

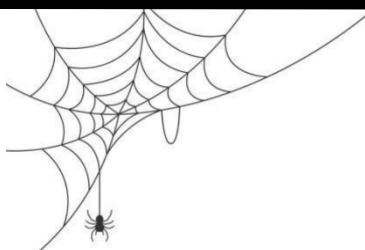
VFW 4719

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. NEWSLETTER

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



OCTOBER 2026



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Renovation at the Post is moving forward. During the second week of September, the team replaced the HVAC unit for the social hall. The contractor also added another air return vent and another air supply vent, increasing the airflow in the social hall. During the fourth week of September, the team replaced the canteen's rooftop unit.

The social hall renovation is tentatively scheduled to start on January 4, 2027. The project should be completed in four weeks. The upgrade includes four windows on the north side of the building, a new ceiling, new LED lighting, and a gas conversion for the fireplace. We are finalizing details and seeking approval to fund the project. For more information, contact me.



*Bill Pederson
Commander*



US NAVY ANNIVERSARY, 1775



October 13 marks the U.S. Navy's birthday, tracing its roots to the early days of the American Revolution. On **October 13, 1775**, the Continental Congress established a naval force, hoping that a small fleet of privateers could attack British commerce and offset British sea power.

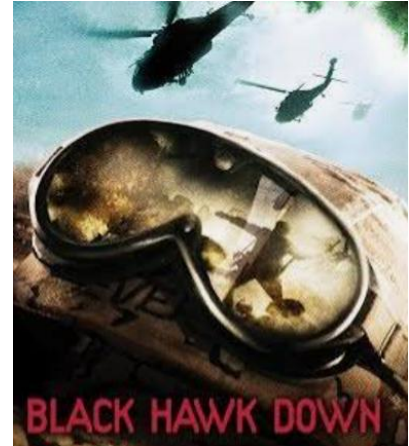
The early Continental Navy was designed to work with privateers to wage tactical raids against transports supplying British forces in North America. To accomplish this mission, the Continental Congress purchased, converted, and built a fleet of small ships—frigates, brigs, sloops, and schooners. These Navy ships sailed independently or in pairs, hunting British commerce ships and transports.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

BATTLE OF MOGADISHU, 1993

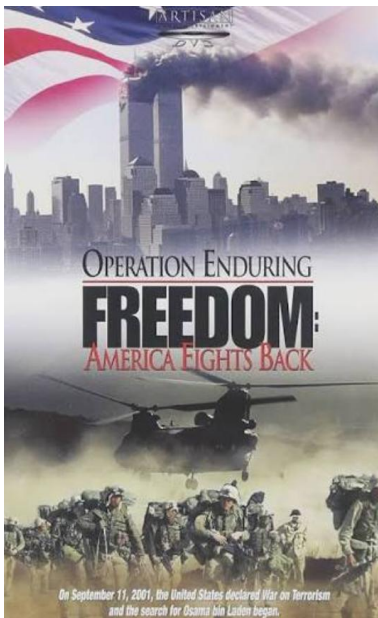
The Battle of Mogadishu, also known as the Black Hawk Down Incident, was part of Operation Gothic Serpent. It was fought on 3–4 October 1993, in Mogadishu, Somalia, between forces of the United States—supported by UNOSOM II—against Somali National Alliance (SNA) fighters and other insurgents in south Mogadishu.

On 3 October 1993, US forces planned to seize two of Aidid's top lieutenants during a meeting deep in the city. The raid was meant to last only an hour but turned into an overnight standoff and rescue operation that ran into daylight the next day. As the operation was ongoing, Somali insurgents shot down three American Black Hawk helicopters using RPG-7s. A desperate defense of the two downed helicopters, in hostile territory, began, and fighting lasted through the night to defend the survivors of the crashes.



No battle since the Vietnam War had killed so many US troops. Casualties included 18 dead American soldiers and 73 wounded. Somali casualties: estimates are between 133 and 700 dead.

START OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, 2001



In response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, Operation Enduring Freedom officially began on 7 October 2001 with American and British bombing strikes against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Initially, the Taliban was removed from power, and al-Qaeda was seriously crippled.

After 13 years, on 28 December 2014, President Barack Obama announced the end of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

By August 31, 2021, all US and allied forces departed the Hamid Karzai International Airport, thus ending any official operations within Afghanistan.

