

# CHECKPOINT INT

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Extra! Extra!..... 2

- Scooters for rent at national convention.
- Here's how to get around Charlotte, N.C., during convention.
- Home Depot grants available for VFW Posts.

### Service Officer Profiled..... 3

A retired command sergeant major works out of a five-member service office adjacent to a Florida Post.

### A Day to Honor Service Dogs ..... 4

A Virginia Post has gotten behind a national effort to annually recognize military, police and therapy service dogs.



### Baby Showers for Female Vets ..... 5

An Auxiliary in Illinois hosts a unique service for mothers-to-be.

### Bikers Support Buddy Poppy Drive..... 6

Members of a Florida Post distributed thousands of Buddy Poppies during "Bike Week" at Daytona Beach.

### Eternal Flame Burns in Oklahoma..... 7

Frustrated by a malfunctioning veterans memorial in its hometown, an Oklahoma Post lends a helping hand.



### Goodwill in Washington ..... 8

Replacing a tattered flag at a Washington state high school earns respect for a local Post.

## Marching in Honor of the Fallen

# Illinois Post Commander Finds Camaraderie in Ruck March

**Bob Welch had three objectives when he joined a march last fall: support his brother, honor a friend and get a "kick in the butt" to get back in shape.**

What he got out of the march was much more than that. He got to meet the parents of those who served and came back, only to take their own lives because they lacked support at home. He got to meet veterans like himself, all while honoring their fallen brothers and sisters.

"A lot of vets go and participate," Welch said. "It's great camaraderie."

Welch served in the Navy for 20 years, deploying to Iraq in 2006 with the Seabees. He now serves as the commander at Post 450 in Alsip, Ill., a suburb south of Chicago.

**"If there is a march in your community, go out and do it,"**

— Bob Welch, commander, Post 450



The Ruck of Honor march started three years ago in Chicago, the brain-child of Chicago Veterans, a united group of veterans that works with VFW Posts in the area. Participants march 22 miles, carrying 22-pound packs to represent the national average of veteran suicides per day, according to a 2013 study conducted by VA. A couple other places caught on—Colorado and North Carolina were two that came to Welch's mind.

Welch says he decided to participate in the North Carolina march last year because it was in his hometown of Raleigh, and he wanted to honor his childhood friend Jeremy Rausch, a Bronze Star recipient and Iraq veteran who committed suicide in May 2015. Welch called his brother, Grant, who is a life member of Post 7383's Auxiliary in Cary, N.C., and they made the trip to recognize him. They had a VFW team, consisting of five VFW members and six supporters.

Welch "emphatically encourages"

others to find a march and sign up.

"If there is a march in your community, go out and do it," he said. "If there isn't, get with your Post and set one up. It brings vets in the community together. For VFW, this helps change the image many young vets have. This is what young vets want to do."

Money raised by the event went to All American Alternatives, a non-profit group dedicated to providing drug-free

alternative therapies for PTSD, chronic pain and insomnia—treatments such as massage, reiki (healing through channeling energy), martial arts and acupuncture.

The third annual Chicago Ruck of Honor will take place on May 27. Marchers will travel from Veterans Memorial Park in Glencoe, Ill., to Milton Lee Olive Park in Chicago.

E-mail: [kgibson@vfw.org](mailto:kgibson@vfw.org)

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB WELCH AND ILLINOIS VFW NEWS



Bob Welch, right, marches with his brother, Grant, on Nov. 14, 2015, in Raleigh, N.C., as part of the Ruck of Honor march. Participants marched 22 miles to publicize the number of veterans VA says commit suicide each day.



# SERVICE OFFICERS



Far left: Thomas P. Rentz retired as a command sergeant major with the 42nd Inf. Div. and earned his eligibility in Iraq in 2005. Rentz's 34-year career and administrative experience now help him help his fellow veterans.

Left: Thomas P. Rentz has been a service officer with Post 8255 in Middleburg, Fla., since 2013. He is one of five service officers who've helped work on about 1,600 cases since 2014.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THOMAS P. RENTZ

## Five-Person Service Office

## Iraq Vet in Florida Helps Serve 800 Vets Annually

**It's not every day a Post is able to build its own, separate facility dedicated to helping veterans get the compensation they deserve.**

It's a reality at Post 8255 in Middleburg, Fla. The separate building, located right next door to the Post, opened in September 2014 and was built with \$38,000 from the Post building fund. Thomas P. Rentz is one of five service officers at the facility and said it's his administrative background from his time in the Army that helps him help others.

