



Highland Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 4737 NewsGram

P.O. Box 47, Highland Park, Illinois 60035
Meetings at Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave., Highwood IL
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June 2018

Honor the Dead by Serving the Living

POST WILL MEET: On Thurs, June 14, 2018, 7:00pm at the Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave, Highwood, IL. Future mtgs: July 12, Aug 9, Sept 13 and all second Thursdays of the month, unless otherwise notified. The Post will provide after-meeting fare from the Wooden Nickel menu.

Main Agenda Item: All incoming elected and appointed officers must be sworn in prior to the Department Convention on June 16 (Manual of Procedure, Sec. 217).

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2018-19: Commander-elect Dave Kunz announced the following appointments:

Adjutant: Pete Quilici
Judge Advocate: Pete Quilici
Surgeon: Bob Morrissette
Service Officer/Officer of the Day: Chris Thomas
Guard: Aaron Peaslee

These appointed officers and the elected officers announced in last month's NewsGram will assume their offices on June 16, after the Department Commander is sworn in (Manual of Procedure, Sec. 217).

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY: This year's Highland Park Memorial Day Ceremony took place at the Highland Park High School auditorium. Our Honor Guard, comprised of Aaron Ferrer, Joe Heim and Dave Kunz, posted the Colors. Looked like about 300 people attended.

As part of the program, Commander Greg Detlie, presented by Pete Quilici, was honored as a Hero Among Us. Cmdr Detlie served in Danang, South Vietnam during 1968-69 with the US Navy's Construction Battalion (better known as the "SeaBees"). Jack Jacobs, a WWII aircraft carrier Navy fighter pilot, presented by Mayor Rottering, also was honored as a Hero Among Us. HP American Legion Commander Larry Sassorossi performed the closing Bell Ceremony.

ANNUAL POPPY DRIVE: Poppy Chmn Bill Gansberg and wife Pamela did it again and kept us organized. Although we were a bit shorthanded, the generous shoppers at the local Jewel and Sunset Foods helped us collect over \$3700.00, which goes into our Relief Fund. Volunteers were Greg Detlie, Aaron Ferrer, Bill Gansberg (he did a turn at collections in addition to organizing us), Joe Heim, Howard Hughes, Dave Kunz, Reggie McNeil, Aaron Peaslee, Pete Quilici and Chris Thomas.

LOCAL YOUNG LADIES DONATE LEMONADE STAND MONEY: A special thanks goes to two local young ladies, Naomi Coleman and Ava Muriel, who showed up Friday, May 25, at our Jewel Poppy collection station and donated all the proceeds from their neighborhood lemonade stand. We'll get the photo up on our website and Facebook. It was one of those moments which let you believe things are okay despite the news.

LOVELL FHCC PATIENT CARNIVAL AND CAR SHOW: Tuesday, June 19, and Saturday, July 21, are the tentative dates. We haven't double-checked yet with Lovell. Volunteers needed if both events proceed.

WILL ILLINOIS REPLACE THE QUINCY VETERANS HOME?: According to news reports, Gov. Rauner recently signed a state budget which allocates \$53 million as a first installment to begin work on a new IDVA veterans' home on the Quincy Veterans' Home campus. The water system at the old civil war era home is responsible for causing the death of 13 veterans since 2015. A portion of this money is being used to acquire and renovate a nearby former healthcare center to house residents during construction, which will take several years.

Your Editor is skeptical. The new IDVA veterans' home on Chicago's northwest side began construction in 2014 with a scheduled opening in 2016. It remains unfinished. And critics of the budget, which includes the new Quincy home, claim the revenue sources for the budget are over-stated. So, if money is needed for something more urgent and the revenue sources go flat, will the new Quincy home go on "hold" like the northwest side home? And will the rehabilitated former healthcare center become the new permanent home in Quincy? Any bets out there?

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES: June 14 (Flag Day); July 4 (Independence Day); July 27 (Signing of the Korean Armistice in 1953). Remember to display the flag.

POST HOSPITAL NITE: Our Bingo Hospital Nite at Lovell is on hiatus until September. Our next Post Bingo Nite is on Sept 24 at 6:30 PM and on most following fourth Mondays at Bourke Hall, Bldg. #4, Lovell FHCC.

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

SCRATCH, SCRATCH: July 5, Aug 2, Sept 6 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 June 21, July 19, Aug 16 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified.

"KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE"





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



MEETINGS AT WOODEN NICKEL

CONGRESS TRIES AGAIN TO FIX VA HEALTHCARE: Amid much hoopla and fanfare, the US Congress in 2014 passed the Veterans Access, Care and Accountability Act. Finally, long wait times, fraudulent fudging of VA wait records, shortages of needed specialists, inability to promptly discharge incompetent employees and other shortcomings at the VA Healthcare system would be addressed. The issues were analyzed, the causes known and remedies apparent. All that was needed was co-operation among 535 members of Congress, the lobbyists who represent companies that feed off the VA and the unions that represent the bulk of the VA's 300,000 employees in order to craft additional legislation and rules to right the ship and give veterans the healthcare they earned with their blood.

The cornerstone of the process was to give veterans the choice to access private healthcare providers if the VA could not provide timely and geographically convenient care. But, judging from the Government Accountability Office's June 2018 report entitled Veterans Choice Program (<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/692271.pdf>), four years just wasn't enough time to fulfill the obligation first stated by President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 "to care for him who shall have borne the battle ...". Wait times are still unacceptable, and the VA is dragging its feet in allowing needy vets to escape its clutches and access needed and readily available private care.

So here we go again. Amid much hoopla and fanfare, President Trump on June 6 signed the 2018 VA Maintaining Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act, commonly referred to as The Mission Act. The proponents say they've got it right. This time.

Your Editor has one suggestion: Rename the legislation "The Mission Impossible Act."

UPCOMING LOCAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR:

All first Thursdays of the month: Ho Tai Pup Tent No. 67 Scratch.

All second Thursdays of the month: Post 4737 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 third Thursdays of the month: Ho Tai Pup Tent No. 67 Hospital Nite.

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

June 19-Lovell FHCC Patient Carnival. Usually third Tuesday in June. Post volunteers handle the grill.

July 21-Lovell FHCC Car Show. Usually third Saturday in July. Post volunteers handle the grill.

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

"A" RATED VETERAN AND MILITARY CHARITIES: The summer edition of Charity Watch recently came out, and the ratings of **national** Military and Veteran charities remain disgraceful. Too many **national** charities in this category just can't seem to get their expenses down and use more of the donations they receive for legitimate programs which aid vets and active military. The following are recommended "A" rated **national** charities:

Armed Services YMCA of the USA (A-); Bob Woodruff Family Foundation (A); Fisher House Foundation (A+); Gary Sinese Foundation (A); Homes for Our Troops (A); Hope For The Warriors (A-); Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (A); Mission Continues (A); National Military Family Association (A); Navy Marine Corp Relief Society (A); Operation Homefront (A); Semper Fi Fund/Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund (A+); TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Fund for Survivors)(A); Wounded Warriors Family Support (A). Please research all donations carefully. Many low-grade charities will have names similar to respected and efficient charities. Assume ALL charities are scams and perform your due diligence investigation before you give.

Local charities often are your best option, like your local VFW Post. All donations to Post 4737 are placed in a Relief Fund and 100% is used for veterans or community programs like the Post's monthly Bingo Nite at Lovell FHCC and the VFW's Voice of Democracy high school essay program.

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.