

# The Silver Star



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5061

April 2022



## Commander's Corner

Happy Spring! The 35th anniversary for Post 5061 events were well attended, and we will keep the fun rolling all year! The anniversary commemorative coins came out really cool, so if you don't have one yet, they can be purchased in the Canteen, or see me personally. April brings the Post and Auxiliary elections. Please consider either running for a position or make it known if you'd like an appointed position. Also think about who you'd like to see as Post Officers, and how they can contribute to the VFW mission. I am running once again for Commander. If you like the way things have been going, I would appreciate your support. Please plan on coming to the April meeting! Loyalty Day is May 14th. Loyalty Day originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming May 14 as Loyalty Day, and a permanent fixture on the Nation's calendar. VFW Post 2788 is hosting a Loyalty Day parade in Penrose, CO on May 14th. In other news, the next District 1 meeting will be on May 21 at Post 1 at 1000. District meetings are a good way to see what is going on with several of our sister Posts in the area. Have a safe spring!

*With Respect, Jim Kruse, Commander*

### Post Officers

**Post Commander:** Jim Kruse  
**Sr. Vice Commander:** Steve Coca  
**Jr. Vice Commander:** Tammy Greene  
**Quartermaster:** Tom Yepsen  
**Adjutant:** TBD  
**Chaplain:** Manuel Sais  
**Judge Advocate:** Duane Johnson  
**Surgeon:** Mario Rodriguez  
**Service Officer:** Gary Williamson  
**Trustees:** Delbert Bowen, Ron Lattin, Joe Gallegos  
**Home Board:** Lee Bonney, Joe Gomez, Carl Miller, Steve Coca  
**Bingo Manager:** Tom Yepsen

### Canteen Appointees

**Canteen Personnel Manager:** Carl Miller  
**Canteen Logistics Manager:** Jerry Jones  
**Hall Manager:** Joe Tafoya  
**Kitchen Manager:** Boston  
**Bartender Scheduler:** Brenda Vigil

### Auxiliary Officers

**President:** Dan Asimus  
**Sr. Vice:** Tim Gilmore  
**Jr. Vice:** Bernadette Sannino  
**Treasurer:** Janet Farris  
**Secretary:** Kathy Kurtenbach  
**Chaplain:** Joe Tayfoya  
**Conductress:** Christine Dominguez  
**Trustees:** Roxi Nielsen, Tim Gilmore, Kim Williamson  
**Guard:** Audrey Asimus

## Auxiliary News

Hello Auxiliary members,

Spring is finally here and summer is fast approaching. I for one am ready for some warmer weather. Please join us for the Auxiliary dinner on the 15th for chicken burritos.

Just a reminder, there are still a few members that have not renewed their annual membership so if you haven't already done so, please log onto Malta and pay your dues online or contact Janet Farris in order to get it taken care of.

*Dan Asimus*

*Post 5061 Auxiliary President*

**If an Auxiliary member becomes ill or loses a family member, please let our Auxiliary Chaplain, Joe Tafoya know as soon as possible. (720-347-0843)**

**Post Members: Did you pay your dues? Check your membership card for your anniversary date.**

**Auxiliary Members: Membership dues were due by December, 31, 2021.**

## Benefits, Resources Available to Veterans of OIF, Southwest Asia Theater of Operations

March 20, 2022 marked the 19th anniversary of the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This anniversary provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices of those who served in a conflict that lasted nearly nine years and claimed the lives of nearly 4,500 service members and left over 31,000 wounded. If you served in OIF, and have a disability or illness as a result, you may be eligible for VA benefits and services.

Those who served in OIF, or the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations and other locations, may now be entitled to compensation for medical conditions presumed to be related to exposure to fine particulate matter. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for compensation for asthma, rhinitis or sinusitis that emerged within a 10-year period after separation from military service are encouraged to file a claim for benefits.

Those who served in the following locations are presumed to have been exposed to particulate matter and may be entitled to the new presumption:

- Southwest Asia Theater of Operations beginning August 2, 1990, to the present.
- Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning September 19, 2001, to the present.

The Southwest Asia Theater of Operations refers to these locations and the air space above them:

- Iraq.
- Kuwait
- Saudi Arabia

- The neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia
- Bahrain
- Qatar
- The United Arab Emirates
- Oman
- The Gulf of Aden
- The Gulf of Oman
- The Persian Gulf
- The Arabian Sea
- The Red Sea

For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health page.

VA is committed to providing Veterans with the medical care, benefits and services they have earned. For the most up-to-date list of service-connected disabilities, please check Exposure To Specific Environmental Hazards | Veterans Affairs (va.gov). If you have an illness or condition related to particulate matter, exposure or any other military environmental exposure, we encourage you to file a claim.

