



NEWSGRAM

HIGHLAND PARK ILLINOIS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
MEMORIAL POST 4737

May 2019

P.O. BOX 47, HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS 60035
Meetings at Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave., Highwood IL
www.vfwpost4737 Like us on Facebook

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Honor the Dead by Serving the Living

POST WILL MEET: On Thurs, May 9 at 7:00pm at the Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave, Highwood, IL. Future mtgs: May 9, June 13, July 11 and all second Thursdays of the month, unless otherwise notified. The Post will provide after-meeting fare from the Wooden Nickel menu.

RESULTS OF APRIL MEETING ELECTION: Following are the elected officers for the 2019-2020 year:

Dave Kunz-Commander
Howard Hughes-Senior Vice Commander
Greg Detlie-Junior Vice Commander
Peter Quilici-Quartermaster
Chris Thomas-Three Year Trustee
Aaron Ferrer-Chaplain

POST HOSPITAL NITE: Our Bingo Hospital Nite at Lovell is on hiatus month until September. This event usually is suspended May thru August due to Memorial Day weekend and summer events at Lovell FHCC. **Our next Post Bingo Nite is on Sept 23 at 6:30 PM** and on most following fourth Mondays at Bourke Hall, Bldg. #4, Lovell FHCC.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BUDDY POPPY PROGRAM: *At this month's meeting, be prepared to volunteer for donation collections at the Highland Park Jewel and Sunset Foods. The collection schedule is as follows: Jewel on Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26; and, Sunset Foods on Friday and Saturday, May 24 and 25. Poppy Chmn Bill Gansberg is filling out the schedule.*

The generosity of the patrons at Jewel and Sunset is limited only by the number of volunteers we can muster.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES: May 8 (VE Day: German unconditional surrender signed 1945); **May 27 (Memorial Day)**; June 6 (D Day: Allied invasion of Europe, 1944); June 14 (Flag Day: Adoption of US Flag on June 14, 1777); July 4 (Independence Day). Remember to display the Flag.

LAKE COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION: The LCVAC is an awesome veterans' resource in the area. In the past, our Post members served as Directors, and we once had a presence via a Post delegate. If anyone is interested in learning more about the LCVAC, its website is <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/725/Veterans-Assistance-Commission>. And the VAC Commissioners' meetings for the balance of the year are at 10:30am on May 15 (Wed), Sept 18 (Wed) and Nov 20 (Wed) at the Gurnee American Legion Post, 749 Milwaukee Ave. The meetings are open to the public. Also, the LVAC will host an open house at its new offices on June 11 (Tues) from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at 501 S. Route 21, Suite 106, Gurnee, IL 60031. Not the greatest times for working folks.

AND THE IDVA DIRECTOR IS ?????: It was a bit of a chore to figure out the recent history of Illinois Dept of Veterans Affairs Directors. Erica Jeffries resigned in April-May 2018 due to the Legionnaires Disease deaths at the Quincy Home. Stephen Curda came in until Feb 2019, when new Gov. Pritzker announced Lt. Col. (R) Jaime E. Martinez would become Director. But he withdrew his name, so now Linda Chapa LaVia is "Acting" Director. She was the State Representative for the Aurora area. "Acting" means approval of her appointment is pending in the IL Senate. One would think this bit of housekeeping would be done by now.

This IDVA is an important dept. serving 650,000 Illinois veterans with a staff of 1200. Playing musical chairs with its top position negatively impacts delivery of quality services.

120TH VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION: This year's National Convention will take place from July 22-24 in Orlando, FL. The National VFW website has details.

98TH ILLINOIS VFW CONVENTION: This year's Department of Illinois Convention will take place June 13-16 in Springfield, Il. The Dept of IL VFW website has details.



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OF THE UNITED STATES
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BOX 47
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...INCLUDES NEWS OF
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MEETINGS AT WOODEN NICKEL IN HIGHWOOD

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOMES UPDATE: Last month the 'Gram reported that the state comptroller's office announced it had released \$7 million for renovations at the veterans' home in Quincy and \$3.8 million in funding for construction of a Chicago veterans' home at 4250 N. Oak Park Ave. in Chicago. So far, no further announcements from the IDVA or anyone else on these two projects. The 4250 project has been going on since 2014. A real disgrace.

FOUR VETERANS IN APRIL COMMIT SUICIDE AT VA FACILITIES: Something is very, very wrong out there, and it's not just the high incident of veteran suicides. Four veterans in one month killing themselves at separate VA facilities seems to be saying something. And it's not good.

A veteran killed himself outside the Veterans Affairs medical center's emergency room in Cleveland on Monday, April 29. On April 5, a veteran died by suicide in the parking lot of the VA medical center in Dublin, Georgia. The next day, a 68-year-old veteran killed himself outside the main entrance of the Atlanta VA hospital. And on April 9, a veteran fatally shot himself in the waiting room of a VA clinic in Austin, Texas.

Joe Chenelly, national executive director of AMVETS, said: "It's clear that whatever the VA's been trying to do, whatever our entire government has been trying to do is not working." See article at:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/04/29/veteran-suicide-va-facilities-prompt-bipartisan-call-action-veterans-affairs/3618756002/>

WHY DO ISRAELI SOLDIERS SUFFER FROM PTSD LESS THAN AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS:

Following are quotes from a recent article which relies on a 2013 Israeli PTSD study with insights on the difference between caring for soldiers in a nation constantly fighting for its life and the US:

"While Americans might honor or respect their soldiers, Israelis love their soldiers passionately. Honor is something you do from far away. Love is up close and personal. To Israelis, soldiers aren't heroic figures you throw parades for and give medals. Soldiers are our boys, our girls, our family. You feed them, make sure they are warm and comfortable. You let them sleep on your shoulder if they fall asleep next to you on the bus."

Read the whole article at: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/florida-jewish-journal/fl-jj-israeli-soldiers-ptsd-american-counterparts-20181024-story.html>



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

SCRATCH, SCRATCH: June 6, July 4, Aug 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 May 16, June 20, July 18 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified.

"KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE"

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