Rentz retired as a command sergeant major with the 42nd Inf. Div., and earned his eligibility in Iraq in 2005. With a career spanning 34 years, beginning in 1977, that's a lot of experience he brings to the table today.

Since 2013, Rentz has been a service officer at Post 8255, located just southwest of Jacksonville,

across the St. Johns River. "As an administrative expert, I know how to get things done," he said. "It's a good challenge and a way to help my fellow veterans."

One of the biggest awards Rentz assisted with was \$30,000 for a Marine with an Agent Orange medical claim. He served in Vietnam and needed help proving he'd gone ashore.

"The VA denied he'd ever been in Vietnam," Rentz said. "So we sent additional information such as unit history, documentation and what kind of mission he performed."

The Marine veteran and his wife were "very happy," he said. "They were just so relieved that he was getting what he should have gotten years ago."

The team at the facility has worked on approximately 1,600 cases since 2014. Rentz said they range widely

in nature, with Agent Orange being most common for older veterans and PTSD claims for post-9/11 veterans. With Naval Air Station Jacksonville and other installations nearby, Rentz said there's a huge demand for claims assistance in the area.

"Everybody is at the mercy of VA, so I work very closely with the VFW regional office in St. Petersburg," he said. "We're here to assist veterans in getting their claims in and explaining their benefits."

Rentz said he encourages those interested in helping their fellow veterans to become a service officer – and take advantage of helpful resources. "Work closely with your regional VFW service office," he said. "Those are full-time VFW employees; they know what they're doing. And go to every piece of training you can."

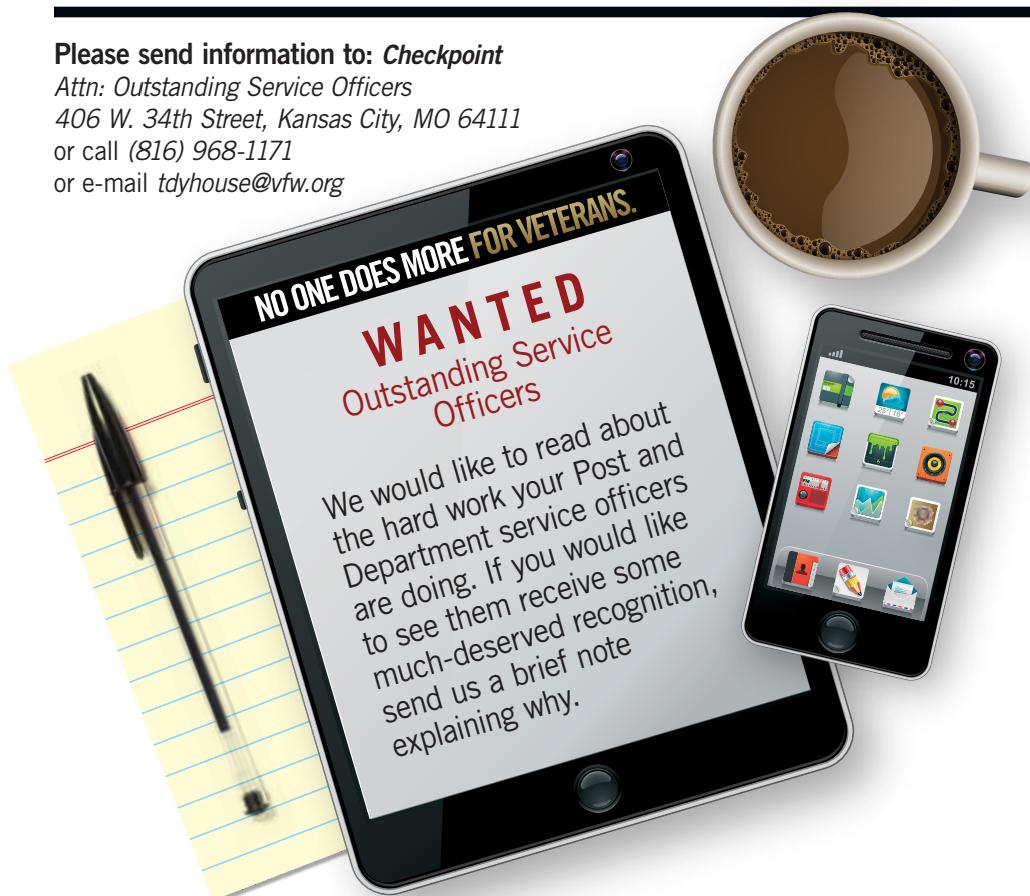
E-mail: [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org)

"We're here to assist veterans in getting their claims in and explaining their benefits."

