



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**  
POST NEWSLETTER

Loudoun County Post 1177  
Leesburg, Virginia

Volume II, Issue I  
Summer 2018

## Loudoun County Honors the Fallen

### LEESBURG, VA -

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th, Loudoun County hosted its annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony in the green of the Leesburg Courthouse.



Post Commander Ray Delpesche took the role of Master

of Ceremonies. Comrade Dennis Boykin delivered the keynote speech, reminding all of the sacrifices our service members have made for our nation and to "Go forth today

Members of the community lay wreaths in honor of those who served our country.

and take this nation forward in honor of their memories". Representatives from the town, county and state, as well as veterans from WWII were in also in attendance.

Supporting the event was the Post Honor Guard led by Comrade Bob Cranson, members from the local Boy Scout troops, local reenactors, and various other groups. ✖

## Poppy Donations Break Records

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA - Post comrades and volunteers were present at several Giant supermarkets in Loudoun County distributing Buddy Poppy flowers in order to raise funds to support veterans in need throughout the county.

Through the efforts of those collecting, the post generated over **\$10,000!** By far the largest collection



Leesburg Civil Air Patrol Cadets volunteer to raise funds for vets in need.

amount in recent years. Community support was so strong we ran out of poppies to distribute.

The Post distributes poppies during the Memorial Day and Veterans Day weekends. Special thanks to the Leesburg Civil Air Patrol. All funds collected are reserved for the Veteran Relief Fund. ✖

**Loudoun County Veterans-We're waiting for You!**



Loudoun County VFW Post 1177



### Post 1177 Officers

- Commander: Ray Delpesche
- Senior Vice Commander: Travis Potts
- Junior Vice Commander: Ray Houck
- Quartermaster: Les Flores
- Service Officer: Jay Greely Jr.
- VFW Riders President: Gene Odum
- Honor Guard Commander: Robert Cranson
- Cooties Seam Squirrel: Phil Rusicolelli
- VFW Auxiliary President: Carolyn L. Hurd



## Post Officers Elected

**LEESBURG, VA** - During the May membership meeting, the post members present elected the 2018-2019 officer body for Post 1177. All post members currently holding post positions, led by Post Commander Ray Delpesche, were elected for a second term with the exception of the position of Third Year Trustee, which was filled by Comrade Richard Burns. The Officer Roster has been updated at VFW National and the newly elected officers will take their positions after the oath at the next meeting. ✖



## Newsletter Wins

**Kansas City, MO** - On May 1st, VFW National announced the winners of its annual Publications Contest. Post 1177's newsletter earned the Silver Award for the District/Post Publications—Small Frequency category.

The contest, which compares post, district and department submitted publications nationwide, and is judged by publication professionals, was created to recognize individuals in the field of journalism within the VFW.

If interested in writing for the newsletter, please contact Comrade Les Flores at [qm@vrw1177.org](mailto:qm@vrw1177.org). ✖

## Community Participates in Flag Retirement

**LEESBURG, VA** - In the rainy morning of May 19th, the post conducted a flag retirement ceremony at the post home. Comrade Max Gutierrez led the event. Over 400 flags were folded and put into temporary storage by members from the post, Scout Troop 1159 and the Herndon Civil Air Patrol.

Participants were given a brief history of the flag, as well as instruction on how to properly fold the flag. In addition, pamphlets and reading material about the flag were provided



Scouts from Troop 1159 Honor the Flag with Proper Folding

by the post. Memento awards were also provided as souvenirs.

Due to the weather, the ceremonial burning of the flags could not be performed. The flags were placed in the post shed for temporary storage to complete the retirement at a later date.

Special thanks to Scout Troop 1159 who arrived straight from the field during their camping trip. Coffee and doughnuts were also provided by the Scout Troop. ✖

## Chick-Fil-A Thanks Veterans



**LEESBURG, VA** - On 23 May, DC Metro Area Chick-Fil-A restaurants hosted its Military Appreciation Day. The event included free meals to veterans, service-members and their families, as well as various locations sponsoring family activities.

