

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 9785

Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries

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"All American Post"



JANUARY 2012

Commander

Marty Harris

Ladies Auxiliary President

Tina Stoddard

Men's Auxiliary President

Al Stoddard

COMMANDER'S CORNER

VFW Post 9785 has done great this year. This is all due to you! It takes everyone's support, hard work and dedication just to keep a Post up and running. We have done a lot of great things this past year for our troops, community and the Post. Just look around. We have so many unsung Heroes in this Post. It would be hard to name them all but you know who they are. So please join me and thank them for a job well done! You have taken your Post from number 16 to number 10 in the world. Again I say, it is all because of the great people we have in this great Post. I would like to take this time to thank everyone for a very productive year. THANKS!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

Marty Harris

Commander

Great People doing Great Things!
Vet's helping Vet's!

LADIES AUXILIARY

Sisters;

A Happy New Year greeting goes out to all VFW Post 9785, Ladies Auxiliary, Men's Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cooties and Cooties Women's Auxiliary members! This past 2011 year went by so fast. I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and that you all had many things to be thankful for. 862917

Our Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 9785 Mid-Winter Escape \$3500 Travel Package is moving right along. If you have tickets checked out to sell, please get them sold and turned in soon. The drawing for this fine package is coming up on Friday, January 13th at 7:00pm. So, get out there and sell, sell, sell! Tell your friends, family, co-workers, church members, etc. about the raffle. There are only 300 tickets being sold.

Our Department of Alaska Ladies Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference is right around the corner. The Conference is on Saturday, February 11th, and it is being hosted by VFW Post 10252. This Conference is open to *all* Ladies Auxiliary members, so please make plans to attend. This is a great way to learn more about where we stand on our programs half way through our year. It is being held at The Coast International Inn located at 3450 Aviation Avenue in Anchorage. More details to follow as it becomes available.

Our Ladies Auxiliary 9785 has a few

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LADIES AUXILIARY

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fundraisers planned during the next few months. Look for fliers around the Post to see what is currently going on, or is coming up soon in the near future. 20000112074

If you want your voice to be heard or you want to cast your vote on anything our Ladies Auxiliary plans to do, attend your monthly membership meetings. Our meetings are always held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. The success and survival of our Ladies Auxiliary greatly depends on you, our volunteer members.

Tina Stoddard

President

SERVICE OFFICER NEWS

Life Member & Bartender Dave Marvel lost his wife Arleen on December 8th. Her service was Thursday, 15 December, at Eagle River Presbyterian Church, with a Celebration of Life at the Post following that service. Memorial donations may be made to St Jude's Hospital.

Betty Hand has returned home from the assisted living facility, but is still weak. Please call (694-3344) and stop by to visit, she welcomes company. We all need to lend her a hand until she's up and about again. She helped this Post all those years of feeding eagles for us and drawing Sunday Brunch diners to the Post, providing sandwiches for the morning and early afternoon crew, and doing the prep work for steak nights. Here's our turn to help her.

I was also told about Charlie Osha, a former member, who was severely injured in a vehicle and moose accident on Oct 5th as he and his wife (only minor injuries) were about to leave for Phoenix for the winter. He is at St Elias and has head injuries. Art Keller will get us more information, so stay tuned.

Suellyn Wright Novak

Post Service Officer

LADIES AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE

Happy New Year Ladies,

Thank you for your support to our Legislative Program. What a year in review! With your help, our Legislators know what is important to our Alaskan Veterans. With the new year we have new VFW Priority Goals, they are the goals are: VA Health Care, Suicides & Homelessness; VA Compensation and Benefits; Seamless Transition; Military Quality of Life; Education and Reemployment; Defense Homeland Security and POW/MIA. 5046

Speaking of the Priority Goals, during the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year, 2012; the VFW supported repealing the SBP/DIC offset and creating a Cold War Service Medal. Congressman Don Young voted with Aye on this piece of Legislation. Further, the NDAA does include a provision to link future increases to future cost of living allowances. A very controversial measure, the VFW was happy to see dropped from the bill was the requirement to evaluate changing the current military retirement system.

With your support we can help to make more differences for our Veterans. Please let me know if you have sent, talked, or e-mailed our Legislators. You can e-mail me at pl.mosher@gmail.com.

Best Wishes to you throughout the New Year.

Penny Mosher

Ladies Auxiliary Legislative Chairman



BARSTOOL FUNDRAISER

Yes, the Post's General Membership voted to replace all of the barstools in the Post with new more luxurious, more comfortable and more durable barstools. Hal Rodgers was appointed chairman of the Barstool Pigeon's Committee. The committee was given the responsibility to do necessary research and decide what barstools would be the most appropriate for the Post needs. Also the committee was given the authority to raise necessary funds to purchase the new barstools. After several visits to restaurant suppliers, furniture stores and warehouse stores the committee decided to order barstools from Columbia Restaurant and Bar Supplies. The barstools are manufactured by MTS Seating in Michigan. (Made in the USA.) The committee agreed that Club/Lounge "G" Series Model #902-30-G at a cost of \$200.00 each was the best deal available. 6145162

The Split-The-Pot has been fairly successful in raising funds. However, many individuals have stepped up to the plate and donated \$200.00 each to cover the cost of a barstool. Any person that donates the full price of a barstool gets his/her name on a plaque that will be affixed to the back of the barstool. Many people have donated in memory of a lost loved one or a fallen comrade. The total barstool account as of December 21st, 2011 is \$6226.00.

