



Bert Black Jr. Post 7400 Warrior Journal

Veterans of Foreign
Wars

Volume 12 Edition 9
September 2015

From the Commander's Desk

Hello Comrades:

September will be a busy month for the Post with several activities taking place.

On Wednesday September 2nd we will observe VJ Day. The remembrance of the ending of WWII. There will be a flag raising at 11:00 a.m.

On September 11th we will have a Flag raising at 11:00 a.m. for Patriots Day and also to remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice at the World Trade Center in New York on 9/11.

On Friday, September 18th, we will be observing POW/MIA Day at the Post. There will be a special ceremony at the Post followed by a casual pot luck. Please plan to attend.

A special event takes place on Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th. The Post Auxiliary will be holding a Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on both days.

Special Notice—Tacos in the Lounge will now be on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Post Breakfast will be on Saturday the 12th starting at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. And the Specialty Dinner will be on the 19th starting at 5:00 p.m. We will be serving Chicken Fried Steak with all the trimmings, please plan on attending. We are grateful for your continued support of all our post functions.

I look forward to serving you all.

In Comradeship,

Alan R. Tobish
Post Commander

•Auxiliary Garage Sale•

On September 25th and 26th the Auxiliary is hosting a “rummage (garage) sale at the post. So, if you or anyone you know has some TREASURES they want to get out of their garages, we are accepting donations. Call Pam at 300-6968 to find out when and where to bring donated items.

The sale runs from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. both days!



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Special Items of Interest

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Golly gee, here we are in September, boy how time flies when you are having fun.

As of August 21st we are no longer the “Ladies Auxiliary” of the VFW. We are now the “Auxiliary” of the VFW. That’s right we are now accepting applications from men who qualify to join. I would like to take this time to say WELCOME to all new members men and women. This is a great organization to become involved with. Our military and veterans need all of our help.



August was pretty busy, our Lunch in the Lounge hosted by Jeri and Jim Strande was successful and sold out. Our meeting was visited by our District 2 President Joy Bork. She was very pleased with how our meeting was conducted and made some good comments.

September’s Lunch in the Lounge will be hosted by Pam “Pooh.” She will be serving Taco Salad with chicken. Our meeting will be on Monday September 14th at the Post at 2:00 p.m. Also, on September 25th and 26th the Auxiliary is hosting a “rummage (garage) sale at the post. So, if anyone has some TREASURES they want to get out of their garages, we are accepting donations.

An on-going project is the Verde Valley Military Service Park. It is at Garrison Park here in Cottonwood. The committee, including several members of the Post and Auxiliary, will have a donation booth at the “Thunder Valley Rally.” Stop by and make a donation to this worthy cause!

The kitchen will be up and running this month, so we will need volunteers to help, if you are interested in helping please call Pam or Al. Our numbers are listed on the newsletter. Also check out the dates for our dinners and breakfast. Come and join us, just think no cooking or cleaning. Also you are helping to support our Post. The best in the west.

Helping our Veterans
Pam Van Winkle
Auxiliary President

A reminder! When sending correspondence to the Auxiliary by mail please address it to: Auxiliary, Post 7400, P.O. Box 3944, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Fallen Comrades 2013 - 2015

We are saddened by the passing of our comrades:

J. Flammia
G. Gocha
O. Gregory
J. McDowell
C. Self
C. Smith

F. Spencer
W. Villa

The following comrades are fondly remembered:

L. Atkisson
H. Bean
L. Best

W. Boley
H. Herring, Jr.
D. Johnston
V. Mayer
G. Murray
R. Ochoa
D. Rhodes
G. Straube
O. Stuart



Fallen Sisters 2013 - 2015

We are saddened by the passing of our sisters:

Anita Bennett
Susan Biddle
Evelyn Kelly
Burnetta Ooley
Dorothea Sue Rostatter

Bonnie Rognholt
Jennifer Tobish
Bonnie Yarger

The following sisters are fondly remembered:

Beulah Helgeson
Eleanor Hull
Lois Kellenbenz
Vivian Schlagel
Shirley Straube



Service Officer's Corner

The NPRC records fire of 1973 Up to 18 million military records were engulfed in flames Author: Jason Davis

The files were stored in cardboard boxes stacked on steel shelves lining the sixth and top floor of a large, rectangular federal building in a small, northwest suburb of St. Louis. They were packed so tightly within the thousands of boxes that, when the fire erupted, it burned so intense, so quickly, so out of control, it took the responding 43 fire departments more than two days to smother. When the smoke settled and the interior temperature cooled, the building's staff found that up to 18 million of "the most fragile records in our nation" had been reduced to smoldering piles and puddles of ash.*

There was no motive, no suspect, and few clues. The person(s) responsible for destroying 80 percent of Army personnel records for soldiers discharged between 1 Nov 1912 to 1 Jan 1960 and 75 percent of the Air Force records of Airmen discharged between 25 Sep 1947 to 1 Jan 1964 (with surnames beginning with Hubbard and running through the end of the alphabet) has never been found.
NPRC Fire 1973

The NPRC records fire of 1973 destroyed up to 18 million WWI, WWII, and Korean War Veterans' personnel records.

