



My name is Paul Fredericksen and it is my distinct honor to serve as Commander and represent the fine Men and women of VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post.

I enlisted in the US Air Force in Sept of 1966 and served Active Duty until June 1970. After that I served 27 more months in the inactive reserves. I am a Korean Defense and Vietnam veteran.

My AFSC was 43151C Aircraft maintenance 1&2 engines (Crew Chief). I was Associated with three Aircraft models, F-105, F4E, and F-106.

My first assignment was to Amarillo AFB for Basic military training and then stayed for advanced training in Tech School. After training, I was sent overseas to Kadena Okinawa with the 12th Tactical fighter squadron and the F-105 Thunderchief (Thud).

Our mission was direct support for training and maintenance on aircraft returning to and from SEA during the Viet Nam war. I was sent to Korea twice while serving with the 12th; once for a typhoon evacuation and the second time; for eight months when the USS Pueblo (AGER2) was taken. The date was January 23, 1968. Both times I served at Osan AFB Korea. We were responsible for Nuclear and conventional weapons deployment. After returning to Kadena I was sent on a Consecutive overseas tour to Korat RTAFB Thailand and was assigned to the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing in the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron. I arrived late in August of 1968. Our wing had three squadrons of F-105s. When I arrived our mission was to



defend ground troops as well as performing 90% of all bombing missions over North Viet Nam.

In November of 1968 all bombing of North VN ceased and our mission then centered on South VN, Laos and Cambodia. During this time the F-105s were decimated by SAMS and poor target selection by Command elements. The F-105s were consolidated into other squadrons at Korat and Takhli and F4E Phantoms were brought in to replace the Thuds in the 469th TFS. I remained in the 469th for two weeks before being transferred to the 34th TFS at Korat.



In May of 1969 F4s were brought into the 34 TFS to replace the dwindling numbers of Thuds so I was sent to the 44th TFS and the last remaining F-105 squadron at Korat. I remained with the 44th TFS until the End of August 1969 when after 30 straight months overseas I returned to the "World".

My final active duty assignment began when I was sent to Minot North Dakota and the F-106. This was an Air Defense Command assignment. I served in Minot for nine months and then I requested and received a three month early release from active duty to return to school. I finished my commitment to the Air Force and Was Honorably discharged on the 8th day of September 1972.

I am married with 2 Children and two Grandchildren and served for 28 years with the Kenosha Fire Department. I retired on December 31, 2000 as a Station Captain from # 6 Fire Station in Kenosha. I was a fire instructor for 25 years at Gateway, Waukesha and Lakeshore Technical colleges. I was the department Hazardous Materials Team Supervisor for eight years

and served on the Kenosha County LEPC from July 1988 to September 2002.

I am a graduate of Gateway Technical College, Southern Illinois University Carbondale and did post graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, City College of Bellevue Washington and Kennedy Western.



As of 15 June 2013, I have assumed the duties of the Commander of VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post and have had the honor of serving a second term.

After completing my first term as Commander, I had the honor of being selected as All State Team Co-Captain along with my Quartermaster John McCoy and later was selected as All American Commander for 2013 to 2014.

VFW Post 7308 adopted the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Kenosha, WI nearly three years ago. During that time we have built on our relationship with this wonderful group of young men and women who often have to serve over the holidays and are not able to be with their families. We provide Thanksgiving and Easter Dinner for the Duty Section and their family members who are able to attend.



While at the station, we were allowed to tour the new lifesaving boat at the pier outside the station. VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and Post Chief of Staff Randy Strickland were honored to go aboard her and tour the new technologically advanced vessel.

The pride and dedication were obvious in the young Petty Officers who were showing us their craft.



This craft is loaded with the newest technology and able to reach speeds above 40 knots and withstand heavy seas. It's maneuverability is such that it can stop within its own length and turn tightly to assist in recovering people from Lake Michigan or assisting crafts in distress. It is a valuable and very expensive piece of equipment entrusted to young Petty Officers of the Coast Guard and it is obviously well maintained



From the City of Kenosha, our Post had the honor of recognizing Kenosha Police Department Sergeant Cynthia Fredericksen and Kenosha Fire Department Firefighter Lt. Daniel Tilton.

