

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1st Weds. Of Each Month – Arlington Heights Am. Legion Post 208



Website – vfwpost981.org

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

DALE BERG MONUMENT

On June 14, Flag Day and 250th birthday of the US Army, Legion Post 208 dedicated a memorial to Dale Berg, VFW Color Guard Commander and contributor to our Post in many ways and Commander of American Legion Post 208. Our Post Color Guard participated in the ceremony.



COMMANDER

I'm honored to be re-elected as Post Commander for 2025-2026. As a Post we were so close to achieving All-American status last year. Hopefully we will attain that goal this year. We have retained most of our Staff from last year. Vince Cipolla has become our new trustee as James Jones has ended his three-year term.

Our membership numbers have been steady, but we need to constantly recruit to replace members who passed away, much less to increase our numbers, not to steal Tom's thunder, Membership is

important to the post and the VFW is every one's part to recruit a new member not the Senior-Vice. Remember - turn in your Club receipts at the end of each quarter for reimbursements (end of June, September, December, and March). Late turn in of receipts is being a problem and may result in you not getting reimbursed for them.

During the two Poppy Day weekends we collected over \$5,000, a large improvement over last year. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave us their time again this year. And special thanks to James Jones for putting it all together!

We are still in need of volunteers to fill the open positions. I will be asking some of you to help shoulder the load.

Stewart

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Membership is key and we need everyone's help in getting more members. We are hoping this major move will show our Post is active and looking for more members. Our Color Guard has been doing an outstanding job and is also looking for more members in it. Our Post must grow and will grow with your support.

Any event our Post has join in as the more involved you are the greater feeling of belonging to a great organization is felt. Wear you military affiliation caps always it will advertise and get people to talk to you and possibly ask how I join the VFW Post 981. The more we show our selves the better. We are the only ones who can show our military affiliation and YES we are proud of our service and have joined the VFW for the comradery

of knowing what we have done and want to do to help other Veterans.

Please advertise all you can and YES talk it up as it is a great organization. Everyone is a recruiter and I'm hoping we all can find new members this year. We have to be aggressive in getting new members in a nice way but we have to keep trying always. Post 981 HAS TO GROW NOW.

Tom

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

VACANT

Our Post picnic will be held on August 10. Please read the flyer at the end of the newsletter for all the information you need as to location, time, and how to sign up.

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **August Post Meeting** - Wednesday (8/6)
- **Post Picnic** – Sunday (8/10) Deer Grove East Pavilion #4 11:00 AM-4:00 PM
- **September Post Meeting** – Wednesday (9/3)
- **October Post Meeting** – Wednesday (10/1)

TAPS



The members of Arlington Post 981, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, pay their last tribute of respect to our departed comrades.

The following comrades passed away, or we have been notified of their passing, since the last newsletter came out:

NONE

As brave men and women they marched away with abiding faith in their God, their country, and their flag.

As soon as is possible we request that family members **notify the Post via telephone** (listed on our website) if a comrade has passed away. Too many times we must rely on seeing an obituary in the newspaper which leaves little or no time for members to pay their final respects. Also, our Color Guard needs time to organize the final salute to our members, whether at the wake or afterwards at the cemetery.

POST ELECTIONS

Here is the elected Post leadership for this year:

- **Commander Stewart Abbink**
- **Senior Vice-Commander Tom Rakowski**
- **Junior Vice-Commander VACANT**
- **Quartermaster Mike Kolbuk**
- **Three-Year Trustee Vince Cipolla**
- **Two-Year Trustee Don Luken**
- **One-Year Trustee Larry Bielski**

Appointed Post Officers:

- **Service Officer (Temporary) Stewart Abbink**
- **Adjutant Phil Nagle**
- **Officer of the Day (Temporary) Tony Kuchanny**
- **Judge Advocate VACANT**
- **Color Guard VACANT**

Committee Chairmen for this year:

- **Poppies VACANT**
- **Publicity/Newsletter Mike Kolbuk**

- Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen
VACANT
- Club Chair Don Luken
- Scouts Chair Stewart Abbink
- Scholarships Don Luken & Vince Cipolla



ILLINOIS STATE NEWSPAPER

In the latest General Orders it was noted that a physical copy of the state newspaper will no longer be mailed to us. It will be only in digital format. I have reached out to state to determine whether they will be emailing it to members who have their emails on record, or will it merely be posted on the state website. I have not received a reply as of yet. I will email the Post when I hear from them. For those who get this newsletter through the mail I don't have any solution for you other than going on line every quarter to the state website to read it.

POST AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

At the June Post meeting Matthew Louis received the \$3,000 Bob Henderson Scholarship Grant from Bob's daughter Lynn Munson.

Matt is a resident of Barrington and graduated in 2025 from Barrington High. He is quite the entrepreneur, having started a lawn mowing business while in grammar school and in high school starting a company that manages publicity for medical practices. Matt will be attending MIT majoring in business.



At our July meeting Paige Hall received the \$3,000 Wally Luetschwager Scholarship.

Paige is a resident of Mount Prospect and graduated in 2025 from Prospect High School. While at Prospect she played soccer, serving as captain as well as leading Operation Snowball which helps teens avoid alcohol, tobacco and drugs. As part of the school's leadership council she helped raise over \$8,000 to benefit Folds of Honor, which provides support to children of disabled and fallen veterans. Paige will be majoring in psychology and business at university this fall.



POPPY DAY COLLECTIONS

Our Poppy Chairman, James Jones, did a fantastic job organizing this valuable fund raiser.

On May 17 Post members were at 5 locations in Arlington Heights and at 4 locations in Buffalo Grove on May 24.

