



“IN-FORMATION” is the official newsletter of Plover VFW Post #10262

Summer 2013

Special Interest Items

- *Plover Deseccrated Flag Story “Goes Viral!”*
- *Sr. Vice Stoflet Serves As Guardian on Honor Flight*
- *FREE Brewer Tickets for Service members*
- *Gov. Walker Signs Assembly Bill 166*

Post Meeting:

2nd Monday of every month at 1900 hours; (light lunch beforehand at 1800 hours)

Auxiliary Meeting:

2nd Monday of every month at 1900 hours; (light lunch beforehand at 1800 hours)

House Committee:

1st Wednesday of every month at 1700 hours

Commander’s Corner

Happy Summer Everyone! At the Department Convention in June, our Post was presented the 2012-2013 National Recognition Award for “Outstanding Community Service Program Activities.” Congratulations Everyone!!! This was in recognition of our countless volunteer hours and miles to support Veterans and our community.

Reporting Matters!

Whether you are visiting with our Veterans, taking them shopping or driving them to an appointment, assisting with a community event or an organization, please provide

Surgeon Worzalla with this information so we are able to document those activities.

I am proud to be a part of this Post where the members sacrifice so much of their time for the good of our cause. I thank EACH of you for all you do!

And thank you to the ladies in our Auxiliary for their continual, heartfelt support of the Post!

guymockler@yahoo.com

(715) 498-2024

Guy Mockler

Guy Mockler Retires From Navy After 40+ Years Of Service!



Congratulations

Guy!!!!

anchors Away!!



Quartermaster's 2-Cents-Worth



After a 3 year absence I am back to serve the Comrades of VFW Post 10262. Past Quartermaster Dave Skrzeczkoski ran a tight ship (even though he was Army) and it is my intention to do the same. I will not be running the canteen as he did for the past 1½ years. I also serve as our District 7 Quartermaster and will be serving as Department Inspector for the next year. You will see the laptop present at Post meetings, allowing me to answer any and all questions. This also applies

beyond meeting nights. As this Post belongs to the membership, it is my duty to answer all questions.

Funding of the Christmas Party will be supplemented by the money we receive from 50/50 raffles and the sale of aluminum cans. Please bring your cans to the drop-off point by the shed on the west side of the building. Ask for the key inside. Your can contributions will be appreciated.

Gary Matthees

Plover VFW Desecrated Flag Story “Goes Viral”

“HEY!!! STOP!!!!!!” yelled Iraqi War Veteran Al Tessmann to the worker at the Portage County Solid Waste Transfer Facility during a routine drop-off the day after Memorial Day. The front-end loader squealed to a halt amid mountainous heaps of trash. Al dropped to his knees before the behemoth machine. With his bare hands, he pushed aside refuse and rubbish and began pulling carefully – yet frantically – at the shredded shroud of red, white and blue fabric. There wasn't much time. This “fallen comrade” – ravaged and desecrated – was destined to rest in disgrace. . .

Al rescued and recovered “Old Glory” from the trenches that morning and brought her to Plover VFW Post 10262. Here began our mission to tell her story, educate our fellow citizens, and plan her proper and honorable retirement.

Our story has since “gone viral.” It appeared first as a feature story on the front page of the Stevens Point Journal on July 23, 2013. Within hours, so many people had called the local Wausau television stations that Channel 9 was on the scene at Al's construction worksite to do a story. By late afternoon, Channel 7 was at the Post interviewing Al and other members and ran it as their Top Story on the 10pm news and in the following days. One can find it on the WI State VFW main webpage. Al's brother told him he had seen the story on Channel 3 out of Madison. The flag was a “guest of honor” in the Plover VFW booth at the “Celebrate Plover” event on July 27th. Channel 7 attended the event to cover and air a sequel that ran as the Top Story that night and the next day. The story has been submitted for review to the editors at the National VFW office and we are awaiting a reply. Where it will stop, no one knows . . .

A proper and honorable retirement ceremony for “Old Glory,” themed “Honoring America One Flag At A Time. . .” is being planned for fall. Stay Tuned!

