Dean K. Phillips Memorial Post 5061 5220 W. Warren Ave. Denver, CO 80227 www.vfwpost5061.org 303-980-4133 NON-PROFIT ORG.U.S.
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# The Silver Star



**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5061** 

March 2021















#### Commander's Corner

Greetings! This is our first printed newsletter since November! To find past (or current) issues go to www.vfwpost5061.org to get them! Vaccinations for protection against COVID-19 are underway. If you'd like to keep up with vaccination information, call 1-877-CO VAX CO (877-268-2926). Currently the VA is about to start vaccinating all Veterans over 65 years. To make an appointment, call 303-398-6384. For Auxiliary or other family members over 65, the office of Council Member Flynn is hosting vaccination clinics at All Saints Church (2559 S Federal Blvd). The phone number to call for an appointment is 720-337-2222. I urge everyone to get vaccinated for the safety of yourself and others as soon as you are able to do so. This is a very serious illness and well worth protecting yourself. At the risk of overly repeating myself, please understand that we are not out of this yet, so please be respectful of your fellow veterans and wear a mask when walking into and around the Post, maintain distancing from folks outside of your household, and respect other's sensibilities concerning precautions we all should take. We will continue to take temperatures and have everyone sign in. We are starting activities at the Post again. Hang in there!

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: Carl Miller
Surgeon: Mario Rodriguez
Service Officer: Carl Miller

Trustees: Delbert Bowen, Mario Rodriguez,

Bill Costa

Home Board: Charlie Dominguez, Lee Bonney,

Joe Gomez, Carl Miller, Steve Coca Canteen Manager: Jerry Jones Bingo Manager: Tom Yepsen Hall Manager: Joe Tafoya

Auxiliary Officers
President: Michael Casagranda

Sr. Vice: Tim Gilmore
Jr. Vice: Bernadette Sannino
Treasurer: Juliana Mancuso
Secretary: Kathy Kurtenbach
Chaplain: Roxi Nielsen

**Conductress:** Christine Dominguez **Trustees:** Christine Dominguez, Roxi Nielsen,

Tim Gilmore

Guard: Joe Tafoya

### **Auxiliary News**

The February Auxiliary meeting was held via Zoom. At the meeting I announced that I will not run again for President. At the April meeting the Auxiliary will be holding elections for new officers.

The President for the Auxiliary is an important position. The Treasurer's position is the most important officer. This position is responsible for all money matters and membership dues for the year. Juliana Mancuso will be stepping down as Treasurer due to health issues. Thank you Juliana, for your service as Treasurer.

During this past year the Auxiliary has had to delay most fund raising activities due to Covid. The Auxiliary was still able to donate to several Veteran events as a result of funding raising activities from previous years.

The March meeting will be in person at the Post or you can attend via Zoom. If you are interested in participating in the Zoom meeting on March 10th at 7pm, please text your name, telephone number and email address to me 303-842-4303. I need the emails sent to me by March 3rd in order to send you the link.

Michael Casagranda

President

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

Auxiliary Members: Membership dues were due by December, 31, 2020.



# March Events at the Post

- Home Board Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 4 pm
- Post and Auxiliary Meetings Wednesday, March 10, 7 pm
- Pool Tournament Saturday, March 20, 2:30 pm
- Pot Roast Dinner \$6.00 Saturday March 20, 5 pm
- District 1 Meeting Saturday, March 27, 10 am

### Second Battle of the Somme, World War I

On March 21, 1918 the first major German offensive against Allied positions in more than a year began in the Somme River region of France on the western front with five hours of bombardment from more than 9,000 pieces of German artillery. The poorly prepared British Fifth Army was rapidly overwhelmed and forced into retreat. For a week, the Germans pushed toward Paris, shelling the city from a distance of 80 miles with their "Big Bertha" cannons. However, the poorly supplied German troops soon became exhausted, and the Allies halted the German advance as French artillery knocked out the German guns besieging Paris. On April 2, U.S. General John J. Pershing sent American troops down into the trenches to help defend Paris and repulse the German offensive. It was the first major deployment of U.S. troops in World War I. Several thousand American troops fought alongside the British and French in the Second Battle of Somme.

By the time the Somme offensive ended on April 4, the Germans had advanced almost 40 miles, inflicted some 200,000 casualties, and captured 70,000 prisoners and more than 1,000 Allied guns. However, the Germans suffered nearly as many casualties as their enemies and lacked the fresh reserves and supply boost the Allies enjoyed following the American entrance into the fighting.

