



# SENTRY NEWSLETTER

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



July, August, September - 2021



Visit our web site: <https://www.vfwpost3579.org>  
Twitter: [twitter.com/Nilesvfw](https://twitter.com/Nilesvfw) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nilesil.vfw>



Past 4th District/ Post Commander Tom Davidson, current District Commander Steve MacInnes, Department Commander Bobby Welch and current Post Commander Kevin Morrison at Department Change of Command party.



## VFW POST 3579 AUXILIARY

Our Auxiliary meets the First Wednesday of each month  
1:00 pm at 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. Suite 100, Niles

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES\*

*Guests and all who may be qualified for membership are always welcome to join us!*

For more information, please contact the Post at 847-825-4588 and leave a message for Doris DeFrancheschi, President or Myrna Schiro, Treasurer

Email: [nilesvfw3579.auxiliary10@yahoo.com](mailto:nilesvfw3579.auxiliary10@yahoo.com)  
Website: [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)

## Post Home Update

As previously stated, we are making progress toward alterations to our new Post Home at 7255 N. Caldwell Avenue in Niles. On Monday, June 14th we received word that we are very close to the permit approvals needed. There are still a couple of items to be corrected; our architect is preparing additional information. At this moment, it is still difficult to establish a timeline because due to the pandemic, many materials needed are delayed and it is construction season



# Commander's Message

## Fellow Members of Niles Memorial VFW 3579:

We have had a busy first quarter 2021. The Queen of Hearts has been solidly reinitiated with the drawings being held on Sundays at 3pm. We held a 30th Anniversary Commemoration of the Persian Gulf War and had 7 members of the Niles Police Department Honor Guard participate. We awarded our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners certificates and award checks.

Friday night entertainment has taken off again, it's wonderful seeing everyone enjoying themselves. The St Patrick's Day party was sensational; thanks to the participation of the Shannon Rover's Pipe Band, the Irish step dancers and Rich Timm and Deborah. At the St Patrick's Day party, we honored several Post members and the Shannon Rovers, for their above and beyond commitment to the Post.

*Mike Reilly* will be chairing a Flag Day committee for the Illinois Elks Flag Day Commemoration on June 12th. This ceremony will be held at the Des Plaines Elks lodge at 11am. All Post members are encouraged to attend with their uniform hats.

*Larry Pike* is chairing the military patch shadow box committee. Larry requests that all Post members submit their combat unit patch, with full unit name, date of combat service and member's full name for inclusion in our new Post patch shadow box. Please submit a colored dress patch, not a field patch.

*Jim Henk* is chairing the Poppy Day committee. If you can volunteer to sell poppies (May 28, 29, 30) please contact the Post or Jim.

*John Bugasky*, our color guard Captain, is seeking new members for the color guard. We will be holding our annual Memorial Day Commemoration at the Niles Veteran's Waterfall on Memorial Day at 11am.

We have been expanding our presence online and have a very active.

**Twitter account:** [twitter.com/NilesVfw](https://twitter.com/NilesVfw)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/nilesil.vfw>

We are still collecting donations of gently used board games (Monopoly, Sorry, Risk, etc) decks of cards and other games like chess, checkers, backgammon, Scrabble, etc. We will have a collection of games that members may checkout and play at their leisure in the banquet area. I am also seeking a quality wood book case for a take one, leave one book library. We will be implementing a coffee mess and I want the Post to be a home away from home.

I have accepted a nomination to run for Commander again. With this said, the Commander is only as good as his team.

I strongly encourage everyone to vote for *Jim McGrath* as Senior Vice, *Terry Shannon* as Junior Vice, *Dennis Anderson* as Quartermaster and *Steve Weber* as Chaplain.

I thank everyone for the immense support that I have received in a very challenging year. I promise you that we will push the Post forward with new ideas and innovation. I want 3579 to be the #1 Post in Illinois and I know, with your support, that this will happen!

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter!

