

VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



I, Randolph Wayne Strickland, Sr. have the great honor of serving as Commander of VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post for the year 2011 – 2012. As a retired United States Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, I am proud to continue serving in any and all capacities that prove to assist my fellow Veterans.

In all of my years in the US Navy, I tried to build teamwork, camaraderie and long term friendships with all those I served with. It is my intention to carry that over into my present relationships with all my Comrades in Post 7308, District 1, and the Department of WI VFW.

Having joined the Navy under the Delayed Entry Program in December 1970 and reporting for active duty in July 1971, I had the great honor of serving in the greatest Navy in the world.

My career started rather rocky at first, serving with COMNAVFORV in South Vietnam and then follow on duty stations aboard USS El Paso (LKA-117); USS Nimitz (CVAN-68); USS Mitscher (DDG-35); USS Seattle (AOE-3); USS Savannah (AOR-4); USS Pharris (FF-1094); Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces – Beirut Lebanon; COMDESRON Ten Staff; and finally, as the Main Propulsion Assistant at the Peter Tomich 1200 PSI Steam Plant, Service School Command, Great Lakes , IL. Where, on 31 July 1991, I retired after more than 20 years of service.

In trying to continue my service, I have joined many Veteran Service Organizations, which include the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion Post # 552 Somers, WI where I serve as Adjutant. Also, I am a member of the Beirut Veterans of America, Navy Club USA WI Squadron as Shipswriter, NCUSA Ship 40 – Kenosha as Senior Executive Officer, USS Nimitz Association, the National Association of Destroyer Sailors, work on the staff of <http://navy.togetherweserved.com> and I am the present President of the Kenosha County Veterans Council.

I am working to bring Veteran's issues to the forefront and trying to live the promise. "Never again will one generation of Veteran's abandon another" no matter how unpopular the war.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



In April 2011, members of VFW Post 7308 held yet another Buddy Poppy drive at the Pleasant Prairie Culvers, located at 10484 Corporate Drive near the Lakeside Outlet Mall.

We have formed a very close association with the management of this restaurant and have had several very successful drives here. On this occasion, Easter Sunday, we did very well and stopping by to pay us a visit was our Comrades Junior Gonzales (Commander of VFW Post 1865 – Junker Ball) and VFW Dept. of WI State Service Officer Dave Goldner. We were proud to share our experience with these two fine VFW representatives. Pictured here from left to right are Post 7308 members Dave Suminski, Don Brevitz, State Service Officer Dave Goldner, Post

Service Officer Scott Hendry, outgoing Post 7308 Commander Phil Allen, Post 1865 Commander Junior Gonzales, and incoming Post 7308 Commander Randy Strickland.

VFW Post 7308 was asked to volunteer as Chaperones to accompany the 10th Grade class of Harborside Academy in Kenosha, on their field trip to the 1st Division Museum at Catigny in Wheaton, IL. Mr. David Underwood, our nominee for the Teacher of the Year, asked that we come along to present our stories of experienced history, to give his students a different perspective on service to our country.

In this picture, from left to right is VFW Post 7308's Judge Advocate Don Brevitz, outgoing Commander Phil Allen, incoming Commander Randy Strickland and Service Officer Scott Hendry.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book

Phil Allen, Past Immediate Commander of VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post, presented a National VFW Citizenship Award to Harborside Academy teacher, Mr. David Underwood. Mr Underwood, who earlier this year was selected as the Department of Wisconsin VFW Teacher of the Year (nominated by VFW Post 7308), was further recognized for his dedication to the youth of the Kenosha community.



As a teacher, David Underwood teaches his students in an Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound structure, encouraging them to learn from their own experiences and those of people who have experienced history, first hand. As part of that learning, the students of Mr Underwood's 10th grade class hosted a "**Big Thank You Dinner**", so they may meet with and personally thank those Veterans who have sacrificed so much, in protecting the freedoms of this country.

Admission to the "**Big Thank You Dinner**" consisted of goods and items being collected by Mr. Underwood's students, which are to be shipped as "care packages" to U.S. troops overseas. This is not the first time Mr. Underwood's students have worked to interact with local Veterans. In May 2010, his class hosted a "**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans**" program. They have also been involved in a voter registration drive, volunteering to help the homeless and interviewing members of the "**Greatest Generation**" to better understand the sacrifices of the WWII Vets and families.

