

### NEWS FROM LT FRED L. KENT • VFW POST 7907 POWAY, CA





### POST MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

### Please Join Us

Auxiliary General Meeting 6:00 PM | Tuesday - July 9

VFW Post Officers/House Committee Chair Meeting 6:00 PM | Monday - July 15

> **VFW 7907 Post Meeting** 7:00 PM | Thursday - July 19

**Event Planning Meeting** 6:00 PM | Wednesday - July 31

House Chairman Clean Up/Working Party 8:00 AM | Saturday Mornings







VFWPost7907Aux

VEW7907AIIX

**Have an article for** *The Patriot?* Please submit your articles no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. Send your submission to <u>VFW7907@gmail.com</u> with *Newsletter Submission* in the subject line.

### COMMANDER'S CALL:

Greeting All,

First, thank you Commander John for a very successful 2023/2024 year. I am honored to be serving as your VFW 7907 Post Commander once again. My officers and I are looking forward to having very productive year here at the Post. We are very excited also about working closely with the Post Auxiliary taking care of our veterans and their families.

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our own Paula Jensen, who was elected as the State VFW Department Junior Vice Commander and to our Past Commander John Carson who was appointed to VFW San Diego, District One Chaplain. I am confident they will make us proud here at 7907, BZ to both.

Thank you to all the VFW and Auxiliary team members who are taking time out of their busy lives to make this 2024/2025 the best year possible. My promise to all you, we will do our very best.

Please check the calendar for upcoming July events. I would like to personally invite everyone to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations being held at the Poway Veterans Park, starting at 11<sub>AM</sub>, immediately followed up by our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Crutcher Classic Car Show and lunch at the Post.

As always, if anyone knows of a veteran or their family in need, please contact me, the Service Officer or the Post for assistance.

Let's all have a great summer and see you around the Post.

In comradeship, *Bill Kimble* 



# 2024-2025 Officers 🕔



Post Commander – Bill Kimble Sr. Vice Commander – Vern DuMolt Jr. Vice Commander – Deanna Smith Quartermaster - Clint Dawson Chaplain – Don Biadog, Jr. Surgeon – Fred DiCarlo Service Officer – Ed Ozmun Adjutant – Paula Jensen Judge Advocate – Bill Morrison Guard – Paul Swanson 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Mark Burdette 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Oscar Rocha 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Bryan Gust House Committee Chairman – Tim Ragnar Membership Chair – Jay Santa Maria Officer of the Day – Jim Cook Maintenance Manager – Jason Widmer Canteen Manager – Dawn Ragnar

# **Auxiliary Officers**



President – Dawn Ragnar Sr. Vice President – Jericho Nevitt Jr. Vice President – Christina Swanson Secretary – Kacyenne Barber Treasurer – Deborah Sellers Chaplain – Christy Schiltz Conductor – Karen Kimble Guard – Rachel Rocha 1<sup>st</sup> Year Trustee – Shari Dunbar 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee – Connie Houk 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee – Patty Wolinski



### FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT:

I recently attended the Department of California convention and I was very impressed by both the Post and Auxiliary leadership. I especially enjoyed the presentation done by VFW National Commander-in-Chief, Duane Sarmiento. He expressed his gratitude and admiration to the Auxiliary and lovingly refers to all Auxiliary members as "the muscle behind the hustle". That resonated with me and I'm very proud to say, our Auxiliary certainly lives up to that!

The entire Department installation took place as well as District installations. I would like to congratulate our Auxiliary members, Kathie Okolski and Leanna Brown on being installed as Department Sr. Vice and District President (respectively). Also, a HUGE congratulations to Post member, Paula Jansen, on her installation as Department Jr. Vice.

2024/2025 is going to be a whirlwind for us at 7907! This year my focus is bringing awareness to the Veteran programs that the VFW Auxiliary supports; building comradery with our new members; elevating our Veteran & family support and of course, continue to be the "muscle behind the hustle" that is our Post.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6<sub>PM</sub>. I've got a new format and FUN planned so I hope to see you all there!

Thank you for all of your support!

Dawn Ragnar



**'Coin War'**Details coming soon

### Did you know?

The VFW Hall on Old Pomerado Road sits across and within some of the more notorious real estate in Poway.

The original stage coach route between San Diego and Escondido ran right in front of the hall.