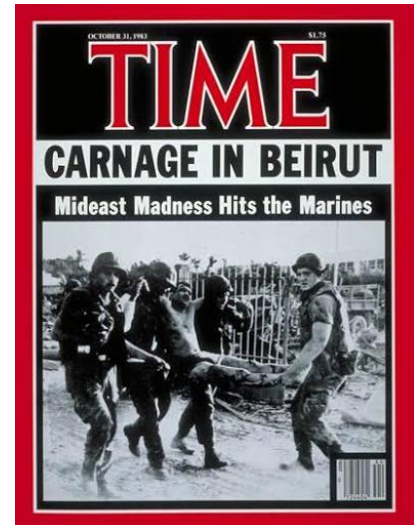


MARINE BARRACKS BOMBING IN BEIRUT, 1983

On October 23, 1983, two truck bombs were detonated at buildings in Beirut, Lebanon, housing American and French service members of the Multinational Force in Lebanon (MNF), a military peacekeeping operation during the Lebanese Civil War. The attack killed 307 people: 241 U.S. and 58 French military personnel, six civilians, and two of the attackers.

The first suicide bomber detonated a truck bomb at the building serving as a barracks for the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines (Battalion Landing Team BLT 1/8) of the 2nd Marine Division, killing 220 Marines, 18 sailors, and three soldiers, making this incident the deadliest single-day death toll for the United States Marine Corps since the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. Another 128 Americans were wounded in the blast. Thirteen later died of their injuries. The explosives used were later estimated to be equivalent to as much as 12,000 pounds (5,400 kg) of TNT.

Minutes later, a second suicide bomber struck the nine-story Drakkar building, a few kilometers away, where the French contingent was stationed. Fifty-five paratroopers from the 1st Parachute Chasseur Regiment and three paratroopers of the 9th Parachute Chasseur Regiment were killed, and 15 were injured.



GRENADA INVASION, 1983

The United States and a coalition of Caribbean countries invaded the island nation of Grenada at dawn on 25 October 1983. The U.S. military codenamed it Operation Urgent Fury, and it resulted in a military occupation within a few days. It was triggered by strife within the People's Revolutionary Government, which led to the house arrest and execution of the previous leader and second Prime Minister of Grenada, Maurice Bishop, and to the establishment of the Revolutionary Military Council, with Hudson Austin as chairman. Following the invasion, an interim government was appointed, and then general elections were held in December 1984.



Maurice Bishop



Hudson Austin

MEET THE STAFF! Hi, I'm Kaylin Warner; people call me Kay. I have been working as a bartender at VFW Post 4719 for over a year as of June 2026.

A little bit about me. I have three girls: Stella, Freya, and Eleanor. I'm very crafty – I like to crochet and make jewelry! I love houseplants, but my favorites are my carnivorous plants. I keep them in a bog outside! I enjoy taking my girls to the park or playing in the creek. We have a cat named Benson Boone. I was a baker/barista for four years down south, and I have worked in retail since I was 16.

~ Kay Warner



UPCOMING EVENTS



FOUNDERS DAY

Founders Day, VFW

Please join the VFW Department of Ohio on Saturday, October 3, to celebrate 127 years of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Green Lawn Cemetery on Broad St. National Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler and National Auxiliary President Donna Mills will join us in honoring our founders. The parade steps off at 1000. The Founders Day banquet follows at 1200. For tickets and registration, visit the Department of Ohio website: <https://www.vfwoh.org>.

"Ohio, where it all started"



EARLY VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 12

Franklin County Board of Elections
1700 Morse Rd
Columbus, OH 43229

(614) 525-3100



VFW Post 4719
Halloween Costume Party
October 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Cocktails, Costumes, Food & Fun
Bring your favorite appetizer to share



2026 October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BREAKFAST HOURS 9:00-11:00 AM		OCT 3 – Battle of Mogadishu OCT 7 - Start of Operation Enduring Freedom OCT 13 - US Navy Anniversary OCT 23 – Marine barracks bombing in Beirut OCT 24 – Halloween Party @ the Post OCT 25 - Grenada Invasion		1 VFW AUX 6:30PM	2 STEAK DINNER	3 
4 	5	6	7 AMVETS MTG 6PM	8	9 AUXILIARY SPAGHETTI DINNER	10 WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS 11AM
11 	12 	13 	14	15 AMERICAN LEGION 7PM	16 FISH FRY OR CHICKEN TENDERS	17
18 	19 	20 VFW 7PM	21 MARINE CORPS 7PM	22	23 WINGS and MUSIC!	24 POST HALLOWEEN PARTY 
25 	26	27 AM-LG AUX 6:30PM	28	29	30 DINNER HOURS 5:30 – 7:30 	31 Halloween 

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS IS NOVEMBER 1 – TIME FOR CLOCKS TO “FALL BACK”



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