Debbie Manthey



Auxiliary Column



Good Wonderful July to everyone!

I am happy for the warm weather now, because come December, I will look back on these warm days and be grateful. I hope everyone's summer is going well with everyone healthy.

Some events to look forward to this summer are our own band concerts presented by Joyce Hanson at the Plover Community Center during July and August. Joyce has been presenting these for some years now and enjoys doing them, but is looking for someone to help her out or take over for her. Please consider helping with this wonderful community event.

For King Day on August 17th, there will be a "Music In The Park" presentation at King Wisconsin Veterans Home. Music begins at 10:30 A.M., followed by lunch, a parade, posting of colors, etc. Please try to attend if you can. Visit a Veteran in the hospital during the summer and share your experience with your Auxiliary.

Dues! It is very important to pay your dues prior to October 16th of this year. Dues will be raised \$3.00 starting in October. This is a great opportunity to consider becoming a LIFE member. Over time, you will see the benefits to LIFE. A special notice to LIFE members: due to increased costs in our cancer insurance program we are asking LIFE members to donate \$5 each year for cancer insurance. In a few weeks, you will receive a letter from me asking for this donation. Our Auxiliary has always paid this once you went LIFE, but now finds that we need donations to sponsor cancer insurance continuance.

Come on down and support your Post. Everyone's support is what keeps us afloat.

Plans are in the works for our annual Christmas Party, scheduled for December 14th. You will find additional information in this newsletter.

Yours in sisterhood,

Diane Lutovsky

Sr. Vice Stoflet Serves As Honor Flight Guardian

The day was filled with excitement as I read the final instructions, itinerary for the night and next day's events. I arrived at the hotel early, expecting to be one of the few to arrive before the official check-in time. I walked into an entryway that was filled with excited Guardians like me and Veterans with their spouses.

After checking into my room, I proceeded to the required Honor Flight guardian training. It was informative, motivational and I was one of just a handful of guardians that was not accompanying a loved relative. I was anxious to meet the veterans that I would be accompanying, along with their wives, for the evening program. That night I met my veterans, George and Doug, along with Shirley and Barbara – their lifelong loves (aka wives). Both George and Doug were in the Korean War. One was a radio man who called in air strikes and the other a heavy equipment operator. Throughout the day-and-a-half event, I listened to their stories and was so engulfed with what they had to say, that I began envisioning myself watching over them while they were at their duty stations. The memory of my own experiences, along with the detail in their stories, made everything come alive as if I were with them in their journey to Korea during the snapshot of the day's events.

The next day, May 13, 2013, was filled with sharing the experiences of seeing the memorials that honor those who served in the great wars - WW II, Korea and Vietnam. For me, the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery was the most impressive sight.

Meeting these two great men and being allowed to listen to their stories is something that I will never forget. Although we had an age gap of 30 years, I felt as if I had known them for many years. The funny thing about the three of us? We all LIKED the fruit cocktail in the C-Rats - remember those?



Ron Stoflet

Rifle Squad /Color Guard

News



After several busy months, we finally have some time to sit back and reflect upon our achievements. We looked GREAT on Memorial Day, at the WI State Veterans Reunion in Wisconsin Rapids, at the Korean War Memorial “Homecoming” Ceremony for the Village of Plover and at our July 4th parade in Stevens Point. I must AGAIN pass on to all of our Veterans who took part in the July 4th parade and these past events a “TON” of compliments!

In addition to honoring the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice on the 27th, our booth at the Celebrate Plover event drew young and old to view and learn about our now “Infamous Desecrated Flag” story. For the second time in a week, Channel 7 News came to cover and air the continuing story, providing us with an excellent opportunity to connect with the public on the meaning and proper etiquette for our flag. Plover VFW member Al Tessmann (left in photo) found and rescued the large, garrison flag from the dump at the Portage County Solid Waste Transfer Facility the day after Memorial Day. A flag retirement ceremony is being planned for the fall.

