VFW Post 8794 TOWN CRIER - Newsletter

Vol. 2 Edition 80 March 2026

Message from the Commander

Greetings to all Members,

The month of March brings our first nominations for VFW Post Officers for 2026-27 with the Term beginning on 1 July 2026. We will conduct our election of new Officers at April's Regular meeting. There will also be an opportunity to nominate individuals who have a strong desire to serve at the April VFW Meeting prior to the election. I encourage anyone interested to make sure your name is submitted for the position you would like to be nominated for. This is your opportunity to serve the Post.

The following positions are open for nominations for those interested in holding a leadership role in our VFW; Commander, Sr Vice, Jr. Vice, Quartermaster, Chaplain, and 3 Year Trustee.

We will also have several appointed positions to fill once the new Commander is elected such as: Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day, Guard, Service Officer, and Legislative Chairman. So, come to the meetings in March & April and become part of our VFW Post leadership team.

Of note historically for March:

Remembrance and history of the Kosovo Campaign March 1999 – TBD
Operations in Kosovo continue today as a peace keeping mission under NATO, although the U.S. Military presence has significantly been reduced to less than 1,000 personnel, they still provide a vital role in the stability of the area.

Remembrance and history of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003-2011
As we remember this date in history, we must recognize that Operation Iraqi Freedom which began on 19 March 2003, our forces would continue combat actions in Iraq until the final withdrawal of troops on 18 December 2011. Another important note is that as of 1 September 2010 until the withdrawal of troops on 18 December 2011 the name of the operation was changed from OIF to Operation New Dawn.

Remembrance and history of The End of Operation Restore Hope, Somalia, 1992-1995
Following the failure of the monitoring mission created as UNOSOM by the United Nations, the United States offered to lead a substantial intervention force, chiefly made up of American personnel. This was

accepted by the UN and made possible through United Nations Security Council Resolution 794, authorizing the use of "all necessary means to establish as soon as possible a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia".

Please keep those members who due to medical conditions are unable to be with us in your thoughts and prayers.

We lost two outstanding members recently in Bob Ochsendorf **and Shawn Brown, both were stalwarts of this organization. We are saddened by the families and our loss.**

Thank you again for your support. Remember the Post Meeting for this month will be on 12 March 2026 at 6:30pm; we need our VFW members to attend and participate so we can keep you informed and vote on Post Issues.

God Bless the U.S.A.

Bob Burns
Commander
2025-26

Message from the Auxiliary President

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

We are getting closer to the election season again, and hope some you Auxiliary members have had a chance to ponder running for an elected office in the Auxiliary. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in what we do as an organization for our veterans and the community we proudly serve. We will have nominations and elect officers on the same night with the installation of the new officers at the following meeting.

I would like to remind everyone to please report all the great things you do for our veterans to me each month. This allows the VFW organization to receive the much-needed funding for our veterans.

Continue to keep up the unwavering support for our heroes.

God bless America!
Sincerely,
Pat Kelly
Auxiliary President, 2018-26

Message from the Auxiliary Secretary

Hello to all my sisters and brothers in the Auxiliary,

Just a quick reminder to Lifetime Auxiliary members, notices have been mailed for the $4.00 cancer insurance grants for the coming year. Please either mail or come in and make your payment to the **VFW Post 8794 Auxiliary**, 4100 E Main Street, Whitehall, Ohio 43213, **Attention Auxiliary Treasurer**. Members that pay annually have the cost already included in your dues so there is no other action needed. Let us know if you have any other questions.

In April we will have our annual nominations and election of officers. Most of the officer positions are open for nomination and elections. Secretary is appointed by the President once elected for the year. If you are interested in an Auxiliary officer position and cannot attend the April 2nd Meeting, please have your request to be nominated for the position you would like and an alternate officer position you would consider submitted in writing for the meeting to one of the current Officers to submit. It is also ok if you want to submit a letter that states you would like to be considered for any open position available if you do not have a particular position in mind but would like to serve. A written letter (email is acceptable if it is signed with your name) is required in accordance with the Auxiliary By-Laws, rules and regulations.

