

# THE MESSENGER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF POST 305

MARCH 2023

## COMMANDERS COMMENTS

The recent PACT ACT, the most important and all inclusive Veterans legislation passed in 30 years is being revealed. The significant successful efforts to help Veterans & their families is inspiring.

### MAJOR LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

1. The new proposed 72 bed, Chippewa Veterans Home long-term care facility with a possible assisted living & memory care unit is making its way through the Wisconsin legislature & United States Congress.

This proposed bill, Leinenkugel Hall, will be difficult to oppose with the expected \$2,300,000 sale of state property. Senate bill 205 ,Act 105 in the 2003 Legislative Session declared that net proceeds of any property sold at Northern Center must be used on that State property by either Wisconsin Departments of Corrections, Social Services (DHS ) or Veterans Affairs.

A private firm has offered to build this facility for free, with lease/option to buy. This was done with the Stanley Prison 20 years ago.

Congressman Derek Van Orden & staff are leading the federal 2/3rds funding charge.

State Senator Jesse James, with Representatives Karen Hurd & Rob Summerfield are masterminding the 1/3 state commitment.

2. US Hwy 8 is the proposed mid - East Conflict Highway - recognizing the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq Veterans with the Global War on Terror.

3. The Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute could be Wisconsin's significant Site #16. The proposed plans being revealed will make this both a destination & ever improving and growing attraction for visitors both nation & world wide. Make copies of enclosed petition, get signatures and send to all WI politicians.

VISIT EAU CLAIRE is partnering-regional patriotic type tours. Anytime there is Convention, conference, rally, reunion, school or senior citizens type tour being recruited or coordinated —they will call us at VFW305 and we will work with other veterans organization as guides.

### VIETNAM VETERANS "SHARING" APPRECIATION WEEK

#### MONDAY, MARCH 27

7-8am breakfast at VFW 305,1300 Starr Ave EC  
8:30-9am Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute ,Blazing Star Blvd. Altoona (across from Woodmans near Cowboy Jacks).  
9:30- 10am Patriots Park / Grande Entrance to Carson Park (1160 Menomonie St. EC). 10:30- 11am ROCKPILE, 1716 63rd st Town of Wheaton / Chippewa Co.

11:30-1pm lunch at 29 Pines Eau Claire Travel Center( 5872 33rd Ave/EC) Town of Wheaton. Review 33 of completed of 50 Living Heritage Legacy Sign Sites.

1:30- 2 pm Bobville Talent Park, 5132 20th Ave EC, Town of Wheaton Chippewa county.

2:30-3pm tour Country Jam boundaries & discuss their patriotic potential.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 28

7-8am breakfast at VFW 7232, Folsom St EC

9-9:30 am Area Historical Tribute, Old Hwy 12 Fairchild WI

10-11am Highground Veterans Park Neillsville

11:30-12:30 pm Camp Victory, N9839 Sterling Ave, Greenwood Wis.

1:30-2pm Heroes Tribute, Stanley, Wis.(Main Street at railroad tracks).

2:30-3:30 pm Wisconsin Veterans Tribute/ Citizen Soldier Monument , Cadott Wis, intersections of Highways 27&29.

4-4:30pm town of Lafayette, Veterans Memorial , Lake Wissota on CTh X.

5-6pm Leinenkugels Lodge, Veteran Videos & memorabilia reviewed

#### WEDNESDAY MARCH 29

Starts 9 AM at the Eagles Club 2588 Hallie Rd Lane ,Chippewa Falls. This is the official 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

All day informational sessions, guest speakers, memorabilia shared .

Major efforts are made being made to invite widowed spouses & families of not only deceased Vietnam Veterans, but all Veterans.

#### FRIDAY MARCH 31

#### PROPOSED MIDEAST CONFLICT HIGHWAY TOUR

Depart 7 AM VFW Post 305

8:30-9 am American Legion on Industrial Dr., St. Croix Falls

10-10:30 am Baron VFW

11:30-noon Veterans Memorial Ladysmith

12:30-1:30 pm lunch Edming Oil Co, Citgo Gas Station, Glen Flora

2:30-3:30 pm Miracle Mountain Motorcycle Monument, 2675 CTH-L Lake Nakomis/ Tomahawk

4:30-5:30 pm Medford VFW on POW/MIA Hwy 13.

