**Dates To Remember**

- 6/26  Post Meeting
- 6/29  Summer Fun at the Park
- 7/4   Independence Day Village Picnic
- 7/10  Breakfast Club
- 7/24  Post Meeting
- 8/14  Breakfast Club
- 8/28  Post Meeting

**Inside This Issue**

- Post Information 1
- The Hump 2
- VFW Post 1578 Awards 3
- Summer Fun at the Park 4
- Flag Day 5
- VFW Corn Seal at the Village Independence Day Picnic 6
- Summer Fun at the Park Flyer 6
- Memorial Day Photos (by Henry Ristic) 7
- Memorial Day Photos 8
- Memorial Day Photos 9
- Illinois Honor 200 10

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**“Veterans United”**

**Post Officers**

- Commander—Ray Travis
- Sr. Vice-Commander—Frank Mampreian
- Jr. Vice-Commander—Mike Rennewanz
- Quartermaster—Bob Reichert

**Post Answering Machine**

630-910-1578

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, June 26th, 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**

“Oh Safety Meeting” 9:00 until 10:30 pm

Visit us → Like us → on facebook  Woodridge VFW

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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:
The HUMP

This article was submitted by Post member Mike Rennewanz.

His dad flew 67 missions over the Hump in a C-46 and received the Presidential Unit Citation.

The Hump was the name given by Allied pilots in the Second World War to the eastern end of the Himalayan Mountains over which they flew military transport aircraft from India to China to resupply the Chinese war effort of Chiang Kai-shek and the units of the United States Army Air Forces (AAF) based in China. Creating an airlift presented the AAF a considerable challenge in 1942: it had no units trained or equipped for moving cargo, and no airfields existed in the China Burma India Theater (CBI) for basing the large number of transports that would be needed. Flying over the Himalayas was extremely dangerous and made more difficult by a lack of reliable charts, an absence of radio navigation aids, and a dearth of information about the weather.

The task was initially given to the AAF's Tenth Air Force, and then to its Air Transport Command (ATC). Because the AAF had no previous airlift experience as a basis for planning, it assigned commanders who had been key figures in founding the ATC in 1941–1942 to build and direct the operation, which included former civilians with extensive executive experience operating civil air carriers.

Originally referred to as the "India–China Ferry", the successive organizations responsible for carrying out the airlift were the Assam–Burma–China Command (April–July 1942) and the India-China Ferry Command (July–December 1942) of the Tenth Air Force; and the Air Transport Command's India-China Wing (December 1942 – June 1944) and India-China Division (July 1944 – November 1945).

The operation began in April 1942, after the Japanese blocked the Burma Road, and continued daily to August 1945, when the effort began to scale down. It procured most of its officers, men, and equipment from the AAF, augmented by British, British-Indian Army, Commonwealth forces, Burmese labor gangs and an air transport section of the Chinese National Aviation Corpora-

tion (CNAC). Final operations were flown in November 1945 to return personnel from China.

The India–China airlift delivered approximately 650,000 tons of materiel to China at great cost in men and aircraft during its 42-month history. For its efforts and sacrifices, the India–China Wing of the ATC was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on 29 January 1944 at the personal direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first such award made to a non-combat organization.

The two main aircraft used were the C-46 Curtiss Commando and the C-47 Douglas Sky Train. There were 27 aircraft and 1,100 men in May of 1942. There were 640 aircraft and 34,000 men by July, 1945. The unit suffered 594 aircraft lost, missing or written off, with 1,659 personnel killed or missing.  Presidential Unit Citation
VFW POST 1578 AWARDS
The months of May and June finds our Post busy with award ceremonies!

On May 8th, we awarded two District 99 High School graduates $1,000.00 each with our Jim Stewart Memorial Scholarship.

Charli Bouma is going to the University of Iowa this fall with plans on majoring in psychology. She would love to work with kids. Helping younger ones understand what is going on while they are still growing and developing is what she would love to do. Her father served in the Navy during the Persian Gulf War.

Grant Connolly is going to Rose Hulman Institute of Technology with plans on becoming an aerospace engineer. With the knowledge and understanding gained, he plans to help send people into space, which could have a major effect on the world as a whole. His grandfather served in the Army in Europe in WWII.

On May 19th, our Woodridge VFW Teacher of the Year, Mr. Joseph Wechman, won the Illinois VFW District 19 Teacher of the Year Award. This award was presented by District Commander Tim Jullett and Jr. Vice Commander George Miller, who is the Committee Chairman for Teacher of the Year.

On May 22nd, we awarded the Larry Gervais Patriot Pen Essay Contest winners to two Eighth Grade students from St. Scholastica.

We also awarded Eighth Grader Daniel Antonyuk our Clint DeLaby Extra Miler Award.*

On May 23rd, we awarded the Larry Gervais Patriot Pen Essay Contest winners to six Eighth Grade students at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School.

Jefferson Junior High School Patriot Pen Winners: (left to right) First Place, Emilia Swiereb, Third Place, Beatrice Anne Ramos, Second Place, Gabriel Johnson, Fifth Place, Liveta Ezerskis, Sixth Place, Joseph Payne, and Fourth Place Camrynn Harper.
many more examples of why John was selected for this award, he consistently performs above and beyond expectations."

That night our Post also held it’s Annual Installation Service. Once again our Post was honored by George Cramer, serving as Installation Officer.

On May 24th, we awarded our Clint Delaby Extra Miler Award to Jefferson Seventh Grader Ms. Clair Gustis.

*Clint Delaby was a charter member of the Post, when it started in 1983. He served in Korea.

Clint was on just about every committee. He was very unselfish and was always around to help out. When he became the first member of the Post to die, Post 1578 wanted to honor and remember him. So in 1988 we created the Clint Delaby Extra Miler Award.

The recipient is a behind the scenes volunteer and example setter. They are one who does not need the accolades of others to participate, and works hard at each project. Their reward is knowing that they gave their best each day for school and fellow students. They now become a part of history here at St. Scholastica and Jefferson with their name engraved on the Clint Delaby plaque.

On Monday, June 4th, our Post Awarded The Fire Fighter of the Year to Fire Fighter John Kleronomos. He was introduced by Lisle Woodridge Deputy Chief Steve Demas. “The Lisle-Woodridge Fire District selected John Kleronomos as its Firefighter of the Year. John has been a member of the district for 19 years, he is married and has two children. He is a leader and mentor who promotes unit integrity. It is not uncommon for John to check in on a patient whom he cared for and transported to the hospital. After caring for a patient on accident scene, John and his crew delivered groceries to the elderly patients home while the patient was taken to the hospital. There are

Commander Ray Travis was again sworn in as Commander. This is Ray’s 4th term. Also elected or selected were Frank Mampriean as Senior Vice Commander, Mike Renewanz as Junior Vice Commander, Bob Reichert as Quartermaster, Don Young as Chaplain, Don Curby, as Judge Advocate, John Sucansky as Surgeon, Lee Forassiepi as 3 Year Trustee, George Strejeck as 2 Year Trustee, and Randy Braasch as 1 Year Trustee.
**Flag Day**

On June 14th, Post members, friends, family and Police Officers gathered at the Park District property on Hawthorne Hill and used their fire pit equipment to set up our annual burn and retired about 300 American Flags. The VFW gathers these old worn out flags from the village flag disposal unit located in the lobby of the Police Department/Public Services Building and properly stores them until Flag Day. Then, after a ceremonial reading, each Flag has the blue field with the stars cut away from the red and white stripes and then the remaining cloth is placed into the fire and incinerated.

Thank You Comrade John Sucansky for all your work and storing all the flags!

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**VFW CORN SALE AT THE VILLAGE INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC**

All Woodridge residents are invited to the annual village picnic on July 4th at Castaldo Park beginning at 11:00 am and lasting till 3:00 pm. This event is brought to you by the Woodridge Special Events Committee which is a group of Woodridge residents who work to offer the community unique events like this picnic and Santa comes to Woodridge. This committee relies on fellow residents each year to jump in and volunteer for a two-hour shift to serve food and beverages.

There will be music by The Music Company, free pony rides and train rides and a petting zoo for small children. Hot dogs, brats, chips, Italian Sausage, pop, water, ice cream and beer will be available for a nominal charge. **OUR POST WILL BE SELLING CORN ON THE COB.**

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**Summer Fun At The Park**

JANO's second event of the season is scheduled for Friday, June 29th - 4:00pm-6:00pm at Echo Point Park. The theme for the evening is **Summer Fun At The Park**, which will allow us to not only enjoy fun times with our families and neighbors, but also engage even more to communicate the importance of our mission, determine what they would like to see from our organization moving forward, and most important what our expectations are regarding each of them giving back to the community as a whole.

We will be serving our go to menu (always a hit) - hot dogs and all the fixin's, and ask that our volunteers be there for setup at 3:30pm.

Just in case any of you aren't aware, it is finally official - JANO is now a 501c/3 not for profit organization. It has been a long journey, but well worth the wait. A sincere THANK YOU to each of you for the support, commitment and dedication provided these past two years. We would not be here without you! Look forward to seeing everyone!

Blessing, Anne Banks
PLEASE JOIN JANES AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH (JANO) FOR AN EVENING OF

SUMMER FUN AT THE PARK!

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2017
4:00PM-6:00PM

ECHO POINT PARK
WOODRIDGE DR. AND BRIARWOOD CT.

FRIENDS * FOOD * FUN *
THIS FREE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY
JANO AND FRIENDS OF JANO!
BRING THE FAMILY! SEE YOU THERE!
VFW Post 1578
2018 Memorial Day Parade
VFW Post 1578
Memorial Day Parade
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).