Post 1177 was invited to attend the Leesburg Chick-Fil-A event, which included a bounce house, DJ, a local high school jazz band, displays from the

Leesburg Police department and the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Post 1177 display included the Post Jeep and Howitzer. Attendees were invited to learn about military history and take photos with the equipment.

Special thanks to Comrade Dennis Boykin for bringing and setting up the display at the restaurant. ✖





## Post Presents Awards

**LEESBURG, VA** - On the April 4th Post Meeting, VFW Post 1177 presented awards to students and the community. The awards included the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarships, awarded to students from across Loudoun County, who submitted patriotic essays to the nationwide VFW contest.

Awards were also presented to the Scout of the Year, Briana Hass of Girl Scout Troop 6651m Loudoun County Teacher of the Year, Eric LeHew of Potomac Falls High School, EMT of the Year, Nathaniel Moor,



Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad and Law Enforcement official of the Year, Det. Patrick Beaver, Loudoun County Sherriff.

Students not able to attend the awards ceremony at the post were presented their awards at their schools in front of the student body.

The 2018-2019 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy topics have been announced. "Why I Honor the American Flag" and "Why My Vote Matters" respectively. For more information, contact Comrade Max Gutierrez at [pastcdrmax@vfw1177.org](mailto:pastcdrmax@vfw1177.org) ✖



## Riders Support Rolling Thunder

**HERNDON, VA** - On Saturday, 26 May, the Post's VFW Riders rode down to Jimmy's Old Town Tavern to meet up with several other bike riders in support of the annual Rolling Thunder Run to the Wall ride to D.C. event. Members then journey to D.C. to witness the event and take their annual photo in front of the Washington Monument.

The Rolling Thunder Run to the Wall

event, honoring all Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, dates back to 1987 and attracts riders from across the country. The event is done every Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Have a bike and interesting in joining the Riders? Please contact the VFW Riders President Gene Odum at [vfwrgr@vfw1177.org](mailto:vfwrgr@vfw1177.org). ✖



## Cooties Brings Bingo and Smiles to Martinsburg

**MARTINSBURG, WV** - In April, members from the Post, Cooties and Auxiliary brought over cheers and prizes to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Martinsburg with Bingo.

Cash prizes were awarded, and the Cooties ticked a bone or two. The Auxiliary supported the event with snacks and gift bags.

The director of VAMC Martinsburg thanked the post and its supporters for bringing joy to the hospital's veteran patients. ✖





The Loudoun County VFW Post 1177's  
**VETERANS' BALL**



*Come and celebrate our Comradeship with your significant other  
Enjoy a night of dinner and dancing at the beautiful River Creek Club*

**Friday, June 29th 2018**

**Social Gathering at 6:00 PM**

**Dinner at 6:30 PM**

**Dancing at 8:00 PM**

**\$50 per Person**



**Dress Code:**

**Formal or Current Service Dress Uniform  
or Coat and Tie (Miniature Medals  
Encouraged)**

**Address:**

**River Creek Club  
4300 Olympic Blvd  
Leesburg, VA 20176**

Point of Contact: Phil Ruscioelli

[contact1177@vfw1177.org](mailto:contact1177@vfw1177.org)

(703) 431-3859

[www.vfw1177.org](http://www.vfw1177.org)





## VFW National - President Signs VA MISSION Act

**WASHINGTON, DC (June 6, 2018)** – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. thanks President Donald Trump for signing the VA MISSION Act.

The VA MISSION Act was the result of a bipartisan and bicameral effort led by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member Sen. Jon Tester and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Rep. Phil Roe. The legislation passed in the House on May 16 with a vote of 347-70. The Senate passed the bill on May 23 with a vote of 92-5.

"President Trump signaled his support for this bill early on in the process which shows that he puts veterans before politics," said Keith Harman, national commander of the 1.7-million



The VA MISSION Act Streamlines the hiring of needed medical personnel for the VA

member VFW and its Auxiliary. "This historic legislation will help our veterans get the care they earned when they joined the military."

