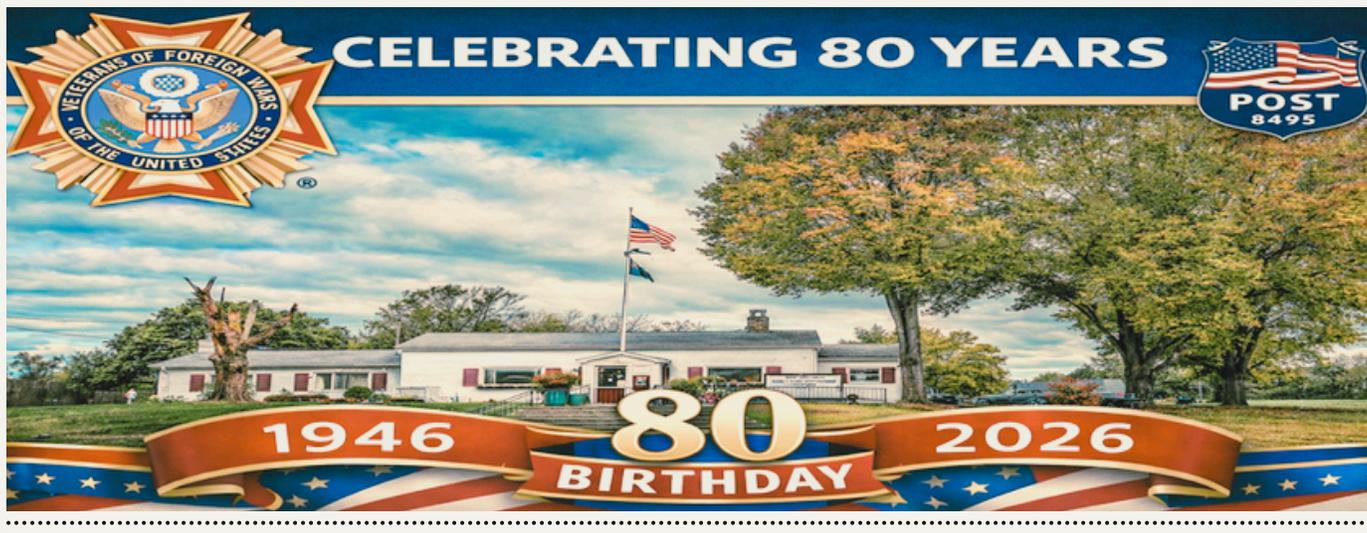


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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026



## Upcoming Events

- Post Officer Nominations - March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026; 7pm**
- Vietnam Veteran's Day Ceremony - March 27<sup>th</sup> 2026; 10am
- Post Officer Nominations & Voting - April 9<sup>th</sup> 2026; 7pm**
- Poppy Distribution - May 2026
- Post Officer Installation - May 14<sup>th</sup> 2026; 7pm**
- Day of Service - May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026; 9am
- Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony - May 25<sup>th</sup> 2026; 10am
- Fourth of July Parade - July 4<sup>th</sup> 2026; 10am
- Korean Armistice Day - July 27<sup>th</sup> 2026; 10am
- VFW Family Picnic - August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026; 12noon
- VFW Golf Tournament - August 9<sup>th</sup> 2026; 7:30am
- Veteran's Day Ceremony - November 11<sup>th</sup> 2026; 11am
- 80th Anniversary Dinner - November 14<sup>th</sup> 2026; 5pm
- 2nd Annual VFW Christmas Party - December 12<sup>th</sup> 2026; 6pm
- 1st Annual VFW New Years Eve Party - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2026; 6pm

## Hours of Operation

- Sunday - 12pm - 9pm
- Monday 12pm - 7pm
- Tuesday 12pm - 10pm
- Wednesday - Closed for Bingo
- Thursday - 12pm - 10pm
  - Lunch 12pm - 3pm
  - Wing Night 6pm - 7:30pm
- Friday - 12pm - 10pm
  - Lunch 12pm - 3pm
  - Fish Fry's 6pm - 7:30pm
- Saturday - 12pm - 10pm

## In This Issue:

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- December 13<sup>th</sup> - Page 15-17
- Day of Service 2026 - Page 18-19
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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# COMMANDERS CORNER

Comrades and friends,

As my term as Commander comes to a close, I want to express what an incredible honor it has been to serve Perinton Memorial Post 8495 during such a meaningful year, our 80th Anniversary.