Those old cobble houses across the street are the site of the Twenty Mile Saloon. Please don't confuse these with the Big Stone Lodge further down the road.

More than 120 years ago, there was a murder in the saloon and the gunman was never charged.

Daniel Dodson owned the saloon and stage stop. He lived there with his stepdaughter Ida and his business associate Carmelita. Ida was a pretty young thing and she started swooning on the young stage coach driver. Her step daddy, Daniel, didn't like that. The stagecoach driver, Jeb from the vile scoundrel Feeler family was no friend of Dodson.

One thing led to another and Jeb was a suspect in a bank robbery. A gun went off at the saloon but, it is not clear who shot who and Jeb was dead. With Jeb's body as evidence the Sheriff planned to hold an inquest but some how the vital evidence disappeared. No one was ever charged for the crimes.

The VFW Hall was right in the center of the action. Supposedly the loot from the robbery was hidden along Beeler Creek between the stage route and Rabbit Pond. The saloon became even more notorious and the women of Poway considered the area the "danger zone."

The Poway Historical Society is going to be bringing this legend to life on September 14<sup>th</sup> at Templar Hall in Old Poway Park as a part of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. We will be performing an original play that will tell this tale for the public.

Because the VFW Hall sits in the center of this legend, we wanted to give you and your members notice that bringing this legend alive might bring some treasure hunters to your doors.

It's all true, the murder and robbery and inability to bring anyone to justice.

Poway was once the wild wild west!

To learn more about the Poway Historical Society, check out our website at <a href="https://powayhistoricalsociety.com">https://powayhistoricalsociety.com</a>. We hope you will be able to join us at our Anniversary celebration on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Old Poway Park following the Poway Parade on Poway Road.



#### FROM THE CANTEEN MANAGER:

I hope you're all excited to kick off our new fiscal year because we have some AMAZING things planned! Below you'll find all the "SAVE THE DATES."

Of course, we are kicking off with the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Crutcher Classic Car Show on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have FREE hot dogs & chips, the Classic Car show where everyone will vote on their favorite car, we have coloring sheets for the kids and of course – the canteen is OPEN 11:30<sub>AM</sub> – 4<sub>PM</sub>.

Our second event in July is the Family Freedom Festival on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be vendors to shop with, North County Stand Down and other Veteran related booths to stop by. The "dump tank" has some pretty good candidates lined up as well! PLEASE BE SURE TO INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS TO BOTH OF OUR JULY EVENTS!!!

**Tickets are OFFICIALLY on sale at the canteen for the August 24<sup>th</sup> Murder Mystery dinner!** Proceeds from this event are going to Shelter to Soldier in hopes of reaching our \$10k donation goal. Get your tickets today!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST – as I've mentioned in the past, our canteen attendance has been significantly low the past 10 months. In an effort to bring some comradery back, we will be starting 'BOOZE, BEER, BAGS & BASEBALL' on Mondays, starting July 8<sup>th</sup>, please see page 1 with details.

### Mark Your Calendar With These Events

July 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Crutcher Classic Car Show & July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration (see page 6 with details) \*SPECIAL CANTEEN HOURS 11:30<sub>AM</sub> – 4<sub>PM</sub>\*

July 14 – Family Freedom Festival (see page 7 with details)

Aug 24 – Murder Mystery Dinner/Fundraiser (see page 8 for details)

Save These Dates - Details Coming Soon

Sept 7 – Comedy Night

Sept 21 – POW/MIA Day

Sept 28 – Ribapalooza

Oct 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Nov 11 – Veterans Day

- **Dec 7** Post/Auxiliary Christmas Party
- Dec 15 Pancake Breakfast with Santa
- Dec 22 Jan 4 Closed For The Holidays
- Feb 1 District 1 Auxiliary Casino Night (this is NOT happening at our Post, but we would love your support)
- Mar 4 Fat Tuesday Celebration
- Mar 14 St. Paddy's Day Bash!
- April 20 Easter Brunch \*This year we will have an Easter egg hunt as well\*

### **Never Forget the Veterans on Freedom Day!**

### Photos by Don Biadog except the WW-II photo of Desmond Doss

July 4, 2024, is a special day for millions of Americans. Americans have been commemorating the holiday for 248 years since July 4, 1776, the official beginning of the Nation and the day Americans declared their complete Independence from England. The delegates from first Thirteen Colonies of America meet in Philadelphia, PA, and declared themselves to be States and no longer part of the British Empire.