The NPRC records fire is 42-year old news, yet even today it continues to impact the lives of our most sacred Veterans and their dependents and survivors.

How does an Army Air Forces bombardier from our Greatest Generation apply for VA healthcare and benefits without records of his service? What can be done for the fiduciary of an Army Nurse Corps Veteran looking for records to piece together his grandmother's legacy? How does NPRC staff deal with the thousands of records requests from this time period it fields each year?

In the days following the fire, NPRC used experimental treatments to recover about 6.5 million burned and water-damaged records. Today, it has a preservation program, split between two teams (1 & 2), reconstructing what was recovered. This has proved helpful and hopeful for the many "treasure hunt" stories that occasionally surface in media profiles.

But, what about those whose records were not recovered?

You can help VA help NPRC reconstruct the damaged record. There is a specific request you must fill out that gives VA the authority to ask NPRC to reconstruct that file. This request provides information that allows the NPRC to search for other types of documents, such as individual state records, Multiple Name Pay Vouchers from the Adjutant General's Office, Selective Service System registration records, pay records from the Government Accounting Office, as well as medical records from military hospitals (current Army list; current Air Force list), unit records and morning reports, and entrance and separation x-rays and organizational records, that would assist you with your VA healthcare access or compensation claim, or for valuable research on your family member's service history.

When it comes to VA compensation, however, maybe you don't have time to play detective. It is critical, in the request you send to VA, that you provide as much information as you can, including the units you were assigned to, as well as the name of the company, battalion, regiment, squadron, group, and/or wing.

VA will accept, as alternate sources for records, statements from service medical personnel, certified "buddy" statements or affidavits, accident and police reports, Employment-related examination reports, letters written during service, photographs taken during service, pharmacy prescription records, insurance-related examination reports, medical evidence from civilian/private hospitals, clinics, and physicians that treated you during service or shortly after separation, and photocopies of any service treatment records that you may have in your possession.

It is important to note that, although these details can significantly help, VA does not rely only on service treatment records when deciding claims for cases that are related to the 1973 fire.

While this can appear daunting, there is help available; VA encourages you to work with an accredited representative or agent if you need assistance. You can also request an attorney, claims agent, or Veteran Service Organization representative online.

The ramifications of this tragedy have been longstanding and well documented, and it couldn't have happened to a more heroic group of Veterans at a worse time—when those files were needed most. Archaeologists two centuries from now are not going to magically dig up microfiche duplicates that were never created. Those records are lost to time. With NPRC's assistance, VA is committed to ensuring that no eligible but affected Veteran goes without the benefits and services (or information) to which he and she have earned.

*In 2012, NPRC relocated to a new building housing 60 million records (from the Spanish-American War to about the year 2000) in 1.8 million boxes "in a climate-controlled warehouse with a constant temperature of about 35 degrees and with a relative humidity that never dips below 40 percent."



VFW National and Arizona News

VA Benefits a Total Surprise for Elderly Veteran He had no idea someone was still fighting for him

“This veteran’s claim came across my desk for appeal review,” said VFW Service Officer Mary Bandini of California. “I could not get in touch with him for months, but I continued to work the case on his behalf.”

The veteran is John Rizzo*, a Marine in the Battle of Guadalcanal and Air Force pilot in the Korean War. During Air Force training, Rizzo’s plane crashed, breaking his back and ending his accomplished military career.

Rizzo was medically discharged and filed his first VA claim way back in 1954. He was denied. In 2008, he submitted another claim. This time for a wheelchair ramp. Again, denied. The unjust denial cost him a broken hip ... twice.

“With the help of our National Veterans Service team, we were able to argue for the secondary conditions that required Rizzo to use a wheelchair,” said Bandini. “When I finally got word that his claim was headed to the court, I submitted a written statement of support. I still couldn’t reach him, so I relied solely on his file.”

Rizzo didn’t ask for much. All he wanted was a ramp. What he got was full benefits and six-figure retroactive pay dating back to 2008.

When Rizzo’s check arrived in the mail, he was skeptical. This must be a clerical error, he thought. He had no idea that someone was still fighting for him.

When Bandini was finally able to reach Rizzo, who is 90 years old, she assured him the check was not a mistake and that his claim had been accepted after all these years. He was beyond elated.

“He wanted to meet so he could thank me personally, but I feel like he’s the one who deserves the thanks for his service,” said Bandini.

“Seeing a veteran get approved after so many years is the best part of the job,” said Bandini. “I was not able to get him a ramp, but I did get him enough money to build one.

Bandini is passionate about her job and helping veterans stand their ground against the VA ... against the system that so many veterans have gotten lost in.