God Bless,

Kevin P Morrison, Commander





# MEMORIAL BRICKS ARE STILL AVAILABLE



Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 will be creating & installing a Memorial Brick Garden at the New Niles Memorial Post home. The VFW flag pole will be the center of the Veterans Brick Garden. The Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 is selling engraved brick pavers in addition to the pavers that are already present and that will makeup that area. If you or a family member has served in the military it is a great way to honor them.

The cost is **\$100** for each engraved brick. All proceeds go to the Niles Memorial VFW.

The forms are at the entrance of the Post, stop by and pick up a couple.



**New Unit Patch Shadow Box at Post.** Members who wish to submit, Contact Larry Pike or any Officer Need: Your Full Name / Branch of Service / Unit Name / Uniform Patch

Patches can be obtained if you don't have one.

Members from same unit can use same patch if they so desire.



## >>Sentry is going digital!!!<<

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** For the **October, November, December** issue, for the purpose of cost savings to our Post, would like to take the Sentry digital. Taking it digital will save our Post approximately \$500.00. We also understand not all of our members are **“connected”** to the internet or understand computers. Therefore if you wish to continue receiving the printed Sentry,

**SEND us a note to keep you on the mailing list.**

**Send the note with your CORRECT mailing address to:**

**Niles Memorial Post 3579  
6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. #100  
Niles, ILL. 60714**

*Club and Friends of the VFW please send us YOUR email address especially.*



**We are still asking for donations to fund our new Post Home.**



**Our staff is asking to send your donations directly to the Post at: 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. Suite 100, Niles ILL 60714.**

There are 3 “FaceBook” pages out there. One was started WITHOUT Membership or Board of Directors permission. The other was also started the same way. Two of these reference a “GoFundMe” Page. Also a 3rd one is out there too. There are **NO** Officers of the Post or Board on either of these pages. They are controlled by someone else. Since our Post has no control, our Post has NO access to ANY of the money collected. Just be careful!!!!

**YOUR ELECTED OFFICERS RECOMMEND NOT SENDING MONEY TO THESE SITES AT THIS TIME UNTIL A RESOLUTION CAN BE FOUND.**



Our Commander Kevin Morrison presented a card of congratulations to newly elected Mayor of Niles George Alpogianis.



I would like to introduce WWII Veteran Walter Petroske who turned 100 years young back in February. He is currently living with his son, in Poplar Grove.



# Our mail -in Poppy Donors were very generous!

## THANKS TO ALL



that have given and to those that will give in the future.

