### Dates To Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>Family Pasta Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Post Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>Post Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/18</td>
<td>Poppy Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>Post Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/28</td>
<td>Memorial Day Parade and Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Inside This Issue

1. Post Information
2. Woodridge VFW Scholarships
3. VFW Fundraiser Family Pasta Dinner with Raffle
4. Illinois Seeking Veterans to Honor
5. A Real Miracle From WWII
6. VFW Names Youth Scholarship Winners
7. VFW Commander Graduates from Woodridge Citizens Police Academy
8. Family Pasta Dinner Fundraiser with Raffles Flyer
9. Illinois Honor 200 Veterans Flyer
10. Ryan Gustis—The Backpack Project Flyer

---

This Award Winning Newsletter is written for ALL members of VFW Post 1578. If you have an article or any worthy event that you wish to share please call us or email us at woodridgevfw@gmail.com, or mail it to:

**Woodridge Memorial VFW Post 1578**  
P.O. Box 8219  
Woodridge, IL 60517

Visit Us On-Line  
www.woodridgevfw.net

*Post 1578 is a 501(c)(19)*

**Next Post Meeting**

Our next regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, March 27th, at 7:30 pm at Shanahan’s, 1999 W. 75th Street, Woodridge, IL 60517. Plan to attend! All Eligible Veterans are Welcome!!

**Meet and Greet at 7:00 pm**  
**“Safety Meeting” 9:00 until 10:30 pm**

Visit us  
Like us  
on Facebook

---

Woodridge Memorial VFW Post 1578 was chartered on November 8, 1983 with 33 original members. Today we are in our 34th year of community service to the people and Village of Woodridge. Post 1578 is a proud sponsor of:
ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
Jim Stewart VFW Memorial Scholarship

School District 99

See your Guidance Counselor ASAP

Two $1,000.00 Scholarships Available!

Deadline – The deadline for student applications is April 15th with the announcement of the winners on May 1st.

For application information, visit our website at http://woodridgevfw.net/scholarship.

Questions? – You can email us at woodridgevfw@gmail.com or leave a message on the Post answering machine at 630-910-1578.

VFW FUNDRAISER THIS SATURDAY
Family Pasta Dinner with Raffle

Woodridge VFW invites you to a family pasta dinner on Saturday, March 24th. This event will be held at Shanahan’s, located on the corner of 75th Street and Woodward Avenue. (1999 75th Street) All proceeds allow Woodridge VFW Post 1578 to serve our local veterans, the VFW National Home and the Village of Woodridge.

Seating is available from 5:00 – 8:00pm. The meal will be Buffet Style – All you can eat – and includes spaghetti, pasta, salad, bread sticks and dessert. A cash bar is available. Tickets will be available at the door, or in advance from any Post 1578 member, or call the Post at 630-910-1578 and leave a message. Tickets are $10.00 per person or $25.00 per family (children under 12 are free).

The VFW is also raffling off a 43” VIZIO D-SERIES HDTV and a 32” VIZIO D-SERIES HDTV. Raffle tickets are only $15.00 each or 3 for $40.00. Two chances to win! Winner need not be present to win.

Woodridge VFW — 630-910-1578
woodridgevfw@gmail.com
www.woodridgevfw.net

Illinois Seeking Veterans to Honor During Bicentennial Celebration

The state of Illinois has started to accept nominations for Illinois military veterans whose contributions are above and beyond the call of duty.

Two hundred of the nominees will be selected and honored as part of HONOR 200, which will be a signature program of the Illinois Bicentennial Celebration. They will be recognized during Illinois’ 200th birthday party gala on Dec. 3, 2018, at the United Center in Chicago.

“Illinois veterans have played a critical role in defining our heritage,” Gov. Bruce Rauner said in a statement. “They’ve served our country, protected our freedoms, and many of them continue to be a positive force in their communities. It’s only fitting that we honor them and recognize their contributions to society.”

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs will work with veterans organizations throughout the state to promote HONOR 200 and solicit nominations. Nominees will be evaluated on their achievements and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their community.

Anyone can nominate an Illinois veteran. For information and to download the nomination details and forms go to www.illinois200.com.

Written nominations can be sent to the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, 69 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL, 60601 or online at www.illinois.gov/veterans.
A Real Miracle From WWII

You will appreciate this, if you have not already seen it.

In 1943 a mid-air collision on February 1, 1943, between a B-17 and a German fighter over the Tunis dock area, became the subject of one of the most famous photographs of WWII.

