



November 2024

**Next Regular Business Meeting Thursday, 21 November at
1900 hrs**

Important Dates to Remember:

3 November – Daylight saving time ends – Set clocks back 1 hour

5 November – Election Day

10 November – 249th Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps

11 November – Veterans Day

21 November – Grenada Campaign Ended (1983)

21 November - **Regular Business Meeting at Munster Town Hall @ 1900 hrs.**

28 November – Thanksgiving Day

VFW Membership

Our VFW Post exceeded the 102% membership requirement for the 2023/24 VFW calendar year. Thanks to John S. and Frank D. for bringing in the new members. Our post received a congratulatory plaque for reaching our membership goal. For the year, the Department also met it's 102% goal and is being recognized as an All-American Department. The goal for 2024/25 is unchanged at 102%. A change to this year's membership includes: **Reinstates will now count towards recruiter credit/awards.**

November General Orders & District 1 News

Highlights from the November General Orders are listed below. If you want any further information on anything below, please don't hesitate to ask and something can be sent out to you specifically.

- **Patriot Pen, VOD and Teacher of the Year Packets:** - PP and VOD and TOY entries were due to District in November. The Munster Post participated in all 3. We submitted 1 Patriot Pen and 2 Voice of Democracies. We also submitted 1 teacher of the year.
- **Post Audits** – The Munster Post successfully completed our annual Inspection. A huge thank you to QM Sarnecki and Adj- Sr. Vice Commander Casiano in having all of the required information readily available. We were the only post in the District to successfully complete our inspection.... The first time.

- **Membership** – Most of the General Orders discussed membership. Post 1121 in Kewanna reached 104% for the year, Post 6751 in Geneva and Post 6574 in West Terre Haute are tied at 96.15%. District 8 is leading the way at 84.85% and the state is currently at 80.56%.
- **Candidates for Surgeon** – There were two perennial VFW members vying for State Surgeon, Keith Rohloff and Gene Richards. Their bios were in the general orders.
- **Big 4 Legislative Priorities for the 2025 General Session** – The Big 4 put out their 4 highest priorities for the 2025 legislative session....
 - **Priority #1** – Tuition remission for Children of Disabled Veterans at all Indiana Public Colleges. Should also include the Space Force. Eliminate the requirement for service during a war or equally hazardous duty recognized by a service or campaign medal.
 - **Priority #2** – NGAI Indiana National Guard Member Death Benefit Insurance. Introduce a state-sponsored \$10,000 death benefit for National Guard members.
 - **Priority #3** – Electronic Pull Tabs for Veteran Service Organizations – Authorize VSO’s to utilize electronic pull tabs, which operate similarly to conventional pull tabs.
 - **Priority #4** – Regulation of Claim Sharks – Protects veterans from exploitative practices by claim sharks. Prohibit claim sharks from operating in Indiana unless they adhere to VA rules and procedures.

Post Website Update

The post website is now updated with current contact information and links to the National Suicide Hotline. I also added the monthly newsletters and will do my best to continue to add them throughout the year. Most of the pictures on the site are old, so if you have any recent pictures you’d like to add, please send them my way. Many people don’t know, but we also have a twitter account and a Facebook account. I will try to link Facebook to the website soon. I admit, I’m a social media idiot so I have no idea if I’ve set it up correctly (I might need my kid to help.) The website address is: munstervfw.org. I’d like to personally thank Post Member Brian Hernandez who has graciously offered to help manage our social media accounts.

2025 Fundraisers

At our last few meetings we’ve discussed ways to update our “look” at our fundraisers. Post Members Joe Sutton and Brian Hernandez have offered to take this program over for 2025. Joe has a new collection can that he’d like to share with the membership. I think it looks awesome and definitely would help improve our look. The blue tape is where the money slots would go.



Voice of Democracy – Patriot Pen and Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to our Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy Entries.

Patriot Pen – Carter Wedryk – 8th grade – Our Lady of Grace School

Voice of Democracy – 1st place – Asha Patel – Sr @ Munster High School

Voice of Democracy – 2nd place – Rylan Brown – Fr @ Avon High School

Teacher of the Year – Elementary – Jennifer Herold – Eads Elementary

Teacher of the Year – High School – Michael Bakker – Munster HS

Notifications will be sent out to the students prior to our regular business meeting.

