

# VFW 4719 NEWSLETTER



## THE VFW PATRIOT PEN (middle school) and VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (high school)

programs have a rich history, with the Voice of Democracy competition established in 1947. These programs aim to encourage young minds to express their views on a patriotic theme and improve their writing skills. The 2025 theme for the Voice of Democracy competition was "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?" This theme encourages students to reflect on their own experiences and the importance of patriotism in their lives.

Through points of contact in Gahanna-Lincoln and New Albany middle schools and high schools, VFW Post 4719 invited students to participate. Congratulations to Aashra Dhakal, a student at Gahanna Middle School East, for earning first place in this year's Post 4719 Patriot Pen Essay contest. The post presented Aashra's award during a recent school assembly.

~Troy Purdin

FEBRUARY 2026



Kim Sims Aashra Dhakal Troy Purdin Bill Pederson

## FEBRUARY 15TH, 3:00 PM | COLUMBUS, OH. TICKETS: [HERE](#)

Columbus Academy  
4300 Cherry Bottom Road  
Gahanna, OH 43230

## AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT OF STORYTELLING, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE

Join us in Columbus for *Last Out: Elegy of a Green Beret* – a gripping live stage production written by Ret. Green Beret Lt. Col. Scott Mann and performed by combat veterans and military family members.

Through the eyes of Danny Patton, a Green Beret caught between this life and the next, *Last Out* takes you on a powerful journey through the warrior's experience – from the battlefield to the homefront. Raw, emotional, and deeply human, this is not just a play – it's a mission to heal, connect, and remember.

Hosted at Columbus Academy, this one-show event offers a rare opportunity to witness the cost of war through the voices of those who lived it.

Come honor the legacy of our nation's defenders and be part of a story that bridges the gap between military and civilian life.



**TICKETS**

\$25



**Comrades, Auxiliary members, partners, and friends**, as our Nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that the freedoms declared in 1776 have been preserved by generations willing to serve and sacrifice. For 126 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has carried that legacy forward, honoring the dead by helping the living and ensuring our Nation never forgets its responsibility to those who served.

The VFW's mission is to foster camaraderie among veterans of overseas conflicts, serve veterans, the military, and our communities, and advocate on behalf of all veterans. That mission is not just a statement; it is a daily commitment reflected in our actions, our fellowship, and our service.

**United in Service Under One Roof.** Our building represents more than shared space; it represents shared purpose. Under one roof, we are proud to be home to VFW Post 4719 alongside our partners: AMVETS Post 5, American Legion Post 797, the Marine Corps League, the VFW and American Legion Auxiliaries, and our dedicated Social Members.

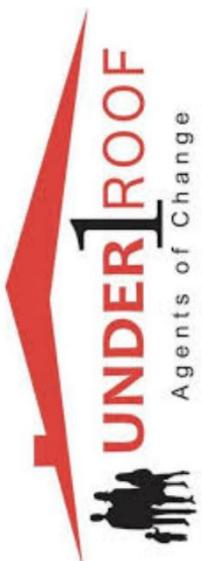
Each organization brings its own traditions and strengths, but we are united by a common goal—to support veterans, their families, and our community. Together, through advocacy, volunteerism, fundraising, and camaraderie, we extend our reach far beyond these walls and strengthen the impact of every effort.

**Honoring the Mission Through Action.** As we plan and participate in events throughout 2026, let us remain mindful of the mission that unites us. Every meeting, event, and outreach opportunity is a chance to honor our past, serve today's veterans, and build a stronger future for those who will follow. Mission-driven efforts ensure our work remains meaningful, sustainable, and impactful.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, Auxiliary members, partner organizations, and Social Members. Your service is what transforms this Post into a true hub of fellowship and support.

**United Under One Roof** is more than a motto; it will be my guiding philosophy. Guided by our shared mission to honor the past, serve the present, and build a stronger future for **ALL** Veterans and our community.

As we move forward, I encourage every member across every organization under our roof to stay engaged, stay informed, and stay involved. Upcoming events will be shared in future newsletters, discussed at our meetings, and posted in our Canteen. Each one will be an opportunity to put our mission into action. Your presence, ideas, and willingness to serve are what turn our plans into impact. Together, **United Under One Roof**, let's continue to show our community what Veterans working together can accomplish. Thank you for your continued commitment and service.



Respectfully,  
*Louis Santos, Commander*  
VFW Tri-Community Post 4719



Joseph's Coat of Central Ohio would like to extend our sincere thanks to VFW Post 4719 for your generous support throughout 2025. Your partnership has made a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans and their families across our community.

