



Highland Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 4737 NewsGram

P.O. Box 47, Highland Park, Illinois 60035
Meetings at HP Police Dept., 1677 Old Deerfield Rd., Deerfield IL



December 2017

Happy Holidays

Honor the Dead by Serving the Living

*****NEWGRAM TO CEASE MAIL DELIVERY IN 2018 UNLESS REQUESTED*****

POST WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Due to the cost and time involved in preparing a mailing and the readily available digital alternatives, the Post will cease mailing a hard copy NewsGram in 2018, unless you request it in a letter to the Post's PO Box, above, or call 847-763-1793 (Editor's home phone). If you have email, now is the time to advise the Post of your email address at pquilici@ameritech.net.

The Post has a website at www.vfwpost4737.com and a Facebook page. You will find the Newsgram there in addition to email availability in 2018.

POST 4737 WILL MEET: On Thurs, Dec 14, 2017, 7:00pm at the HP Police Dept's Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road. Future mtgs: Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8 and all second Thurs. Dec mtg Chef: Greg Detlie.

FORT SHERIDAN CEMETERY WREATH LAYING: Our Post has contributed to this year's wreath laying at Fort Sheridan Cemetery on **Saturday, Dec 16, 11:00am-Noon**. The program is run by Fallen Hero Wreaths and Planters @ <https://www.fallenherowreaths.com>. Other community groups participate. Mark your calendar and attend to honor those who have given so much.

POST HOSPITAL NITE: NO DECEMBER BINGO. OUR SCHEDULED DATE FALLS ON XMAS. Our next Post Bingo Nite is on Jan 22 at 6:30 PM and on most following fourth Mondays at Bourke Hall, Bldg. #4, Capt. J. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

Last month we entertained over 40 patients. Seems the group is growing. Present were Commander Steve Skoropad, Trustee Bill Gansberg and QM Pete Quilici. As you probably know, we hand out cash prizes and provide pastries to the players.

HIGHLAND PARK VETERANS DAY CEREMONY: Our thinning numbers are starting to show. Only Commander Skoropad was able to attend this year in uniform. With the assistance of the Boy Scouts, he posted and retrieved the Colors and performed a Bell Ceremony.

72nd POST ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH: Thirty-three guests, including current and former Fifth District officers, joined us this year on Nov 12 at the Grove Banquets Hall. The buffet was great, and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie. The raffle of sometimes oddball stuff like garden ornaments and jigsaw puzzles remains a mainstay hit. Chaplain Ferrer guided us in prayer, Commander Skoropad posted and retrieved the Colors and QM Quilici acted as emcee.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN: Commander Skoropad spearheaded this year's Post sponsorship of the VFW's VOD (high school) and Pat Pen (middle school) essay programs.

This year we ran two VOD contests: one for Highland Park HS and the other for Deerfield HS. First, second and third place prizes of \$500.00, \$300.00 and \$200.00, respectively, were offered at each school. Out of a combined enrollment of about 3600 students we received one entry: First place winner Sophie M. Draluck of Highland Park.

The school liaisons we work with are getting the news out about the program. Something else is going on. The Tribune and Pioneer Press recently have been running articles about illness-causing stress levels at elite schools, like HP and Deerfield. Here's a quote from the Dec 8 Tribune: "In many top-performing schools, students and experts describe an atmosphere of intense, sometimes disabling, pressure connected with test scores, college admissions and AP course loads." Is competition for college entrance so intense everything else is forced out?

We did better with the Pat Pen program, which offered the same prizes but only in one contest for participating middle school students. The winners were: First Place-David Ayzman from Elm Place Middle School; Second Place-Celestine K. Harig of Holy Cross School; and, Third Place-Hailey R. Kowalski of Holy Cross School.

HEADS UP FOR MEMORIAL DAY 2018: Our Post is scheduled to present a Highland Park resident Post member as a Hero Among Us at the Highland Park ceremony on May 28. Nominations are welcome.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
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HO TAI P.T. #67 MOC



WELCOME TO HIGHWOOD POST COMRADES



IN MEMORIAM: We are saddened to report the recent passing of James Harold Sullivan, Jr. on October 21, 2017. Comrade Sullivan came to our Post in our merger with the Highwood Post. The Post learned of his passing from a close friend, who, along with her son, cared for him in his final days and were at his bedside when he took the final march. Based on the information and a photograph provided to the 'Gram, Comrade Sullivan served in Vietnam as a US Army Military Policeman at Tan Son Nhut Airfield, close to Saigon, sometime in the 1968-1971 timeframe. He participated in guard details for Army General William Westmoreland and USAF General George Sykes.

Our Sympathies go out to the family and friends of the departed

UPCOMING LOCAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR:

All second Thursdays of the month: Post meeting.

All third Wednesdays of the month (except July and August): Meeting of Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission at Forest City Community Center, 2001 Virginia Avenue, Great Lakes, IL 60088.

All fourth Mondays of the month (except June, July, August and holidays): Post Bingo Nite at Lovell FHCC.

Saturday, December 16-Wreath laying at Fort Sheridan Cemetery, 11:00am-Noon.

Saturday, Jan 13-5th District VOD/Pat Pen Award Dinner at Antioch Sequoit Post 4551 commencing 5:00pm.

February 8-11-Council of Administration will meet at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL.

Sunday, Feb 18-5th District Meeting at Antioch Sequoit Post 4551. Business meeting commences at 1:00pm.

March 3-7-Washington, DC trip for Department VOD winners and announcement of national winners.

(Further info on events available on VFW Natl/Dept websites, gen internet search or contact QM Quilici)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES: December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day, since 1941.); December 31 (End of WWII declared officially by the President, 1946.). Remember to display the flag.

HO TAI PUP TENT NO. 67 - A brief resume of "Louse-y" News

SCRATCH, SCRATCH: Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1 and all subsequent Scratches (first Thurs unless otherwise notified) will be held at 6:59 1/2 PM, at the Highland Park Police Dept. Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL.

COOTIE HOSPITAL NIGHTS: Capt. James Lovell Fed Health Care Ctr, Bldg. 134, Bingo and Ward visits, 6:30 PM. Coming dates are Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified. **"KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE"**



CONTACT THE NEWSGRAM WITH NEWS/COMMENTS THROUGH: Editor and QM Peter A. Quilici, 7501 Kostner Ave., Skokie, IL 60076/ Phone: (847) 997-7662 (cell) or (847) 763-1793 (home hard line) / E-mail: pquilici@ameritech.net. **Please feel free to submit for publication news of interest to veterans.**