7-8pm WELCOME HOME at VFW Post 305

REMEMBER TO CHECK US OUT ONLINE

[www.facebook.com/vfwpost305](http://www.facebook.com/vfwpost305)

[www.VFWPost305.com](http://www.VFWPost305.com)

## RED CARPET AWARD



At the recent State Mid-Winter Conference, the Post was again presented with a Red Carpet Award. This award is given each year to Posts that reach recruiting goals set by the State. Pictured here (L to R) is Marc Garduno, National QM General; Clint Rudesill 305 QM; Dave Zien 305 Commander; and Michele Rathke State Commander.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

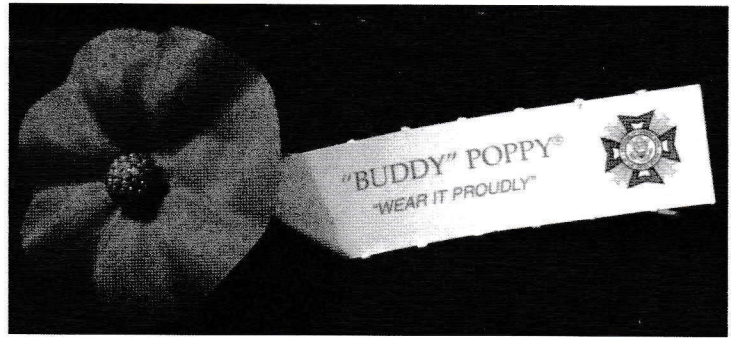
Congratulations Mary Ann Christopherson Also at the Mid-Winter Conference, a somewhat strange thing happened. The State Jr. Vice who was elected last June, was removed from office. So a special election was called to fill the vacancy. Mary Ann was nominated and elected. Which means she will now be running for State Sr. Vice in June of 2023 and if elected, running for State Commander in 2024!

Here is a portion of her biography: My qualification for the VFW is my service in Saudi Arabia as a Combat Medic for the 13th Evacuation Hospital during the Persian Gulf War. This was a 400 bed hospital of which I was one of the Minimal Care Ward NCOIC. After 30 years in the army, I retired as a Master



Sergeant. I am a respectful leader who is inclusive to all ideas and am able to coordinate effective meetings with productive discussion. I care about the the organization, preserving traditions and retaining the resources we have while looking to grow by including more people into chairmanships and leadership roles. It is important to welcome new veterans and the skills they have while sharing the traditions of this organization and why they are important.

## POPPY DISTRIBUTION DAYS



The Commander has set April 21 and 22 for Poppys this year. Mark your calendar, we need lots of participation as we ordered twice as many as last year. Also, contact the store you want to go and reserve the days, other groups use the same stores too.

## \$10,000 RAFFLE

Ticket sales are going well. There are about 15 not in anyone's hand and another 20 out somewhere yet to be sold, or turned in. The raffle date is Saturday, April 8, come join us although you need not be present to win.

## KITCHEN UPDATE

Not much to tell, equipment is being ordered and bank loan is being pursued. Plans have been submitted to State for approval, then they go to the City for permits. All this takes time, so no start date yet. We are still looking for money in our Capital Campaign to help offset what we need to borrow. Another \$1500 was donated this month, for a total of \$3500 given.

## POST ELECTIONS

The VFW sets the April meeting as elections even though the year runs from July 1 to June 30. Elections are important and maybe more so this year as I, the current Quartermaster, will not be in the running. I am retiring after 4 years. It is not a difficult position once you learn and I am willing to help train you as much as you want. All other positions are also open each year.

The Club was recently nominated in Volume One as "Best of the Chippewa Valley" in 11 categories.

Proudly serving the public and members!



**V.F.W. POST 305**  
 1300 Starr Avenue  
 Eau Claire, WI 54703  
 715-552-8438

*Our commander and the members of Post 305, welcomes the comrades of V.F.W., fellow veterans, family, and friends to come visit and experience what we have to offer.*

**NEW AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

Because of Mary Ann's new position, Marthamae Kottschade has agreed to be interim Auxiliary President until an election can be held next month. She is passionate about Patriotism.



I am honored with the opportunity to serve as President of VFW Post 305 Auxiliary. Veterans are all part of the military family, which I experienced as a mother of 2 Marines.