The final collection total was \$3,130 in Arlington Heights and \$1,860 in Buffalo Grove. This was an improvement over last year of almost \$1,000. The following is a list of the volunteers who made this possible. Those who worked 1 day - Larry and Mary Bielski, Phil Nagle and Tom Rakowski; 2 days – Don Luken, AJ Stransky, Henry Mueller, Stewart Abbink and Mike Kolbuk; 3 days – Pat Hickey (he did a Friday also).

A list of worthwhile organizations will be submitted to the Post to receive our Poppy money. Ideas for spending the Poppy fund are always welcome.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/ PATRIOTS PEN

The themes for 2025-2026 have been announced by VFW National: Voice of Democracy - "How are you showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?"

Patriot's Pen – Same as Voice of Democracy

The deadline for entries is November 1, 2025.

There is a radical change in how the entries will be submitted. The new chairman will be educating the Post as to how it will be done.

BOOMERS OUTING

Although the day was hot, 22 Post members and their guests had a comfortable afternoon on June 22. The air-conditioned skybox was the largest we have had and the ample seating outside was shaded with a breeze blowing. Food was the Italian package with Italian beef, sausage, ravioli with chicken and pasta salad. All were available for all-you-could-eat. Unlimited soft drinks, some beer ordered by the Post, cookies and lots of popcorn completed the menu. The Boomers pitchers had a rough time of it to begin but were able to hold off the Thunderbolts in the later innings and the Boomers batters came alive to get a walk-off victory 11-10. Plenty of homers and other excitement.



NEW POST MEMBERS

Bob Miles was in the Army and served in Vietnam.

Welcome him to our Post when you see him at our activities.

POST PAYS FOR CLUBS

If you are interested in joining a club that is open to all members, or starting one yourself see Don Luken. Based on participation and cost the Post will reimburse expenses.

There are already 5 approved – Fishing, Pistol Range (Don Luken), Golf (Smokeymike), Beer Brewing (Mike Kolbuk) and Breakfast.

You must be an active member of the Post - participating in meetings, activities and such.

COLOR GUARD

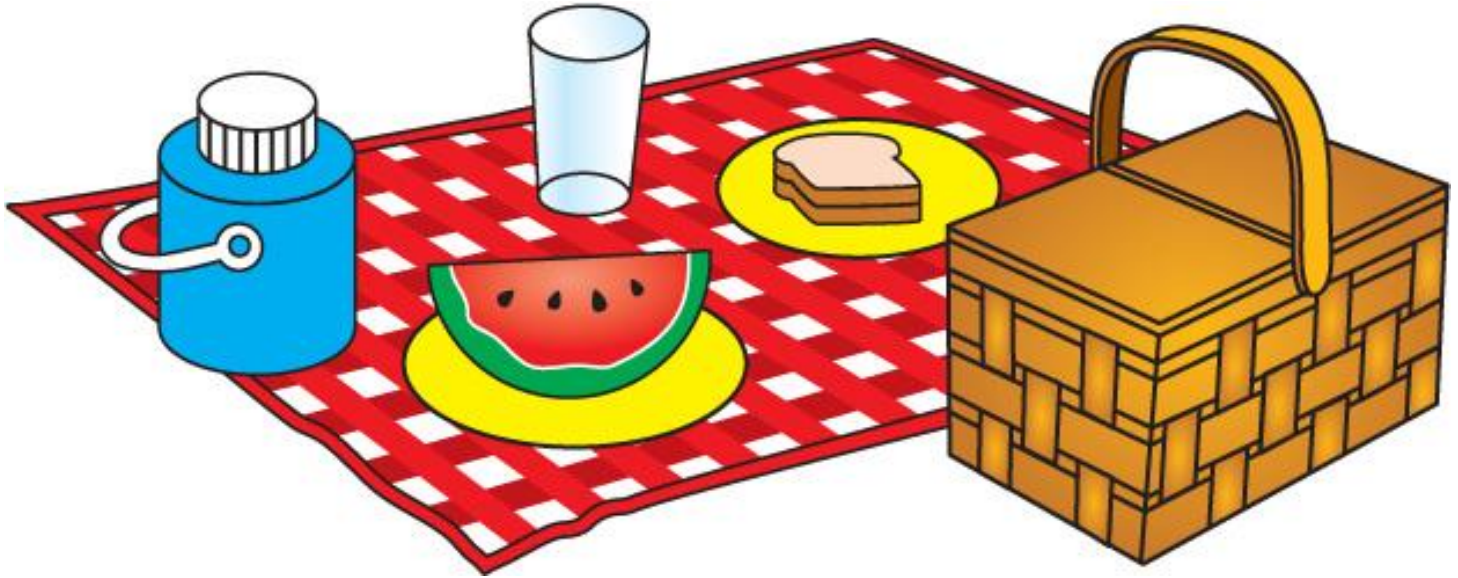
The Color Guard Past events:

May 10 - Commencement Ceremony Oakton Community College

May 26 - Memorial Day Parade

July 4 - Arlington Heights July 4th Parade

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 AUGUST PICNIC



Deer Grove East – Grove #4

Entrance is Dundee Rd West of Hicks Rd

JOIN US ON AUGUST 10 FROM 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM.
POST WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT, UTENSILS AND CONDIMENTS.
YOU PROVIDE YOUR BEVERAGES AND A SIDE DISH TO SHARE.

TABLES ARE AVAILABLE UNDER A WIDE SHELTER AND THE
BATHROOMS ARE NEARBY. BRING YOUR OWN SEATING AND
GAMES TO PLAY IF YOU LIKE. FAMILY & FRIENDS WELCOME.

NO CHARGE! But, we need a count.
Sign up at August Post Meeting; Email
vfwpost981@gmail.com

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

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TO: