



# OZAUKEE COUNTY VETERANS NEWS



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ISSUE 02

## NEW AREA CODE TAKES EFFECT !

If you haven't noticed yet, the **262** area code has taken effect. The Phone Company says that we are NOT supposed to get billed for long distance calls to those numbers that were previously not long distance before the change took effect. I would advise everyone to take a close look at your next few phone bills to ensure that you are not being charged. If you find any problems, notify the Phone Company immediately! I would recommend that if you find problems, and notify the phone company, that you do so not only over the telephone, but also follow it up with a letter, and keep a copy of that letter for your own records, in case the you have further difficulties in getting the problem resolved. Remember, if you are having problems with any company delivering on a promise, you should notify the Wisconsin Department of Consumer Protection to register a formal complaint. Their phone number is in the book, under "*State Government*".



## SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE IRS

If you are one of the 8 million people who pay taxes on your Social Security benefits, then you already know what a pain it is to file estimated tax payments every quarter. Did you know that you can get around this? You can have your taxes automatically withheld from your payments thanks to a joint program offered by the SSA and the IRS.

To take advantage of this program, you will need to complete an IRS Form W-4V. These forms are available from the IRS by calling 1-800-829-3676. The SSA does **NOT** have these forms. The only real drawback to the program, is that you must designate a specific percentage of either 7, 15, 28 or 31 percent. No other options are available, and specific dollar amounts are also **NOT** permitted. If you need to figure out what each percentage equates to in terms of dollars, call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

## THE HOAX AGAIN !

No matter how many times I print this particular piece, I keep getting calls about these supposed "DIVIDENDS". In the past three months, I have fielded probably 30 calls or office visits asking about these insurance dividends.

### ONCE AGAIN---THERE ARE NO "SPECIAL DIVIDENDS"!!!!

Please see the attached sheet, which I downloaded directly from the VA web-site.

Please "spread the word"! As another caution...some companies are offering to assist in getting you these bogus benefits, for a fee. If you should be contacted by one of these unscrupulous individuals, immediately notify the VA

## BURIAL HONORS PROGRAM

The State Legislature has moved quickly on this issue. The bill has passed both the Assembly and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature. I anticipate that by the time you read this, it will have become law. We will have to wait and see if the promises made, are promises kept, regarding the funding for the program in the future.





**SALUTE TO THE LEGISLATURE**

Well, we tried! A good contingent from our county made the trip to Madison for the annual Salute to the Legislature, problem was, the legislators were a “no-show”. It would seem that the Assembly was in session, and continued into the evening. Most of us stayed until around 7:00 PM, then we gave up and came home. Mary Panzer was at a meeting in Mequon, but she sent one of her staffers by, to say hello. Some of the group did manage to corner Tim Hoven and Mickey Lehman Earlier in the day and got their picture taken in the Assembly Chamber. Some of the rest of us were in meetings at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

The DAV did do a great job in getting the program set up! The Wisconsin National Guard made a sizable donation to the WWII Memorial Fund and the County Veterans Service Officers Association also made a \$1,000 donation the following day during a meeting of the Council on Veterans Programs.

**SENATOR FEINGOLD VISITS GRAFTON**

Senator Russ Feingold came to Grafton on his annual pilgrimage to Ozaukee County. This afforded a number of people to present their concerns to the Senator. Several veterans spoke out about the Flag Amendment. The Senator will NOT change his point of view on this issue. He readily admits that he is not gaining any support at home because of his stance, but will NOT change his position. On a more mundane topic, I spoke to him about my concerns regarding the implementation of the Millennium Healthcare Act. I have concerns about whether the increased costs are going to be passed on to the veterans, or if we are going to really get a “benefit”. He has asked that I draft a letter expressing my concerns, and I will be doing so, right after I get back from a meeting with the head of the VA Healthcare system from our area. I wasn’t to make sure I have all the latest facts.

**YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY**

The annual American Legion Youth Government Day was held here in Port Washington on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We had a great turnout of young people, but were a little short on Legion Members for escorts. None the less, everything ran smoothly and we had a well-behaved bunch. No one with

purple hair and nose rings this year! The County Council of the American Legion also presented a plaque to out-going County Board Chair Leroy Bley, thanking him for his many years of support of the Youth Government Program. We trust that the new Board Chair will continue to support the program as strongly as Leroy has over the years!



Sign seen in a store window:

**“Why go elsewhere to be cheated when you can come here?”**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

The following news shorts were taken from a combination of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force Times Newspapers, as they appear on the Internet.

**The Navajo Code Talkers want Congressional recognition.**

They are petitioning Congress to Provide recognition to those individuals who were an integral part of the war in the Pacific. Most of these individuals received no medals or other recognition following the war, many believe because of racist attitudes that were prevalent at the time.