Serving in this role has deepened my appreciation for the strength, dedication, and character of our members. What makes this Post special is not just its longevity, but its people — veterans who continue to step forward to serve, Auxiliary members who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and volunteers who show up time and again to support our mission.

This year has reminded me that leadership in the VFW is about stewardship. For a time, I was entrusted to help guide the Post forward, and I am proud of what we accomplished together. Every ceremony conducted with dignity, every flag retired with respect, and every veteran assisted reflects the heart of this organization.

As we celebrate 80 years of service, we are reminded that our responsibility is not only to honor the past, but to continue building for the future. The strength of our Post lies in our continued commitment to veterans, community, and one another.

Thank you for the trust you placed in me. Though my term as Commander is ending, my commitment to Post 8495 remains strong.

In comradeship,

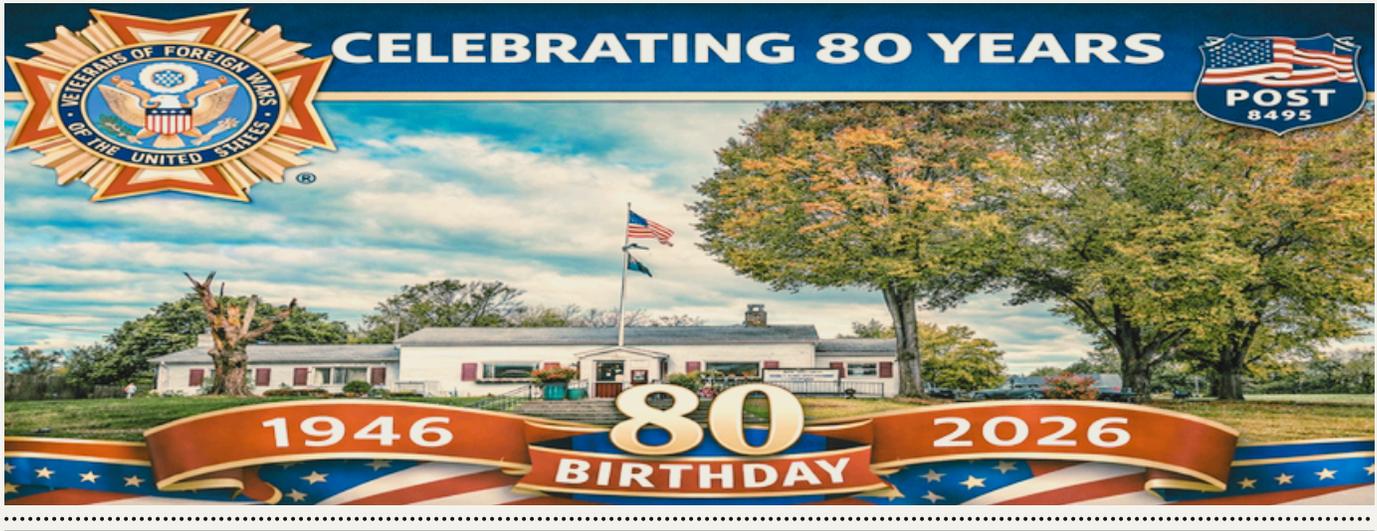
Eric J. Harrison  
Commander 2024-2025, 2025-2026  
Perinton Memorial Post 8495, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Inc.



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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## Celebrating 80 Years of Service

On November 1, 1946, just months after the end of World War II, ninety-five returning veterans came together with a shared vision: to build camaraderie, continue their service to one another, and strengthen the community they had fought to defend. From that vision, Perinton Memorial Post 8495, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Inc. was born.

Now, eighty years later, we proudly celebrate a legacy of service, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment to our fellow veterans and the greater Perinton community.

