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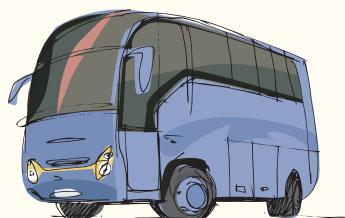


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Memory of a Lifetime

Illinois Post Presents Special Award to Terminally Ill Child

When 6-year-old Hayden Brown was diagnosed with metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD), a genetic disorder that causes a progressive loss of mental and physical functions, his father, Jonathan, started making a list of activities Hayden and he should do to make the most of his time.

MLD, classified as a terminal illness, is caused by an enzyme deficiency and affects the nervous system. Typically, children diagnosed with MLD live 10 to 20 years after the onset of symptoms.

Jonathan's list included typical childhood experiences, such as climbing a tree and camping. But it was Post 1308 in Alton, Ill., that helped facilitate the memory of a lifetime for Hayden.

When Post members heard about Hayden's condition, they wanted to do all they could to give Hayden an unforgettable experience.

The Post offers an award called the "Courage, Inspiration, Determination" medal, which is given to hospitalized or severely ill children in the community.

Along with the medal, Post members present a certificate explaining the significance of the award, as well as a "Junior Comrade" VFW card. Post 1308 member Wayne Able said they have given nearly 300 awards to children in the area, as well as one in Indiana and one in London, England.

"We give out the medal and encourage the kids to keep fighting and never give up," Able said.

But the award was not the only gift. Able said members reached out to nearby Scott Air Force Base, located about an hour's drive outside of Alton. They coordinated a "Pilot for a Day" program with the 375th Mobility Wing.

"We knew he liked Batman, so we shared that with the Air Force base personnel," Able said.

Hayden was named an honorary captain, receiving an assignment to help Batman catch the Joker—both characters played by volunteers. Hayden attended an intel briefing and sat in a C-21 cockpit. He was presented his "Courage, Inspiration, Determination" medal at a formal ceremony at the end of the day.

"It was great," Jonathan said. "Every moment he was smiling. They smashed it on the head. These folks really went way above and beyond to show my son that life's about smiling and enjoying. In these tough times, this kind of gathering of countless people coming together to keep that amazing smile going is something I am very thankful for."

Email: kgibson@vfw.org



Hayden Brown, on the shoulders of his father, Jonathan, helps Batman, played by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Coppola, 375th Security Forces Squadron, apprehend the Joker, played by Staff Sgt. Brett Baxter, 375th SFS, in August at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Scott Airmen teamed up with Alton VFW Post 1308 to present Hayden with a "Courage, Inspiration, Determination" medal for his strength in dealing with a rare, terminal illness, known as MLD.



Right: Senior Airman Ian Clark, 375th Civil Engineer Squadron, lifts Hayden Brown, 6, off his father's shoulders, for a ride in a snow plow at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.



Below: Hayden Brown looks at the flightline from a control tower during his mission to help Batman find the Joker in August at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

CONVENTIONEERS RAISE NEARLY \$63,000

At VFW's 117th National Convention in July in Charlotte, N.C., VFW's Veterans & Military Support received nearly \$63,000 in total contributions from 16 VFW Departments and two Posts. This amount includes the sale of lapel pins at the convention.

The donating VFW Departments include: California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Europe, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pacific Areas, Pennsylvania, Vermont (Auxiliary), West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Posts that donated are: Post 10150 of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Post 5925 of Lincoln, Mo.

The donations will help fund *Operation Uplink*, *Unmet Needs* and the *Military Assistance Program* for the coming year.

SHOP THE VFW STORE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The VFW Store stocks selected embroidered items that are ready to ship whenever you need them. We offer T-shirts, polos, Oxfords and more. To check our inventory, go to www.vfwstore.org.



When you purchase from the VFW Store, you support VFW programs that help veterans, military service members and their families.

A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP YOUR FELLOW VETERANS

There are several ways to support the VFW that only take a few minutes and don't require you to donate any money today. Consider naming the VFW as a beneficiary of your retirement, bank accounts or life insurance policies. For details, see www.vfw.org/plannedgiving or contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or email plannedgiving@vfw.org.

IT'S TIME FOR HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT

From choosing between pricing for premiums to finding the plan that gives you essential coverage for optimal health, there is a health insurance solution that suits you.

Now is the time to assess your overall needs for maintaining your wellbeing and to ensure you pick the plan that fits your health requirements, lifestyle and budget.

For assistance choosing your ideal plan, contact the VFW Member Benefits Department at 1-800-821-2606, option 1.

Open enrollment ends Jan. 31, 2017, so don't delay.

VFW RESOLUTIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

All VFW members can obtain resolutions and bylaw amendments approved in July at the national convention. By creating an account at the VFW's website—www.vfw.org—with a valid member number, members can know exactly where the organization stands on a variety of issues.

