Dates To Remember

- **8/28**: Post Meeting
- **9/11**: Patriot Day
- **9/11**: Breakfast Club
- **9/21**: POW/MIA Day
- **9/28**: Post Meeting
- **9/30**: Rockin’ for the Cause
- **10/9**: Breakfast Club
- **10/15-21**: Haunted Forest Walk

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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

**Visit Us On-Line**

[www.woodridgevfw.net](http://www.woodridgevfw.net)

Post 1578 is a 501(c)(19)

Next Post Meeting

Our next regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, August 28th, 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](https://www.facebook.com/WoodridgeVFW) on Facebook

Woodridge VFW

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:
Legendary 'Sgt. Rosie,' Missing Since WWII, Laid to Rest in Los Angeles

July 24, 2018 - Flags in California were at half-staff last week to honor "Sgt. Rosie" of the 82nd Airborne Division, who fell 74 years ago in the attempt to break through against the Germans known as Operation Market Garden.

The unsuccessful operation was made into the movie "A Bridge Too Far."

His family had never given up on the return of Sgt. David Rosenkrantz, son of Russian-Jewish immigrants from the Watts section of Los Angeles who served with Company H, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, during World War II.

Their efforts connected them with an intrepid Dutch researcher, Ben Overland, who had found a crude map of a farmhouse where Rosenkrantz fell in a firefight.

The map was inscribed with a Star of David and simple words, presumably written by one of Rosenkrantz' buddies: "Sgt. Rosie KIA."

The inscription was a key factor in the work of international teams who found Rosenkrantz' remains in a Canadian cemetery, where he had been buried as an unknown American soldier.

At the burial service in Riverside National Cemetery in Los Angeles last Friday, his nephew, Dr. Phillip Rosenkrantz, said, "This is a day I have been hoping for over 20 years. We now have some closure," The Los Angeles Times reported.

"We are honored to have the 82nd Airborne Division here. It means a great deal to us to have his unit represented, presenting his awards," Dr. Rosenkrantz said in a statement.

The awards included the Bronze Star with Combat "V" device, the Purple Heart, the Combat Parachutist Badge with two bronze stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Netherlands Orange Lanyard.

"My family and I would like to thank all of the people who helped locate our uncle and bring him home to be buried with his four brothers, who were also part of World War II and are buried at Riverside National Cemetery," Dr. Rosenkrantz said.

"We always say that when you serve in the 82nd Airborne Division, you walk in the footsteps of legends," Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, the division historian, said in a statement delivered at the ceremony. "Today, one of those legends has returned home."

The legend of Sgt. Rosie began in 1943, when he parachuted into Sicily with the 504th. He and another 82nd soldier, Cpl. Lee Black, were blown off course. They landed next to about 200 Italian troops and were briefly captured. The Italians then decided to surrender to the two Americans, Buccino said.

Back home, banner headlines in the Los Angeles newspapers read, "L.A. Paratrooper, Buddy Captures 200 Italians," and "Los Angeles Warrior 'Captures his Captors.'"

Rosenkrantz was wounded in the Sicily invasion but went on to serve in the Italian campaign before being sent to Britain to prepare for the invasion of France and the push into Germany.

The 82nd was led at the time by the legendary Maj. Gen. James M. "Jumpin' Jim" Gavin, who at age 37 was the youngest two-star in the U.S. military at the time.

Rosenkrantz was held back from the division's participation in the D-Day landings but later assigned to Operation Market Garden, a daring plan to drop paratroopers into the Netherlands and secure a road and bridges to speed the end of the war.

On Sept. 28, 1944, Rosenkrantz' unit occupied a farm south of the Dutch town of Groesbeek when they were attacked by German tanks and infantry, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) said.
Rosenkrantz was killed by a machine-gun burst. "Due to enemy fire and the proximity to enemy troops, Rosenkrantz' remains could not be recovered," the DPAA said.

From 1945 to 1952, Canadian, Dutch and American Graves Registration teams were active in the area where Rosenkrantz died; the Dutch team found his dog tags. There were also sparse remains, but they were unidentifiable, the DPAA said.

Unknown to the search teams, a Canadian team earlier had collected remains from the area around Groesbeek and buried them at the Canadian National Cemetery as unknowns. The search lost traction for decades.

Inspired by the 1977 movie "A Bridge Too Far," Dr. Rosenkrantz eventually set up a website to aid in the search for his uncle. He made three trips to Holland and also established contact with Overland and 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment historian Frank Van Lunteren.

Through their efforts, the DPAA disinterred a grave at the Canadian National Cemetery in Margraten. Working with mitochondrial DNA, the DPAA confirmed the remains in March as those of Rosenkrantz.

