



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



Post 8495 Annual Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accords Ceremony:

On 27JAN, the Post held its annual tribute Vietnam Veterans. Pictured above are Post 8495 members in attendance as well as the Post Honor Guard during Taps, which was played in remembrance of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.



INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER

- Message from the Commander
- Post and POV Elections
- Calendar of Events
- Long Range Planning Dates
- Happenings at the Post
- Pictures from past events
- Bingo Update
- POV News
- Chaplain's Report
- Honor Guard Update
- Social Media
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - Twitter
 - Post email list
- 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II Remembrance Ceremony

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

Happy winter! I hope this newsletter finds everyone and finds them well. There has been lots going on at the Post, so this newsletter is getting to you a little later than usual. I am also looking to add a late spring/early summer edition in June so we can get the latest summer news out to all of our members.

Since I last wrote, there have been lots of happenings at our Post with more on the horizon. One of the most important things coming up will be nominations for Post officers as well as POV elections in March, followed by Post officer elections in April. May will find us marching on an altered parade route for Memorial Day and June will usher in many summer activities. More details below. Since last September we had our annual golf tournament and we donated the proceeds to four very worthy Veteran Service Organizations. We announced the winners of our Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship awards and had a wonderful presentation ceremony for the winning students. We celebrated Veterans Day at the Post, held our 2nd annual tribute to our Iraq/Afghanistan and Global War on Terror Veterans. Also as seen in the open, we paid tribute to our Vietnam Veterans in late January. Sundays at the Post during football season were busy and it was great to see so many members in watching the games, bringing dishes to pass. We are already looking at more ways to keep Sunday's fun even though football is over with. The Post was also seen out in our community participating in Fairport's Oktoberfest (Post volunteers raised \$952 in tips for the Post serving beer at the event), Post members participated at Veterans Day events at Jefferson Avenue School and Northside School, and helped sponsor some of the Holiday events right in Fairport. We also had our Trick-or-Trunk Halloween party for the kids as well as our Post Anniversary Dinner and our Christmas Party for kids.

While we are in the doldrums of winter now, before we know it the weather will break and with nicer weather brings more activities. Soon we will be doing our Spring Cleanup to get the Post grounds in tip-top shape. We will be looking for people to join us as we march in the Memorial Day Parade. I will be setting up our annual Post night at Frontier Field so if you like baseball, keep an eye out for information about that!

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



Michael J Cialini - Commander

Post and POV Elections!

It is that time of year again that we need to prepare for the election of officers for the Post as well as the election of members to our Perinton Overseas Veterans group.

- POV – After the March Post meeting (Thursday March 12th), we will be holding elections for the President, Vice President, and 3 Board Member positions. If you have any interest in joining the POV, please contact Roy LaRose no later than March 6th to express your interest. All current Board Members whose positions are up for election will be contacted by President LaRose to see if they have interest in running for their seat again.
- Post 8495 Nominations and Elections – At the March 12th Post meeting, we will be accepting nominations for several officer positions. These include Commander, Sr. and Jr. Vice Commanders, Quartermaster and Chaplain. If you have interest in any of these positions, please inquire at the Post. These positions are important -- they are not just a title. If you want to hold one of these positions, it is expected that you will be involved and work with our team of dedicated members who continue to keep our Post thriving. Even if you do not have aspirations to be Commander, and you have a desire to help out and be part of the team, consider the Jr. or Sr. Vice positions. There is no requirement to move up. Elections for these positions will take place at the April Meeting with officers being installed at the May meeting. Even if you might be interested in these position for the future, please join us for these meetings. You can watch the process and get a feel for what goes on monthly at our Post!

Upcoming Events at the Post and in Fairport!

- Friday February 28th at 7pm, we will be holding our 2nd annual tribute and ceremony for our Desert Storm Veterans. This ceremony will be dedicated to Past Commander Sam Rex. Sam was an Army Veteran who received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star while serving in Iraq. Unfortunately, Sam lost his hard fought battle with cancer during his time as Commander, so we will again remember him during this ceremony.
- April – Stay tuned as we organize our spring cleanup. This is always weather dependent, so join our Post email list or keep an eye out at the Post for dates and times. We always need a large group of volunteers for this effort!

Memorial Day Parade – 2020

This year for Memorial Day (and also the 4th of July Parade), we will have an altered route due to the Lift Bridge Repairs in the Village. This year's new route will see us line up on Hulbert St. at either Minerva Deland or Brooks Hill Schools. We will march towards 250, turning left and head towards the Village. Once we come up to West Church St., we will make a left and head on to Potter Park where the parade will culminate with our Memorial Day Ceremony. Please either join us along the parade route, at the ceremony at Potter Park and if you would like, we would love to have you march in the ranks with us. All Veterans are welcome to march with us. You do not have to be a Post member.