"The VFW and other veteran service organizations worked closely with

Congress and the White House to help create a carefully negotiated bipartisan deal with the fingerprints of veterans who rely on the VA all over it," he said.

The VA MISSION Act will improve the Department of Veterans Affairs' ability to hire high-quality health care professionals, streamline VA community care programs, expand caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans and create a process to examine VA's capital infrastructure to better serve veterans.

"The VA MISSION Act will help improve the care our veterans get at the VA while leveraging the capabilities of the private sector when needed. It will help recruit the best talent at the VA, which is what our veterans deserve, and it also extends caregiver benefits to every veteran who needs it," Harman said. ✖

## Department of Veterans Affairs - Burn Pit Registry Ongoing

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is currently collecting data from veterans and service members who were part of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Freedom's Sentinel who may have been exposed to airborne hazards originating from burn pits, oil well fire, burn barrels, sand and dust storms. The study is to find out if exposure to these airborne hazards has impacted the long term health of service members.

Veterans and active duty members who served in these environments are asked to take the free and anonymous



The VA is currently studying the long term effects of airborne hazards

survey. The results of the study will be used to guide the VA on future decisions. Several reports with the data generated have already been published.

Links and information for those that believe they are suffering the ill effects of airborne hazards are included.

To date, over 140,000 service-members and veterans have completed the survey. Taking the survey requires logging on to the VA website and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

To participate or learn more, please visit <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>.

If you are a veteran suffering from health issues believed to be related or connected to time in the service, please call the VA Health Care Line at (877) 222-8387. ✖



## Post Information

Post Address:  
401 Old Waterford RD. NW  
Leesburg, VA 20176

Website: [www.vfw1177.org](http://www.vfw1177.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/vfwpost1177](https://facebook.com/vfwpost1177)

For general inquires, including  
veteran's support, membership &  
post rental, email:  
[contact1177@vfw1177.org](mailto:contact1177@vfw1177.org)

Member meetings are held on the  
first Wednesday of each month at  
7:30 PM



## Quartermaster's Corner

With the near completion of the renovations of the post's back room, it is time to return our historical items to full display. We are in the process of planning out what we hope will become a historical display outlining the history of the post and of its members, both past and present. And we need your help.

Our service photo project has been underway for a couple of months already, and we have collected some great photos. These will be included in the

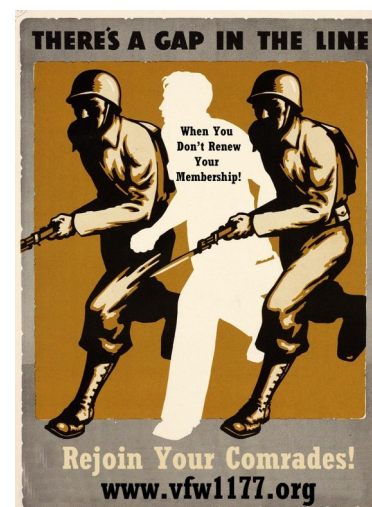
display. However, we are also taking in donations of artifacts, mementos and items from your time in the service and/or supporting VFW functions. Items such as uniforms, patches and photos are good examples. Stories and biographies are needed as well. Submit a story of your time in the military or with the VFW.

We hope to have the display up and running by our post anniversary in October. To donate, contact the Quartermaster, Les Flores at [qm@vfw1177.org](mailto:qm@vfw1177.org).

## Post Shop - Life Member Tabs



For Life Members, and those considering Life Membership the Post Shop currently has Life Member tabs for Member Caps. These iron on tabs cost \$4 each. If interested, please see the Post Quartermaster. Cash only.



## Post 1177 Quick Shots



Cooties and Comrades at the Dulles Health and Rehab Center in Herndon



COL Ward Nickish (USA, Ret.) briefs about repatriation of POW/MIA remains



Comrade George Williams collects donations during Memorial Day weekend