Once on VFW's home page, click "Login" to get started. Then click "Create an Account." You will need to supply your name, member number, email address and establish a password. At that point, you will be logged on to "My VFW" and can access approved bylaw amendments and resolutions under the heading "Resources."

Bob Wallace, Adjutant General

New Website is Mobile Friendly

I am pleased to announce that last month VFW launched its redesigned website. We listened to our members and answered with a 100% mobile-responsive platform.

The new site allows users to locate content with ease. With a more engaging design, it's easy to locate a Post from wherever you are.

A new addition to www.vfw.org is Chief's Corner. Here you will see all of the good things the leadership is doing while traveling on behalf of you, the members.

You'll notice that while the navigation of the new site remains similar to the previous site, its use of imagery accompanied by less text makes for a more exciting browsing experience.

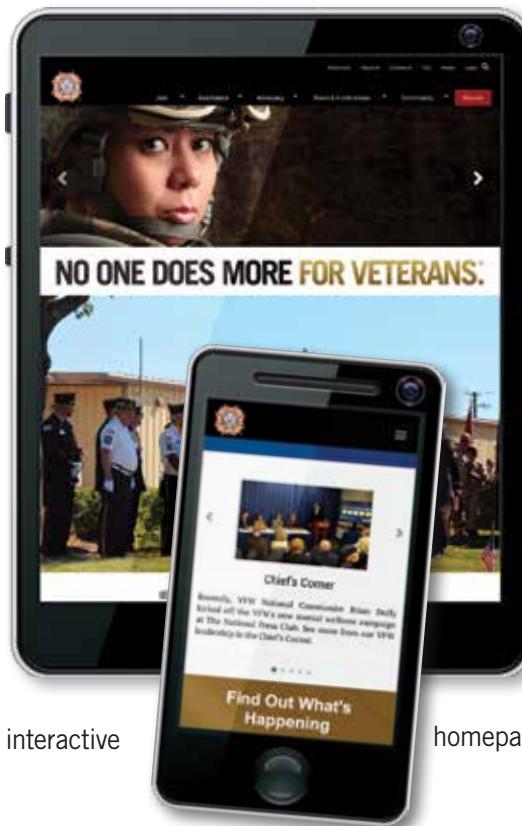
In addition, you will see a few more interactive components, which include a military skills translator and interactive

maps to find supporters of our programs nearest you.

All direct links to materials within the VFW Training and Support section will now ask users to log in to the website. These materials must be protected, so members must log in to access them.

If you do not have an online account, sign up for a free account today by clicking on "Login" on the homepage and then click on "Create Account."

VFW wants your feedback on the new site, so please take the short survey at the bottom of the homepage at www.vfw.org.



Debra Anderson, Quartermaster General

Automatic Deposit Mandatory by Year's End

If you receive dues payments from National Headquarters by check, the process is changing.

With the support of VFW National Headquarters and VFW Department leadership, the National Council of Administration passed a resolution at the Aug. 28 Council meeting that makes it mandatory for all Posts and Departments to sign up for Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments from National Headquarters by Dec. 31.

deposited to your account without the hassle of waiting for a check and then physically taking the check to the bank for deposit. This eliminates the possibility of losing a check or having it stolen.

Additionally, processing payments using ACH saves National Headquarters money. It is expensive to process, print and mail checks—especially when a large number of checks are written for small dollar amounts and often go uncashed. By requiring Posts and Departments to sign up for ACH payments, we are transferring the funds to your account more quickly and reliably, while saving the entire organization money.

VFW leadership has agreed that transitioning all dues payments to ACH is the most effective move to make. If you have not signed up for ACH disbursements by Dec. 31, National Headquarters will hold your dues until we receive proper documentation to establish your ACH account. We encourage you to sign up for the program as soon as possible.

The Agreement for Automatic Deposit form can be obtained by calling Donald Holland with the VFW Accounting Department at (816) 756-3390 or by email at dholland@vfw.org.

AUTODEPOSIT DECEMBER 31

You will receive payment the day after the transmission is sent from National Headquarters. If you provide an email address, you also will receive notification that an ACH has been sent to your bank account.