VFW Post 7308 is very proud of its continuing association with Mr. Underwood and looks forward to a long and productive cooperative learning scenario with his present and future classes.



Pictured here is **Timothy J. Zeszutek of Boy Scout Troop 544**, the VFW Post 7308 Eagle Scout of the Year nominee for 2010 - 2011, who was chosen as the #2 Eagle Scout for the VFW Department of Wisconsin. We also had Nicholas Mowry of Troop 512 and Michael J Ryan of Troop 333 who received "Honors" in the tight statewide competition. Job Well Done!

It is a goal of VFW Post 7308 to show support for our youth and try our best to mentor as many as possible. In doing so, it is our hope that we build a relationship with the young people of our community, while inspiring a sense of pride, community service and patriotism to our country....the United States of America. It is our pleasure to lift these young men up and show them we care.

VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book

On Memorial Day (30 May 2011), VFW Post 7308 held its annual Memorial Day Services at the Old St. Marks' Cemetery in Kenosha, WI.

Nearly all of the graves at St. Marks have been moved to other more modern cemeteries, but left behind are the remains of nine Veterans of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War (1861-1865). So they are never forgotten, we hold our services and people from the surrounding neighborhood attend.

We have also been honored on many occasion by the descendants of James Tafe (War of 1812) and his son Thomas Tafe (American Civil War). During this past Memorial Day Service, we were joined by the Honorable John Steinbrink (President of Pleasant Prairie Village and State Representative from the 65th District), as well as Darrell Green the Kenosha County Veterans Service Officer.



VFW Post 7308 is very proud to take part in many "No Next of Kin Funerals" held at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove, WI. This year alone, we have attended more than 6 NNOK funerals.

Our purpose is to insure that no Veteran is ever buried alone. Joining Veterans from other local Service Organizations, we provide honors to those men and women who have become estranged from their families, outlived their families, or have simply been forgotten.

It is a High Honor to be present and show them the respect they deserve for the service they have given our country. Union Grove holds very humble services for the passed Veteran and we are proud to say we are a part of it!

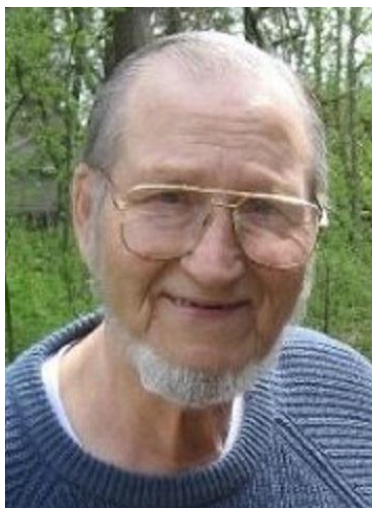
On 07 June 2011, VFW Post 7308 Post Service Officer Scott Hendry and members Mike Hendry and US Army SSGT Ken Pepper, represented our Post during the 10th annual "Reclaiming Our Heritage" event hosted by the staff of the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. The VA Medical Center was one of the three original branches of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers established after the Civil War. This may have been the last of this event, but we hope that the VA will reconsider and have more events like this one in the near future.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book

Commander Randy Strickland and Post Service Officer Scott Hendry, rode with the Midwest Military Vehicle Association in the Somers, WI Independence Day Parade (04 July 2011) and proudly represented our Post in the parade. The vehicle pictured here is a part of VFW Post 7308 Service Officer Scott Hendry's collection.

We truly enjoyed showing the flag and were proud to see so many stand and pay it respect as we passed. Many people shouted out their thanks as we went down the road. One young boy stood, holding a small American flag in his left hand and saluted us with his right.



On 06 July 2011, we at VFW Post 7308, suffered the loss of a true friend, Comrade, Past Commander, and Charter Life Member Fred Becker. Fred, a former Marine and Korean War Veteran was one of our founding members and through his dedication and leadership, helped to form a tight bond between all of our members.

A United States Marine, High School Teacher and Educational Administrator, Fred Becker gave back to his community in many ways. An active member of Post 7308 until his body failed him and he was unable to attend the last few meetings. However, he made his presence known by phone calls and emails, advising and counseling the younger member of the Post.

Fred Becker will be truly missed. His legacy will be the success and growth of the Post he loved so much. It will not only be our honor to continue his work, but we have also accepted it as our duty.