Our Post works closely with our surrounding communities and ensure that those who serve us in so many ways are also recognized for their efforts and sacrifices to our community.

We also recognized three Public Servants of the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Receiving National EMT, Firefighter, and Law Enforcement Awards were:

- PPF D EMT Craig S. Adams
- PPF D Firefighter Aaron R. Longrie
- PPPD Law Enforcement Officer Heather Mogensen

These people work and sacrifice every day to protect and serve our community of Pleasant Prairie



On the fourth Tuesday of the month, VFW Post 7308 has been meeting with the cadets of the U.S. Army Junior ROTC Unit, at the Shalom Center.

One of our core reasons for existence is helping those who are less fortunate than our selves. The Shalom Center of Interfaith provides us with a wonderful opportunity to do just that. Working with these young cadets and sharing their goal of community service is one of the best things we as Veterans could ever be involved in.



VFW Post 7308 has been working with local Boy and Girl Scout Troops in the Kenosha County area for the last several years. Sponsoring them in their drive and initiatives to complete their Eagle or Gold Scout Projects, so they might complete the goal of Eagle Scout or Gold Scout designation.

This past year 2013 to 2014, Ellen Miller, nominated by VFW Post 7308 for Gold Scout of the Year was chosen as 2nd Place by the VFW Department of WI. This new year 2014 to 2015, we continue this tradition and will be sponsoring new Eagle and Gold Scouts.



Recently, at the 15 May 2014 VFW Post 7308 Meeting, we recognized a Scout we have been working with for some time....Dominic Gemignani and his family for the untiring efforts to complete the Eagle Scout Program



Each year, VFW Post 7308 accepts donations and gifts to resell at the Golden Meadows Subdivision, at the Commander's house and with the help of his neighbors. The monies raised by this great sale is turned right around and used to help us help others.

This rummage sale happens every year in May and is sponsored by the Golden Meadows Subdivision. The turnout by the public is amazing and there are any number and variety of items available throughout the neighborhood.

Each year, VFW Post 7308 comes together to present honors and to recognize those who gave all making the extreme sacrifice for their country and our freedoms. On 26 May 2014, Memorial Day, we held our service at Old St. Mark's Cemetery. Local politicians and County representatives, as well as many of the surrounding neighborhood and family member of both the Post and those buried there, were in attendance.

We had a special addition to our service this year, as newly minted USAF 2nd Lt. Dana Madsen sang the National Anthem as USAF Veteran Tim Stearns made a well-timed Fly Over as she ended the song.

U.S. Army Junior ROTC Sabre Unit from Indian Trails High School, Scout Troop 505 and Girl Scout Troop 2793 were on hand to lend assistance in the service, as well as the KPD Rifle Squad who presented a gun salute. Taps was provided once again by VFW Post 7308 member Melissa Koff.



The Kenosha Police Department Rifle Squad has quickly become an annual fixture at our service and they are a wonderful addition in our tribute to our fallen comrades. We are very honored that the men and women of the KPD can find time to assist us in our services.



At the 93rd VFW Department of WI State Convention, VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and Post Quartermaster John McCoy, were recognized by State Commander Renee Simpson for the OUTSTANDING performance of our Post. Commander Fredericksen and Quartermaster McCoy were designated Captains of the All-State Team....an honor bestowed on the Best of Best.



As we go about the business of the VFW, helping others less fortunate than ourselves and working through and with the community, we maintain records and reports which are turned in near the end of the VFW year, for consideration.



The National Flag Day Foundation Ceremony and Parade is held in Waubeka, WI, home of Bernard Cigrand (the Father of Flag Day). It was due to his efforts that Congress and President Truman finally recognized June 14th as Flag Day. In June 2004 the 108th U.S. Congress unanimously voted on H.R. 662 to state that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Waubeka, Wisconsin, 60 years after President Truman officially recognized Flag Day and 118 years after Bernard Cigrand started his campaign to hold an annual observance of the birth of the flag when he wrote an article "The Fourteenth of June" and started the now National essay contest of "What my Flag Means to me" .