ACH is the safest, fastest and most reliable payment method available. The funds are automatically

CHECKPOINT

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NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

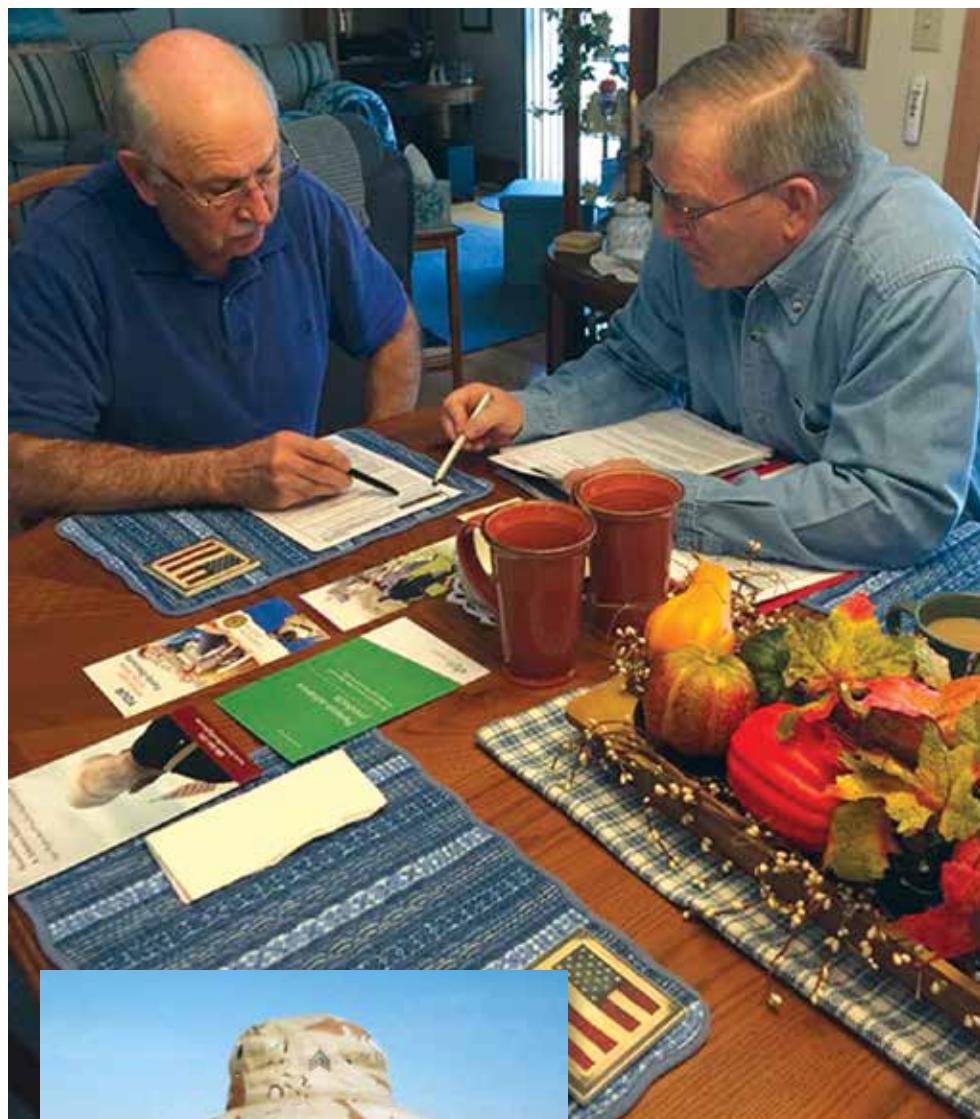
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'It opened my heart up that I was able to help a veteran.'

Kentucky Veteran Enjoys Helping Others as a Service Officer



After serving during the Vietnam War and 1991's Persian Gulf War, Danny Delaughter was in "pretty bad shape."

"I was using drinking and stuff [to] medicate," Delaughter said. "It would numb me. It would put me to sleep at night, and I was drinking over a fifth a day."

After receiving no help from an American Legion Post, Delaughter said he took himself to the VA and got his life back on track. In 2009, he attended a VFW Post meeting and offered to be the Post's service officer — a role he held for Post 5127 in Whitley City, Ky., from 2009 to late 2015.

One case that has stuck with Delaughter is that of a veteran, Bobby, who underwent surgery at the VA that resulted in him needing a colostomy bag. The case was started 20 years prior to Delaughter's involvement, but had yet to be resolved.

Delaughter, who also was the District 11 service officer, said he asked Bobby to promise not to give up. Roughly three years into the process, Bobby came to Delaughter wanting to do just that. Delaughter convinced him to keep going.

"About two months later, there was a knock at my door and it was him, and he had a big ol' grin on his face," Delaughter said.

Bobby had received three years' back pay at 100 percent.

The most common cases Delaughter said he handled were related to Agent Orange, survivors' benefits and PTSD. He took on roughly 30 to 60 cases per year.

Anyone looking to become a service officer should "get into the service officers school," according to Delaughter. He also stressed studying the service officers' guide.

The most rewarding part of Delaughter's time as a service officer was helping his fellow veterans.

"It opened my heart up that I was able to help a veteran," Delaughter said. "It just lifted my heart because I was there and was able to do it when they didn't have [anyone] else."

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org



"It opened my heart up that I was able to help a veteran. It just lifted my heart because I was there and was able to do it when they didn't have [anyone] else."

