

Dean K. Phillips Memorial
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The Silver Star



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5061

December 2020



Commander's Corner

Greetings! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! As you likely know, COVID has hit the Post rather hard in November. We will not be re-opening until conditions in Denver return to 'orange'. This will likely be after the New Year. Even though the canteen is closed to our members' social interactions, the Post has been busy working for veterans and the community. We assisted District 1's Thanksgiving for the Homeless event (in Post 501 parking lot), serving several hundred people. The Post and Auxiliary donated time and money to Christmas for Soldiers at Fort Carson and Fort Logan Veterans Remembrance Wreaths program (part of Wreaths Across America) to place wreaths on veteran graves at Fort Logan. We also continue to donate money to fund programs at the Denver Rescue Mission, the VA of Eastern Colorado, and other organizations to help veterans and the community. Here's hoping that 2021 will bring us a vaccine and a way back to normal operations. Merry Christmas and stay well!

*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 Casagrande
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

To those Auxiliary members that been stricken with Covid our prayers go out to you. The Post is closed due to a Covid outbreak. It will remain closed until the State and City/County of Denver reduces risk level to orange.

This type of outbreak comes from the nonchalant practice of not wearing masks when you can't distance yourself from other members. Distancing is probably the safest prevention tool plus good ventilation helps. If you take your mask off and not distancing from others, all it takes is one person without a mask to infect an entire group of people without masks.

This has been a very stressful situation. Each and everyone has been affected by isolation and difficulty doing the simplest tasks. You must keep practicing preventative measures whether or not you have been infected. The vaccine is right around the corner that may give relief. Those of you that have been infected should think about donating blood for plasma therapy. You could be a hero and save another person's life.

The Auxiliary continues to support veterans programs. We donated money to Wreaths Across America, Fort Carson's Christmas for Soldiers, and donated money to purchase much needed items for Delta families.

*Michael Casagrande
President*

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

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



VFWPost5061.org

Toys for Tots Toy Drive By Appointment only

We are again collecting toys for the Marines' Toys for Tots Program. Please email the Post Commander at vfwpost_5061@outlook.com to set up a time to bring an unwrapped toy to the Post between now and December 14.



Taps

Harold Winkler
Al Struckhoff

Have Medicare questions? I have answers.



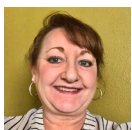
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If an Auxiliary member
becomes ill or loses a family
member, please let our
Auxiliary Chaplain, **Roxi
Nielsen**, know as soon as
possible. (303-517-7774)

Dr. David Axelrod
Dr. Victoria Parver

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This Month in Military History...

December 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services such as locating missing aircraft.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead. On December 8th, the United States and Britain declared war on Japan.

December 10, 1898 - The Treaty of Paris was negotiated, ending the Spanish-American War. Under the treaty, the U.S. gained the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico, and Spain's withdrawal from Cuba. The treaty was signed by President William McKinley four days later.

December 11, 1941 - Italy and Germany declared war on the United States. The U.S. Congress immediately declared war on them. President Roosevelt made the defeat of Hitler the top priority, devoting nearly 90 percent of U.S. military resources to the war in Europe.

December 13, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Battle of Fredericksburg occurred in Virginia as the Union Army of the Potomac under General Burnside suffered a costly defeat, losing 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on well entrenched Rebels on Marye's Heights. Confederate losses were 5,309.

December 13, 1991 - North and South Korea signed a treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression which also formally ended the Korean War, although actual fighting had ceased in 1953.

December 14, 1995 - A Bosnian peace treaty was signed in Paris by leaders from the former Yugoslavia. The treaty ended Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

December 15, 1791 - The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) became effective following ratification by Virginia.

December 15, 1943 - The Battle of San Pietro took place during World War II as a German panzer battalion devastated American forces trying to take the 700-year-old Italian village.

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of tea into the water.



December 16, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, the Battle of the Bulge began as the Germans launched a big counter-offensive in the Ardennes Forest along a 75-mile front, taking American troops by surprise. The Germans penetrated 65 miles into Allied lines by the end of December. The German advance was eventually halted by Montgomery on the Meuse and Patton at Bastogne. Allied aircraft attacked German ground forces and supply lines and the counter-offensive failed. There were an estimated 77,000 Allied and 130,000 German casualties.

December 17, 1903 - After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

December 18, 1916 - During World War I, the Battle of Verdun concluded after ten months of fighting in which 543,000 French and 434,000 German soldiers were killed.

December 20, 1860 - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the Civil War. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded. In April 1861, Virginia seceded, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy.

December 20, 1989 - The U.S. invaded Panama attempting to capture Manuel Noriega on charges of narcotics trafficking. Operation Just Cause toppled the Noriega government.

December 21, 1945 - World War II General George Patton died in Germany following a car accident.

December 24, 1814 - The Treaty of Ghent between Britain and the U.S. was signed, officially ending the War of 1812.

December 25, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took 2,400 of his men across the Delaware River and conducted a surprise raid on 1,500 British and Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey. Nearly 1,000 were taken prisoner by Washington who suffered only six wounded.

December 30, 1803 - The U.S. took formal possession of the territory of Louisiana, an area of 885,000 square miles, nearly doubling the size of the U.S. The Louisiana Purchase cost \$15 million.

December 30, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Union ironclad ship USS Monitor sank off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina during a storm.

**All Ad payments are due by January 15
to Tom Yepsen. Annual payment is \$50.
Unpaid ads will be removed by the March
newsletter.**