Auxiliary 3579	4/6/2021	Eleanor Jennrich	Army	4/25/2021	Michael L. Bunyon
Air Force	4/6/2021	James Filipek	Army	4/25/2021	Robin Miller
USMC	4/6/2021	Sgt. Francesco Riggio	Lawyer (Ret)	4/25/2021	Larry Abramovitz
	4/7/2021	Edward Breden	Army	4/27/2021	Thomas Swaine
Army	4/7/2021	Donald Cornell	USMC	4/27/2021	James McGrath
Navy	4/9/2021	Dennis Anderson	Army	4/29/2021	William P. Lyman
Army Airborne	4/10/2021	Richard Sachs	US Marines	4/30/2021	Rich Pietrusiewicz
Army	4/10/2021	Walter Filipek		4/29/2021	Fran Jordan
Army	4/10/2021	Jerome Malon	Auxiliary 3579	5/1/2021	Myrna Schiro
Army	4/10/2021	John P. Collins		5/3/2021	Betty Arena
Army	4/10/2021	Art Patek	Auxiliary 3579	5/5/2021	Doris DeFranceschi
Navy	4/10/2021	Henry Wagener		5/6/2021	Shirley Wilds
USMC	4/11/2021	Olan Wheeler		5/12/2021	Barbara Uber
Army	4/11/2021	Vito Schiro	Army Med Corps	5/12/2021	Bette Horstman
Army/Navy	4/21/2021	Walter Ergish	US Navy	5/13/2021	Terence Citko
	4/12/2021	Edward Breden	US Army	5/13/2021	Doran Puckett
USCG	4/12/2021	William Thilmany	US Army	5/20/2021	Richard Kozicki*
Air Force	4/12/2021	Ronald Pasko		5/20/2021	T Szewc
Navy	4/12/2021	Joseph Hoch		5/20/2021	George Saperstein
Army	4/12/2021	John Geschrey	US Army	5/24/2021	Jim & Nancy Henk
Amer. Legion	4/12/2021	Lafayette Post 159		5/24/2021	Norbert Bernauer
Navy	4/12/2021	Robert S. Komada	US Army	5/26/2021	William Curtin
W.A.C.	4/12/2021	Julianne Viduya		5/28/2021	Ramon Prieto
USMC	4/13/2021	Francesco Riggio		5/28/2021	Robert Kosmicki
8th Army	4/14/2021	Daniel Maxime		5/28/2021	John Tomzick
Army	4/14/2021	Edward Malatesta	US Army	5/28/2021	Lawrence & Adrienne Pike
Army	4/14/2021	Ron Meziere	US Army	5/31/2021	Harry & Patricia Benjamin
Army	4/14/2021	Allen Becker	US Marine	5/31/2021	Norm Sachman
Army	4/15/2021	Barry Silverberg	US Army	5/31/2021	Frank Merkendorfer
Army	4/20/2121	Robert Fuggiti			

\* Richard Kozicki went out of his way to fill poppy cans at several businesses he frequently visits. His efforts collected \$1000.00 for our Poppy fund.

### Thanks to our Post Auxiliary 3579

Here are the names of the Auxiliary members who counted the money on Poppy Day, Friday 28 May. *Rose Lobb, Eleanor Jennrich, Myrna Schiro, Doris DeFranceschi, Shirley Wilds, Patti Kuczak Belden Marie Gatchman* (she ran the currency and coin counters). Without these great ladies assisting our Post counting all the money our Poppy sellers brought in we would still be counting. To show our gratitude our Post membership voted at the previous Post meeting to write a check to the Post Auxiliary for 1/2 of the days total count. Thank You to our Auxiliary.

Here are the names of those Post members who solicited for donations at the Jewel Food Stores and Happy Foods in the cold and rain. These are the Store locations where our Post members stood; **Jewel Foods - 7900 Milwaukee Ave., Niles, Jewel Foods - 5667 W Touhy Ave., Niles, Jewel Foods - 7342 W. Foster Ave, Chicago, Happy Foods - 6415 N. Central Ave., Chicago.**

Greg Babize, Harry Benjamin (2), Tom Davidson, Wally Ergish, Tom Fronzak, Jim Henk (2), Bette Horstman Joe Kowalczyk, Bob Kosmicki, Barry McCallum (2), Jim McGrath, Robin Miller (2), Kevin Morrison (2), George Pearson, Ramon Prieto, John Tomzick, Steve Weber (2)



# More Poppy Day Information

Here is the businesses and VFW 3579's guest/friend I am aware of who sponsored our smaller donation containers and the Post members who managed the collections.

- 1) Richard Kozicki - Mike Riley
- 2) Ron's Barber Styling Shop @ 6921 W. Higgins, Chicago. (Casimir Kulka) VFW Member Sponsor)
- 3) Papa Chris Place @ 6235 W. Touhy, Niles - Bob Figgiti
- 4) Shooting Range — Bristol Gun Range Joe Kowalczyk