— *Danny Delaughter, former Post 5127 service officer*

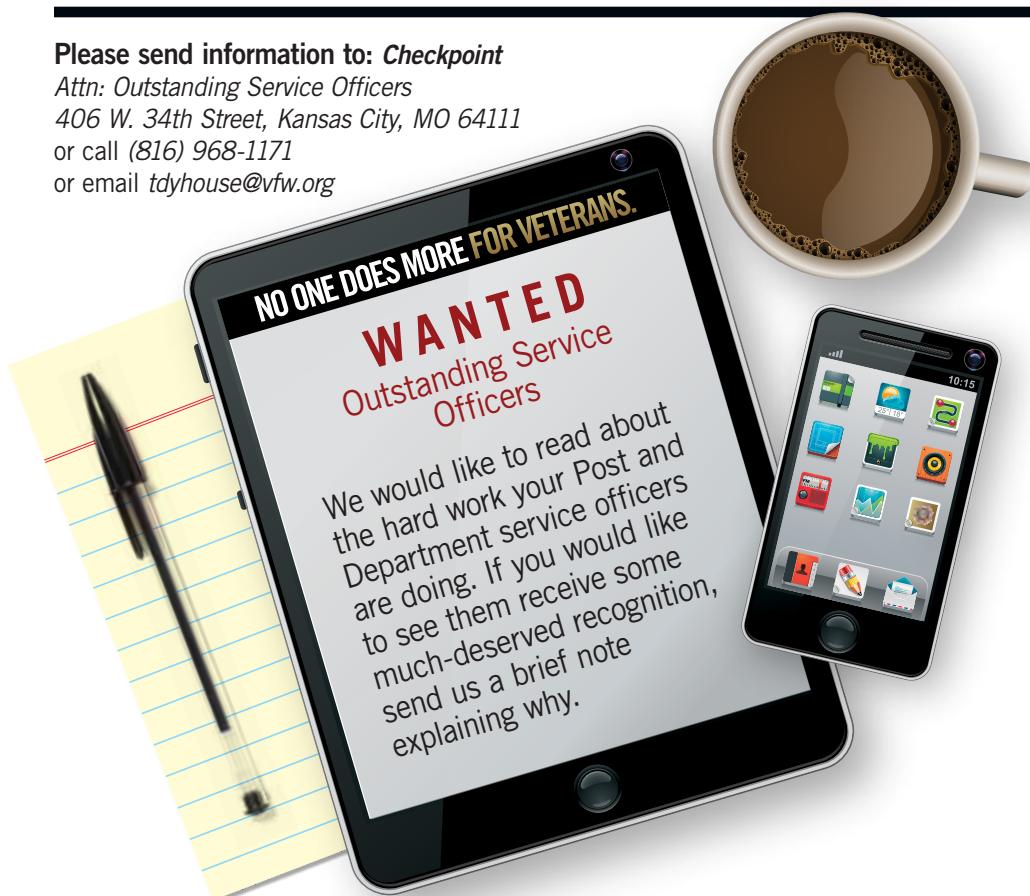


Danny Delaughter (above) held the service officer role from 2009 to 2015 and also was the District 11 service officer. The most common cases he has helped veterans with are related to Agent Orange, survivors' benefits and PTSD.

Delaughter (left) served his country during the Vietnam War and 1991's Persian Gulf War. In 2009, he became a service officer with Post 5127 in Whitley City, Ky.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANNY DELAUGHTER

Please send information to: Checkpoint
Attn: Outstanding Service Officers
406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
or call (816) 968-1171
or email 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.
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 >>

Posts Make a Difference for Those in Need During the Holiday Season

VFW and Auxiliary members have long been known for their generosity. So it's no surprise that the holiday season has Posts across the country in overdrive when it comes to giving. Here's a look at what Posts did in 2015.

On Mercer Island, Wash., Post 5760 donated \$1,000 in Quality Food Center gift certificates to the Mercer Island Youth and Family Services.

Additionally, members organized a Toys for Tots shopping excursion. Post Adjutant Kevin Jackson organized a group of Marines to purchase \$1,000 in new toys in support of the program.

In Moab, Utah, members of Post 10900 and the Auxiliary shopped for and wrapped presents for 33 children in their area. The Grand County School District and other groups in Moab recommend to VFW families in need of help.

"The community supports us tremendously, and we just want to give back to people in the community," then-Post Commander Russell Pogue

told the *Moab Times-Independent*. "It's about helping. This is for less fortunate people in the community that probably wouldn't have a Christmas if it wasn't for us."

Auxiliary member Sheree Maughan shops for the children and buys each one a coat, a shirt, jeans, socks, shoes and a toy. Older children receive gift cards.

"I love it," she said. "It's a way to give back to the community, and it just makes you feel good to be able to help out so many kids who might not have things on Christmas morning."

Pogue said this year the Post is working with Community Nursing Services to identify veterans who might need help but don't want to ask. He said that by connecting with

those vets, VFW can ensure needs are being met.