Recently, I have been using my background in Public Relations/ Advertising and Event Planning to create Veterans events with my fiance, Bruce Wozniak, who is Quartermaster of VFW Post 2711, Stanley.

New members from those events resulted in his Post obtaining the Red Carpet Membership award. There is a new generation of Veterans with their families we need to reach, connect with and support.

I look forward to planning fundraisers and community outreach events with fellow Auxiliary members at Post 305.

MM

Serving Breakfasts all Week.  
 Lunches Monday through Friday.



**FRIDAY**  
**FISH FRY dinner**  
 Dinners hours  
 are 5:00 to 8 pm

**VFW POST 305 OFFERS**

**"DISCOUNTS" FOR EVERY ELIGIBLE VETERAN**

CURRENT VFW FEES	VIETNAM VETS \$150 Savings	ALL OTHER QUALIFIED VETS 50% OFF
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425	\$212
31 - 40	\$410	\$205
41 - 50	\$375	\$187
51 - 60	\$335	\$167
61 - 70	\$290	\$145
71 - 80	\$225	\$ 75
<b>80 and Over</b>	<b>\$170</b>	<b>FREE FREE</b>

**"ALL" QUALIFIED VETERANS OVER 80 YEARS OLD ARE FREE**

ALL DISABLED Minimum Discount of 50% + Difference of Disability Rating over 50%

EXAMPLE: 30 years old with 75% rating

\$425

- 75%

\$106.25 Total Cost

Must prove Disability Rating

No other veteran organization offers these kinds of discounts to the veterans. Please consider joining our post. No one does more for veterans.

*For more information or reservation of your special event in our banquet hall or pavilion please call 715-552-8438*

**"PERMANENT" ADDRESS CHANGES PLEASE SUBMIT "ALL" ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**

**CLINT RUDESILL, QM,  
 VFW POST 305  
 1300 STARR AVE  
 EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703**

**REGULAR POST MEETINGS ARE HELD THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. THE HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETS AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.**

33 Wisconsin Senators, 99 State Rep's, 8 U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senators Baldwin/Johnson, Governor Evers, Lt. Governor, Wis. Dept., Secretaries of Administration, Social Services, Tourism, Transportation, Veteran Affairs – CC State Commanders FW, Legion, DAV, AmVets, VVA, Gold Star Mothers, VFW/Legion Auxiliaries.

We the undersigned respectfully request your leadership in successful pursuit of 4 priority Veterans and Patriotic issues. Your response can be shared statewide, "Inspiring others to emulate our euphoria!"

- 1) The Chippewa Falls Veterans Home proposed a new 72 bed long term care facility which could include memory care, assisted living, outpatient and a One Stop Shopping Veterans Empowerment Center. A private development company is offering to build the site at no cost to the state with a lease and option to buy. (Similar to the Stanley Prison arrangement 20 years ago).
- 2) This company has offered to build 5 more 72 bed Veteran facilities in the state of Wisconsin. Locations being discussed include La Crosse, Green Bay, Hayward, Madison and Milwaukee.
- 3) Wisconsin Significant Veteran Site #16, the Chippewa Valley Veterans Tribute is requested to be included in the Wisconsin State Statutes.
- 4) Proposed also in Wisconsin State Statutes is U.S. Highway 8 to be the Mideast Conflict Highway – honoring Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraqi Veterans and their loved ones and recognizing the Global War on Terrorism.

Name:	Signature:	Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	Phone:	Email:	Organization:

For Insight and Information Contact:

Dave Zien  
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Diane Weggen  
American Legion  
WI. President, 2021-2022  
dsweggen@gmail.com  
715-703-3561



**Wednesday**  
**March 29, 2023**  
Eagles Club  
2588 Bus. Hwy. 53  
Lake Hallie, Wisconsin

## 50th Anniversary **Vietnam Veterans Day Program**

**Opening Ceremony 10 a.m.**  
**All Veterans Welcome**

### Program Highlights

- Capt. Noa Shoua Xiong - Wis. Lao Veteran of America, Inc.
- County Veteran Service Officers - PACT Act and Agent Orange Benefits
  - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Daniel Cavanaugh, US Army (Retired)
  - Vets Center - Wes Porter
- Lunch is available for purchase