



# SENTRY NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION FOR NILES MEMORIAL VFW POST 3579  
6839 N. MILWAUKEE AVE. SUITE 100 - NILES, ILLINOIS 60714 TEL: 847-825-4588



August—September—October 2018



Visit our web site: <https://www.vfwpost3579.org>

## OCTOBERFEST DINNER & DANCE AT THE POST



**6839 N. MILWAUKEE AVENUE, NILES**  
**NILES MEMORIAL VFW Post 3579**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**



Cocktails & Conversation at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

This will be a family style served dinner by Harrington's Catering. Our fare will be roasted smoked pork loin, scalloped potatoes, German potato salad, bratwurst and sauerkraut, glazed carrots, bread and butter, apple slice dessert and coffee. Cost: \$35.00 per person.

We will have dinner music, and live entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure.

There will be a raffle with four (4) \$100 prizes, a 50/50 drawing and door prizes will be raffled. Raffle ticket donations are \$10.00 each and you may obtain as many tickets as you wish. 50/50 tick- ets are 6 for \$5.00. We will also raffle several door prizes.

In order to provide comfortable seating for all, we will limit the number of tickets sold to 90.

So, please mail in the reservation sheet, with your check as soon as possible but not later than September 10th, a return envelope is enclosed. Dinner tickets and Raffle tickets will also be available in the Lounge prior to the event.

## WAKE SERVICES

The attendance at the wake services for a Post member has been very low and not getting any better. To help the attendance we are going to try to start a Calling Tree to better notify our members, when one of our Comrades passes away. If you would like to be included on this list please just send your Name and Phone Number to the Post by August 1st. We have a very large Post and we should be able to get more than 4 to 6 members out to Honor our Fallen Comrades. We must remember our original motto **"HONOR THE DEAD BY SERVING THE LIVING"**.

What better way to Honor a departed Comrade then attending a wake service for them and letting his family know that we did not forget Him or Her.



## COMMANDER TOM DAVIDSON'S MESSAGE

Comrades let me start by thanking Frank Merkendorfer for the many years that he served as our Commander. Frank guided The Post through some very changing times and we own him a big THANK YOU.

As we all know it takes a great amount of work to keep a Post as large as we are running. There are many jobs that we need help with. If anyone thinks he or she would like to volunteer please step up. Right now we are in need of an Adjutant. If anyone is interest please contact me. There also many other committees that we could use help on.

There are 2 articles is this newsletter that are important to The Post please read them. One is The Special Election of The Board of Directors and the other is about trying to create a calling tree to try to get better attendance at wake services for our departed members.

In closing I would to say that if we all work together we can build a on the great foundation laid by all of the comrades that came before us. I hope you and all of your families enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you all at one of our meetings. Should if you ever want to get in touch with me about anything that pertains to the Post just call. My Cell# is 847-347-8884.

**Tom Davidson**  
Commander

### Board Of Directors Special Election

According to the By-Laws of The Vets Club Article IV The Board of Directors consists of 9 Members of which The Commander and Quartermaster are automatic leaving 7 to be elected.

Since there has been no election in over 2 years we will hold an election after the close of VFW Business on September 10, 2018 we will hold a special meeting to elect a New Board of Directors. All VFW Members that are in good standing are considered members of the Corporation and are eligible to run for Director with the exception of a Post Trustee. Nominations for directors may be made following the regular meeting of Post 3579, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES two weeks prior to the meeting or from the floor at the meeting. 3 Directors will serve until Monday Feb. 11, 2019 and 4 will serve until Monday Feb. 10 Of 2020. According to the By-Laws it should be the 4th Monday of Feb. but seeing that the Post no longer holds a meeting on the 4th Monday we will do it on the 2nd Monday of Feb.

The top 4 vote getters will serve until Feb. 10, 2020 and the bottom 3 will serve until Feb 11, 2019. If you interested in serving please consider doing so. According to the Post By-Laws The Com-ander will appoint a 3 member Nominating Committee. The duties of this Committee will be to recruit eligible members to serve on The Park Ridge Veterans Club Board of Directors.

### UPDATED INFORMATION NEEDED

**Attention VFW Post 3579 Members named below:**

VFW National needs to be sure your address and phone numbers are current to continue to receive the VFW National magazine. Even if you are receiving the magazine, if your name is below, please contact Post Commander, Tom Davidson, 847-347-8884, Post Quartermaster, Harry Benjamin, 773-841-9999 or, the Post 847-825-4588 to confirm the information. Thank you.

**Lawrence A. Ames**  
**David E. Buzinski**  
**William C. Fontana**

**Eugene R. Barrett**  
**Donald D. Day**  
**Donald J. Holt**

**Raymond A. Projahn**  
**August J. Sciortino**  
**Joseph R. Urban**

**Frank N. Rago**  
**Lee H. Struebing**  
**William Weliesek**



## Buddy Poppy Days 2018

The Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 Buddy Poppy Day Event was held May 23 – May 25, 2018. During those three days 15 Post members volunteered to donate their time to distribute poppies and accept donations from the public.

Several VFW 3579 Post members and Veterans Club members chose to support our Buddy Poppy Day through mail-in donations. Those listed below elected the option of being acknowledged by name and branch of service for their donation.