"We can just say, 'Hey brother, we're here to help you get the benefits you deserve and in the meantime help you out for Thanksgiving and Christmas,'" Pogue said.

For Thanksgiving, the Post is donating meals with all of the trimmings. Pogue said most families the Post assists are just barely getting by, but make too much money to qualify for other types of assistance.

The Post is now in its 11th year of making Christmas brighter for families.

Holiday Airlift Provides Cheer

In 2015, the Department of Colorado and the Colorado Aviation Business Association celebrated five

years for *Holiday Airlift*.

More than 6,000 pounds of goods were flown from Centennial Airport in Denver, Colo., to Montrose, Trinidad, Burlington and Fort Collins for distribution by VFW Posts.

"This is one of those events that does connect the state of Colorado," Kenn Kline, Black Canyon Jet Center Customer Service Manager, told the *Montrose Press*.

In Montrose, Post 784 Commander Whit Bailey and others passed out gifts. They also made phone calls to individuals they knew would like to have a little something during the holidays.

Bailey's wife, Denice, handed out gifts to residents at San Juan Living Center and Valley Manor Care Center.



(Above left) Santa and Mrs. Claus from Post 8779 in New Tazewell, Tenn., distributed Christmas presents to 84 children at the Post last Christmas. Post members work throughout the year to raise money for their annual Christmas Angel Drive benefiting area youngsters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF POST 8779

(Above right) Volunteers transfer gifts to an airplane at Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colo., in December 2013. The gifts were flown to Montrose Regional Airport in Montrose for distribution by VFW. 2015 marked the fifth year for *Holiday Airlift*, a partnership between Colorado's VFW and the Colorado Aviation Business Association.

PHOTO CREDIT KENN KLINE OF BLACK CANYON JET CENTER

(Left) Post 10900 Auxiliary member Sheree Maughan shops for children's gifts last December. For each, she purchased one coat, a shirt, jeans, socks, shoes and a toy. Older children received gift cards. This is the 11th year the Moab, Utah, Post has sponsored families at Christmas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEREE MORGAN, POST 10900 AUXILIARY.

Items and donations for the statewide airlift were collected at a Christmas party in Denver earlier in December at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum.

Texas Post Assists Crisis Center

In Palestine, Texas, Post 8924 collected more than \$5,000 in cash and material donations for the Crisis Center of Anderson County last December.

Melanie Schatz, a VFW Post employee, told the *Palestine Herald* she has helped with this annual donation for 20 years.

"I do this to let people know that there are those out there who want to help them," she said.

Commander Frank Paxton presented a \$2,500 check to the center, while volunteers loaded food donations for delivery.

The Post also provided gifts to all

of the mothers and children at the center.

Schatz said some donations come from contests held at the Post throughout the year, but the majority come directly from Post patrons.

"They are wonderful," Schatz said.

Remembering Elderly Vets at Christmas

When members of Post 4667 in Marion, Va., delivered a fruit basket to Cecil Carter, he told his fellow VFW members he wished he was well enough to make the deliveries with them.

"I can't do like I could, but I want to do all I can," Carter told *Southwest Virginia Today*.

Commander Sam Rosenbaum and other members delivered baskets to 53 veterans just two days before Christmas. While it was the first time members delivered fruit baskets, they

plan to do it again this year.

It was the brainchild of brothers J.D. and Bill Baldwin. J.D. is a WWII vet and Bill a Korean War vet.

"We wanted to do something for our veterans who are in the nursing homes or homebound," J.D. said. "We honor the dead by serving the living."

Christmas Delivery from Kuwait

During a Christmas party at Post 5362 in Morganton, N.C., last year, more than 70 children had gifts delivered via Santa Claus from their parents who were deployed to Kuwait.

VFW member David Smith dressed as Santa and presented each child with a gift addressed from their parent serving overseas.

According to Kathy Johnson, of Post 5362 Auxiliary, members of the 1450th North Carolina Army National Guard Transportation Company customized gifts they would have

given their children had they not been deployed.

Each child was given a gift, a stocking full of toys and candy and a photo with Santa. There were a variety of games for entertaining the little ones and a meal was served.

While the 1450th was deployed, the Post hosted a "Dealing with Deployment" seminar, sent more than 100 care packages to Kuwait and also hosted a family day.

For the families who couldn't make it to the party, Johnson made sure the gifts were mailed to those children.

"The children had a great time, as did my team that worked diligently to make sure this party was a huge success," she said.

If your Post is helping others get through the holiday season, we want to hear about it. Please email photos and details to jdyhouse@vfw.org.