We are planning for our Annual Rifle Squad Steak Feed scheduled for August 17th. This event requires a lot of work to pull it off successfully, but is also a great “team building” event for our Comrades. Skills we did not know existed among our Comrades suddenly rise to the surface and things get done.

We will also be traveling to Waupaca for “King Day” on August 17th. Last year our Post was represented by our Color Guard which comprised three flag bearers, two color guards, and the color sergeant. We marched in a short parade that was very much appreciated by the King Veterans. What a TREAT it would be for King members if we could provide the same combined crew and performance we had for the July 4th parade!

Norb Strasser

Free Milwaukee Brewer Tickets For Military Service Members

RECEIVE 2 FREE TICKETS TO EVERY REGULAR SEASON SUNDAY MILWAUKEE BREWER HOME GAME IN 2013!

Just show your military ID, VA ID, or DD-214 no sooner than two hours before game time (see schedule below), at the ticket window under the clock tower (faces north, behind home plate). Call **414-902-4000** with any other questions.

All Games 1:10 p.m. (*All-fan giveaway bobble-head promotion)

Remaining Games: August 4th vs. Washington Nationals* August 18th vs. Cincinnati Reds

September 1st vs. LA Angels* September 15th vs. Cincinnati Reds*

September 22nd vs. Saint Louis Cardinals



House Committee Update

As we begin this new period of operation with new members on the House Committee and behind the bar, I already see that the excitement/frustration etc. is beginning to settle down. Comrade Gary Jay was asked to take the temporary position as Bar Manager and help with the stability of our operations.

Our House Committee members, Commander Mockler, Quartermaster Matthees, Three-Year Trustee Gauthier, One-Year Trustee Stevens and I have resolved that we will work together to keep our Post Canteen operating smoothly. We are training several new bartenders with hopes that some will fit in and fill the critical needs we have. We have been searching for that person or two who will become the face(s) of our Post. We hope to have them on-board shortly.

At our last House Committee (HC) meeting, we reemphasized the need to take care of our facility and keep the outside looking good by cutting the lawn/grass regularly. We have also scheduled the scrubbing and waxing of the bar area of our building and the annual cleaning-

out of the storage garage. Lists have been posted at the bar area.

Gary Jay used his connections to submit a bid to host the Portage County Tavern League Steak Feed and we were awarded the bid. The steak feed is scheduled for Monday evening on October 7th. The reason for Monday is because the Tavern League normally meets on Monday. Fliers will be posted shortly at bars around Portage County. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our Post!

Looking down the road after all of the seasonal, local church fests are over, we are already talking about the upcoming fish fry season. Several guests have stopped by recently to inquire when our fish fry nights will resume. We are also looking forward to our Rifle Squad Steak Feed that takes place on August 17th.

Stop by and enjoy a new drink! Gary Jay has been working with the bartenders to create some summer drinks you are sure to enjoy!

Norb Strasser

Governor Walker Signs Assembly Bill 166

Governor Scott Walker signed Assembly Bill 166 in Mayville (editor's hometown) on June 27th, 2013 that recognizes an individual income tax exemption for military income received by active duty members of the U.S. armed forces who die in a combat zone or as a result of wounds, disease or injury sustained as a result of combat.

On January 25th, 2012, Mayville High School graduate 1st Lt. David A. Johnson was killed in action during the first weeks of his deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. While taking care of David's taxes, his parents – Andrew and Laura Johnson – realized that his federal taxes were forgiven but his state taxes were not. They enlisted the assistance of Senator Scott Fitzgerald and 39th State Assembly Representative Mark Born to draft Assembly Bill 166, which became Act 19 after Walker signed it. The bill was unanimously passed by both houses of the legislature: 97-0 by the Assembly and 32-0 by the Senate.

The exemption applies beginning with the 2013 tax year. The subtraction in this subdivision applies to the basic, special or incentive pay income that is received by the individual in the year in which he or she dies, and the year immediately preceding the year if the individual has not filed a return in the year in which he or she dies.