- May 25th – Memorial Day Parade. Just to your left explains our temporary parade route. To all of our members reading this, please consider joining us to march in this parade (and the 4th of July parade too). Our ranks of those marching thin out more and more every year. If you can march, we'd love to have you. If you have friends who are Veterans, bring them along. All Veterans are welcome to march with us -- you do not have to be a Post Member. I can't say enough about the great reception the community gives us as we march by, but knowing we are out there representing our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice is an amazing thing. The bigger our formation the better! If you can, please join us at the Post between 9 and 9:15am. We will then be taken to the parade start (usually in Deuce and a Half's or 5-Ton trucks). After the parade we get back to the Post the same way, although all are encouraged to stay for the Ceremony at Potter Park. After the ceremony we have a picnic at the Post. Please bring a dish to share. I hope to see lots of people at this event!

Please mark these events on your calander!

Feb/March

- Feb 28th – Desert Storm Ceremony at the Post. 7pm
- Mar 12th – Post Meeting @7:30pm. POV Elections and Post officer nominations
- Mar 19th – POV Meeting @7:30pm

April/May

- Apr 9th – Post Meeting @7:30pm. Post Officer Elections.
- Apr 16th – POV Meeting @7:30pm
- Apr - Spring Cleanup – date and time TBD so please keep an eye out if you want to help out!
- May 14th – Post Meeting @7:30pm
- May 21st – POV Meeting @7:30pm
- May 25th – Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony and Picnic

Important Dates for long range planning:

- **Not so long range – April 11th Post 8495 Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Starts at 12pm at the Post and goes until 4pm**
- July 4th – 4th of July Parade in Fairport followed by a picnic at the Post
- July 25th – March in the East Rochester Fireman's Parade
- July 27th – Korean War Armistice Ceremony and Tribute – 10am at the Post
- July/August – Post Night with the Rochester Redwings. I haven't set up a date with the Redwings yet, but it will be in either July or August. Keep an eye out!
- Aug 9th – Post Family Picnic. 12pm until ??? Food starts around 1pm. Bring a dish to pass. There will be a bounce house for the kids. Hopefully one with a waterside/splashdown pool like last year, so have the kids bring a swim suit, change of clothes, and a towel!
- Aug 15th – 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII – At the Post. Time is still TBD, but will most likely be around 1pm. More on this event below.

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 a few examples!

Post 8495 Annual Golf Tournament 2019

Last September saw our Post hold yet another successful Golf Tournament. Despite challenges, our golf committee volunteers did an amazing job – headed up by committee Chairman Roy LaRose. So many of our sponsors – either hole sponsors, door prize sponsors, or raffle item sponsors were right here in our local community. Keep that in mind when you shop local – you are supporting those who also help support our community. This year, our Tournament raised \$12,500! This culminated in handing out four, \$3,000 donations to local Veteran Service Organizations. They are as follows:

- **Honor Flight Rochester**
- **Lap Robes for Veterans**
- **Gold Star Mothers – Rochester Chapter**
- **Veterans Outreach Center**

Representatives from each organization were on hand before our Post's January meeting to receive their donation check. In the 9 years that we have held this tournament, the Post has raised over \$100,000!!! That is \$100,000 that was turned right around and put to use helping Veterans and VSO's mostly right here in our own community!

I would like to thank the following individuals who were on the Golf Committee for 2019:

Roy LaRose – Chairman - Ed Cobb – Chairman for 2020 - Marty Quinn - Dave Ferguson - Mike Smith
Randy Clark - Roy Johnson - Missy Levy - Vic Wahlberg - Doug Johnson - Mike Cialini

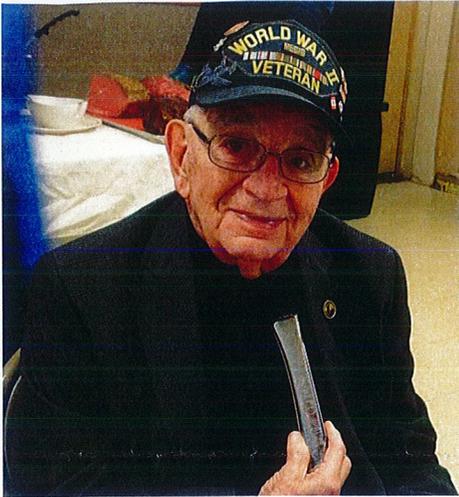
Thank you for all of your hard work!