(Above left) Heather Fifield, Rod Fifield (red sweater vest) and Audrey Dotzauer, of Wisconsin's 8th District, donate toys to Greg Weiss, chief of voluntary services at Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron, Mich., last December. The District raised more than \$3,000 to be divided among 33 children and their 12 families. Also included were new toys worth some \$1,000. Each child received a \$75 gift card and each family a \$50 food card. PHOTO CREDIT WISCONSIN VFW NEWS



(Above right) Post 5760 Adjutant Kevin Jackson organized a group of Marines to purchase \$1,000 in new toys for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program last December. The Mercer Island Post donated the money for the Marines' shopping excursion. PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN JACKSON, POST 5760



(Left) Cecil Carter thanks Post 4667 Commander Sam Rosenbaum for a holiday fruit basket last December. Carter, himself a VFW member, said he wished he was well enough to help spread good cheer. PHOTO CREDIT GLENNA CRABTREE-BULLINS, SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA TODAY



(Above) VFW Post 5362 member David Smith poses as Santa to deliver gifts to the children of the deployed 1450th North Carolina Army National Guard's Transportation Company last December. The gifts were personally selected by the parents serving overseas and the children were told that Santa was making a special delivery from Kuwait to Morganton, N.C. PHOTO COURTESY OF POST 5362

Panama City Post Raises More Than \$7,000 for Veteran's Daughter

When a child was burned during a camp demonstration earlier this year and her family needed financial help, Lisa Odom knew what to do.

Odom, Auxiliary president for Post 2185 in Panama City, Fla., asked her fellow members to help the then 9-year-old Nevaeh Carpenter, who suffered third-degree burns over 70% of her body during a fire demonstration at the West Florida District Assemblies of God Campground in Marianna, Fla.

Odom said the Post planned the July fundraiser, which included dinner and a 50/50 raffle, in nine days and raised roughly \$7,100. Donations came from organizations and community members, including one family whose daughter had been burned 40 years prior.

"People were dropping off checks for \$100, \$200 throughout the morning," said Post Commander Jay Frigon, who served in the Air Force for 26 years in Kosovo, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and 1991's Persian Gulf War.

While Nevaeh's immediate family did not attend the event, her aunt, Heather Todd, did.

"It was very overwhelming to see a community come together for a child that they didn't really know," Todd said. "They just knew that she and her family were in need and that was enough for them."

Odom said Nevaeh's father, who is a veteran but not a Post member, was "speechless."

"To have such an overwhelming response from the community as a whole, as well as his veteran brothers and sisters, he did not realize the kind of support team he had behind him initially," Odom said.

Frigon said his Post had assistance "from about every veterans service organization in the county," including three other VFW Posts.

The Auxiliary also allowed donors to make cards to send to Nevaeh.

Nevaeh, now 10 years old, currently is an outpatient at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston, Mass., and returned to school in November, according to Todd. To follow Nevaeh's journey, visit www.facebook.com/teamsweettater/.

Email: kwilliams@vfw.org



(Top left) Nevaeh Carpenter, now 10, suffered third-degree burns over 70% of her body during a fire demonstration at the West Florida District Assemblies of God Campground in Marianna, Fla.

(Above) Nevaeh Carpenter now is an outpatient at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston, Mass., and returned to school in November.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEATHER TODD



More than 50 participants compete in the second annual Red, White and Blue Veterans 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk in June sponsored by Post 4573 in Ishpeming, Mich.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNIE TRUDELL, POST 4573 AUXILIARY

Michigan Post Sponsors 5K Race

In Ishpeming, Mich., Post 4573 sponsored its second annual Red, White and Blue Veterans 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk in June. Participants raised \$900 for the Post's relief fund, which helps local veterans.

According to Annie Trudell, organizer and Auxiliary member, there were more than 50 runners at the event, and she hopes to double that number next year.

"We had National Guard troops running as well as entire families," Trudell said. "The timing was perfect because the kids were out of school for the summer."

With about 22 volunteers to operate registration, control the course, track times, hand out awards and serve lunch, Trudell said the event went smoothly.

"The cooperation from the city of Ishpeming was fantastic," Trudell said. "They provided us with saw horses [to block the roads] and signs reading, 'Race in Progress.'"

Funds garnered from the race will help with the Post's community activities, such as a night out for residents of the nearby veterans home. Members periodically take them out for a night on the town.

The Post also supports Feeding America West

Michigan, located in Ishpeming, just southwest of Marquette. In 2015, the food bank distributed 27.6 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 22 million meals. It feeds more than 492,000 people each year.

On the first Thursday of the month, a Feeding America semi-truck full of food parks at the Post, where volunteers compile boxes of food to deliver to those in need. Each month, Post volunteers distribute about 15,000 pounds of food.

Trudell said that about 25 percent of those showing up for food do not have cars and bring wagons or carts to get their food back home.

"We try to do as much as we can for our community," Trudell said. "And next year's race will be even better."

Email: jdyhouse@vfw.org

Honoring the Fallen

VFW Community Welcomes Home WWII Hero's Remains 75 Years Later

Nearly 70 years after Army Capt. Elwood Euart died aboard the *President Coolidge* off the coast of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, in the South Pacific, a Rhode Island man received a letter saying military officials had possibly located his uncle's remains.