Veterans should put as much priority on advocating for themselves now as they once put on protecting this nation. They have earned that right,” Bandini concluded.

New 2015 - 2016 Arizona Department Officers

Commander	Robert Hysko	Post: 9400	Email: post9400@vfw.phxcoxmail.com
Sr Vice Commander	Roger Gowen	Post: 7968	Email: gowen59@msn.com
Jr Vice Commander	Ken Marshall	Post: 8053	Email: kbck1221@msn.com
Quartermaster	Ski Kuczynski	Post: 3632	Email: Qmskiaz@gmail.com
Adjutant	Ray Thomas	Post 3632	Email: vfwhdqtrs@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Gene Wood	Post: 12043	Email: lsgvet@cox.net
Surgeon	Derek Tramondo	Post: 7968	Email: azmarinesniper777@yahoo.com
State Chaplain	Ralph Teagardin	Post: 5990	Email: teapotjr1943@yahoo.com
Chief Of Staff	Christopher Kozakiewicz	Post: 9907	Email: pegasus_i@yahoo.com
Inspector	Derek Tramondo	Post: 7968	Email: azmarinesniper777@yahoo.com
Jr Pdc	Gregory Kozakiewicz	Post: 9907	Email: Lonepole@yahoo.com



Warrior Journal

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SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	2 VJ Day Japan Surrenders 1945 11:00 a.m. Flag Raising 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Tacos in the Lounge	3 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	4 10:00 a.m. Koffe Klatch 11:30 a.m. Lunch in The Lounge 7:00 p.m. Post Meeting	5
6 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	7 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	8 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	9	10 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 8:00 a.m. Quilters Meeting 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	11 Patriots Day 11:00 a.m. Flag Raising	12 8:30 a.m. Post Breakfast
13 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	14 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting	15 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner	16 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Tacos in the Lounge	17 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	18 POW/MIA Day 11:00 a.m. Flag Raising	19 5:00 p.m. Specialty Dinner Chicken Fried Steak
20 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	21 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	22 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	23	24 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 8:00 a.m. Quilters Meeting 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	25 Auxiliary Garage Sale 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Post	26 Auxiliary Garage Sale 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Post
27 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	28 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	29 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	30			

Veterans of Foreign Wars



Bert Black Jr. Post 7400
 P.O. Box 689
 Cottonwood, AZ 86326
 Phone: (928) 634-9769
 Fax: (928) 649-3714
 www.vfwpost7400.org
 admin@vfwpost7400.org



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Bert Black Jr. Post 7400 Officers for 2015 - 2016

September Dates to Remember	Commander	A. Tobish	284-8820	President	P. Van Winkle	300-6968
September 4	Sr. Vice Cdr.	L. Stover	634-6348	Sr. Vice	L. White	221-2703
Koffee Klatch 10 a.m.	Jr. Vice Cdr.	J. Razo	634-6617	Jr. Vice	B. Luce	649-2129
Lunch in The Lounge 11:30 a.m.	Quartermaster	Adjutant	T. Nester	Treasurer	V. Tobish	649-1897
Post Meeting 7 p.m.	639-4616	Chaplain	J. Bryan	649-0642	Secretary	V. Davis
September 11	Judge Advocate	G. Rekow	634-2722	Chaplain	P. Wright (480)	748-0796
Patriots Day Flag Raising 11 a.m.	Surgeon	R. Powell	646-6492	Conductress	D. Norvell	646-5232
September 14	Guard	A. Gallegos	634-5802	Guard	B. Kuzala	646-7166
Auxiliary Meeting 2 p.m.	1 Year Trustee	D. Finney	639-1526	1 Year Trustee	J. Strande	649-3374
September 15	2 Year Trustee	E. Uzumecckis	202-2193	2 Year Trustee	R. Sperry	639-4753
Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.	3 Year Trustee	R. Luce	649-2129	3 Year Trustee	S. Whitacre	567-7409
September 19				Patr. Instructor	J. Strande	649-3374
POW/MIA Day Flag Raising 11 a.m.						
September 19						
Speciality Dinner 5 p.m.						
September 25-26						
Auxiliary Yard Sale 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.						

Proudly Serving

Service Officers: Ron Luce, Tommy Nester, and Ed Uzumecckis, PhD
 Service Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Sedona, or by appointment.
 House Committee: Don Finney, Bob Powell, Tommy Nester, Al Tobish, Ron Luce, Larry Stover, John Razo, and Art Gallegos, Meeting 11:30 a.m. Thursdays
 Work Days: Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Phone: 634-9769
 Bingo Manager: Ron Luce
 Bingo Hours: Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m., Phone: 634-9769
 Honor Guard Commander: Larry Stover, Phone: 634-6348
 Lounge Manager: T. Nester, Phone 639-4616
 Newsletter Editor: Ed Uzumecckis, PhD - Email: editor@vfwpost7400.org, Phone: 202-2193