**Vietnam Veterans gets US Postage Stamp.**

The US Postal Service recently unveiled a stamp honoring Vietnam Veterans. The 33 cent stamp pictures a veteran touching the “Wall” which bears the name of the 58,000 names of people killed during the Vietnam War. The stamp was selected by the public to recognize the 1980’s, in the Post Office’s commemorative series.



**Safer Helicopters?** New Mexico State University scientist believe they have come up with a possible solution to better measure stress and wear on helicopter

rotor blades. They are in the process of adapting a fiber optic sensor that is currently used in road surfaces to measure stress, for use in rotor blades. This data would provide the pilot with “real-time” indications of what stresses his rotors are under going.



**Helicopter Pilots** The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association will hold its annual convention in Washington, D.C. June 30 through July 5. For more information call 1-800-505-8472.

**POW’s want Japan to apologize.** Former POW’s from the State of Nebraska, are supporting a resolution in their State Legislature that would call on Japan to apologize for their treatment of POW’s during WWII. California passed a similar resolution in August of 1999.



**Strike could delay the F-22**

A strike by Boeing technical workers could delay some testing a production of the newest tactical fighter. The Air Force is planning on

ultimately purchasing 333 of the planes. Nine are currently built or near completion, and two others are in earlier stages of production.

**Anthrax Vaccine continues to cause controversy.**

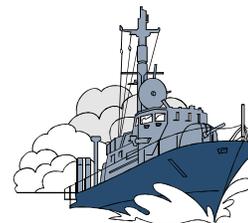
12 out of the 34 pilots in the Indiana National Guard in Fort Wayne are barred from flying, because they have refused to take part in the Anthrax vaccination program Their unit is preparing for an overseas deployment to the Middle East.



A Marine was convicted Feb 17th at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station for refusing to take his anthrax vaccination. He was convicted of refusing a lawful order and sentenced to reduction in grade, forfeiture of pay, 30 days in the brig, and a BCD.

**New shape for old shipyard.**

Known for many years as the building yard for the Navy’s “greyhounds”—destroyers, cruisers and frigates, the Bath Iron Works, is beginning a new project. They have been awarded a contract to build an LPD (Amphibious Dock Landing Ship). The last ship built by Bath that was not lean and mean, was a tanker they constructed in 1984.



**Sign seen on a Loan Office:**

**“Ask us about our plans for owning your home”**

**Doolittle Raider Dies**

Retired Air Force Col. Dean Davenport, co-pilot of the bomber “*Ruptured Duck*” Passed away on Feb 14, 200 in Panama City, Fl. Davenport’s Pilot, Lt. Ted Lawson, authored the book “*Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*” The book was subsequently made into a movie starring Van Johnson and Spencer Tracy. The “*Ruptured Duck*” Was one of 16 B-25 Mitchell Bombers launched from the USS Hornet about 650 miles from Tokyo on April 18, 1942. Though of little strategic importance, the raid provided a significant morale boost to America during the dark early days of WWII. The survivors hold a reunion every April where sterling goblets are turned over to commemorate the death of each Doolittle raider. When only two are remaining, they will open a special bottle of cognac, and toast their fallen comrades. His daughter said that he never missed a reunion, and was hanging on for that bottle of brandy.



**It’s never too late!**

After 83 years, Mr. Edwin Lewis finally has his medal. The 104-year-old Illinois resident received his WWI victory medal on Feb 17 in a ceremony at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Lewis enlisted in the Navy in 1917 and served on the battleship USS Ohio, then the destroyer USS Stringham during the war. After serving two years and beating a flu epidemic by drinking lots of whiskey, he was discharged. Lewis later married and settled in the Chicago area. The push for the medal came when Lewis’ grandnephew learned that he had never requested the award. Rear Admiral Edward Hunter, commander of the Naval Training Center, presented the award. It is estimated that fewer than 4,800 veterans of WWI remain in the United States.



**Shared Ride Taxi Service**

A reminder that Ozaukee County runs a taxi service for travel inside the county. The hours of operation and the costs are on the enclosed pamphlet. Questions can be directed to the service provider at 1-800-925-9590. The county’s Office on Aging supervises the operation of the program. Services are provided

through a contracted company.



This service is **NOT** to be confused with the Ozaukee Express Bus Service. The bus provides transportation to and from Milwaukee County, primarily for workers.



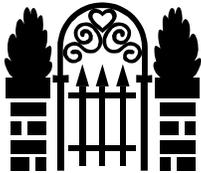
**POW/MIA UPDATE**

Recently, the North Koreans made a big publicity push to say that they had “discovered” a large common grave that **MAY** contain the remains of up to 400 U.S. Soldiers. Further investigation of this claim revealed that they really only had one or two sets of remains. They were attempting to use this ploy to get the DOD to tie humanitarian aid to the search for MIAs. The DOD has strongly resisted these attempts in the past. This was all part of negotiations that were underway to try to establish a timetable for searches this year.

It just goes to show how low these people will go!