"The first thing I thought after I got the letter was, 'This is a scam,'" said Vallee, who is Euart's nephew.

Vallee and two of his cousins provided DNA samples to confirm it was Euart. The process took nearly a year, according to Vallee, but the Army eventually confirmed it was a match.

"Two or three Army officials went up to my brother's house and presented him with a detailed report, what they found, where they found it," Vallee said. "They gave him some remains [that wouldn't disintegrate]."

Among the personal effects they found were his dog tags, a compass and a pen. Vallee said the findings were well documented, "like a 'CSI' kind of thing."

An Act of Heroism

The *President Coolidge* wasn't meant to be a war ship. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the *Coolidge* was redesignated as a troop transport vessel, shuttling more than 5,000 troops at a time across the Pacific.

On Oct. 26, 1941, the *Coolidge* approached the harbor at Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, more than a thousand miles east of Australia. It struck two mines, and the vessel's captain, Henry Nelson, beached the ship, buying time for troops aboard to safely reach the shore.

Word spread quickly that the men in the ship's infirmary were trapped, so Army Capt. Elwood Euart volunteered to return to the slowly sinking ship with a rescue party. Euart, who was assigned to HQ, 103rd Field Artillery Bn., 43rd Inf. Div., saved all the men. However, he was unable to leave the vessel in time as it slid off the reef and sunk.

Euart was one of two casualties, and he posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross for his efforts. His story was told often in his hometown of Pawtucket, R.I., after his death. VFW Post 602 in Pawtucket is named after him.

"[Elwood] was the guy with the picture on the wall," Vallee said. "This mythological figure. We don't really know what he was like as a friend or in school. We only know the stories from our grandparents and parents."

'A Real Tribute to Service'

When it was time to lay Euart's remains to rest, the Post and surrounding VFW Departments trekked to the small city just north of Providence.

On Aug. 27, community leaders, family

members and VFW veterans filled the Keefe Funeral Home in Pawtucket to remember Euart. Most people in the room had never met Euart, but all honored his heroism during WWII.

Vallee said it's still a raw moment for him and he gets a lump in his throat remembering the ceremony.

"It was powerful," Vallee said. "Sophisticated, but simple. A real tribute to service."

Remembering a man few really knew, Vallee said it meant a lot to have such a supportive community—particularly Post 602, where Vallee said he and his parents spent a lot of time growing up. His mother was an active Auxiliary member, and his father served in the Marines during WWII and belonged to the Post.

Vallee said it had been nearly 40 years since he had been in the building, and it brought back a lot of fond memories.

Since identifying Euart's remains, Vallee has been in touch with residents of Espiritu Santo, where they erected a monument to the wreck and Euart's bravery.

"They call him a national hero," Vallee said.

According to Vallee, residents held a ceremony, parade and service at the monument to coincide with the one in Rhode Island.

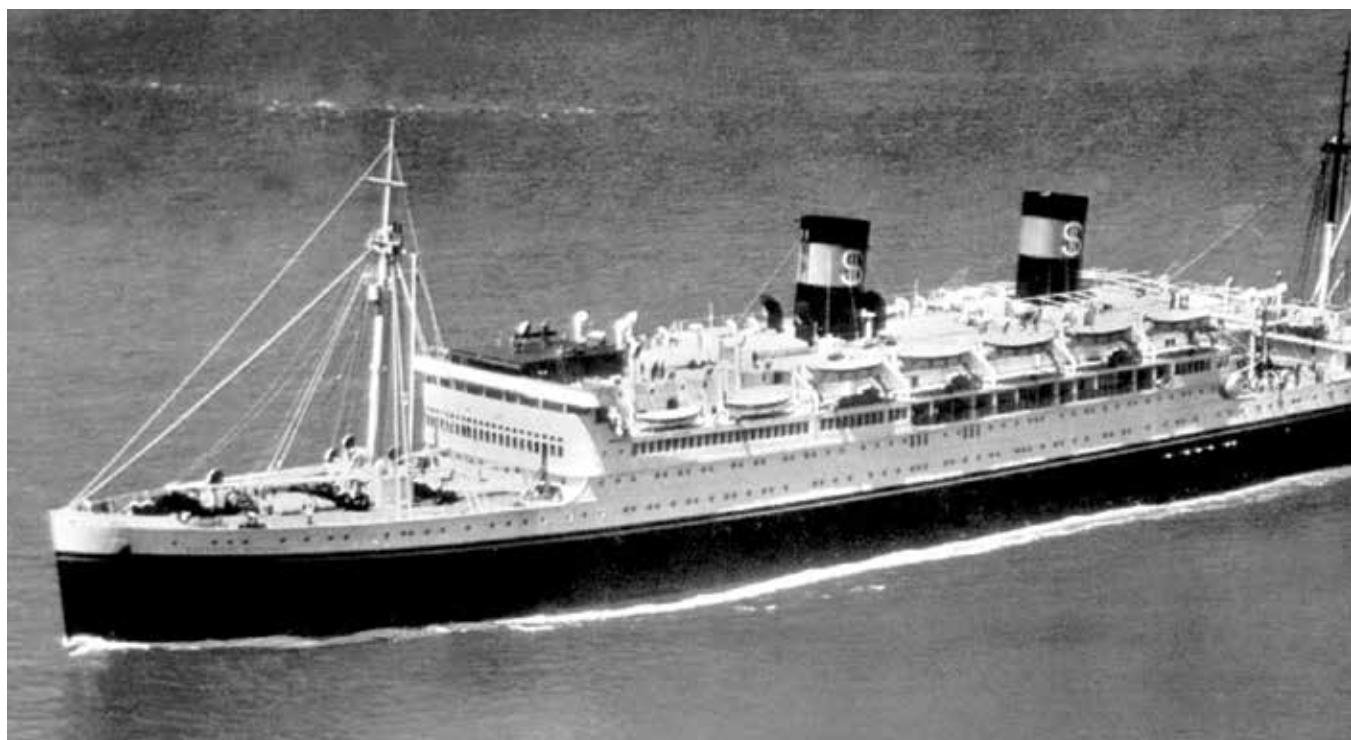
Vanuatu officials currently are raising funds to build a WWII museum.