Because of your support, Joseph's Coat regularly serves dozens of veterans, helping meet everyday needs with dignity and care. In addition, we were able to provide 3,698 items, valued at \$176,151, to support veterans through Commons on Livingston and the Stand Down Program, sponsored by the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in downtown Columbus.

These items represent more than numbers. They represent safe homes, practical support, and renewed stability for veterans transitioning into housing or navigating challenging seasons. We are deeply grateful for VFW Post 4719's continued commitment to caring for those who have served and strengthening our Central Ohio community.

Thank you for standing with us in this important work.

~ Mike Bouchard



Help us continue to feed those in need -----> **DONATE TODAY!**



To donate text "GRIN give" to (833) 245-8403



**GRIN**  
Gahanna Residents In Need  
Food Pantry Since 1972

In 2020-21, your donations helped us provide  
Over 250,000 meals to families in need  
908 school backpacks & supplies  
20,000 summer lunches to children  
19,000 holiday meals

Brenda Johnston, Executive Director  
Email: [ed4grin@gmail.com](mailto:ed4grin@gmail.com)  
[www.Grin4Gahanna.org](http://www.Grin4Gahanna.org)

**LOOK FOR  
THE  
GRIN  
GAHANNA RESIDENTS IN NEED  
DROP BOX  
AT THE  
POST!**

## USPS ROBBERY & MARINES-NYC

### 1921

In the early 1900s, mail robbery was a common problem in the U.S. It was a profitable enterprise for thieves, as banks and other financial institutions often shipped large amounts of money and negotiable bonds by registered mail.

Perhaps the worst robbery occurred in New York City in November 1921, when robbers stole five sacks of mail, carrying about \$2.4 million in cash and securities in a single heist. 104 years ago yesterday, on November 7, 1921, President Warren G. Harding ordered 2,200 Marines to guard the mail in the wake of a series of daring mail robberies.



The Marines had strict orders: "You must, when on guard duty, keep your weapons in hand and, if attacked, shoot and shoot to kill. There is no compromise in this battle with bandits."



**WARREN G. HARDING**

**29th** President of the United States

Served as president 1921–23  
Born November 2, 1865  
Died August 2, 1923  
Political affiliation Republican Party

*“In the great fulfillment we must have a citizenship less concerned about what the government can do for it and more anxious about what it can do for the nation.”*

If two Marines guarding a mail car, for example, are suddenly covered by a robber, neither must hold up his hands, but both must begin shooting at once. One may be killed, but the other will get the robbers and save the mail. When our Marine Corps men go as guards over the mail, that mail must be delivered, or there must be a dead Marine at the post of duty."

The Marines remained on duty until March 15, 1922. During that time, there wasn't a single attempted mail robbery. In February 1927, the Marines left for Nicaragua and were replaced by a new security force of the Postal Service.



***Gahanna Moose re-opens  
February 1, 2026!***



# FEBRUARY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				DINNER HOUR 5:30 – 7:30PM		
GROUNDHOG DAY 	3 	AMVETS MTG 6PM	4 VFW AUX 6:30PM	5	6 STEAK DINNER	7
9	10	11	12 	13 PASTA DINNER	14 BE MINE 	15 
16 	17 VFW MTG 7PM	18 MARINE CORP 7PM	19 AMERICAN LEGION 7PM	20 TACO DINNER	21 	22 
23 	24	25 AM-LG AUX 6:30PM	26	27 AMVETS DINNER	28 BREAKFAST HOUR 9:00-11:00AM	



**QHearts**  
EVERY THURSDAY!  
8:00PM



## POST OFFICERS

**LOUIS SANTOS, Commander**

Kim Sims, Sr. Vice  
Andrew Thornton, Jr. Vice  
Bill Pederson, Adjutant  
Bill Scharff, Quartermaster  
Ben Brockway, Chaplain  
Chuck Rees, Trustee  
Steve Ebersole, Trustee  
Steve Pearson, Trustee

Christy Wallace, Editor



"That snowman is not going to answer you back."

## POST HOURS

**SUNDAY** 9:00am – 8:00pm

**MONDAY** 4:00pm – 10:00pm

**TUESDAY thru SATURDAY**

12:00 pm-10:00pm

**Closing time is subject to change!**

**Canteen Mgr, Dutch Grootendorst**

Contact: Dee at [ysnyder@columbus.rr.com](mailto:ysnyder@columbus.rr.com) or Bill at [umpireswp@gmail.com](mailto:umpireswp@gmail.com)