If you were previously denied service connection for any of the new conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service, you will need to file another claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, “Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim” when filing. The claim form should include the name of the diagnosed medical condition. If you have additional questions about the claim process, visit VA.gov or call 1- 800-827-1000.

To learn more visit [www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/](http://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/).



## ATTENTION POST 5061 MEMBERS!

### We need your service photo!!!

We are still accepting photos of our veterans in their uniforms for the Post website. Check it out at

<https://www.vfwpost5061.org/veterans-photo-gallery>

**Please submit a hard copy to the Canteen or text a digital copy to: Kathy K (907-347-3873)**



**Post and Auxiliary  
Elections**  
**Wednesday, April 13, 6 pm**



**Reminder to all  
Post 5061 members:**

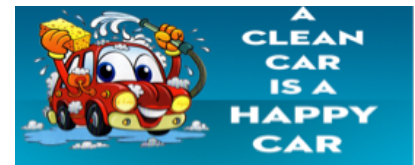
Please ask your guests to sign in at the podium upon entry to the Canteen. Please also remember to bring your membership card and magnetic door card!

**VFWPost5061.org**



**BEAR VALLEY CAR WASH**  
**"YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
CARWASH"**

**4900 W. DARTMOUTH AVE,  
DENVER, 80227**



**Canteen Volunteers Needed!**

**Burger Night Cook Teams!**

Burger Night on Mondays is popular. We are looking for additional cooking teams of 4 to join in on the cooking rotation. Gather up your volunteer team of 4 or sign up as an individual and we will put you on a team. Contact Boston, Kitchen Manager, to sign up!

**Volunteer Bartenders!**

Looking for something to do one or two afternoons or evenings a week? Like to socialize? The Canteen is in need of volunteer bartenders. No experience necessary. Contact Brenda Vigil, Bartender Scheduler, to sign up!

**Have Medicare questions?  
I have answers.**



**Debbie Beaudry**  
Licensed Sales Agent  
**303-881-9362, TTY 711**



**RV Interiors, Inc**  
*By Donna*

**BOB JOHNSON**  
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877.716.1832 DENVER, CO 80229



**Brittney Baskall**  
Realtor

[bbhomes@kw.com](mailto:bbhomes@kw.com)  
Cell: (303)564-9936  
office: (720)484-1390



**Taps**



## Volunteer Opportunities at the VA Hospital

- Compassionate Contact Corps

This tele support program benefits veterans who are lonely, socially isolated or would simply like someone to talk to. Trained volunteers provide support by making periodic phone calls or video calls. For more information contact Keith Anderson at 719-227-4408 or email him at keith.anderson3@vs.gov.

Other Volunteer opportunities:

- Reminder Phone calls for clinics-Move program
- HR Clerical Work and answer phone
- Prosthetic Department - mailing items
- Patient Transportation
- Pharmacy Administration Assistant
- Emergency Department Ambassador
- Fleet Vehicle volunteer
- Badging Admin volunteer
- VISIT (Visual Impairment Service Team) Coordinator Volunteer -Reminder Calls

For more information, contact Eva Gergely, 720-723-3074 or 720-443-9834



## Congratulations

### Joe Tafoya!

*Auxiliary 5061 Service to Excellence Award Recipient*

Joe is among the elite volunteers at Post 5061. He works with a pleasant, can-do attitude, and is a pleasure to work with. His enthusiasm is contagious and he frequently motivates others to chip in and help out.

## Items Needed for Valor Point

Valor Point is a rehabilitation treatment program facility for homeless veterans. They provide temporary housing to help veterans learn the skills necessary for sustainable living on their own.

The Post and Auxiliary are collecting the following items for veterans transitioning from Valor Point to housing. Please contact Tim Gilmore at 720-353-7855 for item pick up. New or slightly used items only. DO NOT drop off items at the Post.

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| • Kitchen Items | • Bathroom Items        |
| silverware      | Shower curtain          |
| dishes          | Towels                  |
| pots and pans   | trash can               |
| glasses         | bath mat                |
| dish basket     |                         |
| dish towels     | • Bedroom Items         |
| trash cans      | new pillows             |
|                 | table lamp              |
| • Furniture     | new sheets and blankets |
| night stands    | hangers                 |
| coffee table    |                         |
| dresser         |                         |



The Colorado Rockies invite you to join us at Coors Field to watch the Rockies take on the Giants and enjoy a group outing benefiting the Colorado VFW Auxiliary President's Special Project!

**Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1:10pm**  
Colorado Rockies vs. San Francisco Giants

**\$20 Pavilion seating**

\*A PORTION OF EACH TICKET SOLD GOES BACK TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT\*

**SAVE THE DATE**



**Post 5061**

# **35th Anniversary Commemorative Coin**



**\$8.00**

**Available Now!**