



Franklin-Sloan Mail Call

Commander's Brief, *David Watts, Post Commander*

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Hopefully everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, at least so far. As we welcome in 2016, many look back at what they accomplished the year before. As you think about the good moments, I'll bet your nodding your head and smiling. Please also take a few moments and think about all of the accomplishments at the Post over the past year. We've done a lot and come a long way as a Post, but we could do so much more. I ask that you make a New Year's resolution

to come help out at the Post a few hours each month. Yes we've asked for your help before and generally we get one or two more new people to help, but it would be great if at least half of our membership stepped up and said I'm here to help, what you need. Think forward into 2016 and the things we could accomplish at the Post and in the community if more folks came out to volunteer. Take a moment and look at the website for VFW Post 1, <https://vfwpost1.org/>. I think it would be great to do a few of the events shown on their website, but we don't want to

follow in their footsteps, instead we want to "walk" beside them or think of new ways to make our Post and the VFW organization strong. Thanks for taking the time to think into the future of 2016, hope to see everyone at the Post soon. Don't forget Sunday January 3rd at 10:30am officers & house committee meeting, everyone is welcome to attend.

David Watts
Commander
VFW Post 7383

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- ◆ *Women Veterans Survey*
- ◆ *Gerber Career Night at Dave & Busters*

Men's Auxiliary President's Address, Jack Miller Men's Auxiliary Vice President

I have one item. The final US flag retirement ceremony for 2015, at VFW Post 7383, was performed on December 21st. It was a special Christmas Retirement Ceremony. I have attached a copy of the ceremony. (See Below)

The final count for retired flags for 2015 is 490 US flags, 2 Marine Corps flags, and one POW/MIA flag.

VFW POST 7383 Christmas Flag Retirement Ceremony

December 21, 2015 12:00 Noon

This ceremony today will honor all veterans of foreign wars and all service men and women who have been away from home during past Christmas seasons and for all those who are away from home this year. A special tribute to all those who will never share a Christmas with their loved ones again. These flags have served as a symbol of our country and for all the freedoms we have. They are tattered and tore and will no longer be able to honor our country.

They will be retired with the dignity and respect they deserve.

I will place one flag on the fire which will represent all the flags to be retired today.

We will then recite the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Have a safe and Happy New Year.

Cheers,
Jack Miller
Vice President
Men's Auxiliary
VFW Post 7383

VFW Survey of Women Veterans, From Raymond Kelly, www.vfw.org

The VFW is committed to ensuring veterans' health care and benefits are equitable among the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform. In an effort to identify barriers women veterans face when accessing their earned veterans' benefits and services, the VFW has commissioned a survey of

women veterans that will guide the VFW's policy priority goals for them. The VFW will analyze survey results and direct feedback from women veterans to make recommendations to VA and Congress on how to meet their needs.

Take the VFW's Survey of

Women Veterans to help the VFW hold VA accountable for delivering the high quality benefits and services women veterans have earned and deserve. To take the survey, click here: <https://www.research.net/r/VFWSurveyofWomenVeterans>.

Chaplain's Corner

Post Chaplain:
James Samsel
seumastoo@juno.com

Ladies Auxiliary

Chaplain:

Diane Waters
Dianejw13@att.net

Men's Auxiliary
Chaplain
Don Beebe
dbeebe85@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Cdr., Rich Lopez is recovering fine at home following a hip replace-

ment on January 21st, 2015.

Auxiliary President's Address, Kerri Zinkievich Auxiliary Vice President

Happy New Year Sisters, Brothers and Comrades,

I hope 2016 is going well for everyone so far, the Auxiliary is looking to keep things rolling into the New Year and I'd like to take this opportunity to again remind anyone who is eligible that the Auxiliary is open to Men's Auxiliary members joining us. If you're interested there are applications behind the canteen and I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have on the process.

This month our

Editor's Notes

Happy New Year!

- ◇ The most important note I have is to pay attention to the article I wrote in the "Meet Your Member's" Column.
- ◇ Any and all submissions for the February edition of the news letter need to be emailed to me **no later**

business meeting will be on Tuesday January 19th at 7 pm. I hope to see you all there!

Wishing you and your families all a happy and healthy 2016!!

Kerri Zinkievich
Auxiliary President
VFW Post 7383

- ◇ **than January 25th.** I need time to organize, edit (if needed), proofread, and send up to the Adjutant and Commander for final approval/publishing.
- ◇ All are encouraged to submit articles an/or dates for the newsletters. (Keep it classy, 7383: i.e. if it vio-

lates our by-laws, it shouldn't be in our news letter).