Veterans Day Recap

There were two functions the Post participated in during the Veteran's Day week. Our first program was to post the colors at Eads Elementary School. That was the first time we had participated in their program (at least as long as I've been involved with the VFW.) The school children welcomed us out to their "Field of Flags" that we posted by the children for family members who have served. The pledge was recited, a speech was made and the school sang a nice song to the group. Afterwards we briefly met with each grade level and answered some questions, ranging from....."What was a normal work day on the ship?" to "What year were you born?" At the end, the principal donated a check for \$50 to our Post. Please see pictures below.



Left: Post Members posing with the Cub Scouts.

Below: The field of flags with the school children surrounding them.





*Above left: A fine-looking group of veterans.
Above right: Posting the colors at the Field of Flags.*



The next ceremony we attended was held at St. Pauls in Munster. They had a school program that honored all veterans, we posted the colors and enjoyed the program put on by the students. Then afterwards all of the vets in attendance lined up and shook the kids hands and received cards and drawings.



Back to School – Munster High School

Commander Joe and Sr. Vice Commander Jesse spent Veteran's Day at Munster High School meeting with all of the junior class U.S. History students. There some good questions from some of the students. When asking if any of the students were thinking about joining the service there were only a few hands, but when asked how many students had veteran's in their family, there were a bunch of hands. Overall it was a good day and I believe it was well received.

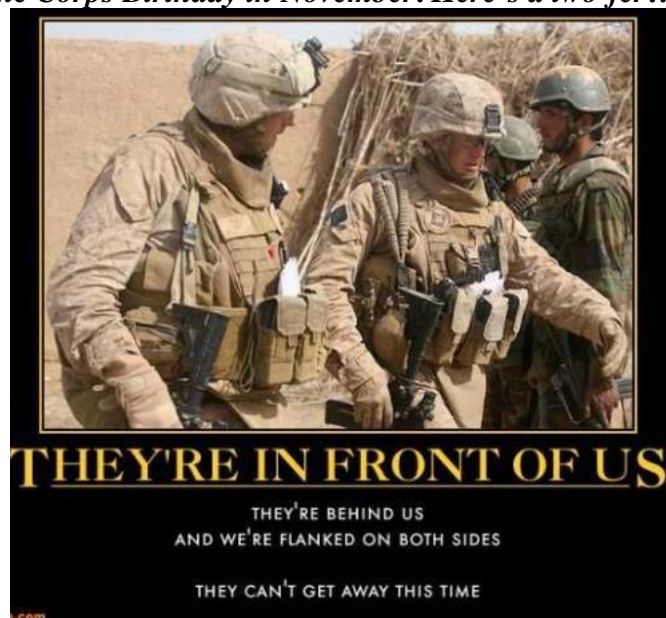
Veterans Day Program - CVM

We had another very successful Veterans Day program at the Community Veterans Memorial. John Spence, Tim Brown and Fernando Urzua, along with Anthony Crowley handled the canon duties, Hunter sang a traditional National Anthem and Post Member Brian Hernandez professionally posted the colors. The American Legion Post 16 fired 3 volleys and played TAPS.

A Few Words from the State Surgeon

- Veterans Suicide prevention is at the forefront of all other Veteran Programs. If you are in trouble or know of another Veteran in trouble. CALL 988 and select 1 for immediate support from the Veterans Crisis Line. The service is private and free and available 24/7. Or Text 838255 and start a confidential chat If hearing impaired, CALL TTY: 800-799-4889 **For an immediate medical emergency CALL 911**
- SCAMS against Veterans has become rampant across the State with upwards of 5,200 Veterans getting scammed each year. Scams can be for disability compensation benefits, financial investments, legal fraud, and anything else that doesn't seem right. If you feel that you or a friend/family member has been targeted by a scam based on Veteran status, then contact the Indiana State Attorney General's Office at 317-232-6330 or 800-382-5516 and file a complaint. There is absolutely no need to feel ashamed or embarrassed as they are here to help
- Veteran Homelessness is a serious concern across the State of Indiana. Daily homeless Veterans across the State average around 540. These are just the ones who have identified themselves as a Veteran. Homelessness can be attributed to many factors in a Veterans life and needs to be addressed immediately. If you are experiencing homelessness or know of other Veterans needing assistance, help is available. Contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-424-3838. Or go to the VA website: va.gov/homeless

In honor of the Marine Corps Birthday in November. Here's a two-fer.....





USMC

Providing the enemies of America an opportunity
to die for their countries since 1775

*"Casualties many; Percentage of dead not known;
Combat efficiency: we are winning!"
Col. David Shoup, USMC – Tarawa, 21 November 1943*



Carry On!

Send correspondence

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