

VFW 4719

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. NEWSLETTER

75 W Johnstown Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230
614-475-9111



AUGUST 2026

MAY YOUR SACRIFICE NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!



**1st Lt. Tyler James
Feehan**



**Pvt. Isabella
Gonzales**



**Sgt. Michael Emmanuel
Swinton**



**Sgt. Angel
Rampersad**

1st Lt. Tyler James Feehan, 25, from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, died July 18, 2026. Feehan was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 55th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 32nd Army Air Missile Defense Command.

Pvt. Isabella Gonzales, 19, of Carrollton, Texas, died July 17, 2026. Gonzales was stationed at Ansbach, Germany, assigned to 1st Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 10th Army Air Missile Defense Command.

Sgt. Michael Emmanuel Swinton, 30, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, died July 19, 2026. Swinton was assigned to D Battery, 2nd Battalion, 55th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He served as an early warning systems operator, responsible for detecting, tracking, and reporting incoming enemy threats to help protect U.S. forces from missile and drone attacks.

Sgt. Angel Rampersad, 28, of Ozone Park, New York, died July 17, 2026. Rampersad, who enlisted in March 2019, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 57th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 52d Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, in Ansbach, Germany, according to the U.S. Army. She served as a signal operations support specialist, operating and maintaining radios and other communication tools.



ALL GAVE SOME...SOME GAVE ALL



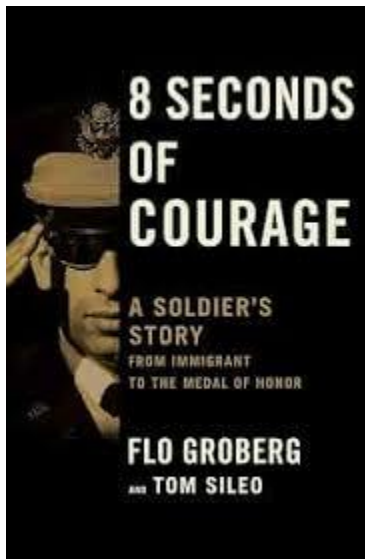
COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The 127th VFW National Convention in Reno, July 24-29, was **OUTSTANDING!** I attended several sessions. The most memorable was the Joint Memorial Service on Sunday. Close to four thousand veterans and auxiliary members paid tribute to our fallen comrades.

Let Us Never Forget. Honored guests were a group of Gold Star Families. Guest speaker Major General Ondra L Berry, USAF Ret, reminded us we must never forget those service members who gave their lives to protect our freedoms. The service started with four bells and finished with "Taps." During another session, there was intense discussion on **Suicide Awareness and Prevention**. Several States and Posts have started programs that have reduced suicides in their areas. Everyone agreed that more has to be done. More training, listening to veterans, and recognition of the problem. There were several veterans who shared their stories on attempts at suicide and how other veterans helped them.

The business session opened on Monday after a short delay due to a water main break. Once started, there were short speeches from sponsors and other groups providing support for veterans. The theme of this year's convention is **"Honor the Contract."** There is legislation in Congress to reduce VA benefits. **The VFW strongly opposes Bill 108. Contact your congressman and senators. Let them know we have earned these benefits.**

There was a great presentation on the American Women's Memorial located at the entrance of Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. More than three million women have served in the military over 250 years. Their stories need to be told. Women veterans are encouraged to contact the Memorial to tell their individual story. Let the generations to come know the women also guaranteed our Freedom. There was a lot of debate on this subject during proposed bylaw changes. Most women want to be called **Veterans**, not women veterans, and want the respect to go with that title. It's a tough fight, but they are winning.



Medal of Honor recipient Florent A. Groberg (Army captain), a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission, talked about the overseas U.S. military cemeteries. There are 26 cemeteries and 31 federal memorials, monuments, and markers located in 17 countries. The commission works with local governments and maintains these areas. The book "8 SECONDS OF COURAGE" tells the story of Captain Groberg's attempt to stop a suicide bomber in Afghanistan in 2012.

American Women's Memorial



127th VFW National
Convention
from The Veterans of Foreign Wars



Commander's Message [continued]-- VFW is working with 54 partner nations to locate and bring home the remains of US military personnel MIAs. The one exception is North Korea. However, President Trump has asked the North Koreans for help, and seven sets of remains have been returned to the US. More work needs to be done.

Students Veterans Association helps veterans with the cost of higher education. VFW Posts are asked to support veterans in school. Post 4931 in Hilliard supports five students.

On the last day, Wednesday, the VFW elected a new Commander in Chief, Cory Geisler. Cory is moving up from the Senior Vice Commander and is ready for the job. If anyone wants more information about the national convention, please contact Commander Bill Pederson at 614-506-5793 or email umpireswp@gmail.com.



*Bill Pederson
Commander*



INVASION OF KUWAIT, OPERATION DESERT SHIELD 1990



The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait began on 2 August 1990 and marked the beginning of the Gulf War. After defeating the State of Kuwait on 4 August, Iraq went on to militarily occupy the country for the next seven months. The invasion was condemned internationally, and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted numerous resolutions urging Iraq to withdraw from Kuwaiti territory. After Iraq failed to meet the UNSC's deadline, the coalition pursued the directive to forcefully expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait by initiating the Gulf War aerial bombardment campaign on 17 January 1991. The coalition began a ground invasion of Iraqi-occupied Kuwait and parts of Iraq on 23 February 1991. As Iraqi troops retreated from Kuwait, they set fire to over 700 Kuwaiti oil wells, but this strategy was ultimately unsuccessful in thwarting the coalition's advance. By 28 February 1991, the Iraqi military had been devastated, and Kuwaiti independence was restored.





COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY 1790

The United States Coast Guard was officially established on August 4, 1790, by the Treasury Department. Initially named the Revenue Marine, it was tasked with enforcing tariff and trade laws and preventing smuggling. Its first fleet consisted of ten cutters, small ships designed to patrol the coastlines and intercept contraband.

In 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving Service, leading to the creation of the modern Coast Guard. This merger broadened the service's mission to include search and rescue operations, a role that has become a hallmark of the Coast Guard.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

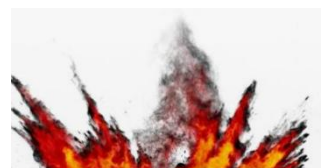


Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam, 1964

The Gulf of Tonkin incident occurred in August 1964 and involved two reported confrontations between U.S. naval vessels and North Vietnamese forces in the Gulf of Tonkin. The first incident on August 2 involved an attack on the USS Maddox, which was conducting a patrol. The second, more controversial incident on August 4, was reported to involve further attacks, although later investigations suggested that this may not have occurred as initially claimed. Following these incidents, Congress passed the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson broad authority to increase U.S. military presence in Vietnam without a formal declaration of war. This resolution marked a significant escalation in U.S. involvement, leading to the deployment of combat troops and a sustained bombing campaign against North Vietnam.

Suicide bombing at Abby Gate: 13 service members killed

The Abbey Gate bombing occurred on August 26, 2021, during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. A suicide bomber affiliated with ISIS-K detonated an explosive device at the Abbey Gate of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. This tragic event resulted in the deaths of 13 U.S. service members and over 170 Afghan civilians, marking one of the deadliest incidents during the chaotic evacuation process. The bombing took place at approximately 5:36 PM local time at the Abbey Gate, a key entry point for evacuees. Among the deceased U.S. personnel were 11 Marines, one Navy corpsman, and one Army staff sergeant. Following the explosion, gunfire erupted as ISIS-K gunmen targeted the crowd, leading to further chaos.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit to the VFW National Home Aug 7-8

VFW comrades from Posts across the state of Ohio will travel to Eaton Rapids, MI, Aug 7-8, 2026 to show their support for the VFW National Home. It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war -- mothers and children, brothers and sisters -- could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home.

Today's families face different challenges -- reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others—and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs. For more information on the National Home and its history, go to the VFW website. Or, visit the National Home on Ohio Day, August 8, 2026, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and tour the facility.



VFW National Home

<http://www.vfwnationalhome.org>

Community services/non-profits in Eaton Rapids, MI

📍 3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

🕒 **Open** · Closes 4:30 PM · [More hours](#) ▼

📞 (517) 663-1521



ANNUAL POST PICNIC
September 5, 2026
WATCH OSU's 1st GAME WITH
ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS AND
ENJOY SOME FOOD TOO!

see your bartender for "sides" sign-up sheet



GAHANNA IS A PURPLE HEART CITY



August 2026

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

BREAKFAST HOURS 9:00-11:00 AM

AUG 2-INVASION OF KUWAIT, OPERATION DESERT SHIELD 1990
AUG 4-COAST GUARD 236th BIRTHDAY!
AUG 5-GULF OF TONKIN, VIETNAM 1964
AUG 7-PURPLE HEART DAY
AUG 7-8-OHIO DAY, VFW NATIONAL HOME VISIT

AUG 14-V-J DAY

1



2

3

4

AMVETS
MTG
6PM

5

VFW
AUX
6:30PM

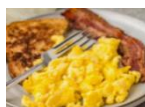
6



STEAK
DINNER



8



9

10

11

12

13

AUXILIARY
SPAGHETTI
DINNER

15



16

♦ ♣ ♥ ♠
EUCHRE
6:30PM

17

18

VFW
7PM

MARINE
CORPS
7PM

19

AMERICAN
LEGION
7PM

20

TACO
DINNER

21



22



23

24

25

AM-LG
AUX
6:30PM

26

27

AMVETS
DINNER

28

29



30

31



DINNER
HOURS
5:30 - 7:30

EVERY
THURSDAY!
8:00PM

POST OFFICERS

BILL PEDERSON, Commander

Kim Sims, Sr. Vice

Mike Bouchard, Jr. Vice

Louis Santos, Adjutant

Troy Purdin, Quartermaster

Mike Ferguson, Chaplain

Steve Ebersole, Trustee

Chuck Rees, Trustee

Bill Scharff, Trustee

Christy Wallace, Editor



POST HOURS

SUNDAY 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

MONDAY 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

TUESDAY through SATURDAY

12:00 pm-10:00 pm

Closing time is subject to change!

Canteen Mgr, Dutch Grootendorst

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!

Contact: Bill at umpireswp@gmail.com or Mary at marypo53@gmail.com