



# The Vet Gazette

November 2017

Dear Comrades,

November is a busy month with various Veteran Activities happening. Please note the following events and participate if able:

Veterans Church Service – November 5. This will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd at the corner of State Road and Route 250. Time is 9:45.

Veterans Talk at Spry – November 8<sup>th</sup> 12:15 to 2:30. Still looking for Korean or WWII veterans to participate. If you are able, let me know ASAP so we can get your name in.

Post Meeting – November 8<sup>th</sup>. Our regular Post meeting will be held at the Elks Lodge, 1066 Jackson Road. Light lunch at 6:15 with meeting starting at 7:00. For those who ordered shirts, they are here and will be available at the meeting.

Veterans Talk at Klem South – November 9<sup>th</sup>. Allan Schichtel is still looking for one or maybe two more veterans to participate. Please contact him if you can help.

Veterans Pasta Dinner - November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Elks in cooperation with others will once again sponsor a pasta dinner for local veterans and their spouses at Spry Middle School. Dinner is served from 4 to 6:30 P.M. Reservations are needed and can be made by calling Ms. Ritzmann at 216-0093

November 10<sup>th</sup> – 242<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. We will have birthday cake at the regular Post meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Veterans Day – Locally meet at Veterans Park in the Village at 10:30. A Veterans Day lunch will follow at the Village Hall. The annual service downtown will

take place at the War Memorial at 11:00. There is a service at the Vietnam Memorial at Highland Park in the evening.

K-Kids – November 16<sup>th</sup> - this has always been a fun event for members of our Post as we meet with these young people and their families. Starts at 6:00 P.M. with a Pot Luck Dinner by the parents with the induction ceremony to follow. If you are planning to attend, please call me so I can give a count to the school.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Charles Klauck  
Commander

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Please keep in your thoughts Bob VandeVoorde and Joe Mulay, both of whom are at St. Ann's and John Gardner who is homebound.

We have learned of the passing of two of our members from National – James Pitrella and Dominick Masiello. Our deepest sympathy is expressed to their families.

If you know of a member who is sick or has died, please contact Chaplain Allan Schichtel (545-4722).

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DD-214 IS??

Please make sure you have your DD-214 and your family knows where to find it. Should you need to apply for a replacement, please contact me (671-2302) and I will see you get the necessary form to do so. This is very important for your family to be able to apply for any benefits that may be available.

### ARE YOUR DUES UP TO DATE??

Dues notices are sent out from National prior to the expiration of your current dues. Dues are payable to National who in turn credits back to the Post the Post share which is \$6.00. If you wish you can remit a check or cash in the amount of \$36.00 directly to the Post and the Quartermaster will remit your dues for you. As a large majority of our members are Life Members this only applies to those 40 or so members who pay their dues on an annual basis. Also, please note that dues are on a subscription basis, which means your membership extends one year from when your dues are paid much as a magazine subscription. Please check your membership card and make sure it is current.

### NEW WEBSITE ON LINE

Check the website often as updated information on upcoming events as well as news you may be able to use if updated when needed. Check us out at [www.vfw9483.org](http://www.vfw9483.org)

## One Veteran's Opinion

*By Fred Elliott*

Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs have expressed their support for a Bill to allow the VA to sell a building in Paris, France. The building, known as Pershing Hall, was established by the American Legion in 1928 as a World War I Memorial. In 1991, its ownership was transferred to the VA. Currently, the building is maintained and operated as a luxury hotel under a lease agreement with a private French firm. Although it is unhappy about the status of Pershing Hall, the American Legion opposes the sale of the building. If the American Legion wants the property to again be a monument to WWI, it should buy the building from the VA and make it the memorial they desire. (See House Bill H.R.2773)

On October 16<sup>th</sup> of this year, VA announced its presentation to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, a draft proposal of the Veterans Coordinated Access & Rewarding Experiences Act (CARE Act). The draft proposal intends to improve

Veterans' experiences with and access to health care. The Bill would:

- Clarify and simplify eligibility requirements.
- Set the framework for VA to continue to build a high-performing network.
- Streamline clinical and administrative processes.
- Implement new care coordination support for Veterans.
- Merge and modernize community care programs.

The Bill would replace certain criteria under the Choice Program:

- Place the Veteran and his or her physician at the center of the decision process on how and where to get the best care available.
- Ensure VA is improving medical facilities and staffing levels to meet Veterans' needs in areas where VA care is substandard.
- Offer options for Veterans to use a network of walk-in clinics for minor illnesses and injuries.

The CARE Act would also include:

- Proposals for new workforce tools to assist in maintaining and strengthening VA's world-class medical staff.
- A number of business process enhancements to improve financial management of the Community Care program.
- Provisions that would strengthen VA's ability to partner with other federal agencies and streamline VA's real property management authorities.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs is also working on legislation that will require VA medical professionals to report directly to state licensing boards if they witness unacceptable or unethical behavior from other medical professionals at the VA. Currently, if the VA receives a report of substandard health care practices, it takes at least 100 days to decide whether to refer the matter to a state licensing board. Let's hope the Committee gets that legislation done ASAP.

