



Perinton Memorial Post 8495 Veterans of Foreign Wars No One Does More for Veterans



Town of Perinton Salute to America Concert

Post 8495's Honor Guard once again presented the colors with the Fairport Fire Department to kick off the Salute to America concert at the Perinton Amphitheater on September 8th. The Post Honor Guard continues to represent the Post throughout our community!

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POST 8495 Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 1pm to 7pm
- Tuesday: 1pm to 10pm
- Wednesday: Closed except for Bingo
- Thursday: 1pm to 10pm
- Friday: 12pm to 10pm
- Saturday: 12pm to 10pm
- Sunday: 1pm to 7pm

Post Meetings days/times

- Post: 2nd Thursday at 7:30pm
- POV: 3rd Thursday at 7:30pm
- Auxiliary: 3rd Thursday at 7:15pm

Post Phone Numbers

- 585-223-9723
- 585-425-1363



Commander's Call

Hello everyone. I'm honored to be writing to you again as Post Commander, now 4 plus months into my 2nd year. While this position isn't always easy, and while nobody can ever make everyone happy, it's still very rewarding to be able to help guide and shape our great organization. It's definitely not something that just I can do, so I want to personally thank everyone who has a hand in running our Post, from Quartermaster, to Chaplain, to Honor Guard to POV. From those who volunteer at the VA, and work bingo, to those who help put on our ceremonies and maintain our

Property. The Auxiliary who supports us tremendously right on down to each and every person that helps advise me. We would not exist as we do without all of us working as a team!

Because of all of our great people who help out (and we are always looking for more), our Post runs as smoothly as it does. While like other VSO's we struggle with membership, however our numbers do remain fairly strong. Our return to community involvement has generated some buzz which has brought us new members and has others considering joining who might not otherwise. Our focus on family activities and volunteering at community events has been well received on all sides. These things are definitely important as we position our Post for growth and continued longevity. Each and every member of our Post, whether you are local or are part of our many members scattered all over our country – you should be proud of your Post! The effect we have on our local Veterans and our community reaches far and we set the example for other Posts all across Western NY. We are in such a position because of our incredible members and supporters. We want to maintain our effectiveness and our ability to help our brothers and sisters in service, so we can always use more volunteers. There is no minimum requirement when it comes to helping out. It's truly up to you and your schedule and anything our members can provide is truly appreciated. Especially to our many local members, consider checking out a Post meeting (2nd Thursday of every month) and seeing what we have going on. Maybe you will find something you want to be involved with?!

I look forward to seeing more and more of our members at our Post, and please continue reading for more information and new updates and ventures for VFW Post 8495 – Western NY's largest and most active Post.



Michael J Cialini - Commander

Upcoming Events at the Post and in Fairport!

- October 4th and 5th: Fairport's annual Octoberfest celebration will take place in the Village of Fairport. Post 8495 will have a group of members pouring and serving beer on each of those days. It's a great festival with lots of fun, food and music. Come on down and check it out!
- October 6th: Heinzelman's Food Truck will be at the Post serving up their amazing BBQ. Tickets are available at the Post for \$12 each!

[REDACTED]

- November 11th: Veterans Day! Please consider joining us for our Veterans Day Ceremony (open to the public) and tribute to our Veterans starting at 11AM. We also honor the end of WWI and throughout the day at the Post we have a great time honoring and celebrating all of our men and women who took the oath and became part of the 7% of the American population who served and defended our great country.

[REDACTED]

- Keep an eye out as we get closer to Christmas and New Years for other events and happenings going on at the Post!

On June 6th, 2019 VFW Post 8495 held a ceremony and tribute marking the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings at Normandy. This was the only ceremony in Monroe County to mark the occasion and the event was highlighted by Fairport native Harmonica Pete Dupre speaking and playing the National Anthem. Several Media outlets were on hand to cover the event. A couple live streamed the ceremony and NPR was playing soundbites of the ceremony for several days after.



UPCOMING EVENTS – PLEASE MARK THEM ON YOUR CALANDERS

OCTOBER

- 10th: Post Meeting - 7:30PM
- 17th: POV Meeting – 7:30PM
- 24th: Trick or Truck at the Post. 5:30pm start time.

NOVEMBER

- 9th: 73rd Post Anniversary Dinner – 6PM at the Post
- 11th: Veteran's Day Ceremony and WWI Remembrance – 11am at the Post
- 14th: Post Meeting – 7:30PM
- 21st: POV Meeting – 7:30PM

DECEMBER

- 7th: Pearl Harbor Day
- 8th: Kids Christmas Party – 1pm at the Post
- 12th: Post Meeting – 7:30pm
- 17th – Iraq/Afghanistan GWOT Ceremony - 7:30pm at the Post
- 19th: POV Meeting – 7:30pm
- 31st: New Years at the Post

JANUARY

- 9th: Post Meeting – 7:30pm
- 16th: POV Meeting – 7:30pm
- Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accords – At the Post, time TBD

Look for the Post Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners celebration. Help us recognize these amazing students! Date TBD.