VFW Post 7308 participated in the Somers Independence Day Parade again this year. A very well attended and exiting time in our neighboring town of Somers. People from all ages and all walks of life line the parade route. Children vying for their place along the route to get some of the candies passed out by all the different units in the parade. Flags flying, both in the parade and along the route in the hands of the spectators.

Somers turns out to show their patriotism and an enthusiastic "Thank You" to all the Veterans and Service organizations that participated in the parade.



We are looking forward to an even greater turnout this coming year, as our Post has grown and our ties to the surrounding communities are even greater.

VFW Post 7308 once again took part in the Bristol Progress Days, celebrated the 2nd weekend of July. The “Days” are comprised by Softball Tournaments, Music, Fireworks, carnival rides and food vendors. On Sunday, the last day of the event everyone comes together to watch the parade! Politicians, businesses, schools and Veterans organizations are all represented by units in the parade. Although relatively short in distance, this parade packs them in and is the highlight of the festival.



There were also several school bands, including of course, the Central High School Band, Boy and Girl Scout troops, the Sherriff’s Department and even the area Fire Departments were represented. The parade is well known for its outpouring of candy, thrown to the spectators along the route. VFW Post 7308 was no slouch in that department, we distributed more than 7 pounds of tootsie rolls and other candies throughout the parade.



VFW Post 7308 held its first Buddy Poppy Drive at Miller Park in Milwaukee, WI on Saturday 26 July 2014. Twelve of our Post volunteers stationed themselves in the parking lots and at the Park entrances for three hours prior to the start of the game. As we mingled amongst the fans, we collected donations for our Relief Fund and made many new friends. Some of us even stayed afterwards and attended the game—Brewers 5 vs. Mets 2!



Buddy Poppy Drives are abundant with our Post. We take part in fundraisers all around the community to raise monies for our Relief Fund. Even at car shows.

VFW Post 7308 members attended a 2nd Buddy Poppy Drive at Miller Park, just prior to the game where they played against the Cincinnati Reds. The "Tailgaters" prior to the game are always very lively and very generous. It was a very successful event and all concerned seemed to have a good time. We were very glad to have our Sr. Vice Commander Skip Mann there for the event as he has been on the binnacle list of late, due to recovering from knee surgery.



VFW Post 7308 was recently recognized by VFW National for all that we do to help our communities and to bring forward the needs of our fellow Veterans, so that we may improve their situation in life. A very prestigious award, it will find a place of honor on the walls of our meeting room.



At the VFW Dept. of WI District 1 Fall Meeting, State Chief of Staff Phil Allen presented All American Award certificates to the Commanders of VFW Post 7308 (Paul Fredericksen) and VFW Post 11038 (Michael Fischer). These two outstanding Comrades accepted these awards on behalf of their Posts, for all the hard work they and their Posts members did throughout the 2013 to 2014 VFW Year.

On Saturday, 11 October 2014, at the Gateway Technical College—Racine Campus, Racine and Kenosha Counties hosted the Veterans Benefits Expo & Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, from 08:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Many services and programs were presented for both the Homeless Vets and Veterans seeking information, alike. Some of the programs offered included: Homeless Programs; Housing (Emergency & Referrals); Education Opportunities; Clothing; Haircuts; Compensation & Pension Benefits; Legal Assistance; VA Healthcare information; Eligibility & Enrollment for local, state and federal benefits; OEF/OIF/OND Transition; Flu Shots; etc... Too many programs and informational services to list here. This event was very well attended and many Veterans received much needed help and guidance.



At our 16 October 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting at the Birchwood Grill, VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen presented Community Service Awards and Certificates of Appreciation to local pilots Tim Stearns, Tye Hammerle, and Pete Spear. Also on hand and a very important of the team, Marie Spear, who is the air traffic controller for the group. These dedicated and patriotic Veteran pilots give of their own time to perform "Fly Over" duties at many Veteran services, parades, and events. We thank them for their service, their time and their loyalty to all those who have served this country.



