



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**  
BARRINGTON MEMORIAL POST NO. 7706  
Post Office Box 472  
Barrington, Illinois 60011

**THE POST NEWSLETTER - December 2007**

**GET IT DONE**

Welcome to the December 2007 edition of the Post Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the Holiday Season.

**Welcome Home**

During the months of October, November and December Comrades from Post 7706 were involved in welcoming home four Iraqi War Veterans. We presented our Post Colors and a Hand Salute to each Veteran, in coordination with The Patriot Guard Riders (A patriotic motorcycle organization). The following Iraqi Veterans were given a welcome home that they will never forget.

*L/Cpl Jason Dahlmann USMC, SPC Robert Yeninas US Army, SPC Robert Tres Fitzgerald US Army and SPC John Moran, US Army.*

Approximately Sixty motor cyclist's were in attendance. Each Motor cycle was sporting the American Flag and there is nothing more exciting than the sound of Sixty Motor cycle's on a frosty morning. Also in attendance were all the neighbors to welcome our Hero's home. Welcome home Comrades and thank you for serving our great country.

**Veterans Day/Week**

This year Veterans were honored by Schools in the area. Post Comrades attended seven school programs and conducted a Patriotic Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial. A Veterans Breakfast was provided by The Home Economics Department of Prairie Campus Middle School. A Veterans luncheon was provided by Cynthia Baer of the Canterbury Shoppe.

**Comments from: Quartermaster Clarence Hovorka.**

I would like to remind those who have not paid their dues to please do so by December 31, 2007, or contact me at 847- 844-8130. **Let's Get It Done.**

Comments from: Past commander Al Koller.

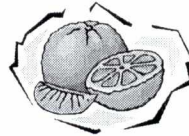
The "Bar Codes" of labels from cans of Campbell Soup, Swanson's Chicken Broth and Prego are still needed to help purchase a Van to transport the children at our VFW National Home For Children. Please send your bar codes to the address on the top of the letterhead. Lets get it done. Thank you

Help Wanted

We have a need for someone to come to the aid of our post. A Chairman to manage the Sloppy Joe Dinner is needed. Training and assistance will be provided. This Fundraiser is critical to the financial well being of our organization. I know your Father told you when you went into the service to "never volunteer for anything", Well this is not the US Army and we are not financed by the Government. Our organization need's everyone that can to step up to the plate and swing the bat. Please contact Post Commander Frank J. Perhats at 847-381-4515.

Veteran Stories

Commander Frank J. Perhats has published a book for his Grandchildren. The Book contains stories relating to his experiences while serving our country during World War Two. The story below is an excerpt from that book.



The Story of the Mandarin Orange

"The late afternoon light was slowly beginning to fade and though the air was still, a cold, fall chill penetrated my fatigues and jacket. The area was devoid of any Japanese civilians and we had intended to walk only for a few minutes. When the two of us were fifty feet from the first building in the enclave, a small boy appeared on the path slowly walking towards us. When the boy got within twenty feet, he stopped, bowed deeply and gesticulated as he spoke; "Come Joe, come". He bowed again and began walking backward as he bowed and kept calling over and over again, "Come Joe, Come ... Come Joe, Come" he urged. Dominick looked at me with a quizzical look and me at him. "Is this a trap"? What does this little kid want with us? He seemed innocent enough, but it wouldn't be the first time a kid was used to set a trap. Usually women were used to lure soldiers into traps. None the less, a little kid could still be used by desperate people.

During the few moments this took place, we both decided the people of this small enclave would be foolish to start anything. We outnumbered and outgunned them. We kept following the young boy and he kept walking backwards toward the first little house gesticulating, bowing and gently calling, "Come Joe, Come. Come Joe, Come".

As we arrived within ten feet of the house, the door slowly opened and the little boy was joined by what appeared to be an elderly couple, both bowing deeply and respectfully while joining the child in his gentile Chorus, "Come Joe, come. Come Joe, come" they politely urged. Mamasan and Papasan shuffled backwards thru the door with the young boy following. As we entered we both bowed slightly at the waist to clear the low door opening which our "hosts" interpreted as a polite return bow. Inside this small space and alongside these slight people, we seemed like giants as we removed our steel helmets. We unslung our rifles from our shoulders and cautiously looked around.

Our host motioned for us to enter while repeating the invitation as they continued to bow, "Come Joe come, Come Joe come ". They motioned for us to be seated on the depressed floor around a little hibachi. We surveyed the room and noted two rooms divided from this one by paper covered sliding doors. We decided to keep an eye out for possible other occupants. We were still suspicious and cautious. When we seated ourselves around the tiny hibachi, Papasan gripped a pair of small tongs and retrieved a fist sized chunk of coal from the few stored in a small scuttle and added it to the fire. He warmed his knurled hands over the warm hibachi and with a gold toothed smile motioned us to do likewise.