At Mid-Winter conference, we found there are new membership applications, and all new applicants must complete the new application. Headquarters will not accept the old ones. New applications are at the entrance to the Canteen. Also, we remind all members that you need to ensure we have your correct address, if you moved recently, please give us your new address ASAP. If you know of a member who has passed away, please let us know. We are being charged a small per capita tax on all members.

Thank you and see you at the meeting,

Nancy L. Johnson
Auxiliary Secretary 2025-26

Message from the Quartermaster

I want to thank everyone who has renewed their membership and ask that everyone who want to remain a member to consider getting those dues in as soon as possible during February. Also, the Post needs your support, let us get out and recruit new members at every opportunity, we have done a good job so far with getting new members in the last few months, let's keep driving on with our recruiting, retention and recovery of members!

YES, we are going to keep our Lifetime program offer going for 2026!

If you are an **ANNUAL MEMBER** and would like to join as a **VFW Post 8794 LIFETIME MEMBER, WE ARE EXTENDING OUR SPECIAL OFFER through 2026, we will pay your first $100 of whatever the cost of your Lifetime Membership is.** (See below Chart for your age group)

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP COST

		VFW 8794	YOU PAY
Through Age 30	$425.00 –	$100 =	$325.00
31-40	$410.00 -	$100 =	$310.00
41-50	$375.00 -	$100 =	$275.00
51-60	$335.00 -	$100 =	$235.00
61-70	$290.00 -	$100 =	$190.00
71-80	$225.00 -	$100 =	$125.00
81 and over	$170.00 -	$100 =	$ 70.00

If you are interested in this program and want to Join Lifetime, see me or call me and I will make it happen! This is a great opportunity.

Richard Curry, QM, 2025-26

Message from the Canteen Manager

Hello all,

WELCOME ALL MEMBERS TO OUR FOXHOLE CANTEEN! Come on in and enjoy some fun! Our Queen of Hearts is Growing towards $23,000, nice! We have Euchre on Saturdays. Come in and sit in on some "Kitchen" Euchre where we play for fun. March Madness is upon us so come on in and watch the games.

We will do our best to keep things interesting in the canteen during the next few months, looking at some entertainment on Saturdays, so please join us.

Canteen Hours: Monday – Thursday 3 to 10pm
Friday - Saturday 1- Close
Sunday 3- 9 pm

R.G. Kouns
Canteen Manager

Message from the Bingo Manager

Hello Everyone,

It's March already, time flies when you're having fun. Thank you to all of our bingo players and the volunteers that make our bingo sessions happen. Sunday, doors open at 3pm, bingo starts 5pm, We will have the monthly drawing on Sunday February 22nd.

The Guru Says – "It's all fun and games…. until someone yells Bingo!!"
Thanks, Becky Kelly, The Bingo Guru, O-74……. Good Number!

Safety Message

March Safety Tips

March is Eye Safety Month

More than 2,000 eye injuries occur on the job site every day and about one in 10 of them require missed work days to recover. Of the total amount of work-related eye injuries, 10 to 20 percent will cause temporary or permanent vision loss in the affected people.

- **Always wear the appropriate safety eyewear for your job site or role, even if you are just passing through a hazardous area.**
- **If working in an area with particles or dust, be sure to wear safety glasses with side shields to protect against flying objects.**
- **When working with chemicals, always wear safety goggles or face shields to protect against splashing.**
- **When working around hazardous radiation like welding, lasers or fiber optics, be sure to use special-purpose safety goggles and helmets designed specifically for the task.**

Events Committee

We will still need your support! We will still need you to volunteer. Come on its fun, help out where you can? If you have a great idea you would like to present bring it to the Events Committee Meeting now meets on the **4th Monday of the month at 6:00pm**. Get involved, it doesn't hurt…..much! All Members are welcome at the meeting.

SEE CALENDAR FOR EVENTS.