FEBRUARY

- 13th: Post Meeting – 7:30pm
- 20th: POV Meeting – 7:30pm
- 28th: Desert Storm Remembrance Ceremony – 7pm at the Post

March

- 12th: Post Meeting – 7:30pm. Post Officer Nominations and POV Elections take place
- 19th: POV Meeting – 7:30pm

- Important Dates for long range planning:
 - April 9th: Post Officer Elections at the monthly meeting
 - April – Day/Time TBD: Annual Easter Egg Hunt
 - May 25th: Memorial Day Parade – All Post members and all Veterans are welcome to march. Meet at the Post at 9am. Parade is followed at Potter Park by our Memorial Day Ceremony. Food and Beverage after at the Post.
 - July 4th: Fourth of July Parade. Again, all Post members and Veterans are welcome to March. Meet at the Post at 9am. Picnic at the Post after the parade
 - July 25th: East Rochester Fireman's Parade. Post 8495 marches in this parade. We would **love** to have a large contingent of Post members, Veterans and supporters march with us!

What's Been Going on Around the Post?!

As always, our Post has been very social and active on top of all of the volunteer work our great members do. Here are some scenes from just a few of these events!



Post 8495 Family Picnic – August 4th, 2019



This year's picnic was fun and lasted well into the night. The bounce house with splashdown water slide/pool kept all the kids occupied for hours and hours!

Parade Season!

- Memorial Day Parade
- 4th of July Parade
- East Rochester Fireman's Parade



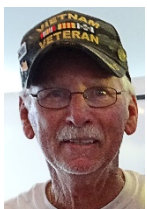
2nd Annual Post 8495 Night at Frontier Field. The Redwings hosted our Post, provided discount tickets in the premium section and we got to honor one of our own during the Hometown Salute in the 7th inning. Past Commander Roy LaRose had over 11,000 fans cheering for him!



BINGO

Bingo continues to allow the Post to pay the bills! Our crowds have been improving, but more players are always welcome. We are also always looking for volunteers to help as well. We cannot run bingo without them. If you have any interest, please inquire at the Post! Also, spread the word out our Bingo night. It's open to not only members but the public as well. Word of mouth advertising helps out tremendously.

POV NEWS



The POV continues to do a great job at running and maintaining the Post building and grounds. Our board members are a dedicated bunch, and as a reminder, all VFW Post 8495 members in good standing are welcome to attend the monthly POV Meeting held on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Recently we have hired 2 new bartenders and with the start of the NFL Season, we are opening the Post early on Sundays for the season at 12pm. Come out and watch the games, bring a dish to pass and have a good time. Business has definitely been picking up and it's good to see old and new faces in the Post! I also want to recognize Angel Benitez and Doug Johnson for all of their hard work in rehabbing in inside of our Helicopter. Power washing, painting and fixing up our 'pilot' just to name a few things. Well done fellas!

Roy Larose – POV President

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Deceased Post Members: February 2019 - August 2019

Don Loughlin

Augustine Mazzo

William Rudolph

Bob Laird

Thomas Van Bortle

George R. 'Woody' Wood

Wilford Scheerens

If you know of any sick members or members in need, please contact Dave Johnson, Post Chaplain at 924-9243 or 943-5924 (cell).

*****I want to make a correction from the last newsletter. Post Member Bill Dancy was erroneously listed as having passed away. I am happy to report that Mr. Dancy is still very much with us – we unfortunately received some bad intel. I apologize greatly to Bill for making that mistake*****

HONOR GUARD



Since the last report in February, the honor guard has been busy as usual. We have led two parades, Memorial Day and Fourth of July. We also marched in the East Rochester parade for the third year in a row. On Monday, Sep 16, we will be leading an honor guard to kick off the field hockey season at Fairport like we did last year. All of these get us greater visibility in the area and let the community know we are here. We have been doing funerals and flag ceremonies and trying to keep up with the demand for our services. We are getting a little thin in the ranks and have had to turn down some requests due to a lack of man power. I wish everybody going south for the winter a safe and fun time and see you in the spring.

We have gotten new rifles, M-1s, to replace our old ones. Our commander, Mike Cialini, jumped through hoops to get them. Thanks Mike.