- ◇ I've not added the logos until I get a good one for the Auxiliary (since they're no longer the Ladies Auxiliary)
- ◇ Richard.lopez1978@gmail.com

VFW Thrift Store Manager's Update, Sara Mary Lopez, Thrift Store Manager

I can't believe how quickly this year went. I'm looking forward to this coming year and really expanding on free advertising as well as navigating more online sale sites such as craigslist and eBay. I have in addition made a New Year's resolution to attend more meetings as well as events to keep the post better informed as well as myself on post "goings on".

I would love to carry out an event idea that was given to me last year of doing a "lawn/ flea market" type sale where we sell tables to interested parties and sell outside the store in the spring or summer. It was also suggested that we have a farmer's market type sale with the same idea in mind. I would LOVE to hear any more ideas as anyone has!

With the increase in customers comes an increase in donations. I do think enclosing the back would help. Until then, I will keep creative and try and keep the amount down as much as possible. For the month of January, I will be doing a "bag" sale. Basically, all I'm doing is bringing all the donations I have out onto the sales floor (and out of the rain) in boxes and selling bags to customers at a set price (between \$5 & \$10) who then can go through all the donations and fill up with whatever they want. That should help knock down the heft and also help prevent weather damage on the stuff we already have. Plus! That's

more donations I don't have to turn away!

I feel this store has been very blessed this year. We have received the bulk of all of our merchandise as well as fixtures in donations. C3, another charitable donation organization, recently went out of business and left us a number of tables and fixtures including a card display turn style.

The store was also given a printer/ copy/ and fax machine, two glass jewelry display cases, two tall glass display shelving units, a card table, another wooden table, a bar/ shelf unit, numerous bags, hangers, paper, printing paper, and desk that are all being utilized to display and organize the store. Another portion of the fixture donations were given to us by the state store. All of these donations have cut costs on everyday operations and are very much appreciated.

As well as being blessed in donations we have been blessed in human resources as well. Sandi Watts has helped out at the store an enormous amount! She has helped cover the store as well as cleaned and organized. Jared Hawkins has clocked several hours helping me out with various heating and thermostat issues. David Watts has helped with a numerous amount of stuff including replacing broken fixtures and online Google navigation problems. Joe Oliver as well as several other people have giv-

en both Rich and I rides while we were having vehicle difficulties.

There's also a few steady donors that have become true resources as far as getting our name out there, getting new people in the store, and keeping the store stocked with essentials. I couldn't have done it without them! The stores schedule has changed. Starting January 2016, the hours will be as follows:

Sunday & Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: 12:00-18:00

Wednesday: 10:00-16:00

Thursday: 12:00-18:00

Friday: 10:00-1600

Saturday: 12:00-18:00

The store also follows the Wake County school closings in the case of bad weather.

The store will be closed New Year's Day and January 5, 2015. The store will be open 12:00-18:00 on January 29 instead of 10:00-16:00.

Thank you everyone for all your thoughts and prayers during Rich's surgery. He's doing a lot better and now is a proud owner of a new left hip!

Gerber Collision and Glass Career Night at Dave & Busters

Gerber Collision & Glass is hosting a career night on Jan. 12th at Dave & Busters at Cary Towne Center.

They are looking for candidates throughout the Triangle so this could be the chance for a career change, or to get that job you have been looking for.



What: Career Night

When: Tuesday, January 12th
6:30-7:00PM Light Snacks
7:00-8:00PM Presentation



Where: Dave and Busters Cary
Cary Towne Center
1105 Walnut Street,
Cary, NC 27511

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day Thrift Store Closed	2
3 Thrift Store Closed Officers Meeting 10:30AM Followed by House CMTE	4 Thrift Store Closed	5 Thrift Store Closed for Medical Appointments	6 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	7 Thrift Store 12-6PM Bingo 7:00PM	8 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	9
10 Thrift Store Closed	11 Thrift Store Closed	12 Thrift Store 12-6PM	13 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	14 Thrift Store 12-6PM Bingo 7:00PM	15 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	16
17 Thrift Store Closed	18 Thrift Store Closed	19 Thrift Store 12-6PM Business Meeting 7 PM	20 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	21 Thrift Store 12-6PM Bingo 7:00PM	22 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	23
24 Thrift Store Closed	25 Thrift Store Closed Newsletter Input Deadline	26 Thrift Store 12-6PM	27 Thrift Store 10:00-4pm	28 Thrift Store 12-6PM Bingo 7:00PM	29 Thrift Store 12-6PM	30
31 Thrift Store Closed						