Bristol Progress Days 2011 started on 08 July. VFW Post 7308 started planning this event as early as late April. We decided that we would take full advantage of this opportunity, not only to raise money for the Post, but also to use it as a "Feet on the Ground" recruiting opportunity. Also, we sold Buddy Poppies to provide for fellow Veterans, less fortunate than ourselves.

From left to right are Post COS Phil Allen; Quartermaster John McCoy; Post Commander Randy Strickland, Judge Advocate Floyd Whitehead, member Bruce De Guire and Bill Bornhuetter.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book

Working closely with the Bristol Progress Days committee, we were able to have a lot of fun, while working hard to represent District 1 and Department of WI VFW in a very worthy event.

On 10 July 2011, the third and final day of Bristol Progress Days, Randy Holton, our friend, Comrade and District 1 Chief of Staff.... dropped in for a visit and to show his support for our efforts at the "Days". We had a very successful time during the last three days and met many new prospects for membership. Several new people promised to come to our next monthly meeting to join us, in building the best up and coming Post in the Department of WI VFW.



The team work, camaraderie and friendship shown by all members of our Post, is what has made us so successful in all our endeavors. It is our fervent hope that we never lose sight of our purpose in being....helping one another, and all Veterans who have found themselves to be less fortunate than ourselves.



On 07 August 2011, VFW Post 7308 was represented at the closing ceremony of the 27th Annual Bicycle Tour at The High Ground in Neilsville, WI. As Commander of the Post, I was honored to make a \$100 donation to the memorial fund in the name of VFW Post 7308's Past Commander Fred Becker, who was a Korean War Veteran and recently passed away.

It was a very moving experience to be at this very important endeavor and an honor to be there for Fred Becker and make a donation in his memory.

On 18 August 2011, VFW Post 7308 was very proud to have successfully adopted the United States Coast Guard Station – Kenosha, WI. Coast Guard Station Aids to Navigation Team (STANT) Kenosha, Sector Lake Michigan, is a multi-mission shore facility with varying number of small boat resources and personnel ratings attached. We are looking forward to a long term relationship with



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book

the STANT and are planning on hosting several social activities for the crew of the Station.

On 30 August 2011, we at VFW Post 7308 had the sad duty of attending the wake of our friend and Comrade, William Moeller. Having passed away on 26 August 2011, Comrade Moeller left behind a legacy of service, both to his country and his local community. May he Rest in Peace.

William R. Moeller, died Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, at his home. He was born on Jan. 9, 1937, in Chicago, Ill., the son of the late Raymond and Mary Fahy and adopted by Howard and (Gerry) Fahy Moeller.

He was educated in the schools of Chicago. He married Eileen Zimmerman in 1960, in Boston Mass. He later married Patricia (nee: Howard) Spiegelhoff on Dec. 31, 1990 in Kenosha.

William worked as a pump tester for ITT Bell & Gossett of Morton Grove, Ill., and prior to that he was Power Plant Engineer at Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan, Ill.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1956-1960 on the U.S.S. Boston and retired from the Naval reserves in 1984. He was a member of Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, and was a Scout leader, for Salem Troop #328 for 24 years, and was a volunteer for the Salem Fire Dept., for over 20 years.



William Moeller was a Life Member of VFW Post 7308, as well as being a member of Navy Club USA Ship 40 – Kenosha. Pictured here are VFW Post Commander Randy Strickland and Senior Vice Commander Thomas Fredericksen, also members of Navy Club Ship 40, attending the wake of Comrade and Shipmate William Moeller.

VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book

VFW Post 7308, in keeping with the goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, continues its efforts to provide assistance to all Veterans who find themselves to be less fortunate than ourselves. In order to accomplish the task of giving back to our fellow Vets, we schedule Buddy Poppy drives, like the one pictured here, held on 02 September 2011. Our close association with the Culvers in Pleasant Prairie, located at 10484 Corporate Drive near the Lakeside Outlet Mall, has continued to prosper and provide us with a venue for our Buddy poppy drives as well as gaining us recognition by the local community.



Pictured here from left to right: Post Adjutant/Quartermaster John McCoy, Post Senior Vice Tom Fredericksen, Post Chaplain Paul Fredericksen, Post Chief of Staff and District 1 Jr. Vice Phil Allen, and the Manager of Culvers.



