFW Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the vast network of free resources the VFW has available for the military and their families; i.e., Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs and the Military Assistance Program. 1063894

Adopt-a-Unit relationships are created and maintained by individual VFW Posts who work closely with unit commanders and senior enlisted to provide the direct support the unit and their families need.

### VFW Post 9785 Adopt-A-Unit Chairperson Report

I am pleased to report the first committee activity for the families of the deployed Unit of the **1-40<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY SQUADRON** and members of the Post 9785. Everyone enjoyed a 'Christmas Party with Santa' held at our VFW Post on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We were visited by the Anchorage Fire Department's Santa Express, allowing all children and adults a chance to sit with Santa atop a fire truck and slide down the chute when leaving – what a hoot that was!

The ladies of the 1-40<sup>th</sup> Squadron brought in food aplenty for their pot luck and everyone enjoyed the company of the Post and members in their Christmas celebration. We also arranged to have an indoors Santa visit with the children, passing out goodies (many thanks to Chris Creech for his good humor and participation as last minute Santa).

Our next tentative venture for the families is a pool party held sometime in February at the Elmendorf Fitness Center's pool. The committee has elected to theme it 'Jimmy Buffet Pool Party', and should feature such events as relays, volley ball, and pot luck. This event is in the planning

stage and could use some tune-ups prior to being presented.

I encourage VFW members to attend Adopt-a-Unit events. Many of us have had experience with deployment issues and that experience will always be of assistance when one is available to lend a helping hand or an offer of a kind ear.

I encourage VFW and Auxiliary members to visit the Eagle River VFW Post 9785 Facebook page. It is there that you will be able to see real time listings of events as they are posted.

### Family Outreach Program:

The outreach program is available and ready to assist families who are in need. For details on this program please refer to the Facebook reference, and feel free to call or e-mail me with questions.

Adopt-A-Unit Chairperson: Sherie Crosby,  
Ladies Auxiliary Life Member



## COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association would like to thank VFW Post 9785 for its support of our organization. Combat Veterans Chapter 43 has members living in Matanuska valley and out to South Anchorage and we have found that VFW Post 9785 is centrally located for the Chapter. Many of our members are also members of VFW Post 9785.

We appreciate being able to hold our monthly meetings at the Post and to support wing night, filling food baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, picking up trash along the Posts adopted section of highway, and several veterans events that the Post has also supported. We plan to continue to support the Post and expect that as our membership grows, so will our membership and support of VFW Post 9785 and its efforts.

Mike "TooCold" Jarrett, PR & Quartermaster  
Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

# DONATE YOUR CHANGE TO FRANCISCA GUILFORD'S HOMECOMING 2015



Francis Guilford is a Life Member of Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9978 in Anchorage, AK. Francis was elected into the Guard position to our National Ladies Auxiliary Organization during the 2010/2011 year, and is currently serving as Conductress during the 2011/2012 year. Our *Francisca Guilford Homecoming Committee* and (Alaska) *Ladies Auxiliary members* are raising funds and planning a grand Homecoming for Francis in September 2015 after she is installed into office as our National President. **Please** donate your loose change/dollars towards Francis' Homecoming. Place your donation in the container sitting at the end of the bar (by the Pull Tabs) located in VFW Post 9785. The Francisca Guilford Homecoming Committee is running a contest between all of the Department of Alaska Ladies Auxiliaries for the most original Totem Pole styled collection of containers. The most original design wins \$100. Help our Eagle River Ladies Auxiliary win this contest by donating your change to fill up the Totem Pole Containers. Our Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9785 thanks you!

# HISTORY OF PRESIDENTS' DAY

To some, the observance of Presidents' Day in the United States goes very much unnoticed. Local newspapers splash ads of "President's Day Sales!" and many get the day off from work. But have you ever stopped to think about this important day of recognition?

## History

Presidents' Day is intended (for some) to honor all the American presidents, but most significantly George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. According to the Gregorian or "New Style" calendar that is most commonly used today, George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. But according to the Julian or "Old Style" calendar that was used in England until 1752, his birth date was February 11th. Back in the 1790s, Americans were split - some celebrated his birthday on February 11th and some on February 22nd.

When Abraham Lincoln became president and helped reshape our country, it was believed he, too, should have a special day of recognition. Tricky thing was that Lincoln's birthday fell on February 12th. Prior to 1968, having two presidential birthdays so close together didn't seem to bother anyone. February 22nd was observed as a federal public holiday to honor the birthday of George Washington and February 12th was observed as a public holiday to honor Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

In 1968, things changed when the 90th Congress was determined to create a uniform system of federal Monday holidays. They voted to shift three existing holidays (including Washington's Birthday) to Mondays. The law took effect in 1971, and as a result, Washington's Birthday holiday was changed to the third Monday in February. But not all Americans were happy with the new law. There was some concern that Washington's identity would be lost since the third Monday in February would never fall on his actual birthday. There was also an attempt to rename the public holiday "Presidents' Day", but the idea didn't

go anywhere since some believed not all presidents deserved a special recognition.

Even though Congress had created a uniform federal holiday law, there was not a uniform holiday title agreement among the individual states. Some states, like California, Idaho, Tennessee and Texas chose not to retain the federal holiday title and renamed their state holiday "President's Day." From that point forward, the term "Presidents' Day" became a marketing phenomenon, as advertisers sought to capitalize on the opportunity for three-day or week-long sales.

In 1999, bills were introduced in both the U.S. House (HR-1363) and Senate (S-978) to specify that the legal public holiday once referred to as Washington's Birthday be "officially" called by that name once again. Both bills died in committees. Today, President's Day is well accepted and celebrated. Some communities still observe the original holidays of Washington and Lincoln, and many parks actually stage reenactments and pageants in their honor. The National Park Service also features a number of historic sites and memorials to honor the lives of these two presidents, as well as other important leaders.



Mt. Rushmore National Memorial  
Keystone, South Dakota