



Newsletter

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
ROSEMOUNT, MN. POST 9433

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April 2009

Post Officers

Commander : Mark Monson
Senior Vice : Linn Laage
Junior Vice : Steve Dodge
Quartermaster : Pam Russell

Support Our Troops



Until and After
They All Come Home

Auxiliary Officers

President : Brenda Howard
Senior Vice : Becky Anderson
Junior Vice : Sherrie Groff
Treasurer : Bonnie Hankes

Commander's Corner

Dear Comrades,

In our own form of an economic stimulus package, we finally got approval from the city of Rosemount to go ahead with construction of our outdoor patio. We have solicited bids from several contractors for this project and are very close to choosing the winning bidder. It is our hope that the patio will be completed by the first of May when the post hosts the 2nd district's loyalty days meeting.

The post is now in the process of electing its annual officers. I encourage all members to come down and exercise your right to vote in this election. Every voice is important in this process. In addition, I would encourage all members to attend our monthly post meetings. With some recent hospitalizations of post members this highlights the reality that we need more members willing to take on both elected and volunteer positions at the post to help keep us running and supporting our community.

A great example of our community support comes from the post building itself. With the amount of soldiers that have been deployed from our area recently, it is extremely important to have a place where these soldiers and veterans can come and relax and talk to people with like experience; the post is just that place. As veterans we all can understand this feeling of where can I fit in. The post and our Ladies Auxiliary are also very important to the families of the deployed soldiers. We can help them out with our knowledge of what happens during a deployment, what to expect when soldiers come home, and help out with unmet needs.

Hoping that spring will eventually arrive, the post is going to have an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for children (ages 0 through 12) on Sunday April 5th from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. The children will be looking for colored eggs with candy in them or colored eggs with a ticket in them for other prizes. Since this will be an outdoor event, come dressed for the weather (boots, hats, gloves, etc.). We hope to see you there!


May God bless you and each and every one of our service members and their families.

Mark Monson, Commander

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

House Committee - 6:00 P.M.
Post & Auxiliary Meeting - 7:30 P.M.




Be There !

Remember : You could win a CASH REWARD just for attending !!!

Saint Patrick's
Day


Tuesday, March 17

Corn Beef & Cabbage - \$8.00



V.F.W. Auxiliary

Bake Sale



Please donate some goodies !

Starting at Noon.

Remember: Friday's Lent Fish Fry
Donate Blood for OUR Wounded Soldiers
VA Blood Donor Center: 612-725-2275.

CHECK OUT THE POST WEB-SITE
www.vfwpost9433.org

Disclaimer: Articles & opinions in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the opinions of Post 9433 or it's Officers. Newsletter contact: 952-953-3594

Obama's Plan for Wounded Vets to Use Private Insurance

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki confirmed Tuesday that the Obama administration is considering a controversial plan to make veterans pay for treatment of service-related injuries with private insurance.

No official proposal to create such a program has been announced publicly, but veterans groups wrote a pre-emptive letter last week to President Obama voicing their opposition to the idea after hearing the plan was under consideration.

The groups also cited an increase in "third-party collections" estimated in the 2010 budget proposal -- something they said could be achieved only if the Veterans Administration started billing for service-related injuries.

Asked about the proposal, Shinseki said it was under "consideration." "A final decision hasn't been made yet," he said.

Currently, veterans' private insurance is charged only when they receive health care from the VA for medical issues that are not related to service injuries, like getting the flu. Charging for service-related injuries would violate "a sacred trust," Veterans of Foreign Wars spokesman Joe Davis said. Davis said the move would risk private health care for veterans and their families by potentially maxing out benefits paying for costly war injury treatments.

Eleven of the most prominent veterans organizations have been lobbying Congress to oppose the idea. In the letter sent last week to the president, the groups warned that the idea "is wholly unacceptable and a total abrogation of our government's moral and legal responsibility to the men and women who have sacrificed so much."

The groups included The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

At the time, a White House spokesman would neither confirm nor deny the option was being considered.

From Gish...

Because He Cared, War Dead Get The Respect They're Due

STEVE REDESKE, Special to the Star Tribune - GAIL ROSENBLUM, Star Tribune - March 7, 2009



PHOTO - STEVE REDESKE

Because of the efforts of Eric Besvold, Northwest Airlines now uses this special cart, featuring magnetic decals for the service branches, to transport the caskets of war dead arriving in the Twin Cities.

In June 2006, Besvold, a St. Paul resident who works on the baggage ramp for Northwest Airlines, was jolted by what he saw one afternoon. After the normal sea of luggage down the conveyor belt came a military casket, "like just another piece of freight." He believed there was nothing intentional about the abandonment of military procedures guaranteeing respectful handling of soldiers' remains. "No one knew anymore," he said. "There hasn't war in a long time." Still, he thought, it wasn't right.

Throughout that summer and into the fall, Besvold recruited co-workers and supervisors up the ranks to change that. With the help of managers Steve Redeske and Bill White, along with Bill Lentsch, senior vice president of flight

operations, Besvold ordered a special cart to be used only for transporting deceased soldiers. He decorated it with magnetic military emblems purchased by the airline, then bought flags with his own money to fly above the caskets. Duluth VFW Post 6320/137 donated the first casket flag. "This was, frankly, a very easy thing for us to support," said Lentsch, who credits Besvold with doing the lion's share of the work. "These are people who fought hard for our country and deserve our respect."

Besvold, a third-generation Navy man who served in Kuwait in 2005, is most proud that he has taught nearly 50 fellow ramp workers the correct procedures for honoring the military dead. The routine starts from the moment they arrive (first out of the cargo hold) to the moment they are returned (first on) to the cargo hold for the next flight, if MSP is not their last stop. In this manner, airport workers have honored 15 fallen soldiers from Minnesota and Wisconsin in the past two years, with more than 200 for those en route elsewhere. Sometimes, a child-size casket arrives holding just a few remains. But the ceremony remains unchanged. "That's how the family wants it," he said.

Besvold grew up in Superior, Wis. His grandfather served in World War II; his father in Vietnam. He joined the Navy out of high school and has been working at NWA since 1998. He's considering reenlisting and returning to the Middle East next year and is glad that the program, now also in place in Detroit because of his efforts, is in good hands if he leaves. He has earned commendations from the Air Force and Gov. Tim Pawlenty for his work. But that's not why he does it.

"I've had nothing but compliments from peers, management, pilots, family and friends who are proud of me for starting something that's been successful," he said. "But, how can I say this? I'm glad I started this program, but I just don't want to see the fallen soldiers come home anymore."

Post 9433 Wednesday Night Bingo
Progressive Jackpot
Cash Prizes
Games Start at 7:00 P.M.
Food Specials 5 - 9
All Are Welcome

Don't wait until you break...

Need help with Veterans Benefits?
Dakota County Veterans Services,
651-554-5601.

WIN \$\$\$!!

Charitable Gaming
Powerball & Minnesota Lottery
PULL TABS \$1.00
Mon.-Fri. 2:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Sat. 11:00 AM - 1:00 AM
Sun. Noon - 1:00 AM

Support Your Club