

COMMANDER's COLUMN	"Principles Above Personalities"

Comrades — Where does time go? Seemed like the new year was yesterday and now we are into February already. Crazy! We are not having a meeting this month because it is Valentine Day. So we will see you on March 14th for the next one. Don't forget dinner at 6pm!

Our BBQ competition has been moved to April 5-6th for those that don't know. We have several teams already and a lot of judges. Reason the date was moved, was because of Easter this year. We didn't think that we would have a great turn out because of it.

<u> "The only easy day, was yesterday." — U.S. Navy Seals</u>

FROM YOUR 846 AUXILIARY...

...LAURA GULLEY, President

...SCOTT NUSZ, Commander

Greetings Auxiliary Members — First of all, I would like to let everyone know that we have decided not to have a meeting in February, we hope to see you at the meeting in March Also, I would like to welcome our newly elected officer, Guard, Brian "Bear" Isabell. We still need help on Sunday afternoons in the Bingo kitchen, it is only a few hours of work so let us know if you can help. The Auxiliary is sponsoring the March Commanders Dinner. We will be serving corned beef and cabbage and could use your help. Please contact me if you are interested in donating your time or food.

POW/MIA REPORT...

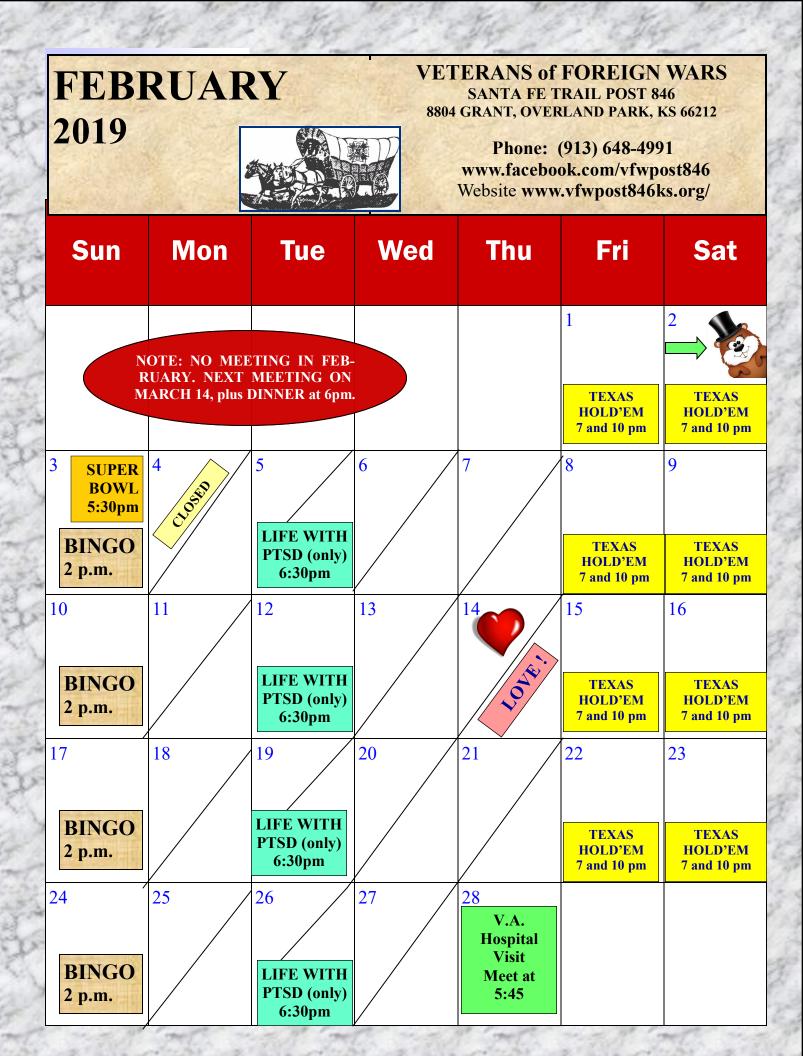
RAY CALORE, Chairman



Baron 52 was the call sign of a United States Air Force <u>EC-47</u> carrying eight crew members that was shot down over Laos during the predawn hours of 5 February 1973, a week after the Paris Peace Accords officially ended the United States involvement in the Vietnam War. The remains of four crewmen were recovered from the crash site, but those of the remaining four have never been found. Although the U.S. government considers them to have been killed in action and as late as 1996 listed them as "accounted for", family members and POW/MIA advocates believe the four survived the crash and were taken captive and possi-