Buccino, the 82nd historian, said Rosenkrantz had been one of 106 from the division still missing from World War II, including Brig. Gen. Charles "Bull" Keerans, the highest-ranking U.S. officer listed as MIA.

"As a nation, we celebrate our war dead and we cherish the accomplishments of our World War II veterans, but we sometimes lose sight of the fact that they have not all been found," Buccino said. "They have not all been given the service and ceremony that we owe them. As a nation, we must commit to finding all of them."

Rosenkrantz was a prolific letter writer to his extended family, and several of the letters have previously been posted by Military.com.

In a letter from Naples in December 1943, he wrote: "Today is starting out real nice. Just like at home. A little frost in the morning, then a bright clear sun, the rest of the day. At least we hope so. It rained about 26 days out of the last month. Not continual, but during some part of the day.

This is sunny Italy all right, but the sun comes in such small bunches and everytime it rains the snow gets a little lower on the mountains. Might have a white Christmas yet.

"We have been resting and eating pretty well," the letter continued. "We have fried chicken promised us from some people in town here. We trade some stuff we would ordinarily throw away. These people really are poor. They even put patches on patches. They won't take money because there is nothing to buy. The best stores in Naples wouldn't even be a close second in Watts. It is a nice looking country though, but looks don't count here.

"As for me, I'm still OK and feeling pretty good now. Hope you are all the same. So long and good luck. Love to Ma & Pa & all the rest," he wrote.
According to the Veterans Health Administration’s (VHA) Office of Veterans Access to Care, as of July 9, more than 3.24 million patients have received VEText messages and canceled 319,504 appointments, freeing up time slots for other Veterans to use.

Veterans who have previously used the VA health-care system — with a cell phone number listed in their electronic health records — are automatically enrolled in VEText. Veterans can update their phone numbers during the check-in or check-out process for an appointment, at any kiosk or if they have a My HealtheVet Premium account at https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home.

VEText is integrated with VA’s electronic health records system and does not require manual action by VA staff. Appointments are automatically scheduled and canceled via text message, freeing staff to provide more personalized care to Veterans.

“VEText has changed the way we communicate with our Veteran patients,” said John Ullyot, VA Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. “Veterans appreciate the convenient, user-friendly system and understand this technology not only helps them, but their fellow Veterans as well.”

For more information about VEText, visit: https://www.va.gov/HEALTH/VEText.asp.

VFW Elects Vincent ‘B.J.’ Lawrence as New National Commander

KANSAS CITY, Mo. July 25, 2018 — Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M., was elected today as the new national commander of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from all five branches of the armed forces.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986 and earned his eligibility by serving in South Korea, where an armistice, or cease-fire agreement, has existed since July 27, 1953, and where war could erupt at a moment’s notice. He joined VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, and immediately began moving the organization forward into the new millennium. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected commander at every level of the organization. His theme for the year and challenge to the $102 million nonprofit organization is to “Make It Happen.”

He said “everything the VFW wants costs money, but everything the VFW wants is for someone else.” Through donations and corporate partnerships, the organization has provided more than $10 million in financial grants to help almost 9,000 veteran and military families through tough times since 2004. It has awarded almost $5 million in educational grants since 2014 to help more than 1,100 veterans and military service members to complete their degrees, and its youth patriotic scholarship competition, which drew some 133,000 middle and high school entries this year, awarded $3 million to local, state and national winners. The VFW national organization also testified before Congress more than three dozen times this year to improve quality of life programs and healthcare for veterans, service members and their families, and VFW’s nationwide cadre of trained and accredited service officers helped more than 500,000 veterans to recoup $7.7 billion in disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2017.

Aiding VFW’s corporate relationships is its VFW Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) charity that earlier this month was awarded a coveted four-star rating by Charity Navigator, which sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.

For all the organization already does for others every day, Lawrence now wants the 1.2 million-member VFW to “Make It Happen” even more in
WASHINGTON (July 27, 2018) — Now that North Korea has unilaterally turned over 55 boxes of remains believed to contain missing American servicemen from the Korean War, the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process.

"Some 5,300 of 7,699 American unaccounted-for war dead are believed to be in North Korea, and 111 of our 126 Cold War missing are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, yet family reference samples on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses," said new VFW National Commander Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, all immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. Relatives should contact a military service casualty officer for information on how to provide a DNA sample. Those numbers are:

- Army: (800) 892-2490
- Marine Corps: (800) 847-1597
- Navy: (800) 443-9298
- Air Force: (800) 531-5501
- State Department: (202) 485-6106

"Today marks 65 years since the signing of the armistice, or cease-fire agreement," said Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M. "The potential for peace on the peninsula in the macro sense has to be on denuclearizing North Korea, but to the families of the missing, their macro view of the world begins at home, where for more than six decades they have been asking questions that have mostly gone unanswered. This is why ensuring a family reference sample is on file is so important. Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match."
Congratulations to our own Post member, George Strejcek, whose book, *91 Bravo Medic: A Memoir of the Second Korean War*, was reviewed in the August issue of VFW Magazine (page 44).