VFW Memorial Post 8794
Elected and Appointed Officials 2025-2026

COMMANDER:	Bob Burns
SR. VICE CMDR:	Christine Curry
JR. VICE CMDR:	Shannon Devera
QUARTERMASTER:	Richard Curry
ADJUTANT:	Christine Curry
CHAPLAIN:	RG Kouns
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Bobby Oliver
SURGEON:	George Laury
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Frank Clements
GUARD:	Ron Pannell
3 YR. TRUSTEE:	Robert Oliver
2 YR. TRUSTEE:	Ellen Brandes-Mattingly
1 YR. TRUSTEE:	Sherry Kemp-Woodyard
3YR. HOUSE:	Christine Curry
2 YR. HOUSE	Frank Clements
1 YR. HOUSE:	Ron Pannell
SERVICE OFFICER:	Richard Curry
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:	Shannon Devera

VFW Memorial Post 8794
Elected and Appointed Auxiliary Officials
2025-2026

President – Pat Kelly
Sr Vice – Shane Gibson
1st Vice – Dave Hutchison
Treasurer – Tamara Bowsher
Secretary – Nancy Johnson
Chaplain – Carmen Johnson
Conductor – Michelle Roberts
Guard – Sandra Hill
3-YR Trustee – Beth McKee
2-YR Trustee – Mary Britton
1-YR Trustee – Roberta Thacker

Welcome New Members

(VFW Members)

Stiltner, Neva
Mims, Kevin
Smith, Ruth

(Auxiliary Members)

(Associate Members)

SICK CALL

TAPS 2025-26

Ochsendorf, Bobby - Auxiliary

Cyrus, Ernest - VFW

Brunney, Hugh – VFW

Brown, Shawn - Auxiliary

March Humor

Actually, it's the only day of the year I actually pronounce the O.
HAPPY ST. PATRIC S DAY!
KISS ME I'M IRISH
Blazek

MARCH VFW POST 8794 EVENTS 2026

BINGO EVERY SUNDAY 5 PM (Doors Open at 3 pm)

CANTEEN OPEN: MONDAY-THURSDAY (3 -9pm) /FRIDAY- SATURDAY (1-10pm) / SUNDAY (3-9pm)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BINGO NITE! Starts at **5 PM**	**2** QUEEN OF HEARTS 8pm Drawing	**3** Starts @ 6pm Lg Draft Beer $2	**4** SHOW ME THE MONEY 6-7PM	**5** Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	**6** Potato Bar	**7** Euchre 1:30pm Canteen Cravings Always Available
8 BINGO NITE! Starts at **5 PM**	**9** QUEEN OF HEARTS 8pm Drawing	**10** Starts @ 6pm Lg Draft Beer $2	**11** SHOW ME THE MONEY 6-7PM	**12** House Committee VFW Post Meeting 6:30 pm	13 **Fish & Chips**	**14** Shawn Brown's Celebration of life 4pm
15 BINGO NITE! Starts at 5 **PM**	**16** QUEEN OF HEARTS 8pm Drawing	**17** St. Pat's Day Corn Beef & Cabbage Irish Dancers	**18** SHOW ME THE MONEY 6-7PM	**19** Ladies Nite 50 cents off alcoholic drinks	**20** Subs & Chips	**21** Prime Rib Dinner 5:30 pm 7pm
22 BINGO NITE! Starts at 5 **PM**	**23** Events Committee Mtg. 6:00pm QUEEN OF HEARTS	**24** Starts @ 6pm Lg Draft Beer $2	**25** SHOW ME THE MONEY 6-7PM	**26** Ladies Nite 50 cents off alcoholic drinks	**27** Lasagna Dinner	**28** Kids Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast 10am Band 7pm
29 BINGO NITE! Starts at 5 **PM**	**30** QUEEN OF HEARTS	**31** Starts @ 6pm Lg Draft Beer $2				The Foxhole Canteen

Daily Drawing – Monday through Saturday 7 pm
Tuesday Drawing – 8pm
Friday Drawing – 8pm