On my way home from a special mission in the Philippines, from 34,000 feet above I looked down from the portside window of United Airlines (MNL TO SFO) on June 7, 2024, I was reminiscing and remembering the sacrifices of our World War II veterans. More than eighty years ago, our sea service warriors and soldiers were executing the "Pacific Island-Hopping Campaign," the Pacific Strategy in 1941-1944. The Central Pacific offensive was led by Admiral Chester Nimitz and the South Pacific offensive led by General Douglas MacArthur. It was a military strategy of recapturing the Pacific islands starting from the New Guinea, Solomons Islands, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Guam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Okinawa and other smaller islands from the Imperial forces of Japan.

The Battle of Midway in April 1943, a US carrier aircraft dealt a devastating blow to the Japanese navy, destroying four Japanese aircraft carriers. The Battle of Midway marked the first major US victory against Japan and was a turning point in the war. Britannica recorded the following, the human casualties included approximately "3,000 Japanese sailors and airmen killed. A total of 317 United States sailors, airmen, and marines were killed."

Winning the Battle of Midway shifted the balance of naval power in the Pacific. Midway allowed U.S. forces to take the offensive for the first time. The Allies soon set their sights on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and on New Guinea. This was the beginning of the Pacific Island-Hopping Campaign.

"The Pacific Island-Hopping Campaign was a strategic military operation undertaken by the United States during World War II to break Japan's defensive perimeter in the Pacific. The campaign involved a series of amphibious assaults on key Japanese-held islands, with the goal of advancing toward Japan's home islands and ultimately defeating the Japanese Empire," Sang Micheal commented.

The first amphibious Island-Hopping Campaign in the Battle of Guadalcanal resulted in a significant number of casualties. For instance, in Second Lieutenant Benjamin C. Currey, U.S. Marine Corps, essay called "Amphibious Doctrine's Evolution in the Pacific," wrote "nearly 1,600 men were killed during the battle, multiple ships and aircraft were lost, and the United States was left with only a single aircraft carrier in the Pacific theater."

Secondly, about 6,400 Japanese, Koreans, and Americans died in the Battle of Tarawa fought on 20–23 November 1943. It was a battle between the United States forces and Japan Imperial forces at the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands. It was called "Operation Galvanic," the U.S. invasion of the Gilberts.



Thousands of visitors & locals enjoy the Big Bay Boom each July the 4<sup>th</sup>, the fireworks are visible throughout the San Diego Bay including from the Naval Submarine Base, Point Loma, CA last July 4, 2022.



On my way home from a special mission in the Philippines, from 34,000 feet above I looked down from the portside window of United Airlines (MNL TO SFO) on June 7, 2024, I was reminiscing & remembering the sacrifices of our World War II veterans.



Lexey Lyons showing her Brother's (PVT Herman Sturmer, USMC) photo in June 2011, Spokane, WA.



SSGT Wesley Kroenung, WW-II US Marine veteran, was laid to rest on Wednesday August 14, 2019, at Miramar National Cemetery. SSgt Kroenung was killed in action on November 20, 1943, during the first wave of coastal assault on The Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert's Islands. I had an honor leading the ceremony & services on Tuesday 13 August at the San Diego International Airport and Wednesday 14 August 2019 at Miramar National Cemetery.

One of the Marines we lost on the first of the battle was Private Herman Fred Sturmer Jr. For nearly 70 years, his remains were missing. Nevertheless, "in 2002, a construction crew uncovered remains of what was believed to be an American serviceman from World War II. A Peace Corps volunteer notified a U.S. government representative, and the news was relayed to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii," reported by Kevin Graman. A modern-day DNA testing finally positively identified PVT Sturmer's remains. His only remaining sister, Lexey Lyons (75), Spokane, WA, provided the sample. Lexey and Herman's DNA matched. She was only seven years old when her brother PVT Sturmer left for War in the Pacific.