Walker signed the bill at the Mayville Veterans Memorial, with the Johnson's and other Gold Star family members looking on, before the black granite wall that bears the names of local fallen heroes. Walker took a moment to physically touch the memorial to pay tribute to all the names on it.

The Johnson's were very pleased that everyone voted in favor of the bill. Walker was glad that the issue was brought to his attention. "This is a technicality that a lot of people didn't know. . ." he stated, "My hope is that this bill never gets used going forth. . . my hope is that we don't have any more service members lost in Wisconsin." *(Editor's note: Portions of this story excerpted from the Dodge County Pionier owned and published by Andrew Johnson).*



Walter Pakulski Airborne Memorial Ceremony

Thank you to all of you Veterans, families and friends who attended the First Annual Walter Pakulski All Airborne Memorial that was held on June 2, 2013 at the Wisconsin State Airborne Forces Bridge (Clark Street Bridge) in Stevens Point. The event was opened by our Plover VFW and other local Veterans Service Organizations. Chaplain Frank Raschka gave the opening blessing and invocation.

Our own Airborne "Trapper" John Schultz, Past Commander and now the 7th District Commander was the MC for the day. Trapper had the honor and privilege of introducing some very high-powered dignitaries as the speakers of the day.

First was Jerry Moore, Stevens Point Common Council, followed by Officer Mike Brennan of Madison, father of SGT Josh Brennan, 173rd Airborne, KIA, Afghanistan, Jill Stephenson,

Gold Star Mother of Army Ranger SGT Ben Kopp, KIA Afghanistan, CSM Jim Yanchesky, Badger Chapter 82nd Airborne Association, Jim Romlein, President of the Old Abe Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association, and the most honorable COL (Ret) John Scocos. 18th Airborne Corps, who heads up our Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

We also had four WWII Airborne Veterans in attendance. All four were given their turn at the microphone and one teary-eyed old Paratrooper told everyone how proud he was to be at this ceremony. It was

second only to his Honor Flight experience.

Special thanks to Tom Laney of the 82nd Airborne Association for putting this ceremony together to honor all Airborne Troops, Paratroopers, Air Assault and Glider Riders - as was Walter - who was our Plover VFW Post Chaplain for 25 years.

"Trapper" John Schultz



Plover VFW Presents Bert Platta Scholarship

Ashley Tikalsky, a senior at Stevens Point Area Senior High School, received the "Plover VFW Post 10262 Bert Platta Scholarship" in a ceremony at the Post on May 13th, 2013. The scholarship competition, held annually, began in 1994 and carries the name of long-time Plover VFW member and Korean War veteran, Bert Platta. The \$500 scholarship is awarded by the Rifle Squad and Color Guard, formerly commanded by Platta.



Ashley is a member of the National Honor Society and holds a 3.95 cumulative grade point average. She is the captain of the SPASH Swim Team, participates in community volunteer activities and works as a pharmacy technician. Ashley has been accepted at UW-Oshkosh and plans to pursue studies in nursing with a goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Photo from left-to-right: Marge Tikalsky (grandmother), Plover VFW Bert Platta Scholarship Chairman Jim Sachs, Julie Tikalsky (mother), Ashley Tikalsky (winner), Dan Tikalsky (father), and Al Tikalsky (grandfather).

REGULAR EVENTS

Rifle Squad Steak & Omelet Breakfast – will resume in September (every third Sunday)

Friday Night Fish Fry – will resume in September (every Friday night)

TAPS



Irvin Gartland, Myron Groskopp, Michael Helgert, Frank Podach, Robert Puariea

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Robert Bauer - transferred from Marshfield, Robert O. Bowen, John R. Butkus, Frederic W. Fleishauer, Nathan G. Nickel, Norbert J. Pudroski (transfer), Ross Quimby, Raymond L. Rekowski (transfer), Tim Victor

BIRTHDAYS



May

Robert Decker (21st), Thomas Doan (7th), William Jenkins (2nd), Larry Kinyon (15th), Gary Matthees (7th), Norbert Pudroski (15th), Timothy Victor (23rd).