On 16 November 2014, Village of Pleasant Prairie, WI President John Steinbrink called VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen up to the podium to receive recognition for the Post. The Village is proud of their VFW Post and are even more proud that we have been selected as All State for four (4) consecutive years and as All American for two (2) consecutive years.



VFW Post 7308 was proud to present colors and take part in the Annual Veterans Day Service of the Village of Pleasant Prairie, WI. This years service was postponed until 16 November 2014, due to the funeral of SSgt Van Bendegom held on Veterans Day. Even so, we had a great turnout from the community and fellow Veterans from other organizations, who also presented at this outstanding annual event.



In conjunction with the Cadets of the U.S. Army Junior ROTC unit of Indian Trails High School, VFW Post 7308 is volunteering once a month at the Shalom Center of the Interfaith Network. The center provides food for the needy and needs volunteer support to manage this very necessary and heartwarming service. They provide a safe and supportive environment to those less fortunate in the Kenosha community and we are very proud to be a part of this work.

On Thanksgiving Day, 27 November 2014, VFW Post 7308 provided the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner to our Adopted Unit, the U.S. Coast Guard Station—Kenosha. We delivered a hot meal, complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, etc...and even pumpkin and other assorted pies for dessert. All of us know what it is like to be “standing the watch” and missing our families on holiday celebrations with our loved ones back at home. It is an honor for us, to be able to provide a little piece of that “Home” to these outstanding young men and women, while they provide us the freedoms each of us enjoy.





On 15 January 2015, VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie Memorial Post and VFW Post 2751 Coat of Arms Post consolidated as one. A new Charter has been presented to Commander Paul Fredericksen, which declares this consolidation to be approved and complete. Membership transfers have been made and those of VFW Post 2751 are now honored members of VFW Post 7308.

Those of us who are original members of VFW Post 7308 welcome our new Comrades with open arms and we are very proud to have each and every one of them among our growing membership. We look forward to a great combined Post that shows we have picked up the challenge of "WORKING TOGETHER!"

VFW Post 7308 was in attendance at the Annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance service, hosted by our Comrades of the US Navy Club Ship 40-Kenosha, at Navy Park on the water front in downtown Kenosha. Many members of VFW Post 7308 are also members of the Navy Club. Including our Past Senior Vice Commander Thomas Fredericksen. Comrade Fredericksen was recently honored by the Navy Club as they established a scholarship in his name, in tribute to all of the work he has done for all Veterans in the SE Wisconsin area.



On 28 January 2015, VFW Post 7308 joined together with the US Army JROTC Unit of Indian Trails High School and the staff of the Interfaith Shalom Center of Kenosha. Here, members of these groups worked together to serve the needy and the homeless, to ensure they had the opportunity to receive a hot meal and friendship. It is a key effort of our Post to serve our surrounding community and to help teach our young people the importance of giving back to their community as well. These young Cadets give from their hearts and gives all of us faith and hope for the future of our community!



On 26 December 2014, VFW Post 7308 member and WWII Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Albert "Bubs" Salerno was asked to sign a lithograph of the landing at the Battle of Peleliu. A fellow Veteran and avid collector of all things concerning the military, Ed Mohn, asked for the autograph of this hero. He will be placing this lithograph in his own museum he has created in honor of all American Veterans everywhere. Comrade Salerno landed on Peleliu during Operation Stalemate II, which was part of a larger offensive campaign known as Operation Forager. The Battle of Peleliu was fought from September to November 1944.





On 28 February 2015, VFW Post 7308 and American Legion Post 21 combined forces and hosted the 2nd Annual Veteran's Chili Cook-Off Fund Raiser. We had raffles, games, lots of food and deserts, even held a Tattoo Contest!

