

# The Silver Star



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5061

September 2021



## Commander's Corner

Greetings! Welcome to our first virtual newsletter! Not only does this save the Post a lot of money, it allows members that are interested in the newsletter to pull the information rather than have their mailbox filled with something they may or (mostly) don't read. There was no August newsletter, so don't worry, you did not miss it. At the August general meeting, the membership voted on a motion to change the time of our monthly business meeting from 7pm to 5pm on the second Wednesday of each month. This allows for daylight travel for those that cannot drive without it. The Texas Shindig on July 31st was a great success! Thank you to Dan Asimus who was the head cook, and thanks to those who volunteered to help and brought in sides and desserts! The Post depends on volunteers, so thank you all for your support, and stepping up to help make all of our functions successful! We have new pulltab machines and towel dispensers at the Post, just a couple improvements that have arrived with more coming. Thank you for your support!

*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:** Bob Zwicker  
**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 Members,

Let's stand strong and pray for the family's affected by the suicide bomber that killed 13 US Military and 169 Afghan citizens at the Kabul Airport. It is my hope that all American and Afghan citizens that have helped our military over the past 20 years, who want to get out of Afghanistan are able to get out in time.

We lost a very special member of our Auxiliary this last month. Janie Stevens will be forever missed. She had been a very active member of the Auxiliary. My heart goes out to her husband, Al, and her family during this hard time for them.

I want to thank everyone who came out for the Very Fun Western Shindig. It was a huge success and I think everyone had a great time. A BIG thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make it run smoothly and to the people who donated items. Without you, none of it would be possible. Special thanks to Bob Armstrong for making the life-size horse for the event. That was over the top!

The membership will vote on a motion to change the time of our monthly business meeting from 7pm to 5pm on the second Wednesday of each month to match the Post meeting time. As 30 day notice is required, we will vote on this at the October meeting. If you have any strong opinions, please either plan on attending or voice your opinion to an Auxiliary officer.

*Dan Asimus, 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, 2021.**

## Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

Do you know a middle or high school student? Encourage them to compete in the Patriot's Pen (6-8th grade) or Voice of Democracy (9-12 grade). Download an application at [vfwpost5061.org](http://vfwpost5061.org) or stop by the Post to pick up an application. Drop off the application to the Post Commander by October 31.



**Deadline is October 31st.**

## Post and Auxiliary Meetings: September 9

**Post - 5 pm  
Auxiliary - 7 pm**

**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)**

### 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!



**POW MIA Day  
Friday, September 17**

### 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 Bob Zwicker (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



**Brittney Baskall**  
**Realtor**

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

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

**BOB JOHNSON**  
OWNER

☎ 303.716.1832 ✉ [RVINTERIORSBYDONNA@LIVE.COM](mailto:RVINTERIORSBYDONNA@LIVE.COM)  
303.716.1834 🌐 [WWW.RVINTERIORSBYDONNA.COM](http://WWW.RVINTERIORSBYDONNA.COM)  
TOLL FREE: 📍 6521 WASHINGTON STREET, UNIT D  
877.716.1832 DENVER, CO 80229



**Taps**  
Janie Stevens

## Resources Available for Veterans

- Veterans Crisis Line - If you are having thoughts of suicide, call 1-800-273-8255, then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to your local VA medical center 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.

- Vet Centers - Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans. Call 1-877-927-8387 or find one near you.

- VA Mental Health Services Guide - This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.

- [MakeTheConnection.net](http://www.MakeTheConnection.net) - information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.

- RallyPoint - Talk to other Veterans online. Discuss: What are your feelings as the Taliban reclaim Afghanistan after 20 years of US involvement?

- Download VA's self-help apps - Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) - Request a Peer Mentor

- VA Women Veterans Call Center - Call or text 1-855-829-6636 (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 6:30PM ET)

- VA Caregiver Support Line - Call 1-855-260-3274 (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 5PM ET)

- Together We Served - Find your battle buddies through unit pages

- George W. Bush Institute - Need help or want to talk? Check In or call: 1-630-522-4904 or email: [checkin@veteranwellnessalliance.org](mailto:checkin@veteranwellnessalliance.org)

- Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes - Join the Community

- American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network - Peer Support and Mentoring

- Team Red, White & Blue - Hundreds of events weekly. Find a chapter in your area.

- Student Veterans of America - Find a campus chapter to connect with.

- Team Rubicon - Find a local support squad.

## VA Plans Expansion of Benefits for Disability Claims for Conditions Related to Certain Toxic Exposures

Veterans Affairs press release, 27MAY2021

VA announced two major decisions related to presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange and particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia.

### Agent Orange

VA will begin implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), adding three conditions to the list of those presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Those conditions are bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism. "Many of our Veterans have waited a long time for these benefits," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "VA will not make them wait any longer. This is absolutely the right thing to do for Veterans and their families."

VA will apply the provisions of court orders related to *Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*, which may result in an earlier date for entitlement to benefits for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Vietnam War era Veterans and their survivors who previously filed and were denied benefits for one of these three new presumptive conditions will have their cases automatically reviewed without the need to refile a claim. VA will send letters to impacted Veterans and survivors.

### Particulate Matter Exposures

The Secretary recently concluded the first iteration of a VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider service connections for respiratory conditions. VA's review supports rulemaking to address the role that particulate matter pollution plays in generating chronic respiratory conditions, which may include asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War and/or after September 19, 2001, or in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War.

"VA is establishing a holistic approach to determining toxic exposure presumption going forward. We are moving out smartly in initiating action to consider these and other potential new presumptions, grounded in science and in keeping with my authority as Secretary of VA," said Secretary McDonough.

VA will conduct broad outreach efforts to reach impacted Veterans and it encourages them to participate in the rulemaking process.





# Very Fun Western Shindig