The committee ordered one barstool to be put on display during the remainder of the fundraising. Hopefully it will be here by mid-January 2012. We will purchase 40 barstools. Anyone desiring to donate for the purchase of a barstool, please contact Hal Rodgers at 980-5589.

Hal Rodgers Barstool Committee Chairman

WHERE POST 9785 STANDS

as of 22 December 2011

2010-2011 Membership – 1495 members

2011-12 Membership – 97.53%

<i>Life Members</i>	1389 (+8)
<i>Continuous Members</i>	35 (+6)
<i>New Members</i>	21 (--)
<i>Reinstated Members</i>	13 (--)
<i>Unpaid Members</i>	97 (-6)

Are you an unpaid annual member?

Consider upgrading to Life. It's easy.

Talk to your Quartermaster. He has options.

MEN'S AUXILIARY

We have been helping out with Friday night steaks, but we could use some more help to give some of us regulars a break. We are going to start a Spaghetti night on the first Saturday 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; this is your chance to help out. 20000131882

Thanks to all the people who helped fill the Christmas Boxes on the 18th of December.

On the 3rd of March 2012 we will have the drawing on the Vietnam Collectors Knife. Second prize is Silver coins, and third prize is a \$50 gift card. The Tickets are on sale now. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00

This month's meeting will be on January 15th at 11:00 am. Mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend. If you are in the Post during this time, you must attend the meeting.

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

Al Stoddard

President

HISTORY of the TET OFFENSIVE

Awaking to the sound of explosions, Rear Admiral Kenneth K. Veth, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam (COMNAVFORV), moved to the rooftop of his rented house to witness a dazzling display of rockets and flares lighting the Saigon night sky. All around, the sound of battle during the early hours of 31 January 1968 heralded the arrival of the 1968 Tet Offensive. Armed with automatic weapons and hand grenades, the Admiral and his housemates waited for a ground assault which fortunately never came. During the remaining hours of darkness, Veth kept informed of events by listening to military police and other tactical communications on the radio. Since he spent the night on the roof of his house, he was unable to direct operations from his headquarters.

During the **BUDDHIST** holiday of **TET**, over 80,000 Vietcong troops emerged from their tunnels and attacked nearly every major metropolitan center in South Vietnam. Surprise strikes were made at the American base at **DANANG**, and even the seemingly impenetrable American embassy in **SAIGON** was attacked.

During the weeks that followed, the South Vietnamese army and U.S. ground forces recaptured all of the lost territory, inflicting twice as many casualties on the Vietcong as suffered by the Americans.

The showdown was a military victory for the United States, but American morale suffered an insurmountable blow.

The Tet Offensive was a series of surprise attacks by the Vietcong (rebel forces sponsored by North Vietnam) and North Vietnamese forces, on scores of cities, towns, and hamlets throughout South Vietnam. It was considered to be a turning point in the Vietnam War. 5099230

North Vietnamese leaders believed they could not sustain the heavy losses inflicted by the Americans indefinitely and had to win the war with an all-out military effort. In addition, Ho Chi Minh was nearing death, and they needed a victory before that time came.

The combined forces of the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese Regular Army (NVA), about 85,000 strong, launched a major offensive throughout South Vietnam. 5095

The attacks began on January 31, 1968, the first day of the Lunar New Year, Vietnam's most important holiday. It took weeks for U.S. and South Vietnamese troops to retake all of the captured cities, including the former imperial capital of Hue.

Even though the offensive was a military failure for the North Vietnamese Communists and Vietcong (VC), it was a political and psychological victory for them because it dramatically contradicted optimistic claims by the U.S. government that the war was all but over.

The plan unfolds

By late 1967, forces of the U.S. Army, its allies, and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), had entrenched themselves in the six major cities of South Vietnam and were reporting growing success in the countryside.

A series of scattered diversionary attacks by the Vietcong gradually drew more U.S. and ARVN troops away from the cities.

Then in late January 1968, on the first day of Tet, which had previously been observed with a cease-fire, the Vietcong attacked five of South Vietnam's cities, most of its provincial and district capitals, and about 50 hamlets.

In Saigon, they attacked the presidential palace, the airport, the ARVN headquarters, and fought their way onto the U.S. Embassy grounds. The U.S. and ARVN forces, who were caught off guard, quickly responded and within a week had recouped most of the lost territory. Hue was a different story, however, as the Vietcong held their ground. By the time the city was retaken on February 24, the historic city had been all but leveled. Thousands of civilians were executed and 100,000 residents had lost their homes. It became known as the "Massacre at Hue."