—Thomas P. Rentz,  
Service Officer



Please send information to: **Checkpoint**  
Attn: Outstanding Service Officers  
406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111  
or call (816) 968-1171  
or e-mail [tdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:tdyhouse@vfw.org)



## NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

### Do you need help filing a claim?

VFW's National Veterans Service has a VFW Department service officer locator on its website. To find a service officer near you, just follow these easy steps:

1. Visit [www.vfw.org/nvs](http://www.vfw.org/nvs).
2. Select "ASSISTANCE" from the menu.
3. Select "NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE" from the pull-down menu.
4. Locate the "FIND A SERVICE OFFICER" box on the right-hand side of the screen.
5. Select your state and hit "GO".

### FIND A SERVICE OFFICER

State



GO >>

# Virginia Post Promotes Honorary Day for Service Dogs

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DVIDS



A military working dog plays with Staff Sgt. Stephanie Pecovsky while taking a break during a ruck march Aug. 8, 2012, at Joint Base Andrews, Md. The airmen were getting the dogs acclimated to walking long distances and still performing their duties before they were deployed.

PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN PERRY ASTON

Airmen and their military working dogs from the 11th Security Forces Group perform a ruck march around Joint Base Andrews, Md., Aug. 8, 2012. VFW Post 1994 in Abingdon, Va., is backing a proposal to designate March 13 as K9 Veteran's Day to recognize service dogs. PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN PERRY ASTON

**A dog can be a man's best friend, but a dog can be much more than that. Members of one Virginia Post want to see military dogs, police dogs, and service and therapy dogs honored with their own day. Post 1994 in Abingdon, Va., located in the western part of the state, is promoting the petition to designate March 13 as the official National K9 Veteran's Day.**

K9 officers told local News Channel 11 they're on board with the initiative. "If it weren't for these dogs, I would hate to know the number of human lives that would not have been spared because of them, so I think it's a great thing," Johnson City K9 Officer Jeff Legault said.

According to the National K9 Veteran's Day petition, "March 13, 1942, is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps. In 2009, the late Joseph White, retired military dog handler, began the effort to honor military and working dogs by proclaiming March 13 as K9 Veterans' Day."

Following Joe White's leadership, there is a national effort to establish March 13 as K9 Veterans' Day. Several states have already taken that step. Our goal is to have March 13 proclaimed as national K9 Veterans' Day, similar to our current Veterans' Day."

To sign the petition, visit <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/national-k9-veterans-day.html>

E-mail: [swilken@vfw.org](mailto:swilken@vfw.org)

## March 13, 1942



**Official birthday  
of the United States  
K9 Corps.**



Sailors assigned to Commander Navy Region Southwest train with military working dogs April 2014 on the beach at Naval Base Coronado in California.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY SENIOR CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST JOE KANE



Master-at-Arms Seaman Vincent Nicholford, left, and Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Britlynn Neary, both assigned to a military working dog unit at U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka in Japan, perform controlled aggression training with military working dog Capa. The canines with the unit are used to apprehend suspects and detect explosives and narcotics while searching buildings, ships and submarines. U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN CHRISTIAN M. SENYK



Ralph, a military working dog, detects his target scent at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Nov. 2, 2015. Lance Cpl. Wayne Williams, a military police officer and military working dog handler with Miramar's Provost Marshal's Office, led Ralph around the hangar to practice "seeking" a specific scent hidden by another handler.

PHOTO BY LANCE CPL. LISA TOURTELOT



Staff Sgt. Janice Shipman, of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, tells patients at a hospital in Balad, Iraq on May 15, 2009, about the K-9 Visitation program there. The program helped patients recover with assistance from service dogs, who could be recognized annually with approval of K9 Veteran's Day, promoted by VFW Post 1994 in Abingdon, Va. PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DILIA AYALA

*'A Huge Blessing'*

## Auxiliary Sponsors Baby Shower for Women Vets

Most long-time parents remember what it's like to prepare for the birth of their children. Financially, it can be a struggle for some. With that in mind, members of the Auxiliary of Post 117 in West Dundee, Ill., decided to host a baby shower for 11 Chicago-area women veterans expecting babies.