I would like to introduce you to some new members of the honor guard, Pat Farrell and Greg Findley. Both are members of the RPD and will help when they can. Greg has already carried a flag in both the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades. Thanks Greg. We welcome you comrades.

I want to take this time to THANK all of the members of the Honor Guard for everything you do. Also included are Dick Grube and Dave Johnson who have helped when needed, and let's not forget Bev Cronkite for taking pictures of the Guard in action. We have an Honor Guard Dinner Sep 23 in order to thank everyone.

We have a new co-captain of the honor guard; Dave Fillers is taking over for Roy LaRose who is very busy as president of the POV. Thanks Dave.

We are always looking for new members who want to join our guard. It is open to any member of the post in good standing, so just let us know and we will be glad to get you signed up. Remember, there is no minimum commitment. The one event or funeral you are able to make might keep up from having to turn it down.

Victor Wahlberg - Commander, Post 8495 Honor Guard

Get your Post 8495 Merch

Veteran owned 'Gruntstyle' makes our Post merchandise. Our coffers are low of shirts and hoodies. I have intended to get our next order placed, but held off until the newsletter. With minimum buys and several people giving me special requests since late last winter, I am announcing now that I will be placing a new order for shirts and such on or around October 15th. This order will consist of T-shirts (sized M-XXL). Hoodies (sized L-XXL). Zip up Hoodies (sized L-XXL). All

items will be available in Black and O.D. Green. Now, if your size is not listed, please contact me (my info will be at the end of this) and I can make sure I order your desired size. Other items that I can get, but are special order (as we cannot stock everything) include long sleeve shirts, athletic (moisture wicking) shirts, and sweatshirts without a hood. If you would like any of those items or anything listed above but your size is not listed, please send an email to mcialini@gmail.com and I will make sure I get what you are looking for on order!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Post 8495 can be found on several Social Media outlets, and we would like to introduce some new ventures to help staying in touch and sharing information a whole lot easier!

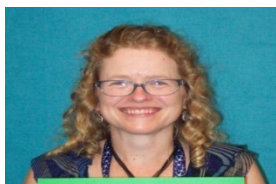
- **Website** – Our Post home on the internet is www.vfw8495.com. Our Webmaster Dave Fillers is doing a good job continuing to learn the operations of webmaster and keeping everything up to date.
- **Facebook** – Post 8495 can be found on Facebook by searching “**Perinton Memorial VFW Post 8495**”. Lots of information is shared here including date and times of Post events and ceremonies, pictures of those events as well as news geared towards Veterans.
- **Instagram** – Search **@vfwpost8495** in Instagram to be kept up to date with pictures post activities. Give us a follow. Information is also shared about events like our ceremonies and family activities.
- **Twitter** – Check out the Post on Twitter – **VFW8495**.

One of the biggest problems we have as a Post is communicating to our many members. Newsletters can be expensive and are not frequent enough. We do not have the funds to use a media company to handle our communications, so we are going to try a new (to Post 8495) venture. Post 8495 will now have an email list that we can use to share information. Send out reminders of ceremonies and events and any new things we might get going on, as well as anything else that might be useful to our members. This is a very basic and organic email list. Your email will be protected and will not be given out to anyone. To join this new email list, please send an email to vfwpost8495@gmail.com and request to be added to the Post 8495 email list. This is nothing fancy, just a Gmail list. Once you are added, you are good to go. There will be no spam, just occasional information pertaining to the Post.

- Digital Newsletter. One of the benefits of our email list will be the fact before the year ends, we will introduce either a monthly or bi-monthly 1 or 2 page digital newsletter. This will help us keep everyone informed on what's going on in-between print/mail newsletters. Print copies of the digital newsletter will also be available at the Post. If you are on the email list, you will receive the digital newsletter.
- YouTube Channel. In the coming months, we will be setting up a YouTube Channel for the Post. This will be a great way to share some video of our outings, events, and even our tributes and ceremonies. Sign up for our email list and you will be notified when the channel goes live and when videos are added!
- I have been talking with a company that handles trips to sporting events. Ideas tossed around have been a trip to the Army/Navy Game, and an MLB games (next season as we need time to plan it out). We need interest and participation from enough people to make these trips happen. If there is enough interest either by word of mouth or messages sent to the Post email address we will move forward! Again, sign up for the Post email list to be notified of such events.

Guest Columnist – Shelia Cocilova, 2nd Grade Teacher at Jefferson Ave. Elementary in Fairport

Supporting and Connecting With Veterans in the Fairport Schools



It is a brand new school year and with a new year, come new opportunities for community connections within the Fairport schools. To that end, teaching our students how to support veterans comes to mind. I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts and ideas about this and hope that this article provides a springboard for forging many new connections with our community of veterans at V.F.W. Post 8495. This post has been generous with their support of programs in our school district and continuing this mutually beneficial relationship is a goal that is

worth the time.