## POPPY DAY EVENT - MAY 2021

On 27, 28 and 29 May 2021, Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 held its annual Memorial Day Poppy Day Event. This year as in the past, post members volunteered to stand in front of cooperating business, distribute “Buddy Poppies” and collect contributions from the public. Again, as in the past, Memorial Day weekend weather was unpredictable. In 2019, during our Poppy Day event the weather was hot and humid and as we all know the weather during this year’s Poppy Day event was cold and wet. Regardless of the adverse weather, post member volunteers fulfilled their commitment. Volunteers know all funds they collect in The Memorial Day Poppy Day event goes into the Post Relief Fund strictly to assist veterans in distress and support established veterans’ programs. This year as usual the same Post members volunteered to take part in the event as they have year after year. But this year something different occurred as four additional post members volunteered for the first time. Since 2019, the Post has lost the involvement of several of our member volunteers who in the past continually and faithfully took part in our Memorial Day Poppy Day Event. Two of these members sadly passed away. Four other members who volunteered year after year after year for the event decided they could no longer participate.

Regardless of the cold, windy and wet conditions 17 Niles Memorial VFW Post members worked 23 out of 33 three-hour time slots that needed staffing. Six of these post members worked two time slots each.

Post members were asked to sponsor and manage a small Poppy Day donation container by placing them at local businesses to collect donations. This donation collection method was exceptionally **\$ucce\$\$ful!**

The Memorial Poppy Day Event donation mail-in option offered in the *Sentry Newsletter* was once again a great success. Thanks to ALL!!!!

As in past years, Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 Auxiliary members assisted in counting donations collected.

The 2021, Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 Poppy Day Event was a great success due to the team effort of VFW Post 3579 members, VFW Post 3579 Auxiliary members and the guests and friends of VFW Post 3579.

The members of Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 would like to extend our appreciation to those local businesses who granted permission for us to solicit donations and distribute “Buddy Poppies” to their customers and to those businesses that supported donation containers at their place of business.



MEMORIAL DAY 2021

Our friends of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 242 celebrated Memorial Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Wabash and Wacker Ave. They then returned to our Post and joined VFW Post 3579 to celebrate Memorial Day at the Niles Waterfall. After the celebrations all present were asked to return to our Post to enjoy some hamburgers hot dogs and brats. Everyone that came and there were MANY enjoyed the food and drink and the comradery between all the Veterans and their families. We hope to have a successful party next year.....we will have more food ordered.



Chapter 242 members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Honor their fallen at the river Memorial downtown.



As you can see above, Memorial day celebration at the Niles Waterfall, went very well. It was one of the best attended in history. It was a combined celebration of VFW Post 3579 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 242, to lay the wreath and do the prayers honoring our past Veterans. James Henk VFW and Harold Beyne of the VVA carried the wreath. Many of the local Police and Fire and Village Officials gave brief speeches. Our Color Guard performed the firing honors with precision and our bugler did Taps. It was a very moving performance. Congratulations to all who participated .



# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> Parade @ Niles <u>Independence</u> <u>Day</u>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Post Meeting 7 pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Staff Mtg. 6pm Board 7 pm	27 Korean War Veterans Memori- al at the Post 1	28	29	30	31

# August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Post Meeting 7 pm	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Staff Mtg. 6 pm Board 7 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <u>Labor Day</u>	7	8	9	10	11
12 MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR VFW POST 3579 VETERANS	13 Post Meeting 7 pm	14 VVA Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Staff Mtg. 6pm Board 7 pm	28	29	30		



## TAPS



### Our VFW members that have passed;

Raymond C. Kloss	3/09/2021
Angelo Gianopulos	4/16/21
Larry Bohl	4/17/2021
Anthony J. Kowalczyk	4/10/21
Joseph DeFranco	4/21/2021
Kim D. Hager	4/22/2021
Teddy Bell Dzwonkiewicz	5/1/2021
Steven Joseph Fishleigh	5/13/2021

The 2020/ 2021 TAPS is different from previous years because of the Covid19 Pandemic. Because of the surge in the Corona Virus cases, only 10 people are allowed in the funeral home under strict CDC guide lines and this is usually just family members. Our VFW writes the Eulogy, the VFW Certificate of Remembrance and the Prayer, which are all suitable for framing.

*VFW Chaplain Steve Weber*