Many Kenosha County Veterans Service Organizations came together to show their colors at the "United We Sing" 9/11 memorial services, on Sunday (09/11/2011) at the Band Shell in Pennoyer Park. The service was very well done and in a very patriotic and dignified manner, the people of Kenosha, the Fire and Law Enforcement services, and the Military Service Organizations remembered those who lost their lives in the despicable and cowardly attack against the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and those heroes who died in a field in rural Pennsylvania. We also paid our respect to the men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and those still serving to defend our freedoms.

VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



After the "United We Sing" 9/11 memorial services, we paid a visit to the Kenosha Airport Fire Station, to welcome home fireman and United States Army Major Daniel Tilton, who just returned from deployment to Afghanistan.

Major Dan Tilton has been a member of our Post for over a year, but has been deployed that entire time.

VFW Post 7308 Commander Randy Strickland, Post Chaplain Paul Fredericksen, Post Service Officer Scott Hendry, and Post Quartermaster John McCoy dropped by to welcome him home and present him with a Post ball cap.

At the WI Department of the VFW, District 1 Meeting on 09/18/2011, VFW Post 7308's Scout of the Year for 2010 – 2011 nominee Tim Zeszutek and his parents, were recognized for the fine job he did in receiving his Eagle Scout award and the project he accomplished to earn the award.

Tim, who was chosen as the 2nd place winner in the State of WI competition, received his certificate and award from the VFW Dept of WI State Commander Larry Kutschma.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



On 05 November 2011, VFW Post 7308 Chaplain Paul Fredericksen, Commander Randy Strickland, and Chief of Staff Phil Allen took part in the 48th Annual City of Milwaukee Veterans Day Parade.

Honored Guests, this year in the Parade, were the members of the United States Air Force. Chaplain Fredericksen represented his armed service very proudly.

On 06 November 2011, the Village of Pleasant Prairie, WI honored VFW Post 7308 with recognition of our community service, patriotism, and service to our country as they presented us with a placard recognizing these efforts and celebrated with us, having been chosen as an All State Post and Past Commander Phil Allen as the All State Team Captain.

Later that afternoon, Phil Allen and his wife Gloria, hosted a party at their house, recognizing the efforts of all the Post 7308 members.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



On Thanksgiving Day 2011, VFW Post 7308 Commander Randy Strickland and Junior Vice Commander Don Brevitz, delivered a full Thanksgiving Dinner to the Duty Section of the US Coast Guard Station – Kenosha. These young men, part of our “Adopted Unit”, were unable to spend time at home with their loved

ones and unable to enjoy a nice dinner with family and friends. So, we at VFW Post 7308 made sure they had a good dinner in spite of standing duty.

On 13 Dec 2012, VFW Post 7308 made its annual gift giving visit to the Grand Prairie Nursing and Rehab Center in Pleasant Prairie. We visited with and provided Christmas packages to the ten Veterans living there. As we do every year, left over gifts were donated to the Home for the use of any patients not getting Christmas presents from others. This has become a labor of love, as we have gotten to know the staff and patients over the years.

Pictured here are Post Chaplain Paul Fredericksen; Chief of Staff (Past Commander) Phil Allen; Senior Vice Commander Thomas Fredericksen and Trustee Dale Moyer.



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



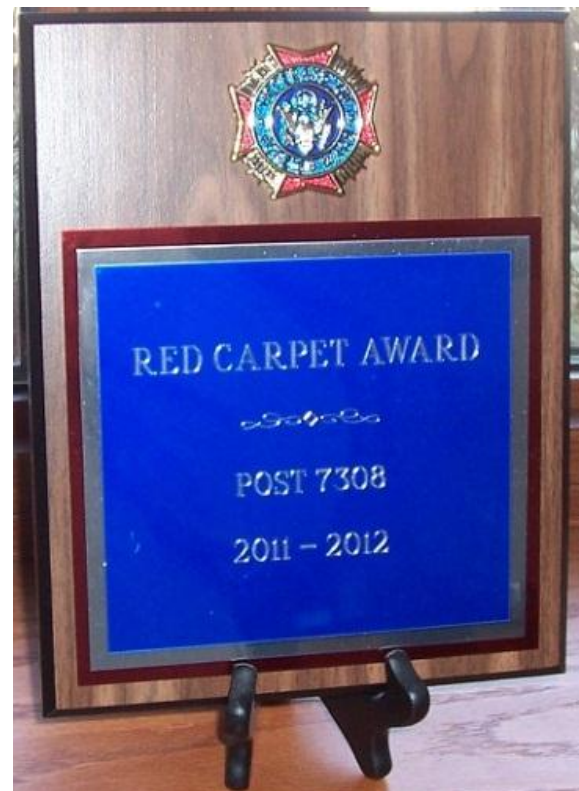
On 16 February 2012, I had the pleasure of initiating two new "Life" members into our Post. Comrade Skip Mann, a US Army Vietnam Veteran and Comrade Don Glen a retired US Navy veteran are a welcome addition to our Post. Post 7308 has been working hard towards increasing our membership and have recently been recognized for our efforts, bringing our number to more than 120% since last year. Each and every