### Humble Beginnings

Our Post did not begin with a building — it began with determination.

In those early years, meetings were

held wherever space could be found: rooms at the Green Lantern, the Cottage Hotel, the Fire Hall, the American Legion Hall, and even in members' homes. The mission mattered more than the location.

On September 11th, 1947, the land was purchased and titled in the name of Perinton Overseas Vets, Inc., creating the foundation for what would become our permanent home. That spirit of generosity and shared sacrifice would define the Post for decades to come.

### Buy a Block - Help us Build

The campaign to build our Post home stands as one of the most inspiring chapters in our history.

VFW members launched a grassroots fundraising effort called

“Buy a Block – Help Us Build.” Cement blocks were “sold” for 25 cents each, and members pledged \$5.00 of their own money toward the effort, a meaningful contribution in the late 1940s.

Through perseverance and community support, the Post ultimately purchased 7,500 cement blocks.

The original structure — a 50' x 70' building — featured a lounge, meeting room, amusement room, and kitchen. Completed in 1952 and dedicated in August of that year, the building became far more than brick and mortar. It became a gathering place, a support network, and a symbol of unity.

The land and building remain owned and operated by Perinton Overseas Vets, Inc., preserving the legacy of those who built it.

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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## Celebrating 80 Years of Service

### A Hub of Community Life

Over the decades, Post 8495 has been more than a meeting hall. It has been a vibrant center of community life.

The Post once proudly fielded:

- A Post band
- A baseball team
- A bowling league

Members organized street dances, circuses, band concerts, country breakfasts, and carnivals. These events strengthened bonds not only among veterans, but throughout the entire Perinton community.

Through generations, the Post has adapted to changing times while remaining true to its mission: to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans, support their families, and serve our nation and local community.

### Looking Forward

As we celebrate 80 years, we remember the ninety-five WWII veterans who had the courage and foresight to build something lasting. We honor the members who followed, who gave their time, labor, and leadership to ensure the Post not only survived, but thrived.

And we look ahead with confidence, knowing that the strength of Post 8495 has always been its members.

Here's to 80 years of service...  
...and to many more.



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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Perinton Overseas Vets, Inc.

Many of you already know that if you are a VFW Post 8495 member in good standing, you are also a member of Perinton Overseas Veterans, Inc. (POV). If you are new to our Post or unfamiliar with the POV, it is, simply put, the business arm of Post 8495. The POV owns and maintains the land, operates the bar, and plays a leading role in bringing many of the new initiatives and improvements to our Post home.

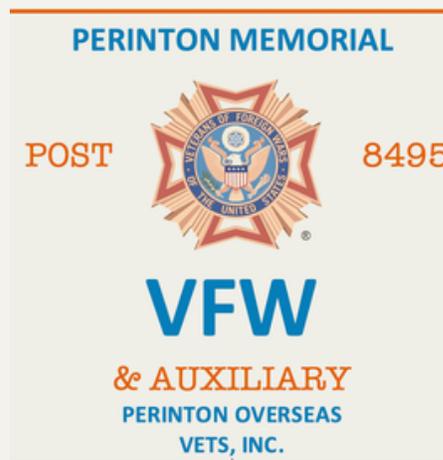
The POV is governed by a Board consisting of nine Board Members, along with a Vice President and President. All eleven individuals are deeply dedicated to our Post and to providing the best possible experience for Veterans, their families, and friends to gather and enjoy.

I am proud to report that despite numerous maintenance challenges and investments in new and improved infrastructure, the POV continues to operate in the black and is running very smoothly. Financials are reviewed at the monthly POV meeting, held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. These meetings are open to all Post 8495 members in good standing.

### Recent Improvements

We've made several exciting upgrades to our Post home:

- New Bar & Social Area Flooring
- The bar and social area recently received a brand-new floor. The materials and installation were generously donated by Christian Curtz, owner of Christian Flooring and More. Christian is a tremendous supporter of our Post, and we are incredibly grateful for his generosity.
- Kitchen Upgrades & Equipment
- Our kitchen is now fully operational and running strong. Wegmans generously donated a two-bay, four-basket fryer. After extending our fire suppression system and installing the necessary grease traps and storage containers—costs partially offset through grants secured by Board Member Jay Edgerton—we are in great shape to support our expanding food operations.
- The POV has also purchased a used commercial-grade freezer and received an additional commercial refrigerator through donation.
- Bar & Beverage Enhancements



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CONTINUED

### Perinton Overseas Vets, Inc. (continued)

- The bar now features expanded offerings, including higher-end bourbons (occasionally even hard-to-find bottles like Buffalo Trace) and a growing tequila selection. We have established a full cocktail program that has been very well received and has led to a noticeable uptick in business.
- Add in our selection of seltzers, the updated TouchTunes system, and the Queen of Hearts game and the Post has a revitalized energy not seen in years. I am happy to say we are no longer just a “beer and a shot” establishment—we truly have something for everyone.

#### Food Program Expansion

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of several dedicated Post and POV members, along with supporters and guests, our Post is offering food on a regular basis for the first time in decades.

In addition to our Friday Night Dinners:

- Chef Will of Flavored Flavors is now serving lunch on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Thursday Night Wing Night is up and running (along with regular menu items).
- Just in time for Lent, Fish Fry Fridays have returned.

Our food operations continue to grow week by week and are open to the public. Increased food sales have also boosted bar sales, contributing to the positive momentum at the Post.

POV Board Member Dave Reininger is leading the kitchen efforts. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Dave. Like most worthwhile efforts, the kitchen can always use an extra set of hands, and we welcome anyone willing to contribute their time.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, I look forward to the continued growth and success of our Post. I hope to see more of our members stopping in, enjoying the improvements, and supporting the positive momentum we are building together. Stay safe during this winter season.

Mike Cialini  
POV President  
Past Post 8495 Commander

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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026

# COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

### Patriots Pen & Voice of Democracy

On Tuesday, June 27th, Post 8495 held its annual Winner's Celebration honoring our Scholarship recipients from the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy programs. As always, the student winners did an outstanding job reading their winning essays before those in attendance. Each student received scholarship checks from the Post and the Auxiliary, along with a small prize package. I am pleased that Post membership voted once again to increase the prize money awarded to our student scholars.

The event was very well received by the students, their families, and the teachers and administrators in attendance from Calkins Road Middle School in Pittsford, as well as Pittsford Sutherland High School.

It is unfortunate, however, that support from VFW membership was lacking. I counted only seven Post members in attendance to help us celebrate our winners. I expressed my disappointment regarding this at the February Post meeting and reiterated during the event that we must do better. Community outreach is vitally important to our organization yet support for these efforts has been minimal at best. Thankfully, several social members and guests joined us for the 30-minute celebration, which helped present a positive showing.

This is an annual program, and we will begin again for the 2026-2027 school year. I remain hopeful that we will see stronger support and participation from our membership in the coming year.

Mike Cialini  
Scholarship Chairman



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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026

# COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

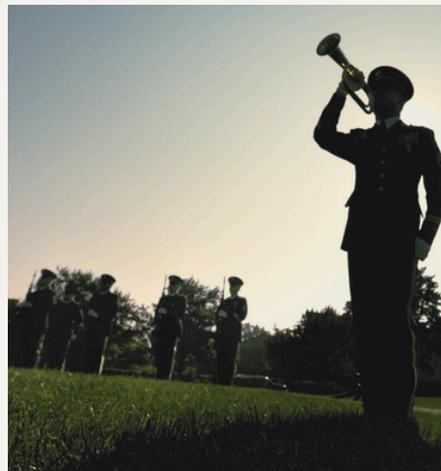
## Honor Guard

Post 8495's Honor Guard continues to be a great source of pride for our Post.

The dedicated Post Members who make up the Guard strive to represent our Post to the highest regard in public and when performing military honors for one of our fallen comrades. As Veterans, we are all entitled to Military Honors, and the Guard ensures that every time they are called, the Veterans receive the honors they have earned.

We need more members to help us meet the growing demand for services, especially when many of our regular volunteers head south for the winter. At times, our current members are taking on multiple roles, such as being on the firing line and folding the flag.