Back in February, 2015, George wrote, “Here is a description of my book. "Almost fifty years ago a small cross border war erupted along the 38th parallel between North and South Korea. Virtually unknown by most Americans, I was a witness to one year of that conflict. This is a memoir of an army medic who was there.""

George is an active member of Woodridge Post 1578. His book is available on amazon.com, priced at $9.95. It is also available for kindle.

This year’s event will be at the Lisle Headquarters. Exact time is not known yet, but we’ll let you know as soon as possible. Our Post will supplement the Woodridge Police Department Honor Guard with several rifles.

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of efforts, originally launched in 2002 that promotes community service on 9/11 as an annual and forward-looking tribute to the 9/11 victims, survivors, and those who rose up in service in response to the attacks.
July 25, 2018

Dear Woodridge VFW,

Thank you for your donation of $100.00 to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. We are a non-profit organization founded by veterans, providing our nation’s heroes with housing and the necessary services to help them rebuild their lives. Your generous gift gives critical support to homeless and at-risk veterans.

With the generosity of your support, MSHV serves over 500 veterans and family members with housing, employment, case management, and support services each year. You make it possible to provide veterans with specific life-changing assistance such as: career assessments, job placement, temporary housing, rental payments, goal setting, transportation, and counseling. You have helped these brave men and women who have served our nation so selflessly to access the service they now need and deserve from us.

They are most grateful for your support. Your generosity is restoring hope, reuniting families and rebuilding veterans’ lives.

With sincere gratitude,

Yvonne MacDonald-Hames

Director of Development

The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (Federal Tax ID #36-4337985). No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this letter for tax purposes.

This transaction was processed by ConnectedView. The phone number for ConnectedView will appear on your credit card statement, along with the name of the non-profit organization.
The M5 Stuart was the Army’s standard light tank at the beginning of World War II.

The M41A3 Walker Bulldog was a light tank and was quick and maneuverable with a top speed of 45 mph.

As the Cold War continued, the need for better tanks in large numbers grew. The M47 Patton followed the M46 as the Army’s main battle tank.

The M48 Patton was developed during the Cold War to replace the M47 as the US Army’s main battle tank.

The M60 Patton main battle tank entered service in 1960 to counter the new Soviet tanks found to have superior firepower to the M48 series of tanks then serving in Europe.

The M551A1 Sheridan was an armored reconnaissance/airborne assault vehicle rather than a tank.

Pictures and collage by Henry Ristic.
The Woodridge Rotary Club presents our 3rd annual Rockin’ The Cause Concert Fundraiser. About half of the students participating in music programs need some type of financial assistance. All of the musicians and bands who perform at Rockin’ the Cause will donate their time and talent to help raise money for those kids in need of musical instruments and financial assistance. Our school’s music programs inspire creativity and expression and lead to success in school. Let’s keep the music alive in our schools!

- School Concert & Pep Band Performances starting at noon
- Local Bands play from 3:00-9:00 PM
- Food & Beverage for Purchase
- 50/50 & Raffles
- Sponsorship Opportunities Available
- Lawn Chairs Welcome
- No Outside Beverages/Coolers

www.woodridge rotary.org
CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

On average, 20 Veterans a day are lost to suicide.

Express what this means to you.

Submit a creative piece of work (poem, drawing, photograph, artwork, etc.) expressing what losing 20 Veterans a day to suicide means to you.

All entries must be submitted by Friday, August 24th. All Veterans, family & friends of Veterans, and staff members are invited to submit entries.

Please contact Susan Zacharia, LCSW at 708.202.5844 or susan.zacharia2@va.gov

Artwork will be displayed at Hines VA 5000 S. 5th Ave, Hines, IL on Wednesday, September 5th, 2018 9AM-3PM
Two Great Events
One Great Day
September 5th, 2018
Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, Building 200, 5000 S. 5th Ave, Hines, IL 60141

Get Healthy at Hines

Outside Main Entrance
Building 200
*rain location in building 9 (auditorium)

All Day
Come find your roadmap to a healthier YOU!

Main Lobby
Building 200
9am — 3pm

On average, 20 Veterans a day are lost to suicide.

We asked Veterans and VA Staff to express what this means to them.

Please join us as we view their artwork during a one day event at Hines VA Hospital.

4th Annual Suicide Prevention Awareness Art Event! Month

Questions? Contact Susan Zacharia 708.202.5844