Citation: https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/second-battle-of-the-somme-ends







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



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



Brittney Baskall

Realtor

bbhomes@kw.com

Cell: (303)564-9936

office: (720)484-1390



Taps

All Ad payments are due NOW to Tom Yepsen.

Annual payment is \$50. Unpaid ads will be

removed by the April newsletter.





If an Auxiliary member becomes ill or loses a family member, please let our soon as possible. (303-517-7774)

# This Month in Military History...

March 2, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, a Japanese convoy was attacked by 137 American bombers as the Battle of Bismarck Sea began. The convoy included eight destroyers and eight transports carrying 7,000 Japanese soldiers heading toward New Guinea. Four destroyers and all eight transports were sunk, resulting in 3,500 Japanese drowned, ending Japanese efforts to send reinforcements to New Guinea.

March 5, 1770 - The Boston Massacre occurred as a group of rowdy Americans harassed British soldiers who then opened fire, killing five and injuring six. The first man killed was Crispus Attucks, an African American. British Captain Thomas Preston and eight of his men were arrested and charged with murder. Their trial took place in October, with colonial lawyer John Adams defending the British. Captain Preston and six of his men were acquitted. Two others were found guilty of manslaughter, branded, then released.

March 6, 1836 - Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on February 23rd, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.

March 9, 1864 - Ulysses S. Grant was commissioned as a Lieutenant General and became Commander of the Union

March 11, 1918 - The 'Spanish' influenza first reached America as 107 soldiers become sick at Fort Riley, Kansas. One quarter of the U.S. population eventually became ill from the deadly virus, resulting in 500,000 deaths. The death toll worldwide approached 22 million by the end of 1920.

March 11, 1941 - During World War II, the Lend-Lease program began allowing Britain to receive American weapons, machines, raw materials, training and repair services. Ships, planes, guns and shells, along with food, clothing and metals went to the embattled British while American warships began patrolling the North Atlantic and U.S troops were stationed in Greenland and Iceland. "We must be the great arsenal of democracy," President Roosevelt declared concerning the fight against Hitler's Germany. The initial appropriation was \$7 Billion, but by 1946 the figure reached \$50 Billion in aid from the U.S. to its Allies.

March 13, 1943 - A plot to kill Hitler by German army officers failed as a bomb planted aboard his plane failed to explode due to a faulty detonator.

March 17, 1776 - Early in the American Revolutionary War the British completed their evacuation of Boston following a successful siege conducted by Patriots. The event is still commemorated in Boston as Evacuation Day.

March 19, 2003 - The United States launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power. The attack commenced with aerial strikes against military sites, followed the next day by an invasion of southern Iraq by U.S. and British ground troops. The troops made rapid progress northward and conquered the country's capital, Baghdad, just 21 days later, ending the rule of Saddam.

March 21, 1918 - During World War I, the Second Battle of the Somme began as German General Erich von Ludendorff launched an all-out drive to win the war. The battle began with a five-hour artillery barrage followed by a rush of German troops. The offensive lasted until April 6th and resulted in the Germans gaining about 35 miles of territory. Allied and German casualty figures for both battles approached 500,000.

March 21, 1943 - A suicide/assassination plot by German Army officers against Hitler failed as the conspirators were unable to locate a short fuse for the bomb which was to be carried in the coat pocket of General von Gersdorff to ceremonies Hitler was attending.

## 11th Annual District 1 Potato Bake

#### Bakeless in 2021 thanks to Covid 19



Post and Auxiliary Meetings: March 10, 7 pm







**BUT** 

Veterans & Youth still need our support & we will be back for our 12th in 2022!

Don't worry about wearing a mask, social distancing, finding a seat or eating too much. Just think of the good time, friendly people, good food at the Potato Bake & please send us a 11th Annual Bakeless Potato Bake Donation. We appreciate your generosity.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Please return this form with your donatio

Potato & Soup Donation \$10.00 with Chili & Dessert \$20.00 Other \$

Send to: Ruth Gulden, VFW District 1 Treasurer, 10658 Crystal Way, Morrison, CO 80465

11th Annual District 1 Potato Bake Bakeless in 2021 thanks to Covid 19







Auxiliary Chaplain, Roxi Nielsen, know as