There are no minimum requirements for attending funerals or events as a Guard member and uniforms are provided.



## Bingo

### Bingo Pays the Bills - Help Spread the Word!

Bingo is a major source of income for our Post, and the more players we have, the more fun and rewarding it is for everyone. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors—it's a win-win for the players and for the Post!

Member Dave Johnson is looking to train a new Bingo Chairman so he can retire, and to ensure this VFW tradition lasts well into the future.

If you're interested, please stop by the post during business hours or email us at [VFWPost8495@gmail.com](mailto:VFWPost8495@gmail.com).



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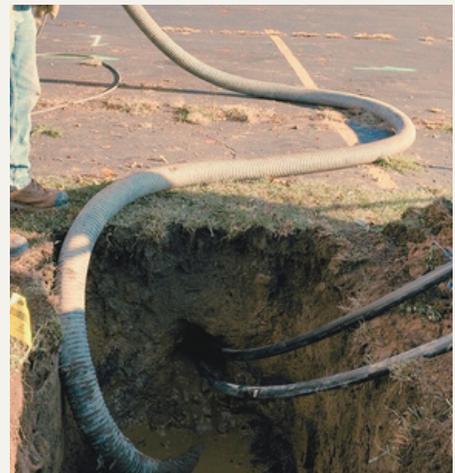
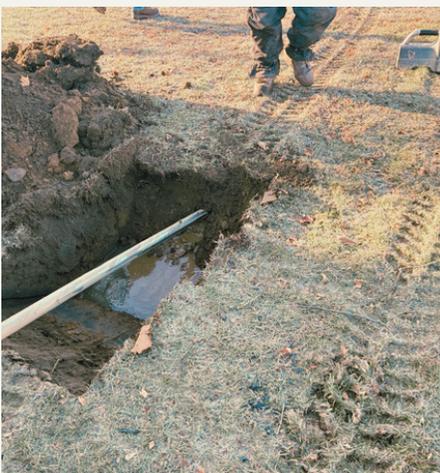
February 2026

## COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

### House Committee

Not a lot going on during these COLD winter months. Still waiting on the sign company to set the steel for the new LED Digital sign, which they tell me will be any day now.

In preparation for the new sign, this past November we contracted with Burrows Brothers to install two PVC electrical conduits under our front driveway to the new sign location. Burrows Brothers used directional boring technology to bore under our front parking lot as to not disturb the asphalt. Once the steel posts are set for the new sign, these two conduits will be installed onto the steel to provide power to the new sign. One conduit will be used, the second will be a backup in case it's needed for future needs.



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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CONTINUED

#### Golf

Our 17th Annual Fairport VFW Golf Tournament will be Sunday August 9th at Sycamore Golf Club. 7:30am registration, 8:30am shotgun start.

We need sponsors! If you know of any individual or business who would like to sponsor a team or the tournament have them reach out to Jay Edgerton at (585)414-9994. The funds raised are vital to help maintain our historic 1952 home. Your generosity ensures that our Post can continue to serve veterans and our community for years to come.

Mark your calendars now—we can't wait to see you for the 17th Annual Tournament in 2026!

More information to follow.

#### Membership

Membership is always a challenge, but thanks to the dedication of a few committed members, we've managed to keep our numbers strong. As of 2/17/2026 we have 326 members and are at 95.88%. Last year we finished with 340 members, so we have some more work to do.

That said, recruiting new members is everyone's responsibility. Just as important, we need more of our current members to step up and play an active role in the post. Our future depends on it—this post will only continue to thrive and be here for future generations if we have enough engaged members to carry it forward.

I'd like to plan a membership drive since this is our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Country.

If anyone would like to head up this effort, it would be greatly appreciated. Email the post at [VFWPost8495@Gmail.com](mailto:VFWPost8495@Gmail.com).



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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CONTINUED

### Poppies

Poppy distribution will take place this May. We still struggle with members volunteering to distribute. Please consider picking up at least one shift a week this May.

Remember, all funds raised from poppy distribution goes into the relief fund and can only be used for Veterans causes.

