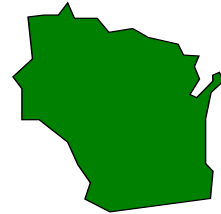




OZAUKEE COUNTY VETERANS NEWS



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Issue 4

KOREAN WAR VETERANS SERVICE MEDAL

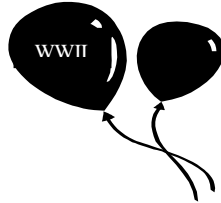
The Republic of Korea has awarded the Korean War Veterans Service Medal to members of the armed forces from 21 UN member countries, in recognition of their Korean Service. The US Government has recently authorized Korean War Veterans to wear the medal.

In a change from previously announced intentions, the Department of Defense will be issuing the medals at **NO** charge to the veteran. Please see the attached information sheet and sample application letter.

CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

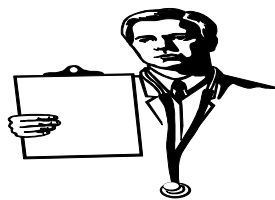
The National Association of Funeral Directors is trying to organize a nationwide balloon release for Veterans Day this year. The proceeds from the sale of the commemorative balloons will be donated to the WWII Memorial Fund. Eernisse and Poole Funeral Homes are involved for sure, I haven't heard from Mueller as of yet. The balloons are being "sold" for \$10 each, the hope is to have a mass release, probably from Veterans Park in Port Washington, to coincide with the balloon release around the country. This is an excellent way for families to remember the service of the relatives during WWII. Details can be obtained from Eernisse or Poole

Funeral Homes, their numbers are in the local phone book.



VA HEALTHCARE UPDATE

As you all should be aware of by now, The VA's Medical System is open to all veterans for enrollment. Did you know that it has been so successful in enrolling veterans, that you now have to wait upwards of a year after enrollment before you can start seeing a VA physician? The problem is even worse at some of the branch clinics that have been set up around the state. The Appleton Clinic has a waiting list that is in excess of 14 months! The CVSO's have a meeting scheduled with the regional director of the VA Healthcare System coming up, you can rest assured that this will be one of our primary points of discussion.



VETERANS SUFFER EVERY DAY

There have been a number of recent studies, conducted by various agencies, which are looking into Gulf War Syndrome, Agent Orange (Dioxin), and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It really makes you wonder how much you can trust the people "In-charge". The EPA's study conclude that dioxin, the active component of Agent Orange, is a cancer-causing agent. Well, what do you know, it only took them 30+ years to figure that one out! I wish I could count the number of vets that I have come in contact with, who have or have had cancers related to their tours of duty in Vietnam. But wait, it looks like Agent Orange was also used in Korea, during the 60's, and even in Panama.

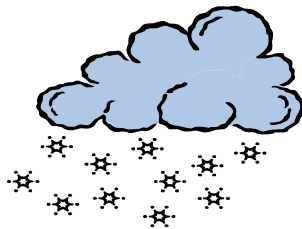
The studies regarding Gulf War Syndrome are a hodge-podge of information. Do we blame the multitude of vaccines that were given to the troops, the oil fires, desert bugs or possible exposure to chemical or nerve agents? While they try to figure this one out, vets are suffering every day.

Please see the attached article that further compounds my frustration.

As our numbers continue to decline, fewer voices are available to be heard, fewer stories can be told. But it still grates me the wrong way when there are just fewer ears that are willing listen!

MANY THANKS!!!

It is that time of year, again. We need to make sure that all of the flags are removed from the cemeteries before winter sets in on us. The American Legion will be holding it's annual flag retirement ceremony in Cedarburg this year. It will be held on October 5th at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. Those who have flags that require proper disposal, and are unable to make it to the ceremony, are invited to drop the flags by my office. I will ensure that they get to the ceremony, and are properly retired.



BURIAL HONORS

July 1st marked the official beginning of the State's Burial Honors Program. This means that those posts that provide burial honors to veterans, are entitled to reimbursement from the State of Wisconsin, for performing these services.

There are some paperwork requirements that must be met before monies are disbursed. Funeral Directors have the necessary forms.

NEWS BRIEFS

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

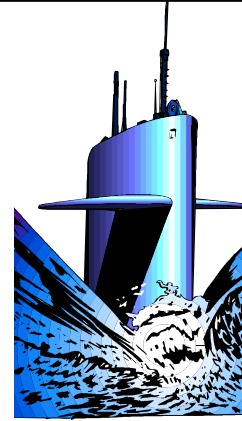
DOD says the Missile Defense Program will

work. The DOD continue to defend their Missile Defensive "Shield" program against the many critics. The next round of testing has been postponed, to better prepare the system for its next round of testing, or at least that's what the spin-doctors are saying. Clinton has postponed making a decision on deployment of the system. He has been under considerable pressure from other countries not to deploy the system. Deferring his decision will also effectively pass-the-buck to the next President.

Russians Learn Little from History

The Russian Government, and military, have continued to ignore history as a teacher. Chechnya is another example of getting into a war that can not be won. The Russian military continues to lose men and equipment on a daily basis to hit and run tactics employed by the Chechnyan "rebels".

Afghanistan should have taught them something.



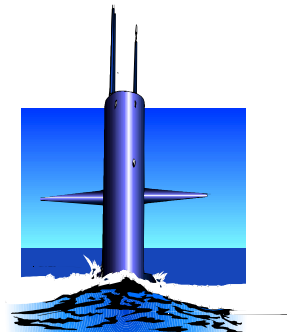
A Submariners' Nightmare

Having spent a good deal of time serving in the Submarine Service myself, my thoughts and prayers went out to the crew and families of the Submarine Kursk. No matter the cause of the loss of the submarine and her crew, it emphasized once again, that the military is in a very dangerous business, even in times of relative peace. It also brought out the fact that no matter the nationality of the submarine, her crew had a special bond with all others who have served in submarines.