An enemy fighter attacking a 97th Bomb Group formation went out of control, probably with a wounded pilot, then continued its crashing descent into the rear of the fuselage of a Flying Fortress named All American, piloted by Lt. Kendrick R. Bragg, of the 414th Bomb Squadron.

When it struck, the fighter broke apart, but left some pieces in the B-17. The left horizontal stabilizer of the Fortress and left elevator were completely torn away. The two right engines were out and one on the left had a serious oil pump leak. The vertical fin and the rudder had been damaged, the fuselage had been cut almost completely through connected only at two small parts of the frame, and the radios, electrical and oxygen systems were damaged. There was also a hole in the top that was over 16-feet long and 4 feet wide at its widest; the split in the fuselage went all the way to the top gunner’s turret.

Although the tail actually bounced and swayed in the wind and twisted when the plane turned and all the control cables were severed, except one single elevator cable still worked, and the aircraft miraculously still flew! The tail gunner was trapped because there was no floor connecting the tail to the rest of the plane. The waist and tail gunners used parts of the German fighter and their own parachute harnesses in an attempt to keep the tail from ripping off and the two sides of the fuselage from splitting apart.

While the crew was trying to keep the bomber from coming apart, the pilot continued on his bomb run and released his bombs over the target.

When the bomb bay doors were opened, the wind turbulence was so great that it blew one of the waist gunners into the broken tail section. It took several minutes and four crew members to pass him ropes from parachutes and haul him back into the forward part of the plane. When they tried to do the same for the tail gunner, the tail began flapping so hard that it began to break off.

The weight of the gunner was adding some stability to the tail section, so he went back to his position. The turn back toward England had to be very slow to keep the tail from twisting off. They actually covered almost 70 miles to make the turn home. The bomber was so badly damaged that it was losing altitude and speed and was soon alone in the sky.

For a brief time, two more Me-109 German fighters attacked the All American. Despite the extensive damage, all of the machine gunners were able to respond to these attacks and soon drove off the fighters. The two waist gunners stood up with their heads sticking out through the hole in the top of the fuselage to aim and fire their machine guns. The tail gunner had to shoot in short bursts because the recoil was actually causing the plane to turn.

Allied P-51 fighters intercepted the All American as it crossed over the Channel and radioed to
the base describing that the appendage was waving like a fish tail and that the plane would not make it and to send out boats to rescue the crew when they bailed out.

The fighters stayed with the Fortress, taking hand signals from Lt. Bragg and relaying them to the base. Lt. Bragg signaled that 5 parachutes and the spare had been "used" so five of the crew could not bail out. He made the decision that if they could not bail out safely, then he would stay with the plane to land it.

Two and a half hours after being hit, the aircraft made its final turn to line up with the runway while it was still over 40 miles away. It descended into an emergency landing and a normal rollout on its landing gear.

When the ambulance pulled alongside, it was waved off because not a single member of the crew had been injured. No one could believe that the aircraft could still fly in such a condition. The Fortress sat placidly until the crew all exited through the door in the fuselage and the tail gunner had climbed down a ladder, at which time the entire rear section of the aircraft collapsed.

This old bird had done its job and brought the entire crew home uninjured.

B-17 "All American" (414th Squadron, 97BG) Crew
Pilot- Ken Bragg Jr.
Co-pilot- G. Boyd Jr.
Navigator- Harry C. Nuessle
Bombardier- Ralph Burbridge
Engineer- Joe C. James
Radio Operator- Paul A. Galloway
Ball Turret Gunner- Elton Conda
Waist Gunner- Michael Zuk
Tail Gunner- Sam T. Sarpolus
Ground Crew Chief- Hank Hyland

Article Submitted by John Sucansky
VFW Names Youth Scholarship Winners

Maryland Student takes VOD 1st Place $30,000 Scholarship

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program celebrated its 71st year with nearly 40,000 students weighing in on this year’s theme, “American History: Our Hope for the Future.”

Robyn Anzulis, sponsored by VFW Post 10076 and its Auxiliary in Mt. Airy, Md., received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she was presented with the $30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship award and delivered her first-place essay.

VFW National Commander Keith E. Harman and VFW Auxiliary President Dee Guillory present Voice of Democracy first-place winner Robyn Anzulis (center) with her $30,000 award.