Location to be announced.



### Flags & Grounds

Members Dick Bartela and Dave Johnson have respectfully destroyed over 3,625 flags in 2025! If you have an old, tattered or unwanted flag (and stick flags) you can drop it off in the repurposed mail box in front of the post.

Don't forget, we also sell new U.S. & branch flags. Made in the USA!

Spring is quickly approaching and the lawn crew will be starting back up to maintain our 4.8 acres. If you're interested in helping out on the grounds crew, send us an email and we'll put you in touch with P.O.V. Vice-President, David Ferguson who heads up the crew.

We will be doing a full-court press this Spring and will need lots of volunteers for a Spring cleaning of the inside and outside of the building.

More details to follow on when as well as a scope of work.



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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## CONTINUED

### Freedom Hill

Steve Yuschak has resecured the helicopter blades that became loose due to wind events this winter. Steve secured the blades for the time being with hold down straps to get us through the rest of the winter. This Spring we will have to look into a more permanent solution as this seems to happen every few years.

Member, Pete Owen has requested and received approval to purchase another granite stone for Freedom Hill to list the names of 17 local veterans who perished due to their service to the Country during a campaign. These names include, eight from the Civil War, four from WWI, two from Korea, one from WWII and one from the War on Terror.

Pete's a historian at heart and if anyone would like more information on these additional names, email the post and we'll put you in touch with Pete.



### Officer Nominations - Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>; 7pm

If you've ever thought about getting more involved in the Post, now is the time. Our strength has always come from members who are willing to step forward, share their ideas, and take an active role in shaping our future. Fresh leadership and fresh perspectives are what will keep our Post relevant, engaged, and viable for years to come. Every generation of veterans has something valuable to contribute — your voice and your experience matter.

The following positions are up for election or re-election:

- Commander
- Sr. Vice Commander
- Jr. Vice Commander
- Quartermaster
- Chaplain
- Trustees

Leadership is not about titles — it is about service. Our Post has remained strong because members before us were willing to step up when called upon. Now it is our turn to ensure that the legacy of service continues. Whether you are a longtime member or relatively new to the Post, consider how you can play a part in leading us forward.

# November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## If you know, you know

### Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. was celebrated by our post members, friends and Marine Corps. veterans from across Monroe County. Festivities started at 12 noon and lasted until around 1am the following morning! Quite the party!

Festivities included:

- USMC trivia organized by member Pete Owen
- Auction for USMC collectibles and even a signed Josh Allen Bills jersey!
- Display of USMC memorabilia from the private collection of one of our members
- General Lejeune's birthday message was read
- A traditional cake cutting ceremony was performed with the oldest Marine veteran and the youngest Marine veteran in attendance being honored as well as our Guest of Honor.
- Custom designed 250<sup>th</sup> shirts were available for sale
- All profit from the auction and shirt sales were donated to the P.O.V.

The winner of the signed Josh Allen jersey donated it back to the post so it could be auctioned off again!

13 WHAM was in attendance and did a news piece on our birthday celebration. You can view their story here: [Perinton VFW hosts Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration](#)



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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

If you know, you know

### CONTINUED



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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# A BUSY Saturday December 13th

### Wreathes Across America

12pm - 2pm

Member Nathan Senecal, Adjutant Don Macomber, Fred Austin, Quartermaster Dean Welch & Commander Eric Harrison participated in Wreathes Across America at Webster Rural Cemetery for the second year. This is a great event and a nice tribute to our deceased comrades during the holiday season.



### Army Navy Game Viewing Party

3pm - 6pm

The post hosted an Army Navy football game viewing party from 3pm - 6pm. Dishes were passed, pizza was provided and the post was full of people cheering on their team (Go Navy!)



### Christmas Party!

The post hosted a Christmas Party for the first time in a long time! The party was open to the public and well attended.

# A BUSY Saturday December 13th CONTINUED

## Christmas Party!

6pm - 12am

The post hosted a Christmas Party for the first time in a long time! The party was open to the public and well attended.