While serving as Command Chaplain of Naval Base Kitsap, my Commanding Officer sent me to assist the Sturmer family. It was a blessing to meet Lexey and her family in July 2011 in Spokane, WA. What an HONOR for me to serve as chaplain during the dignified return of the remains and leading the funeral service of a WW-II hero, PVT Herman Sturmer, Jr on July 1, 2011, PVT Sturmer's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

About a week before PVT Sturmer shipped off overseas bound for battle in the Pacific islands, he promised his seven-year-old sister Lexey that someday he would return home to Spokane. PVT Sturmer was one of the 7,100 who GAVE his all for FREEDOM, FAITH, FAMILY, AND FLAG on November 20-23, 1943, in the Battle of Tarawa. The Marine was buried next to his parents, Herman and Norma Sturmer, at Spokane Memorial Gardens. He made the ultimate sacrifice! There is a somber saying, "All Gave Some, SOME GAVE ALL!" PVT Sturmer GAVE HIS ALL!

SSGT Wesley Kroenung, WW-II us Marine veteran, was the other Marine KIA on the day, November 20, 1943, that PVT Sturmer was killed on the same location in Tarawa. SSGT Kroenung was laid to rest on Wednesday 14 August at MIRAMAR NATIONAL CEMETERY. SSGT Kroenung was killed in action on November 20, 1943, during the first wave of coastal assault on The Tarawa Atoll, Gilbert's Islands. I had an honor leading the ceremony and services on Tuesday 13 August at the San Diego International Airport and Wednesday 14 August 2019 at Miramar National Cemetery.

The Family of SSGT Wesley Kroenung was very sad that their Loved One was KIA in the Battle of Tarawa but thankful to the US Government and military that Wesley came back 76 years later. It was very hot day on Tuesday 13 August at the San Diego International Airport when we received the remains of SSGT Kroenung at the tarmac of the San Diego International Airport during the ceremony. SSGT Kroenung GAVE HIS ALL!

Sadly, many, many more warriors lost their lives after the Battle in Tarawa. The Battle of Leyte Gulf, a major naval battle of World War II fought between the Allied forces and the Empire of Japan, resulted in heavy casualties for both sides. The United States suffered 16,043 soldiers and 7,270 sailors killed, while the Japanese lost 419,912 soldiers. During the Battle for Okinawa, Japan lost as many as 100,000 soldiers, while the US and Allies suffered 65,000 casualties, including 14,000 dead.

As we celebrate our freedom on July 4, 2024, let us remember the veterans who fought for our freedom! Many of these warriors made the ultimate sacrifice. We owe them an eternal debt we can never repay. Yes, enjoy the sun, shores, sights, the parades, fireworks, fellowship, foods, patriotic activities, and the sounds of freedom, but never forget the service members' unselfish service and sacrifice!

Have a Blessed and Safe Holiday! May peace reign in our Country and Countries around the world. God Bless You and May God Bless the United States of America! Happy 4<sup>th</sup>!

Chaplain Don Biadog, Jr. (Mark 10:45)



Jack Lucas, MOH recipient, an honor to meet him in Iwo Jima on March 12, 2005, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.



At dawn view of the shrine of the Leyte Landings on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 20, 2029, Palo Leyte, Philippines.



I had an honor to visit Iwo Jima on March 12, 2005 during the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.



View from the well deck of USS Ft McHenry (LSD-43) in March 2004.



In May 1945, a man named Desmond Doss, who was a conscientious objector, saved 75 wounded soldiers during the Battle of Okinawa at Hacksaw Ridge.



South of Hacksaw Ridge is the Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum. Photo was taken on May 7, 2005. Itoman, Okinawa.





Located at VFW Post 7907 12342 Old Pomerado Rd, Poway

SHOP WITH VENDORS KIDS & ADULTS CAN PLAY GAMES & WIN PRIZES! DROP OFF ITEMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS GET THE KIDS FINGERPRINT CARDS DONE FOOD \* BEVERAGES & MORE!

FUN FOR ALL AGES

JULY 14, 2024

# JOIN US FOR OUR FAMILY FREEDOM FESTIVAL





# I LOVE THE BO'S TO DEATH MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

# 5 PM 12342 OLD POMERADO RD AUG. 24, 2024 POWAY, CA 92064

It's the 80's again, and all of the big names are here for a big concert. Tensions run rampant as backstage secrets spill out into the spotlight with like, totally tragic results! This isn't an episode of Miami Vice! This is like...murder. Peg your jeans, slouch your socks, flash some neon, put on way too much eyeliner and get that hair up! You are going to solve this crime in style. You are a Smooth Operator, and you know to listen to those Careless Whispers. It's time to put on your Sunglasses at Night and Relax. Time after time...You will solve the case.

### TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT VFW POST 7907 OR EMAIL VFW7907EVENTS@GMAIL.COM

ALL PROCEEDS FROM EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO

80'S ROCKER

DRESS CODE

# ATTIRE OR NEON COLORS



3 COURSE DINNER INCLUDED TIME: SPM – 8PM COST: \$35 PER PERSON SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS BONGIORNOS PIZZA \* THE HOUR FAMILY \*

SHELTER TO SOLDIER

### **Around the Post**

Department of CA & District 1 Officer Installation - June 22, 2024



Congrats to Post 24-25 Adjutant, Paula Jansen, on being installed as Department of California Jr. Vice.



Congratulations to Auxiliary member, Kathie Okolski, on being installed as 24-25 Department of California Auxiliary Sr. Vice President.



Congratulations to Auxiliary member, Leanna Brown, on being installed as 24-25 District 1 Auxiliary President.

### Wednesday Lunch - June 19, 2024



Thanks to Fred Whiteman and the rest of the crew who provide the amazing lunches each Wednesday.

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We serve up fabulous lunches each Wednesday like this one.



Henry takes a well deserved rest after lunch.

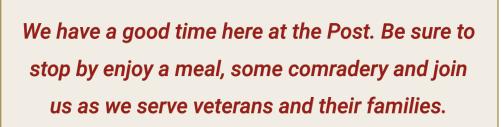
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### Thank You E Clampus Vitus! -June 3, 2024



Special thanks to the Clampers for building the wall behind our flag retirement pit.





Cheers to the Clampers!

# **Chaps Around The Globe**

Dear Comrades,

Thank you so much for your help during the special outreach in the Philippines on May 22 - Jun 7, 2024.

We were able to reach out to thousands of veterans, volunteers, poor children, orphans, students and staff. We placed 34,000 flags on the graves of WW-II veterans.

We fed more than 5,000 students and 100 poor children in the slum area in Manila area.

Again, Thank you so much!

### Placing of 34,000 Flags on the hallowed grounds of Manila American Cemetery - 24 May 2024



### Talisay Elem School Recognition Ceremony - 28 May 2024



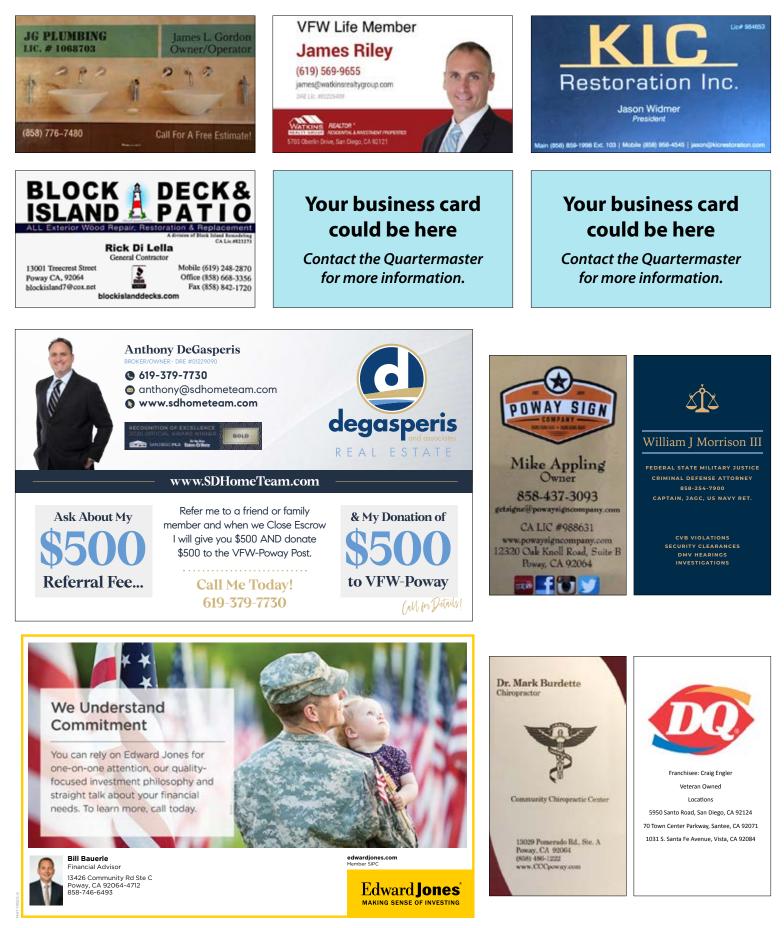
Rafael B. Lacson Memorial High School (formerly called Talisay High School) Graduation 30 May 2024