Held Jan. 30 at the Post, the mothers-to-be were doted on with gifts such as diapers, car seats, clothes and children's books.

According to Auxiliary President Diane Ahrens, it took months to plan the shower. The community supported the event with a multitude of donations.

"Every day there were diapers and wipes and onesies flowing in," Ahrens told the *Elgin Courier-News* at the time of the shower. "It's just been a huge blessing to watch this unfold."

Area businesses donated food and drinks for the event. A local group—the Crafty Happy Hookers of McHenry County—crocheted red, white and blue receiving blankets.

There was even an appearance by Kerri Turner, the reigning Ms. Veteran America, who flew in from her home in Washington to be at the event.

"I think it's really special to honor women, not only for their service but the other titles they hold," Turner said.

For Ahrens, who served in the Marines before having her first child, the baby shower was designed to help the pregnant moms who were trying to assimilate back into the civilian world, while also preparing for childbirth.

"There's a lot of stress in finding jobs and dealing with pregnancies," Ahrens told the *Courier-News*. "I was one of



Pregnant women vets take a break from festivities during a baby shower in January sponsored by the Auxiliary of Post 117 in West Dundee, Ill. Also photographed were Auxiliary President Diane Ahrens (front left) and Ms. Veteran America Kerri Turner. Each expecting mom walked away with hundreds of dollars in gifts.

them. I was coming out of the military in 1980 and expecting my first child."

Ahrens said she was put in touch with the pregnant vets through social workers at the Edward Hines, Jr., and Jesse Brown VA hospitals, both in the Chicago area.

Each mom attending the shower walked away with a new car seat and "hundreds of dollars" in baby supplies, according to Ahrens.

"It has been so much fun," said Ahrens, adding that they continue to "shower" pregnant vets as they learn of them. "We've already started planning next year's shower."

E-mail: [jdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdyhouse@vfw.org)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF POST 117 AUXILIARY

*Baby Shower*



*'Camaraderie is Phenomenal'*

## Fly-Tying is Therapeutic at Virginia Post

Whether they suffer from physical or psychological wounds, veterans in Virginia are finding peace of mind in learning fly-tying. At Post 2216 in Staunton, members have partnered with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., to help disabled veterans.

According to Mac McCauley, Post commander, the classes are offered bi-weekly at the Post home and taught by Project Healing Waters' instructors.

To date, more than 60 sessions have occurred, benefiting 80 veterans.

"We have donated more than \$1,000 for vises and tying material," said McCauley, a Navy vet who served three tours in Vietnam. "Our Post has gained a couple of new members from this program."

Each class lasts more than two hours. A few VFW members attend to show the organization's support.

"This has been a really, really good thing," McCauley said. "The camaraderie is phenomenal. We sit around and talk and laugh with one another."

To learn more about the Maryland-based Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., visit [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org).

E-mail: [jdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdyhouse@vfw.org)

### Fly-Tying 'Has Been a Life Saver'

Here are what veterans are saying about the fly-tying classes at Post 2216:

"Healing Waters has been a great event for my health. It has helped me overcome my anxiety and depression. It has also been great to connect with other vets." Ken

"There are not enough words to express the great things that happen with Healing Waters." W.L.H.

"This event has been a life saver for me in more ways than one. Just to get out and be with fellow veterans is great therapy and wonderful." Dan

"Project Healing Waters has provided me with a group of people who I can lean upon when I need it. The program has changed my life for the good." John J.

"Healing Waters means a great deal to me. Although a fairly new member, I enjoy talking with other vets and sharing in life." C.H.



Veterans learn the art of fly-tying in February at Post 2216 in Staunton, Va. In partnership with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc., the Post opens its doors for bi-weekly classes for vets suffering from physical or psychological wounds.