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

In January, the Post welcomed our Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners. The VOD/PP are the premier scholarship programs that students in grades 6-8 (PP) and 9-12 (VOD) compete in, sponsored by the VFW. Post winners have a chance to win at the local level then move on through district, state and finally the national level. Each winner receives a cash prize and other mementos. All three PP winners were once again from Martha Brown Middle School.

Martha Brown students have a lock on the Patriot's Pen! We look forward to another strong field of written and spoken essays next school year!

Scenes from some of our events



Harmonica Pete at our Post Anniversary Dinner



Past Commanders Representing at the Post Anniversary Dinner



Aubrey Bishop shakes hands with Harmonica Pete at our Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony



Harmonica Pete takes a break from playing at NFL games to play at our Pearl Harbor Ceremony



Patriot's Pen winners with Martha Brown Principle Dave Dunn and Post Commander and Jr. Vice Commander



Voice of Democracy Winners all from Fairport High School with Commander Cialini and Jr. Vice Mike Aydelotte



In order – Commander Cialini, Nancy Van Apledorn – Founder of Lap Robes for Veterans, Dorothy Reid – President of the Rochester Chapter of Gold Star Mothers, Rich Stewart – President of Honor Flight Rochester, Laura Stradley – Executive Director of the Veterans Outreach Center, and Jr. Vice Commander Mike Aydelotte. These 4 representatives were on hand to receive their \$3,000 donation for each organization. Proceeds from our 2019 Golf Tournament.

BINGO

Bingo is a key source of income for our Post. It pays the bills. Our crowds are up and down, however the law that said nobody under 18 could be in the hall while we have Bingo has been repealed! Hopefully this helps boost the crowds a bit. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the operations. 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 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. As a quick reminder, after the March Post Meeting, we will be holding elections for POV President, Vice President, and 3 Board Member spots. See me by March 6th if you have any questions or an interest in filling a position.

Roy Larose – POV President

+++

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Deceased Post Members: September 2019 – January 2020

Rodney Cooper

Robert Mawn

Michael Colon

Louis Carlscio

Richard Mykine

Earl Pimm

John Lasher



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

HONOR GUARD



Happy New Year Everyone. I hope 2019 was a great year and 2020 is even better. The Honor Guard had a busy year in 2019 with 50 funerals and approximately 20 events such as tributes, parades, flag etiquette, and more. The totals resulted in **377 volunteers with 834 man-hours** expended. That is made up of 20 comrades volunteering their time and energy to do these events. **THANKS to all of you for your help.** With folks going south for the winter, or working, we are even smaller in numbers.

Let me introduce a couple new members, Barry Armstrong and Justin Pauley. Both have their uniforms and are helping out. Still working on uniforms for a few others, Pat Farrell and John Markin. Thanks for helping out!

All this and more, we do to honor our veterans and make ourselves known to our community and that we care. This is just a small part of what our Post does to show community service.

The Honor Guard needs your help. If you can give any of your time to help in any of these events, it will be greatly appreciated. Contact me, the commander or any officer of the post and we will get you on board. Even once in a while will be helpful. Thanks in advance.

Post 8495 Auxiliary News

This year our Auxiliary has been very busy, as usual. I would like to thank each member for all of your help and dedication. Our annual Auxiliary Anniversary Celebration will be Friday, March 20th at 6pm at the Post! The invitations are in the mail. If we do not have your current address, please call me for details. Reservations must be in by March 10th.

Thank You,

Gail Gropp – Auxiliary President
585-388-1182 (Home)
585-733-9982 (Cell)

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 Webmasters Dave Fillers and Jay Edgerton are 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**.
- **Email List** - To join our 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.

75th Anniversary of the end of World War II

On Saturday August 15th, the Post will be marking the end of World War II with a tribute and remembrance ceremony at the Post – on Freedom Hill, weather permitting. Typically, our Post holds four ceremonies a year dedicated to key events in WWII and to honor those brave souls who fought and saved the free world from the forces of evil perpetuated by our enemies. This year, to mark the 75th anniversary of the ending of WWII, we are rolling all of these ceremonies into ONE large event. I will be inviting other Veteran Service Organizations to participate (Honor Flight Rochester is already committed) as we look to make this truly and event for the entire community. Time for this event has yet to be determined but I am looking at 1:00pm. More information will follow in the summer newsletter. Please consider joining us for a great event honoring America's WWII Heroes. We should have a great list of guest speakers in attendance as well. Stay tuned for more information about this event!

“It's not the price you pay for membership – it's the price you pay to be eligible”



300 Macedon Center Road, Fairport NY 14450