Professional entrants, Veteran Service Organization entrants and everyday folks entered the cook-off. A great time was had by all and we raised money for each of the two hosting organizations so that they might continue to do what they do best, helping Veterans and the people of the surrounding communities.



VFW Post 7308 was proud to present Gift Certificates from the Texas Roadhouse and the generous citizens of our surrounding community, to the true American Heroes that come to the Hero's Café every Friday morning at Festival Foods in Kenosha, WI.

This is a wonderful place where Veterans can come together, talk, share stories, take part in activities and share in a camaraderie that only those who have experienced the sacrifice of military service can truly understand.

Veterans from every walk of life, every recent American war or campaign, from every military service experience, are welcomed into the Hero's Café. Here we can relax amongst fellow Veterans and know that we are appreciated and understood. It is here that you may here a colorful joke, a story of a forgotten time that has never been shared before, a birthday celebration or an anniversary celebration, or perhaps a shared moment of silence to remember those who did not return.

This has become a refuge for many, a joyful place for others and still a solemn place to remember! We will forever be indebted to Mary Domes, Sharon Janis and Angie Roscioli .



On 08 March 2015, members of VFW Post 7308, Girl Scouts of Troop 7293, members of VFW Post 1865, members of Navy Club Ship 40—Kenosha and St. Mary's Lutheran Church came together to bring laughter, smiles, love and cookies to the Veterans and in some cases their families, at the Southern WI Veterans Center in Union Grove, WI.





On 12 March 2015, VFW Post 7308 hosted an Awards Ceremony and Pizza Party for our Patriot Pen Winners and our Teacher of the Year. It was held in the Birchwood Grill at 7515 125th Ave, Kenosha, WI. Our 1st Place Patriot Pen winner is Kerigann R. Ballard and our Teacher of the Year winner is Ronald Peterson of Mahone Middle School, who also came in 3rd Place in the VFW Dept. of WI competition.

It is only with the great cooperation we get from the teachers and the parents of these students, that VFW Post 7308 has had one of the most successful programs within the Department, typically more than 450 participants a year!



VFW Post 7308 has had the pleasure of working with the teachers of Mahone Middle School and Lance Middle School of Kenosha, WI over the past several years. These teachers work very closely with their students and make every effort to ensure they not only receive a scholastic education, but also teach them patriotism, pride in their country, and the importance of community service and giving back ! It is an honor to work with these men and women who give of them-selves so that our young people have the opportunity to learn.



On 19 March 2015, VFW Post 7308 held an awards ceremony at our Regular Monthly Meeting. Here, we recognized our 1st Place Voice of Democracy winner, Ms. Lauren Mossman.

Ms. Mossman did very well in the VOD competition, not only was she 1st Place for VFW Post 7308 but was also selected as 2nd Place for VFW Dept. of WI District 1.

Also, during the evening's ceremony VFW Post 7308 recognized and presented certificates and medals to three Outstanding Civil Air Patrol Cadets. Recognized were Cadet Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Mustell, Cadet 2nd Lieutenant Rebekkah Rosenberg and Cadet Technical Sergeant Curtiss Starck.





VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen has placed a challenge that each member of the Post try to recruit one new member in the remaining VFW year. Over the past few years we have continued to grow in number, but more importantly...we have grown in quality and in participation.

As this Commander's Log is being drafted, the Post membership is at 303 members with a standing of 113.48% and still we are only in 10th place in our Division, nationally. We need all of our members to continue searching for new members, members that are willing to work hard and make a difference.



VFW Post 7308 has Buddy Poppy Drives so that we might continue to garner funds for our Relief Fund. With the proceeds of these fund raisers, we are then able to assist other Veterans in need, their family members or members of our community. As we position ourselves in different locations around the Village of Pleasant Prairie or in the city of Kenosha, we reach out to our neighbors and hope that they will help us and enable us to do the very important business of the VFW.

We also use these opportunities as a "Boots on the Ground" recruiting effort. We have been very successful in both fund raising and recruiting. It is because of our membership that we are able to do

these things and are then able to provide assistance when needed.