PHOTO COURTESY OF POST 2216



## Florida Post Revs Up Buddy Poppy Drive and Collects Nearly \$7,500

Post 3282 in Port Orange, Fla., a town of some 57,000 nestled next to Daytona Beach, does a good job of collaborating with its community. Each year, the area welcomes "Bike Week," an annual event in Daytona when motorcycle enthusiasts from across the country gather to ride and talk shop. And in 2015, the Post decided to move the date of its annual Buddy Poppy drive to line up with Bike Week.

"We know a lot of veterans and visitors are in town," said Larry Covington, the Post's Buddy Poppy chairman. "People support the veterans. In years prior, I'm told by other members, we raised maybe \$1,000. So 2015, we changed it up."

The Post collected nearly \$10,000 in Buddy Poppy donations last year during "Bike Week," which draws 500,000 bikers and visitors to the area annually. This year's collection was some \$7,500, which the Post will use for various causes.

"I can't say thank you nearly enough to the volunteers, for all their hard work and dedication to such a worthy cause," said Mark Van Deventer, Post 3282 commander. "Because of them and thousands of bikers, our Buddy Poppy drive was a huge success, and we have been able to make numerous donations to many of the different VFW programs such as the National Home for Children, Veterans Village in Florida, and to ROTC and JROTC outstanding Cadets—and still have additional funds on hand when we receive the calls from our fellow veterans and their families in need."

And Covington, who also serves as Post 3282's junior vice commander, echoes those sentiments.

"The most important reason to have a successful Buddy Poppy drive is that the money is used directly for the veterans and their families," Covington said. "That's our sole purpose. I was glad to be able to do that and raise that money for veterans. We helped kids with scholarships and were able to participate in other activities at schools. It's all important in order to be active in the community."

E-mail: [kgibson@vfw.org](mailto:kgibson@vfw.org)



Above: Post 3282 Commander Mark Van Deventer, right, distributes Buddy Poppies to visiting motorcyclists in Daytona Beach in March 2016. The Post raised nearly \$10,000 in 2015 after moving its Buddy Poppy drive to the area's annual "Bike Week" event.

PHOTO BY LARRY COVINGTON

Top: Larry Covington, Post 3282 Buddy Poppy chairman, visits with bikers about VFW during Daytona Beach's "Bike Week" in March. The Post uses donations collected during its annual Buddy Poppy drive to support Post programs geared toward veterans.

PHOTO BY MARK VAN DEVENTER

### *'Something We Are Proud Of'*

## South Dakota Post Builds Free Caskets for Local Veterans

On any given Saturday at Post 628 in Sioux Falls, S.D., volunteers can be found sanding and staining plywood to build caskets and urns. The pattern for the caskets is simple—borrowed from a local abbey—and takes approximately four days to complete.

The products built by VFW members are available free to South Dakota veterans or spouses. The program is an extension of one started by the South Dakota Veterans Home in Hot Springs, S.D.

"They were looking for someone to build caskets on this side of the state," Richard Schwenke, Post

quartermaster, said. "We met at a state convention in 2006, and that year four volunteers and myself built six caskets."

For the last 10 years, the program has gained popularity. Last year, they produced 36 caskets with the help of 12 VFW members volunteering their weekends.

"It goes back to helping veterans," Schwenke said. "We try to help the families out, too. That is something we are proud of."

It's a particularly personal journey for Schwenke. His father-in-law, a WWII veteran, fell in his home a number of years ago. He was moved to an assisted living facility, where he lived for 12 years. At the time of his death, he didn't have money enough to pay for funeral expenses.

"We have a fair amount of veterans in that position—they have a good pension and Social Security, but no money when they pass away," Schwenke said.

The cost of materials for each casket is \$350 and an urn costs \$125 to make.

Volunteers—many of whom have prior woodworking experience—build the caskets and urns at the Post.

"We have a great community that gives a lot of support," Schwenke said. "We get a lot of donations when we buy materials so there is hardly any cost."

The Post spreads the word through four funeral homes in Sioux Falls, as well as through county service officers and at the VFW state convention.

To get a casket, the veteran must have been a resident of South Dakota, be interred in South Dakota, and have received an honorable discharge from military service.

E-mail: [kgibson@vfw.org](mailto:kgibson@vfw.org)



PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS P. STARR

Volunteers at Post 628 in Sioux Falls, S.D., build caskets and urns out of plywood. Last year, the service, which is free to South Dakota veterans and their spouses, produced 36 caskets through the work of 12 VFW members.