VFW Announces the 2017-18 Patriot’s Pen National Award Winner

First-place winner Karolina Mazur, from Reisterstown, Md., represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and received the $5,000 North End Post 144, Paul A. Spera Past Commander-in-Chief Award.

VFW National Commander Keith E. Harman and VFW Auxiliary President Dee Guillory present Patriot’s Pen first-place winner Karolina Mazur (center) with her Patriot’s Pen first-place $5,000 award.

VFW Commander Graduates from Woodridge Citizens Police Academy

Congratulations to Woodridge VFW Commander Ray Travis on graduating from the Woodridge Citizens Police Academy! The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is part of a national organization designed to provide local citizens with an insight and understanding of daily law enforcement operations.

CPA is a part of the Woodridge Police Department’s Community Outreach Unit designed to reduce and prevent crime, improve communication, and maintain partnerships within the community. CPA participants gain a working knowledge of practices, policies, and procedures of the Woodridge Police Department. There is NO COST to anyone who participates in the academy.

CPA sessions incorporate lecture and scenario-based formats. Areas of instruction include support services and community programs, Illinois vehicle code, DUI, criminal law, case law, evidence collection, SWAT, defensive tactics, traffic stops, and homicide investigations. Class size is restricted to 20 participants, and will be on a first come first served basis (pending background check).
WOODRIDGE VFW POST 1578
Invites you to a Family Pasta Dinner
Saturday, March 24, 2017
Shanahan’s - 1999 75th Street
75th & Woodward, Woodridge, IL
Please join us to help our Post support Local Veterans, the VFW National Home and the Village of Woodridge!

BUFFET STYLE – ALL YOU CAN EAT

SPAGHETTI
PASTA
SALAD
BREAD STICKS
DESSERT
CASH BAR

TICKETS = $10.00 PER PERSON
$25.00 PER FAMILY
5:00 – 8:00 PM

Tickets Available At The Door

$15.00 RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE 3/$40.00
TWO CHANCES TO WIN!
FIRST PRIZE – VIZIO 43” D-SERIES HDTV
SECOND PRIZE – VIZIO 32” D-SERIES HDTV

Winners Need Not Be Present

For Dinner or Raffle Tickets, you can contact any Post 1578 member, or call the Post at 630-910-1578 and leave a message, or email at woodridgevfw@gmail.com, or visit our web site at www.woodridgevfw.net for more information.
Anyone can nominate an Illinois veteran. For information and to download the nomination details and forms go to [www.illinois.gov/veterans](http://www.illinois.gov/veterans).
About Ryan and The Backpack Project:

Ryan Gustis is an 11-year-old fifth grader at Meadowview Elementary School in Woodridge. After seeing many homeless people in downtown Chicago on a cold day in December 2015, Ryan was inspired to do something to help. He made a list of items that people who are homeless would need to survive the winter. In November 2016, Ryan’s family helped him shop for and pack 10 backpacks to help others. It is important to Ryan that each backpack is hand delivered and that he talks with each person receiving the backpack. Through donations from friends and family, Ryan far exceeded his initial goal and was able to pack and deliver 84 backpacks full of supplies and gift cards during the winter of 2017-2018. For Ryan’s 11th birthday in October 2017, he asked for donations, rather than birthday gifts for himself, for what has become The Backpack Project. Ryan and his family are still packing winter backpacks, and Ryan is now planning for summer backpacks — with some slight changes to what will be in the backpacks to help homeless people during the summer months.

Help us help Ryan collect the critical items needed to help the homeless in our community!

Make donations at the Bridgeview Bank Woodridge location - 3540 Hobson Rd.

ITEMS NEEDED: (New items only)

- Backpacks
- Socks, hats, gloves, and scarfs
- Blankets, tarps, and warmers
- Wipes, lip balm, and tissues (travel size)
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shampoo (travel size), combs, and brushes
- Lotion, deodorant, soap, and body wash
- Small first aid kits
- Feminine care products
- Nuts, granola bars, fruit/breakfast bars, peanut butter, beef jerky, fruit snacks, energy bars, fruit cups, apple sauce cups, peanut butter or cheese crackers, any other appropriate / unopened prepared foods
- Bottled water and sports drinks
- Gift cards to easily accessible restaurants (McDonald’s, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, etc)
- Washcloths and hand towels
- Baseball caps, sunscreen, and ponchos

Please call the Bridgeview Bank Woodridge location at (630) 810-9191 with questions.

Please keep donations limited to the items listed above. Thank you!