Our most recent Buddy Poppy Drive was on 28 March 2015, where we collected a near record and were able to recruit two new members. Along with this we gave out information to Veterans that will help them in gaining their benefits.

Veterans in the Classroom National Awards were handed out to several of our members on 03/19/2015





VFW Post 7308 brought Easter Brunch to our Adopted Unit U.S Coast Guard STANT Kenosha. We were able to bring a nice dinner and deserts for the men and women of the Duty Section and some of their families. It was really nice seeing the young ones running around the station and bringing laughter and joy to the halls of the Coast Guard!



VFW Post 7308 welcomes home post member Julius Mianecki from the Stars and Stripes honor flight at Milwaukee Mitchell Airport Saturday April 18th. Commander Paul Fredericksen, Senior Vice Commander Skip Mann, and post members Ken Wagner, Danny Norris and Juan Salazar were there to greet him



At the regular monthly meeting of VFW Post 7308 on 17 April 2015, Voice of Democracy winner Grace Taber and her parents were on hand to receive the Voice of Democracy Award from VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen.



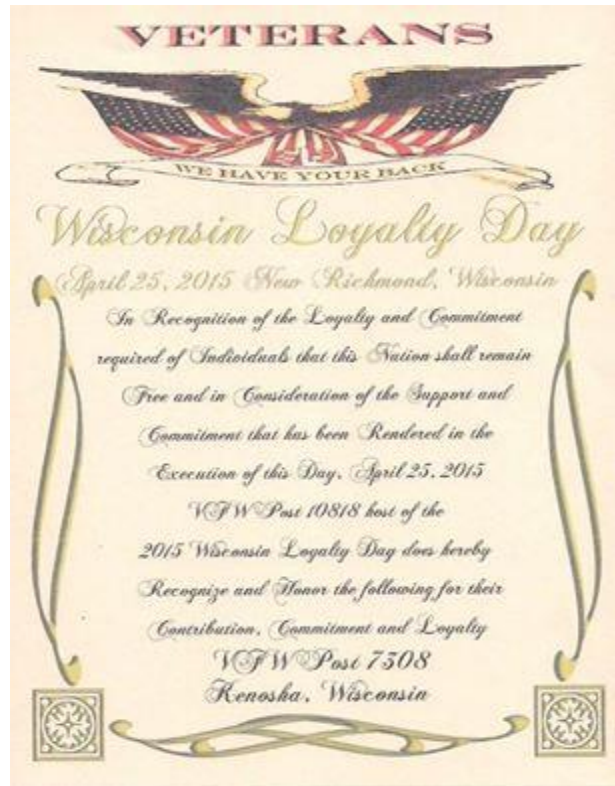
Also present at the 17 April 2015 meeting was VFW Post 7308 Life member and U.S. Navy Commander Mark Stewart. Here he was presented with a Veterans in the Classroom National Award by VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen.



On 25 April 2015, VFW Post 7308 Commander Paul Fredericksen and two Past Commanders Phil Allen and Randy Strickland traveled to New Richmond, WI where VFW Post 10818 was hosting the annual Loyalty Day Parade.



This years parade was hosted by VFW Post 10118 New Richmond Memorial Post. They did a wonderful job and there were 87 units in the parade. The people of New Richmond turned out and were very welcoming and patriotic as the parade went down the main street of the city.



The Loyalty Day 2015 Certificate presented to our Post by the Loyalty Day Committee of the City of New Richmond, WI and VFW Post 10818 New Richmond Memorial Post.



VFW Post 7308 Pleasant Prairie member and Commander of American Legion Post 21 Kenosha Thomas (Woody) Visintainer, Sr. was recognized by the Shrine Club of Kenosha. He was honored as the Safety Person of the Year, as he not only has served in the US Army Reserve for 25 Years, served two tours in Afghanistan, is very involved in many Veterans Service Organizations, but also served 16 years as a Volunteer Fire Department in the Town of Somers, WI.

We are very proud of our Comrade Woody Visintainer and know that this recognition is well deserved.