Getting water into the "people tank" was/is a submariners' worst nightmare.

Lord, watch over these men who go down to the sea in ships...

We can only hope that the men of Kursk died quickly, and did not have to suffer.





POW/MIA UPDATE

North Korea recently repatriated the bodies of nine US personnel from areas inside North Korea.

Three more sets of remains, were returned by the Vietnamese in a ceremony held in Hanoi. See attached article for further updates.

All of the bodies were sent to the Identification Laboratory in Hawaii for processing.

Bringing Them Home At Last

Everyone has seen the news footage at one time or another; the remains of a long dead American service member, fallen in a far away battlefield during a long-ago war, are returned to his country in a brief, moving ceremony. And after the body is loaded onto the U.S. Military aircraft that is inevitably waiting to fly it home, everyone knows the first stop will be the Army's Central Identification Laboratory at Hickam Air Force Base, HI. The lab is the largest forensic anthropology facility of its kind in the world. The concept of what the lab does today began during the Vietnam War, when two Army mortuaries operated in South Vietnam to identify

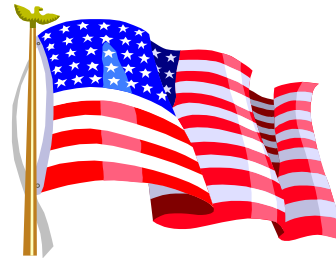
remains of U.S. service members. After the withdrawal of U.S. forces and the closing of the mortuaries in 1972 and 1973, the Army established a central laboratory in Thailand that was relocated to the U.S. after the South Vietnamese government fell in 1975. The current lab was established in May of 1976.

What most do not realize, is that the vast majority of the people who work for the lab, do not work at the lab. These are the individuals who make up the search teams, who go out into the field to do the actual research and recovery operations. There are currently 13 of these teams that are assigned to various locations around the world, doing the recovery work, often in far from hospitable conditions.

The lab Director is Col. David Pagano, USA. He says the following regarding the mission of the lab; "What we do has a tremendous meaning to the families who have lost loved ones. Once they know what happened, they can find closure. And that's something we owe them as a country...because of the sacrifices they have made of their loved ones, and because of the way we Americans value our service and value our people. Every time a service member is identified and the press writes about it, America remembers the sacrifice the military is willing to

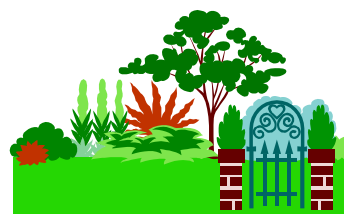
make, in terms of giving their lives for this nation."

TAPS



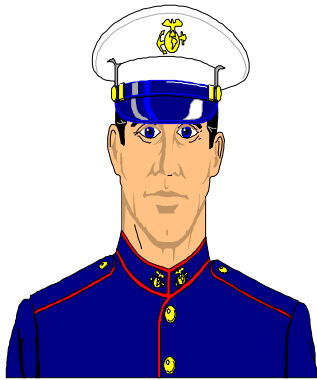
Since my last newsletter, we have said farewell to the following comrades:

- Arnold Rubringer 5/10/2000
- Thomas Kacmarick 7/01/2000
- Ambrose Mayer 7/04/2000
- Richard Hartmann 7/04/2000
- Charles Engel 7/08/2000
- Robert Post 7/10/2000
- Harland Burklow 7/15/2000
- Gerhard Kringel 7/16/2000
- Harry Bartling 7/13/2000
- Donald Stepaniak 7/26/2000
- Ralph Yench 7/26/2000
- Thomas Rattray 8/03/2000
- Edward Bouwma 8/04/2000
- Ervin Barth 8/07/2000
- Wallace Blaubach 8/08/2000
- William Spiering 8/11/2000
- Edward Goetsch 8/20/2000
- Jeffery Garlie 8/16/2000
- Edwin Jahr 8/18/2000
- Raymond Wessel 8/15/2000
- Robert Bartelt 8/20/2000
- Joseph Schneider 8/17/2000
- Wallace Einwald 8/23/2000



Fred Muench 8/15/2000

CALLING ALL MARINES !!!



You don't know how much it pains me to write something like that!

Seriously, the Marine Corps League (Waukesha Detachment) is sponsoring a special tribute to all Marines, past and present, in conjunction with the 225th anniversary of the Marine Corps. The ceremony will be held on November 4th at 11:00 A.M. at the Union Grove Veterans Cemetery. Please see the attached information letter with a contact phone number, if you have further questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

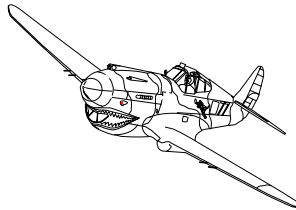
Flag Retirement Ceremony
October 5 in Cedarburg

Veterans Day Program
November 10 at Port Washington High School

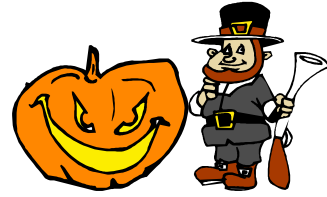


STATUS OF TODAY'S MILITARY

Please read the attached articles regarding the status of today's military, as well as an Army Board of Review article. It will give you some food for thought.



Please get out to the polls and voice your opinion through the electoral process this fall. If you don't vote, and someone gets in that you don't like, it's partially your fault!



If I don't get to see you between now and the Holidays...

My very best to you and you families!!



Happy New Year