Robert Baken U.S. Army  
 Harry Benjamin U.S. Army  
 Thomas Bland U.S. Army  
 Thomas Boyd U.S. Army  
 Mike Bunyon U.S. Army  
 Gene Cherim U.S. Navy  
 Terence Citko U.S. Navy  
 Eugene Corr U.S. Navy  
 Joseph Cwik U.S. Navy & U.S. Marine Corps  
 Paul Dahlgren U.S. Navy  
 William Denten U.S. Army  
 Harold Ericksen U.S. Air Force  
 Michael Wallace U.S. Army  
 Gene Korus U.S. Navy & U.S. Marine Corps  
 Casimir Kulka U.S.  
 Gregory Ziemianin U.S. Army

Ed Malatesta U.S. Army  
 Gerald Matayka U.S. Army  
 Dan Maxime U.S. Army  
 Thomas Mazur U.S. Navy  
 Francesco Riggio U.S. Marine Corps  
 Nicholas Sherbula U.S. Army  
 Thomas Swaine U.S. Army  
 Richard Theriault U.S. Army  
 William Thilmann U.S. Coast Guard  
 Mike Underwood U.S. Marine Corps  
 Earl Valentino U.S. Army  
 Julianne Viduya U.S. Women's Army Corps  
 LeRoy Herrick U.S. Army  
 Dale Wilson U.S. Navy  
 NavyRussell Zapel U.S. Navy


## COLOR GUARD IN ACTION

As appearing in this edition of the Sentry, our Color Guard posted Colors and performed a rifle salute with Taps sounded by Bugler, Vince Guiffre at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Niles Veterans Waterfall site on May 28, 2018.


Color Guard members, Charles Simokaitis, Tony Kowalczyk, Robin Miller, Jorge Rolon and Color Guard Captain, John Bugajsky posted the Colors and participated in a Flag Day Ceremony at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge 1526 on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

## POTENTIAL POST CONSOLIDATION

Notice to Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 Members: We have been formally approached by Skokie Valley Post 3854 who have expressed an interest in consolidating with our Post. In accordance with the Manual of Procedure, a motion shall be made at the Post Meeting on September 10, 2018 to consolidate with Skokie Valley Post 3854 which will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the member present. Should the consolidation take place, the name and post number of Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 will not change.



### TAPS



**The following V.F.W. Post 3579 members have passed away.**

Let's have a moment of silence.

**Joseph Schnirer**  
**Vincent Salamone**  
**Raymond Grejczik**  
**Michael Jajkowski, Sr.**



## Captain Bette and the Battle of Saipan



After graduation from the University of Michigan, Bette C. Horstman studied Physical Therapy at the Mayo Clinic where her class went into military service. Bette became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army. After Officer Candidate School she was sent to the South Pacific. Actually she wanted to be in the Navy. She worked in the Medical Corps and was sent to Saipan in the South Pacific.

The American invasion of the Japanese stronghold of Saipan in the western Pacific was an incredibly brutal battle, claiming 55,000 soldiers' and civilians' lives in just over three weeks in the summer of 1944. The U.S. Marines spear headed the amphibious landing, encountering a fierce and well-prepared resistance from the Japanese troops who controlled the commanding heights looming over the beach. The amphibious landing at Saipan drew on the lessons of previous conquests in Tarawa in November 1943 and the Kwajalein and Eniwetok atolls in the Marshall Islands in early 1944. Next up was the Mariana Islands of Guam, Saipan and Tinian, part of the island-hopping campaign adopted by the U.S. The U.S. forces confronted about 30,000 Japanese troops, double pre-invasion estimates. On June 14, some of the battleships that severely damaged during the attack on Pearl Harbor and since repaired, commenced the softening up phase.. On the second night, the Japanese counterattacked with 44 tanks, losing 24 of them to the marines' intense fusillade. In the first four days alone, the marines suffered 5,000 casualties in the Saipan invasion.

On June 17, with the main Japanese fleet steaming for a showdown in the Marianas, U.S. carriers were deployed to meet them while transport and supply ships were withdrawn from their offshore support positions in Saipan. On June 19, in what military historians dub the "Great Mariana's Turkey Shoot," the U.S. decimated the Japanese carrier task force, sinking three carriers and shooting down 330 of the 430 planes launched and preventing relief of the Japanese forces on Saipan. Many civilians died in the battle. U.S. forces didn't always distinguish between noncombatants and combatants when entering caves or hearing movement or voices in the jungle because Japanese troops used civilians as decoys to ambush American soldiers.



Because of this Bette had two armed guards with her where ever she went. There were so many casualties that Bette was kept busy for several years. Bette Horstman served from 1944 through 1946 and earned the Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal, the American Area Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and finally the Cold War Victory Medal. She rose to the rank of Captain. Her husband was awarded the Bronze Star which she proudly displays on her license plates. Bette is in the center of a VFW Eulogy photo for her niece Susie's

husband, Marine Robert Andrews, a Vietnam Veteran who died from Agent Orange. In the back row from left to right are service officers: Norman Sachman, Stephen Weber and Vincent Giufree. The memorial service was held Saturday June 16, 2018 at the Moose Lodge. At the event Bette Horstman was honored by the American Legion.

By VFW Chaplain Stephen Weber