### Outreach in Manila Area - June 5, 2024



# **Thank You to Our Sponsors and Volunteers**





# **JULY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3:00 рм - 6:00 рм	2 3:00 рм - 8:00 рм	3 11:00 ам-6:00 рм	4 11:30ам-4:00рм	5 3:00 рм - 9:00 рм	6 3:00 рм - 9:00 рм
			11:30AM Grilled chicken, corn on the cob & salad Donation: 10.00 6:00PM Bicycle Club Meeting	12:00-2:00 PM 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Crutcher Car Show & Independence Day Celebration	<b>6:00PM</b> Burger or Chili Cheeseburger with choice of 2 sides	8:00AM Saturday Work Party
7 Canteen Closed	8 3:00 рм - 9:30 рм	9 3:00 рм - 8:00 рм	10 11:00ам-6:00рм	11 3:00рм-6:00рм	12 3:00 рм-9:00 рм	13 3:00 рм-9:00 рм
	5:30pm – 9:30pm Baseball, Beverages & Bags!	6:00PM Auxiliary General Meeting	11:30AM Beef stroganoff & vegetables Donation: 10.00 6:00PM Bicycle Club Meeting		6:00PM Burger or Tortilla Burger with choice of 2 sides 7:00-9:00 PM Live Music with Windjammers	8:00AM Saturday Work Party
14 11:00ам-2:00рм	15 3:00 рм - 9:30 рм	16 3:00 рм - 8:00 рм	17 11:00ам-6:00рм	18 3:00рм-6:00рм	19 3:00рм-9:00рм	20 3:00 рм-6:00 рм
<b>11:00</b> ам-2:00 рм Family Freedom Festival	5:30PM – 9:30PM Baseball, Beverages & Bags! 6:00PM VFW Post Officers / House Committee Chair Meeting	6:30PM BUNCO!	11:30AM BLT, fries & seasoned corn Donation: 10.00 6:00PM Bicycle Club Meeting	6:00 PM VFW 7907 Post Meeting Happy Hour 7:00 PM VFW 7907 Post Meeting	<b>6:00</b> PM Burger or Pizza Burger with choice of 2 sides	8:00AM Saturday Work Party 10:00AM -1:00PM Vietnam Veterans Association Meeting
21 Canteen Closed	22 3:00 рм - 9:30 рм	23 3:00 рм - 8:00 рм	24 11:00ам-6:00рм	25 3:00рм-6:00рм	26 3:00 рм-9:00 рм	27 Canteen Closed
	5:30рм – 9:30рм Baseball, Beverages & Bags!		11:30AM Steak & shrimp, loaded baked potato & corn on the cob Donation: 12.00 6:00PM Bicycle Club Meeting		6:00 PM Burger or Mushroom & Swiss Burger with choice of 2 sides 7:00-9:00 PM Live Music with Country Crossovers	8:00AM Saturday Work Party 4:00 -9:00PM Hall Rented
28 Canteen Closed	29 3:00 рм-9:30 рм <b>5:30 рм – 9:30 рм</b>	30 3:00 рм - 8:00 рм	31 11:00ам-6:00рм 11:30ам			1011
	Baseball, Beverages & Bags!		Burger, pasta salad & dessert	Get Your Birthday Drink!		
			Donation: 10.00		or Auxiliary Life	m
			6:00PM Bicycle Club Meeting		s your birthday tl avo a drink on w	
			Bicycle Club Meeting 6:00PM	month, then h	ave a drink on us	
			Event Planning Meeting			

**Please Note:** We make an effort to list the meals accurately. However, menu items may change. Please check the Post menu board or call the Post to verify.

★ All Gave Some. Some Gave All. ★