member are dedicated to recruiting eligible and worthy members and keeping our Post and the VFW organization alive and well.

On 18 February 2012, it was with great pleasure and honor to receive the Red Carpet Award from the VFW Dept. of Wisconsin for our Post's efforts in increasing our membership. Our numbers have grown and with it our dedication to being the best Post not only in our District, but in the state of Wisconsin.

Working as a team, we have been able to recruit new members who are not only worthy, but also desire to be an active part in our task of helping other Veterans less fortunate than ourselves.

It is our goal to live up to our reputation as a "Small Post with a BIG heart!"



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



On 11 March 2012, VFW Post 7308 attended the fundraiser/dance to assist in raising money to help pay for Honor Flights carrying our WWII Veterans to Washington D.C and allow them to visit their memorial on the Mall.

Pictured here is VFW Post 7308 Commander Randy Strickland with American Hero and WWII Veteran Fred Carracciolo of Kenosha's Junker-Ball VFW Post 1865. Comrade Carracciolo has had the pleasure of making the flight and was at the fundraiser to encourage others to give to this wonderful

cause. It was truly a pleasure to meet him and to speak with him and his wife.

On 24 March 2012, Comrade Richard Tijerina of VFW Post 1865 was awarded the honor of Kenosha County Veteran of the Year. As President of the Kenosha County Veteran's Council, it was my pleasure and high honor to present this award to a very deserving Comrade.

Pictured here is from left to right: Richard Tijerina, Mrs. Tijerina and President of the Kenosha County Veteran's Council Randy Strickland



VFW Post 7308 Commander's Log Book



This year's Patriot Pen essay competition was uniquely different, as we had nearly 500 students from Mahone and Lance Middle Schools participate. Of those, we forwarded 38 entrants to the VFW Dept of WI District 1 for their decision as to who may be forwarded to the VFW Dept of WI (State) competition.

At our recent Awards Banquet, VFW Post 7308 awarded \$100.00 to our 1st Place Winner

(Pictured here) Addyson Harshburger. Also, our 2nd place winner Emily Kruger was awarded \$75.00 and our 3rd place winner Abbie Hickman received a \$50.00 award.

VFW Post 7308 is very proud of our relationship with our adopted unit at the US Coast Guard Station – Kenosha.

On Easter Sunday (04/08/2012), we were very glad to be able to provide a wonderful Easter dinner to the Duty Section and their guests.



Pictured here are VFW Post 7308 Commander Randy Strickland, the US Coast Guard – Kenosha Duty Section, and VFW Post 7308's Junior Vice Commander Don Brevitz. Jr Vice Brevitz is our "Adopted Unit" chair and is responsible for the arrangements and our on-going plans with the men and women of the Station.

VFW Post 7308

Commander's Log Book



Also on Easter Sunday (04/08/2012), we welcomed home one of our members from a long deployment in Afghanistan, US Army Specialist Nick Diehl of Dragoon Six, D Troop, 5th Cavalry, Brigade Reconnaissance for the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. This unit, having returned from deployment in Southwest Asia, is now posted at the Smith Barracks, in Baumholder, Germany.

D Troop, 5th Cavalry fulfills a variety of missions outside its focus as the primary reconnaissance asset for the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. In the Sha Wali Kot district, Delta Troop partners with Afghan National Army Soldiers from 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 205th Corps on daily patrols to disrupt Taliban insurgents and expand the influence of the district government.

Pictured here is member Don Glenn, welcoming home member Nick Diehl and presenting him with a VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post ball cap, at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee, WI.