- Pizza was donated by Perinton Pizza & Caraglio's Pizza.
- The Fornieri Brothers Band provided a high energy mix of 60's and 70's rock with some blues mixed in.
- An Ugly Christmas sweater contest was held.
- Drink specials were popular
- The post handed out a number of new member applications.
- Santa Clause stopped by!

This was a great event, lots of fun. Members are already talking about next years party!

Stay Tuned!



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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## A BUSY Saturday December 13th CONTINUED



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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026

# DAY OF SERVICE

## Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026

A day of service is being organized, focusing on honoring and preserving our local cemeteries through cleanup, light restoration, and general grounds improvement.

In order to complete all nine of Perinton's cemeteries, this will be a five year project. This year we will focus on St. Mary's cemetery on Turk Hill Road, next to the Town Hall. We have already reached out to the caretakers and they're ecstatic for the help.

Our mission is simple: to ensure these sacred spaces remain dignified, accessible, and properly cared for—out of respect for our community and for those laid to rest there.

#### Planned Work Includes:

- Cutting back brush, grass, and small trees
- Cleaning headstones using approved, non-damaging methods
- Resetting or repairing toppled or broken headstones (by qualified masons only)

#### Volunteers & Partners:

- VFW Post 8495 – event coordination and oversight
- Residents - headstone cleaning, brush clean up, general labor
- Local Boy Scout troops – headstone cleaning and light cleanup
- Town of Perinton & Village of Fairport – brush and tree trimming support
- Fairport Perinton Partnership - promotional and back end support
- Private masons – professional headstone resetting and repairs

All work will be performed respectfully and safely, following best practices for cemetery preservation. Headstones will be cleaned using biodegradable, pH-neutral products—no acids or chlorine. D2Biological is what the National Parks Service approved for use on its buildings and monuments, that is what we will be using. I have reached out to the President of D2Bio and he's going to donate a 5 gallon bucket of product as well as arrange for a discount with one of his vendors for the balance of the product we will need; and we will need a lot. There are over 7,400 monuments in the nine Perinton cemeteries in varying conditions. We will need to raise funds for this project, approximately \$7,000, to cover the cost of the D2Bio solution (\$6,000 +/-), gloves, safety glasses, buckets, scrub brushes & epoxy for headstone repairs.

Supply & monetary donations can be dropped off at the post during business hours.

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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026

## DAY OF SERVICE

# Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026

### CONTINUED

FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO PURCHASE THE CLEANING SOLUTION. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE VIA VENMO @VFWPOST8495

PLEASE REGISTER HERE IF YOU'RE GOING TO PARTICIPATE: <https://forms.gle/PLwhoqQT5mQor uSn8>

I look forward to coming together as a community to care for this important part of our shared history. Thank you for your support and consideration.

TOTAL					
CEMETERY	ADDRESS	MEMORIALS	D2Bio	PEOPLE REQUIRED	
Bushnell's Basin	955 Pittsford Victor Rd	245	7.5 Gal	13	
Egypt Cemetery	318 Mason Rd	93	3 Gal	5	
Elmwood Cemetery	425 Furman	751	23.5 Gal	78	
Greenvale Cemetery	Between 45 & 67 E. Church St	1,549	48 Gal	78	
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	37 Summit St	1,596	50 Gal	80	
Perinton Center Cemetery	624 Ayrault	193	6 Gal	10	
Schummer's Cemetery	1020 Fairport Rd	97	3 Gal	5	
South Perinton Cemetery	273 Wilkinson Rd	1,017	32 Gal	51	
St Mary's Cemetery	1332 Turk Hill Rd	1,953	61 Gal	98	
		7,494	234 Gal	418	
YEAR 1					
St Mary's Cemetery	1332 Turk Hill Rd	1,953	61 Gal	98	
YEAR 2					
Perinton Center Cemetery	624 Ayrault	193	6 Gal	10	
Schummer's Cemetery	1020 Fairport Rd	97	3 Gal	5	
South Perinton Cemetery	273 Wilkinson Rd	1,017	32 Gal	51	
Bushnell's Basin	955 Pittsford Victor Rd	245	7.5 Gal	13	
Egypt Cemetery	318 Mason Rd	93	3 Gal	5	
				84	
YEAR 3					
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	37 Summit St	1,596	50 Gal	80	
YEAR 4					
Greenvale Cemetery	Between 45 & 67 E. Church St	1,549	48 Gal	78	
YEAR 5					
Elmwood Cemetery	425 Furman	751	23.5 Gal	78	

#### EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Pump Sprayers
- Water Bull
- Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Buckets
- Epoxy

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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026



# EXPERIENCE THE Kitchen Thursdays & Fridays



### Chef Will McDouglas

Chef Will has over 20 years experience cooking in a variety of environments, to include St. John Fisher, Penfield Country Club, Locust Hill, Woodcliff, Applebee's, and Bocaccini's. Most recently, Will ran the kitchen at Donnelly's for 8 years and B-Side for 3 years. Will owns and operates his own catering business named Flavored Flavours and is known for his homemade empanada's. Chef Will enjoys being creative and taking classic dishes and adding a modern twist.

*"I cook because I live for that moment when someone takes their first bite and everything else fades away. In that instant, there's peace, joy, and a pure expression of delight that no one can take from them — no matter how their day has been. Food has a way of bringing people together, creating memories, and giving us all something to savor." — Chef Will*



### Thur. & Fri. Lunches 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Looking for a relaxed, welcoming place to enjoy lunch? Join us every Thursday and Friday from 12pm to 3pm for a delicious midday meal. Whether you're meeting friends, taking a break from work, or just looking for a home-style meal, the Post is the perfect spot.

Enjoy good food, friendly faces, and the camaraderie that makes our Post special.

### Thursday Wing Night 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Thursday evenings mean Wing Night at the Post! From 6pm to 7:30pm, stop in and enjoy fresh, flavorful wings served hot and ready. It's the perfect way to kick off your weekend early — bring friends, grab a drink, and enjoy a fun, casual atmosphere.

Wing Night has quickly become a local favorite, so come early and come hungry!

### Friday Fish Fry 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Nothing says Friday in Western New York like a traditional fish fry — and we've got you covered. Join us Fridays from 6pm to 7:30pm for a classic fish dinner prepared just the way you like it:

- Breaded or Beer-Battered Fish
- Served with French Fries
- Our Homemade Coleslaw

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## WINTER NEWSLETTER

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# Noteworthy Accomplishments

## Dr. Pete Owen, Lt. Col USMC Retired

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some remarkable accomplishments by one of our members, Pete Owen.

Pete enlisted in the Marines in 1981 and subsequently attended the United States Naval Academy in 1982. Upon graduation, Pete served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

Pete recently received his Doctorate in War Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada. His research concentrated on the United States Marine Corps and the World Wars. He completed his dissertation on **"US Marine Corps Aviation in the Second World War: Its Effectiveness in Support of the Pacific Fleet"**. He also earned master's degrees in Military Studies from the Marine Corps University and in Cyber Security from University of Maryland University College.

Pete's love of history enabled him to launch his writing career.

His master's thesis at Marine Corps University provided the foundation for his book, ***To the Limit of Endurance: A Battalion of Marines in the Great War***, which the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation selected in 2008 as the outstanding book pertinent to Marine Corps history. He recently co-authored ***A Hideous Price: The 4th Marine Brigade at Blanc Mont, 2-10 October 1918*** for the Marine Corps History Division. He has also published two Marines' memoirs of the First World War.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps, in partnership with the Marine Corps History Division, invited Pete to speak at their seven part lecture series exploring the development of defining cultural traits throughout 250 years of Marine Corps history. Each lecture in the USMC 250 Lecture Series provides a focused look at key moments and themes that shaped the Corps.



From battlefield innovation to cultural evolution, these talks offer an opportunity to explore Marine Corps history with expert guidance and historical context. Pete's lecture topic was **"Leadership is a Heritage" - Small Unit Leadership across 250 years of Marine Corps History**. A link to Pete's lecture is available [HERE](#).

Pete will be in France this May giving a guided tour of WWI battlefields.

Great job Pete, er.. I mean Doctor Owen, & congratulations.