bly sent to the USSR. The intelligence gatherers and their equipment would have been highly valued by the Soviets who maintained a presence both in Laos and North Vietnam. The incident has been featured on several nationwide news programs and a 1991 episode of the U.S. television series *Unsolved Mysteries*. More recent research by the National Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Servicemen presented to Congress has prompted a status review of the incident scheduled to take place in 2016. (Source: Wikipedia.com / baron52)







"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible" – St. Francis of Assisi



The Post now has THREE regulation steel dart boards, complete with chalk score boards and steel-tip house darts or bring your own darts, of course. No tournaments yet, but we're working on it. Meanwhile, keep practicing here at the Post.

<u>TEXAS HOLD'EM NOW ON FRIDAYS</u> and SATURDAYS,

Every **Friday and Saturday evenings** in the Canteen, 7pm and 10pm.



(With Prestige Poker.) Only \$5 buy-in donation. **GOOD LUCK !**

<u>LIFE WITH P.T.S.D.</u> with Norm Holle every on Tuesday Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30pm at the Post. Remember, it's not about what's Wrong with you, it's about what Happened to you. Norm and his wife Carolyn have 16 years experience in this field of helping Veterans and dealing with the V.A. on this issue. Norm's phone is (913) 856-4310.

ANSWER to LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION...

The Japanese Combined Fleet (Kido Butai) that was assembled to attack Pearl Harbor was called Operation Z.

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH... What is the oldest commissioned U.S. Navy ship?





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Militarytimes.com, 29 Jan 2019:

<u>Court rules VA must pay disability benefits to 'blue water' Vietnam veterans</u>

WASHINGTON — A federal court ruled Tuesday that the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot deny disability benefits to thousands of Vietnam veterans who claim exposure to cancer-causing chemical defoliants simply because those vets served in the waters off the country's coastline, and not inland.

The ruling marks a major victory for so-called "blue water" Navy veterans who have fought the department for years over the denials. VA officials have said the existing scientific evidence doesn't justify the presumption of toxic exposure for the group and have strongly opposed legislative efforts to overturn their decision.

But the 9-2 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturns past court opinions backing up VA, saying that Congress never intended to exclude service members in the seas around Vietnam when they awarded presumptive benefits for certain illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. Under current department rules, the blue water veterans can receive medical care for their illnesses through VA. But to receive disability benefits — worth up to several thousand dollars a month — they must prove that their ailments are directly connected to toxic exposure while on duty. That's not the case for other Vietnam veterans, who are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other defoliants known to cause serious and rare cancers. (*More at MilitaryTimes.com*)

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

. Our condolences go out to Auxiliary member Annie Geanes and her husband Michael on the death of Michael's mother Chris Riddle in an auto accident on Jan. 11th. Rest in Peace.

There will be a memorial service at the Post for Bud Starling sometime in April. We will let you know, so stay tuned.

Please let me know of anyone in need, in a nursing facility, or who has passed away.

Thank you.

<u>...Chaplain LANE</u>

LANE SMITH



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V.A. HOSPITAL REPORT...

Happy Winter! Due to conflicts in scheduling, we did not have a Leavenworth VA Hospital visit in January, but we will be going again on Thursday, Feb. 28, weather permitting. Please feel free to come with us. We leave the Post at 5:45. Keep warm, we still have

two more months of winter to go! Stay safe, and we'll see you soon.

...CHRISTINE ANDERSON & DANA PFLUMM

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APPLICATION — For questions about eligibility, contact svcmdr@vfwpost846ks.org

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