Veterans Helping Veterans

December 2015

- January 1st: New Year's Day. Thrift Store Closed
- January 3rd: Officers Meeting at 10:30 AM Directly Followed by House Committee Meeting
- January 5th: Thrift Store Closed due to multiple medical appointments
- January 7th: Bingo Night, Volunteers Always Needed
- January 14th: Bingo Night, Volunteers Always Needed
- January 19th: Business Meeting
- January 21st: Bingo Night, Volunteers Always Needed
- January 28th: Bingo Night, Volunteers Always Needed
- January 25th: Deadline for February Newsletter Input
- January 29th: Thrift Store Hours are from 12:00-6PM

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Veterans Helping Veterans



Meet Your Members, *Richard R. Lopez, Jr. Vice CDR*

No names were submitted for Meet Your Members, nor did anyone volunteer to be highlighted in this column. For everyone's clarification, I changed the name of the column from "Member of the Month" to "Meet Your Members" to eliminate the perception that this is/was a Popularity Contest or that this is/was an award of sorts for the member/s that did the "Most for the Post" during the month. In fact, this column is here just to try to introduce ourselves to everyone within our Franklin-Sloan VFW Post 7383 family. I have tried over the past year to avoid redundancy by not repeating members we have highlighted before.

I also, to the best of my ability, try to rotate through our trinity (VFW, Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary); however, sometimes I get names at the last minute. If there is anyone you feel has not been properly introduced, please email me, and I'll send the questionnaire I use to type up the article. I need to have all information by the 21st of each month, so as to give me time to write and edit the article (usually just for space) and to get it in the newsletter by publishing date. Some have asked about the questions listed in the questionnaire: if you are filling it out, only answer what you feel comfortable answering. This is not an attempt to exploit anyone, nor is it an area to air dirty laundry or gossip (except for Rich Grimes: even if it's not about him, I'll find a way to trash talk him in the article... See, I just did! :-P)

I look forward to sharing more of our members throughout the year! I wish you a safe an Happy New Year!!

-RRL

New Years' Resolutions, *Richard R. Lopez, Jr. Vice CDR*

Happy New Year to all of our Franklin-Sloan VFW Post 7383 Family! We all keep in our memories, thoughts, and prayer our Family we have lost, and welcome into our hearts and post our new Family members, with the hopes of creating new relationships and lasting memories to come.

Let me state the obvious: this time of year, people tend to wipe clean the slate and look forward to making new plans and goals for the upcoming year. According to the Statistic Brain Research Institute*, 45% of people will make New Year's Resolutions, and 38% will absolutely not make any.

Of the Top 10 for 2015, the #1 resolutions dealt with Weight Loss, #2 dealt with getting organized, #3 dealt with Money, #4 dealt with enjoying life, and #5 dealt with getting/staying healthy.

I reference these to note that none

in the top 10 reference giving back to the community. In fact, the closest to this is #8, which is help others with their dreams. President John F. Kennedy, a Veteran and member of VFW Post 5880, was famously quoted as saying, "*My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.*"

As a Veteran's Organization, we pride ourselves in being of the few organizations that focus on providing better services to our Veterans, their families, and to our communities and country that support Veterans. As a Veteran and a member of our organization, I have reflected not just on the past year, but all the years since I've joined this post. I initially joined for the comradery, and eventually began to take part in our Cause. As I look back, however, I notice how I came into our Post full of energy

and crazy new ideas on how we cannot just do what we do, but do more and be better at it! Over the years, I had to honestly realize how much I stepped back, and fell into the routine of "just trying to make it to meetings," but could not, or would not, make it to our events. I've tried to come back from this in recent months. I'm making it one of my New Year's Resolutions to go back to the beginning, and try to actively be part of our Post's activities and planning. We can all say, "I've done my time;" however, The VFW began for us to serve *after* taking off the uniform. I invite you all to do the same. I also have resolved to accept NEW ideas, without rejecting older Traditions. No Idea is stupid, and no Tradition is outdated. After all, we cannot have a New Year, without having a previous year! Happy New Year, Post 7383. God Bless you, and God Bless the USA!

*www.statisticbrain.com/new-years-resolution-statistics