**ANNUAL  
REMINDER !!!!!**

Its that time of year once again for all that help decorate the cemeteries for Memorial Day. Sue has been working hard to get the lists all transferred over to a new database, hopefully one that will be more reliable! We have ordered and received the flags, as well as a limited supply of flag holders. Please start planning for your day(s), and getting your volunteers together. As usual, call Sue to schedule when you want to come in and pick up your flags/holders.



**FLAG DAY  
FOUNDATION**

The National Flag Day Foundation is planning a Commemorative Courtyard At their Americanism Center. They are selling bricks, which will be engraved as a permanent record of your contribution. The bricks are selling for \$100. Information is on the attached sheets, and includes an order form for you or your Post.



Sign seen on a military base:

**“Restricted to  
Unauthorized  
Personnel”**

**ELECTION DAY**

Don’t forget that April 4 is Election Day in many of our communities. This includes the election of Town/Village Officials, County Supervisors, Presidential Primaries, and several referendums. Make sure to mark your calendars, and get out to do your civic duty.

**VOTE!!!!**

**VA HEALTHCARE**

In my last newsletter I talked about the benefits of adding the VA Healthcare system to your available choices for care. It was pointed out to me that I was negligent by not inserting a caution in that item. So here is the added information. If you do choose to enroll and utilize the VA as one of your healthcare providers, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** to remember to keep all of your healthcare providers fully informed of any and all medications you are currently taking. This includes “over-the-counter” medications. If you fail to do this, you could be given/prescribed other medications that do not interact well with your current medications. This can have very serious consequences! So, make sure you keep your doctor(s) informed as to the types and

quantities of all medications you are taking.



**KOREAN WAR  
REMEMBERED**

This year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Korean War. The Korean War has also become known as the “Forgotten War”. Although this conflict ended in 1953, by many aspects it still isn’t over. No armistice was signed, no surrender, just a cease-fire agreement. It is certainly evident by the words and actions of the North Koreans, that they still feel the war is ongoing! This marked the first of the “proxy” wars, which in reality were fought by the superpowers, on some one else’s turf. During the Korean War the Unites States suffered 36,934 killed, 103,284 wounded, and nearly 8,100 remain as MIAs. The State of Wisconsin will hold several commemorative events over the coming 3 years; I will keep you informed of the particulars, as details become available. There are a number of websites that can be found dealing with the Korean War, The Korean War Veterans have a website at [www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org), you will need a sound card to really appreciate the site.



## Current Legislation

A bill of interest to all of us is still bouncing around committees. This Bill AB 113 would require that a US Flag be displayed in all classrooms, and require that the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem be "offered" daily.

I personally am a bit appalled that we have to get a law passed in order to get the schools on board with this idea. I believe that the majority of schools within our county already do this as a matter of routine. I know that some of the posts have taken it upon themselves to make sure that flags are available to the schools for this purpose. Have you checked what is going on in your local Elementary and Secondary Schools?

Consider contacting your legislator to voice your support for this piece of legislation.

### **Sen. Mary Panzer**

335-5350 or  
800-662-1227.

### **Rep. Michael Lehman**

673-7979  
608-267-2367

### **Rep. Glenn Grothman**

338-8061  
608-264-8486

### **Rep Tim Hoven**

284-2011  
608-267-2369

## THOUGHTS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

You will find attached some articles that I down loaded from the Internet. They are a brief history of Memorial Day, as well as some thoughts from others regarding this day of reflection. I invite you to share them with family and friends.

"Life without that of one who serves their country proud, freely, and valiantly, would be a life void of love, dreams, freedom. A Life void of the many treasures so many of us call life. Children, friends, cars. Boats, planes, photos, books, stories, smiles, all a part of a life. To those of you who wear the uniform of our country with pride today, and for those of you who wore the uniform in days past, these few words go out to you, and hope they bring life in it's fullness unto you and yours. You gave of yourself, to protect and keep that life which you had learned and begun to love. You gave of your family, you gave of your life, some came home, some never did, some live in our memories, some in our tears, taken in life both young and old, no score card to determine who went and who returned. So accept these simple words of thanks."

Thank - You

(Anonymous)



## TAPS

Since January of this year, we bade farewell to the following comrades:

Richard J. Ehr	01-05-00
John R. Cooper	01-14-00
Vernon Elliot	01-11-00
Edward Kraemer	01-13-00
David Schmitz	01-06-00
Robert Klas	01-16-00
Gerald Baker	01-22-00
Donald Bittner	01-24-00
Joseph Vallone	01-26-00
Kirby Frushour	01-25-00
Ervin Seidler	01-21-00
Wilmer Hilgendorf	01-31-00
Thomas Brewer	02-04-00
Wallace Strong	02-08-00
Gerald Decker	02-09-00
Daniel Voigt	02-09-00
William Lamp	02-17-00
William Heitz	02-17-00
Charles Marcks	02-24-00
Howard VanLangen	02-25-00
Raymond Becker	03-01-00
Richard Geib	03-05-00
Ronald Schultz	03-09-00