Email: kgibson@vfw.org



Army Capt. Elwood Euart

Euart was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for rescuing several fellow service members from the *President Coolidge* before he drowned. His remains were identified in 2015 and laid to rest in August 2016. PHOTO COURTESY OF DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY



The Presidents Line's *SS President Coolidge* is shown here before she was purchased to be used as an Army transport vessel after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The *President Coolidge* sank off Vanuatu in 1942 after hitting two mines.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME MUSEUM AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK LIBRARY

Pennsylvania Women's Retreat Gets Boost

Altoona, Pa., Post 8685 Senior Vice Commander Michael Brandt (now commander) and Post Quartermaster Bert Green present Sandy Showalter with a \$200 check in May for the Department of Pennsylvania's annual women's retreat. Showalter, Pennsylvania's Women Veterans Committee chairperson, is a member of Post 43 in Martinsburg, Pa. The retreat is held each spring and is funded primarily through VFW and Auxiliary donations. The donations pay for a weekend away for about 35 to 75 female vets and include accommodations, meals and entertainment.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VFW PENNSYLVANIA NEWS



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Posts with the Most

VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS OR MORE AS OF OCT. 12, 2016

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members	Rank No.	Location	Members	Rank No.	Location	Members
1	27	Wiesbaden, Germany	2,515	11	9342 Ansbach, Germany	1,249	20	628 Sioux Falls, SD	1,106
2	1503	Dale City, VA	2,474	12	10047 North Las Vegas, NV	1,241	21	4809 Norfolk, VA	1,086
3	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1,844	13	4372 Odessa, TX	1,218	22	6873 Abilene, TX	1,057
4	8862	Vicenza, Italy	1,692	14	63 Boise, ID	1,167	23	2111 Chula Vista, CA	1,030
5	1114	Evansville, IN	1,677	15	76 San Antonio, TX	1,157	24	10216 Songtan-Si, Korea	1,016
6	9785	Eagle River, AK	1,630	16	6506 Rosedale, MD	1,152	25	10097 Fort Myers Beach, FL	1,012
7	2485	Angeles City, Philippines	1,601	17	7234 Ocean View, DE	1,143	26	549 Tucson, AZ	1,006
8	392	Virginia Beach, VA	1,554	18	2391 Saint Augustine, FL	1,121	27	7686 Alamogordo, NM	1,004
9	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany	1,460	19	1146 St Clair Shores, MI	1,117	28	972 Terre Haute, IN	1,000
10	4647	North Highlands, CA	1,271						

Missouri Post Donates More than \$63,000 for New Bus

Douglas Meyer (left) and Nicole Harris, of the St. Louis Veterans Home Committee, receive a \$63,505 check in June from Paul Schmidt, past commander of Post 2866 in St. Charles, Mo. The money was used to purchase a new bus for residents of the St. Louis Veterans Home. Each Tuesday, the Post holds a 50/50 drawing, which is how the money for the bus was raised. Candace Wansing, editor of the Post newsletter, *The Informer*, said it took from September 2015 to June 2016 to accumulate the proceeds. She added that there is "a lot of community involvement" by the Post members in St. Charles. Opening in 1993, the St. Louis Veterans Home is a 300-bed facility for any veteran residing in Missouri for at least 180 days.

PHOTO BY CANDACE WANSING, COURTESY OF THE INFORMER