The couple now began speaking to us slowly in Japanese and a few broken words of English. And we spoke English and a few broken words of Japanese; and along with sign language, smiles and bows, recent enemies managed to communicate, "Hello" ... and our first "Welcome". Papasan retrieved a small bamboo smoking pipe with a brass, thimble sized bowl on its end and a stash of tobacco folded in a small cloth rag - perhaps the last of his war ravaged stash. He took a small pinch, stuffed it into the brass bowl, picked up a small sliver of wood which he dipped into the tiny fire of the hibachi. With the flaming brand, he lit the tobacco in the bowl, took two savored puffs and dumped the ashes into a small bowl. Gracefully, Mamasan rose, bowed and excused herself in Japanese as she walked backward from the gathering. Moments later she reappeared accompanied by a young man about 17 years of age. While she spoke to us, she pointed with her open right hand palms up, toward the young man on her left who bowed profusely as she spoke in Japanese and he slowly interpreted in broken English. As this new arrival joined us, Momasan held a very small can in her hand which she had just opened. With chop sticks she ceremoniously retrieved single slices of mandarin oranges which she gently and gratefully offered her guests and family as she explained in Japanese while her older son interpreted: "Since the beginning of the war I have saved this small can of mandarin oranges and now wish to celebrate with you and my family the safe return of my son from the war".

This Mother, halfway around the world from my home celebrated as my Mother would a year later, the safe return of her son from war."

Frank J. Perhats  
Post Commander  
VFW post 7706

#### New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our Post.

*Robert Harrigan.* He served during the Vietnam War in the U.S. Army.

*SPC. Robert Trez Fitzgerald.* Returned home from Iraq. U.S. Army 10 Mountain Division. He is a Purple Heart Veteran. We all look forward to many years of your comradeship.

#### Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony

The Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial as it has in past years. We had planned to have the Ceremony take place at the Barrington Library, however things did not work out as planned and we had to cancel the program. Next year we plan to hold it at the Library to attract more citizens to learn about our Country's history.



### Taps

On October 24, 2007, Eugene B. Conrad 77, passed away. Eugene was a Navy fighter pilot for six years flying in the Korean War off the Aircraft Carrier "Bon Homme Richard". Eugene was a Post 7706 Comrade. As requested by the family a Full Graveside Service was conducted in his honor by members of VFW Post 7706 Military Funeral Detail. May he rest in peace.

On October 31, 2007, Elmer G. Shaw 89, passed away. Elmer served in the U. S. Army during World War Two. He was a member of the 707<sup>th</sup> armored Division and fought in the Battle of The Bulge. He was a Life Member of Post 7706. As requested by the family an Honor Guard and Flag Folding ceremony was conducted at the Funeral Home by members of VFW Post 7706 Military Funeral Detail. May he rest in peace.

On November 17, 2007 Lawrence Popp 78, passed away. Lawrence was Past Commander of Post 7706 and a long time VFW member. He served as Poppy Day and Scholarship Chairman. Lawrence served in the US Army during the Korean War. As requested by the Family an Honor Guard and Flag folding ceremony was conducted at the Funeral home by members of VFW post 7706 Military Funeral Detail. May he rest in peace.

On November 23, 2007 Ola A. Olsen 92, passed away. She was a Life Member of Post 7706. Ola served in the US Army, Asiatic-Pacific Theater during World War Two. She was a Founding Member of the W.A.C. Veterans of Chicago which is now nation wide. As requested by the family a Full Grave Side Service was conducted in her honor by the Military Funeral Detail of Post 7706. May She rest in peace.

On December 2, 2007 Edward R. Klamm 93, Passed away. Edward served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific as a Naval Officer during World War Two. Edward was a Volunteer's Volunteer. He was an active member in Northeast Illinois Hospice, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM). Edward was the recipient of numerous awards. He also served as Post 7706 Patriots Pen Chairman. He will be missed. He was very special to the comrades of VFW Post7706. May He rest in peace.



### A Final Salute.

During the past year the following Comrades have departed our ranks.

Robert E. Dunk, Ralph Wasseem, Robert Korsmo, Thomas Shedd, LeRoy N. Schneider,

Eugene B. Conrad, Elmer G. Shaw, Lawrence Popp, Ola A. Olsen and Edward R. Klamm.

May they rest in peace.

## **Calendar of Events**

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**Meeting Dates. Meetings start at 7:30 PM**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
1/3/2008	Thursday	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting	Masonic Temple
2/7/2008	Thursday	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting	Masonic Temple
3/6/2008	Thursday	7:30 PM	Monthly Meeting	Masonic Temple

## **Other important Dates**

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4/3/2008	Thursday	9:00am	Sloppy Joe Ticket	More Info to come
4/26/2008	Saturday	4:00pm	Sloppy Joe Dinner	Lagendorf Park

Thank You

James B. Mulvihill  
Communications Chairman  
VFW Post 7706

E-mail [jimbo7706@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimbo7706@sbcglobal.net)  
Find us at [www.barringtonvfw.org](http://www.barringtonvfw.org)