## Delaware Post Member Earns Marine DI Award

**VFW members collectively form a melting pot of varying backgrounds and careers. What they all share, however, is the desire to serve.**

A member of Post 4691 in Seaford, Del., Marine Sgt. Ethan Stoeckel is just one example. He knew early on that he was going to be a drill instructor. When his Marine Corps enlistment was up, and he was asked to re-enlist, he did so on one condition: "Send me to Parris Island," he said.

Since 1915, Parris Island, S.C., has been home to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Eastern Recruiting Region (if you are a male recruit living east of the Mississippi River you go to Parris Island, while all others go to San Diego—all female recruits are trained at Parris Island). There, some 600 Marine drill instructors mold approximately 20,000 recruits annually.

For Stoeckel, it was a dream come true to become one of those instructors. He said he wanted to offer recruits what he had been offered when he enlisted in 2008.

"I definitely feel like I'm part of something bigger," Stoeckel said. "I'm helping to turn people around and change lives here."

Stoeckel became an instructor in September 2013. Just two years later, at age 26, he was named *2015 Drill Instructor of the Year for 2nd Recruit Training Battalion*.

"The Department of Delaware along with VFW Post 4961 is extremely proud of the accomplishments of Sgt. Ethan Stoeckel," Department of Delaware Quartermaster Rick Norman said. "Sgt. Stoeckel's dedication to

the Marine Corps and the youth of our nation is amazing."

He was nominated for and earned the title of Drill Instructor of the Quarter. At the end of the year, he competed against the others in his battalion to take the title. The competition included a series of questions about all things related to the Marines. Stoeckel said it was important to answer in a professional manner, even if he didn't know an answer.

That same professionalism is what he expects from his recruits during the 13 weeks of "transformative training." He said some come from backgrounds where no consideration of respect has been taught.

"In addition to the physical aspect of training, we work on respect," Stoeckel said.

Stoeckel's mom was in the Delaware Army National Guard and his brother was in the Air Force. But it was two JROTC instructors at Woodbridge High School in Greenwood, Del., who influenced his decision to join the Marines.

"They really had it together," Stoeckel said. "They were two of the most professional individuals I have ever met."

Stoeckel was stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 (HMH 363). As an airframe mechanic, he deployed to Helmand Province in Afghanistan in August 2011 for seven months.

When he was accepted into the 12-week drill instructor school, he had to leave his wife, Kaitlin, back in Hawaii. To him, that was harder than all of the training.

"I had to go through recruit training all over again," he said. "I had to prove I had a mastery of all training and demonstrate I could



A member of Post 4691 in Seaford, Del., Stoeckel was named 2015 Drill Instructor of the Year for 2nd Recruit Training Battalion. PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHAN STOECKEL



As a drill instructor at Parris Island, S.C., Marine Sgt. Ethan Stoeckel teaches recruits everything from proper dress to treating wounds. PHOTOS BY LANCE CPL. AARON BOLSER

indoctrinate new recruits."

The goal of drill instructor school: Training the Marines who make Marines.

Stoeckel said he thrives in the Marine Corps environment and enjoys what he is doing. There is really only one thing he finds difficult and that is coming home at night and "feeling useless" from exhaustion.

He leaves his wife and baby daughter, Lillian, every day at 2:30 a.m., and doesn't return until 8:30 p.m.

"It's 70 training days, 11 Saturdays," he said. "It is a lot of time away."

But it takes time to make Marines, he added. Recruits are immersed in Corps' history, they learn first aid, martial arts and how to fire weapons. They have swimming qualifications, water survival courses and undergo gas chamber training. Perhaps most important, recruits learn to work as a team.

"I encourage my recruits to work together and to always be better," Stoeckel said.

E-mail: [jdjhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdjhouse@vfw.org)

### Memorializing War Dead

## Oklahoma Post Donates to Fix Eternal Flame Monument

**Since 1971, residents of Rogers County, Okla., have honored troops who gave their lives fighting for the nation. But a new county monument recognizing those sacrifices has had its fair share of issues.**

The monument's eternal flame, located near the entrance of the county courthouse, keeps going out, and one local Post stepped up to keep the light on.

Post 2976, in Claremore, Okla., will help fix the flame that sometimes goes out for days at a time. It's supposed to stay lit at all hours, said Post Commander Bill Richey. "It never went out [before]," said Richey.