June

Gerald Buza (15th), Jim Corcoran (27th), Perry Engel (29th), David Hoefs (26th), Alex Kieliszewski (20th), Victor Maslakow (26th), William McGregor (26th), Guy Mockler (16th), Donald Mugridge (30th), Leonard Norton (4th), James Sapp (10th), Wayne Schneider (15th), John Schultz (1st), Berniece Ward (13th), Donald Wiernik (13th), Robert Wisniewski (27th), Michael Worzalla (9th)

July

Eric Chilson (26th), Peter Cychosz (17th), Thomas Her (27th), Thomas Hagen (5th), Nickolas L. Huillier (9th), Jeremy Larsen (31st), Brian Leahy (2nd), Marci Ledlow (9th), Will Lehner (19th), Dennis Leper (10th), Robert Oberst (2nd), Lambert Platta (9th), Michael Wolf (19th)

August

Philip Casale (7th), James Douglas (17th), Robert Larson (17th), Donald Rasmussen (8th), David Skrzeczkoski (12th), Norb Strasser (5th), Andrew Suchon (24th), Everest Woyak (14th), Robert Zimbauer (9th)

September

Kenneth Carpenter (3rd), Al Czech (17th), Scott Halverson (17th), Gary Jay (10th), Wayne Johnson (21st), Robert Kitto (6th), Steven Koth (5th), Michael McKenna (20th), George Nugent (28th), Joseph Okray (9th), Michael Pohl (8th), Brian Stillman (1st), Ronald Stoflet (13th), Robert Turzinski (27th), Ronald Wroblewski (21st)

ANNIVERSARIES



May

Robert and Mary Carlson (1st), Bruce and Janice Djupstrom (1st), Allyn and Roberta Dunlap (26th), Raymond and Sue Gauthier (1st), Jim and Sue Sachs (26th), Ronald and Rose Sankey (1st), Ron and Kay Stoflet (25th)

June

Leslie and Irene De Meyer (1st), William and Jan Doxrude (1st), Ronald and Carol Garski (1st), David and Peggy Hanson (12th), Steven and Jennifer Koth (7th), James and Phillis La Sage (1st), Rick and MaryAnn Stevens (1st)

July

Jerome and JoAnn Krueger (1st), Dennis and Irene Lepper (1st), Donald and Leona Wiernik (7th), Michael and Doreen Worzalla (12th)

August

William and Mary Boston (4th), Kenneth and Virginia Glazer (2nd), Larry and Suzanne Kinyon (8th), Bob and Evelyn Kuehl (1st), Ralph and Mary Jane Meshak (18th)

September

John and Joyce Hanson (11th), George and Ramona Nugent (17th), Richard and Kim Peterson (26th), Ronald and Terry Wroblewski (23rd)

**Best Wishes To ALL &
Many More!**

Plover VFW Post #10262
2970 Hickory Drive
Plover, WI 54467



SPECIAL EVENTS

August 17 - VFW King Day at Wisconsin Veterans Home King

August 17 – Plover VFW Rifle Squad Steak Feed

**August 24 – Plover American Legion Post 543 Brat Fry at Wal Mart
Proceeds support Camp American Legion - a Northwoods retreat
for wounded and disabled Wisconsin Veterans**

September 7 – Mike Helgert Memorial Golf Outing

October 6 – WI VFW District 7 Meeting at Eagle’s Club in Marshfield

October 7 – Portage County Tavern League Steak Feed at Plover VFW

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 27 – 60th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice Day (1953)

**September 2 – Labor Day
V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)**

September 20 – POW/MIA Recognition Day

**Greater Plover Area VFW
Memorial Post #10262**

2970 Hickory Drive
Plover, WI 54467

Phone:
(715) 341-8414

E-Mail:
vfww10262@vfww10262.com

Visit Us On The Web:
<http://www.plovervfw.org>

*The VFW Clubhouse is
open to the public Tuesday
thru Sunday after 3:00 pm*



“Those Who Fought Together – Belong Together”