Let's begin with a look at the definition of a teacher and the definition of a veteran. A teacher is a person who provides education for students, and a classroom may extend beyond the walls of a school. A veteran is anyone who has served in the armed forces and, just as the learning for students can take place beyond the school, a veteran's protection and

service may extend beyond the borders of our country. So now that we made that connection, why DO we teach students to support veterans? The answer to that question is multi-faceted. Students enjoy the freedom to attend school, choose to practice a religion of their choice or not to practice any religion, learn what it means to be an active citizen, and can do much more in part, thanks to our veterans. Beginning in kindergarten, our youngest students learn what it means to be a citizen of the U.S.A. They are taught ways to actively participate in a community, how to demonstrate good citizenship and how to respect those who protect such rights. Here is where our veterans come in. By encouraging students to learn about relatives, friends, and neighbors that are veterans, students are better able to connect what they are learning in school to real people. This, in turn, results in an even greater appreciation for those who served, and builds stronger community connections.

Why is this important to me as a teacher? As a child, my nine siblings and I were encouraged by our parents to attend all of the patriotic parades, visit our relatives' graves to put flags on the veterans' ones, and thank those who served our country. These traditions stuck with me and slowly became a part of what I did as a teacher over the last twenty-eight years. At Jefferson Avenue School, some of these events have included our annual school-wide Veterans Day Assembly that is now entering its' eleventh year and is highly supported by V.F.W. Post 8495. During this assembly, students in grades two through five each share a special letter that they write to thank veterans, all of the children sing songs to the veterans, patriotic artwork is prominently displayed, and refreshments and cards are given to all of the veterans in attendance, which has ranged from fifty-five to eighty veterans. A slideshow of veterans is also enjoyed by all, and many veterans go back to classrooms after the program to share in small groups. It is truly a whole school community effort and the veterans who have attended really enjoy the event each year.

Other projects at J.A. that have involved this post and veterans include quite a variety of supported events. A few years ago, I set up a program where students could interview a veteran and then I shared CD's of these interviews with each veteran and family. One year we also held a walk to raise money for Honor Flight and donated the money raised to help send a veteran to D.C. Another activity happened around Memorial Day in May when Mike Cialini came in and shared a presentation about this holiday with our team of second graders. He and other members have also brought in memorabilia related to the military to share in small groups with our second grade students over the years. The children enjoyed trying on different military gear, looking at beautiful models of planes and asking questions about some of the food items, photos and other interesting items that were shared. This post has also generously supported our students with hand held American flags to wave at our annual Flag Day ceremony on June 14th. At other times they have provided poppies for Fairport students to learn about Flanders Fields and this tradition, too. Last year as part of our community day project, this post generously supported our students with an outreach program where packages were sent overseas to active military that supported over two hundred veterans. We are grateful for all of this support!

With all of these yearly events happening at Jefferson Avenue School, it was no surprise that ALL of last years' winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen contests were Jefferson Avenue alumni. The students have been learning about and writing to veterans for years. They were also Martha Brown alumni, one of our middle schools that encourage the older students to rake yards for veterans on Veterans Day. This mutual learning and respect is what teachers hope for and it is fulfilling to see the fruits of our labor come to fruition in our community with our veterans.

So, where do we go from here to build upon all of this? There is so much that can be done! If you are a veteran, consider reaching out to the school-aged children in your neighborhood or young relatives. Ask if they might want you to come in and share with their class about your experience, or read a book on veterans to them. If that isn't your preference, just talk with the child about what you have done to serve our country and offer to share any photos of your time in the service that you may have. Many teachers in all of our schools create displays of photos or read books about veterans to students. If there are teachers or other school staff in your neighborhood, offer to do the same kinds of things. Who knows? You may be the one to help bring more veterans to even more students in our communities.

In Fairport we are also looking at opportunities to promote educational equity and diversity. To this end, female veterans could be honored on International Women's Day in March. Furthermore, the role of African American and Native American veterans in our country could be highlighted in ways that also honor their service. If you have connections to offer regarding these opportunities, please let me know by emailing me at: scocilova@fairport.org. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate!

In conclusion, the opportunities that V.F.W. Post 8495 has given to our students and community over the years have been greatly appreciated, and we welcome the chance to not only continue this partnership, but to build on it in new ways. Veterans protect all citizens, help us teach students about good citizenship and are a vital part of our community. Thank you for your service to our country, your service to our community and for helping us to help students support all veterans, young and old alike.