Parts inside the monument continue to malfunction – and the county has spent hundreds of dollars every few weeks in an attempt to fix the problem.

Now the Post, located just northeast of Tulsa, will pay for half of the \$25,000 cost to permanently fix the flame. Once complete, workers will add plaques with names of the fallen service members and first responders from Rogers County.

E-mail: [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org)

The eternal flame of the Rogers County (Okla.) Veterans Memorial burns earlier this year outside the county courthouse. Members of Post 2976 in Claremore, Okla., are raising \$12,500 to help fix the current monument, which is plagued by issues that cause the flame to keep going out.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOX 23 NEWS, TULSA.



## A Flag for 'Tomorrow's Veterans'

Post 8870 Commander Jim Blossey (third from left), along with Post members Fred Apgar and Terrance Crabtree, present a new U.S. flag on March 16 to officials and student-athletes of Edmonds-Woodway High School in Edmonds, Wash. The flag replaced an older one that had become tattered and now flies at the Edmonds School District Stadium.

"After a short ceremony we conducted to present the flag, the school officials asked us to come back this fall during the football season to formally raise it," said Blossey, a Korean War Navy vet. "We look forward to doing that because the community looks to us for these types of events. Many of the students are kids or grandkids of veterans, and they will be tomorrow's veterans."

Blossey added that his Post, located about 17 miles north of Seattle, has a close relationship with area schools. Post members, he said, made 22 appearances in schools last November to discuss the significance of Veterans Day.

PHOTO BY LARRY VOGEL, COURTESY OF MY EDMONDS NEWS

MAY | JUNE 2016

# CHECKPOINT

VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • PUBLICATIONS  
406 WEST 34TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**  
VFW

## Posts with the Most

VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS OR MORE AS OF APRIL 8, 2016

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members	Rank No.	Location	Members	Rank No.	Location	Members
1	27	Wiesbaden, Germany	2,766	11	4372 Odessa, TX	1,439	28	2111 Chula Vista, CA	1,131
2	1503	Dale City, VA	2,671	12	76 San Antonio, TX	1,424	28	2866 Saint Charles, MO	1,131
3	1114	Evansville, IN	2,264	13	9342 Ansbach, Germany	1,403	30	972 Terre Haute, IN	1,125
4	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	2,024	14	4647 North Highlands, CA	1,395	31	7686 Alamogordo, NM	1,122
5	8862	Vicenza, Italy	1,842	15	10047 North Las Vegas, NV	1,391	32	10216 Songtan-Si, Korea	1,117
6	392	Virginia Beach, VA	1,825	16	63 Boise, ID	1,365	33	2503 Omaha, NE	1,108
7	9785	Eagle River, AK	1,807	17	6506 Rosedale, MD	1,342	34	56 Leavenworth, KS	1,088
8	2485	Angeles City, Philippines	1,664	18	7968 Apache Junction, AZ	1,287	35	8541 San Antonio, TX	1,067
9	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany	1,619	19	628 Sioux Falls, SD	1,282	36	1326 Bismarck, ND	1,054
10	4709	Conroe, TX	1,499	20	7234 Ocean View, DE	1,281	36	1273 Rapid City, SD	1,054
				21	2391 Saint Augustine, FL	1,270	38	1512 Lemon Grove, CA	1,048
				22	1146 St Clair Shores, MI	1,221	39	3282 Port Orange, FL	1,039
				23	4809 Norfolk, VA	1,218	40	969 Tacoma, WA	1,035
				24	10097 Fort Myers Beach, FL	1,210	41	9399 Apache Junction, AZ	1,032
				25	6873 Abilene, TX	1,205	42	10436 Kitzingen, Germany	1,030
				26	8951 West York, PA	1,151	43	10281 Radcliff, KY	1,025
				27	549 Tucson, AZ	1,145			

[www.facebook.com/vfwcheckpointnewsletter](http://www.facebook.com/vfwcheckpointnewsletter) @VFWCheckpoint

This is an Advertisement

*"I never viewed my hearing loss as serious or critical. Mine is all intertwined with the other injuries from my combat experience..."*

CPT Tony Seahorn, USA, Ret.  
Vietnam Veteran



For more information and insight about the Heroes With Hearing Loss® program, and to see more of Tony's compelling story, visit:

[HeroesWithHearingLoss.org](http://HeroesWithHearingLoss.org)