



# ***SANTA FE EXPRESS***

**NEWSLETTER — VFW POST 846**

**OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS — (913) 735-3127**



# **March**

**2021**



**RAY CALORE**  
Editor

**VFW Post 846**  
**new location**  
Next Meeting, Mar.11

10630-B Metcalf Lane, O.P.

Post Website: [www.vfwpost846ks.org](http://www.vfwpost846ks.org)

Facebook link: [VFW Post 846](#)

**STAY SAFE, WE NEED YOU !**



**COMMANDER's COLUMN..... "Principles Above Personalities" ..MARTIN FRIES, Commander**

Comrades of Post 846, I hope that everyone is doing well and staying safe. If you are part of the VA Health Care system they are offering the COVID-19 Vaccinations and we have had several at the Post already get both shots. You do not have to worry about certain age requirements. I have had both of my COVID shots now and talking with the nurses at the VA they are wanting people to get shots and don't worry about your age.

We have WiFi and Cable TV set up at the Post. The WiFi password is located on the backdoor. When the weather breaks we will go thru the storage units and will start to put art work and items on the walls. At the JAN meeting the Members approved that we will have dinner before each Post meeting at 6pm.

Jack Hiles is looking for volunteers to help with the Buddy Poppy drive coming up. If you have time please talk to Jack. This is a way for us to continue to help Veterans in NEED.

**We will have our next meeting on 11 MAR, dinner is at 6PM and meeting 7pm at our location 10630 Metcalf Ln, Overland Park.** We need everyone's help to get our membership numbers up. Please let current members who have not attended a meeting in a while to come out to see the new location.  
**...MARTIN FRIES, Post Commander**

**POST 846 ELECTIONS COMING UP FOR ELECTED POSITIONS, FOR THE VFW YEAR 2021—2022.**

**\*March 11th Meeting — Nominations open for elected offices.**

**\*April 8th Meeting — Nominations continue and elections held.**

**— Newly elected officers will assume their positions at the close of the State Convention in June.**

**If you want to run for an office of VFW Post 846, please be at the March meeting to be nominated, or submit a letter of intent to Commander Martin Fries.**

**\*\* The Auxiliary of Post 846 will have nominations and elections together at the April 8th meeting.**



**FROM YOUR AUXILIARY...**

**...DANA PFLUMM, President**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers! February is over and I hope it took the sub-zero temperatures with it. Welcome to March! Our end of the year reports are due in March. PLEASE send in everything you have that qualifies and if you aren't sure, call me at 913-548-5507. Since COVID, it has been hard to volunteer our hours but surely somebody has done something that will fit into one of our programs. Send it to me, my email is [leavingoz@aol.com](mailto:leavingoz@aol.com), bring it to our meeting on March 11, or call the chairman. Let's do it!

**ELECTION TIME!** At our meeting on April 8, we will be electing the officers for the 2021-2022 year. Please consider running for an office. You'll have fun and will be working with a great group of members. We need you, and our Veterans need you. We owe them for all they have done for us.

The District Conference will be held on April 17 at 10:00 in DeSoto. Make plans to attend Let's give Pres. Laura our support and enjoy the company of fellow Auxiliary members from District 2. Our next meeting will be on Thurs., March 11 at 7:00. We will be meeting at Christine Anderson's house at 7727 Hardy St. O.P., and on Zoom. You will receive an email with the meeting ID and the passcode before hand. To get in touch with your creative side, immediately after the meeting we will be decorating fruit cups to give to the Vets at the Leavenworth VA Hospital for Easter. And if you haven't seen it, we were featured with pictures in the State Sunflower Express Newsletter, making Valentine cards with socks and candy bars attached for our Vets in Leavenworth. Join us! For those who haven't attended a meeting recently or for a while, we miss you!

Keep safe, happy St. Patrick's Day and may God Bless You and Yours.

**...President DANA**



March is **Women in the Military** month. Check out the special page in this Newsletter for a 90 year time-line of American women in the military. VFW Post 846 welcomes you and recognizes your dedicated service!



# MARCH 2021



## VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS

SANTA FE TRAIL POST 846

Meet at 7500 W. 75th St., OVERLAND PARK, KS 66204

\*New Phone: (913) 735-3127

[www.facebook.com/vfwpost846](https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost846)

Website [www.vfwpost846ks.org/](http://www.vfwpost846ks.org/)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MARCH IS "WOMEN IN THE MILITARY" MONTH.	1	2	3	4	5	6
		"Life with PTSD" 1830 hrs. at VFW Post 7397, Lenexa	BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.		BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		"Life with PTSD" 1830 hrs. at VFW Post 7397, Lenexa	BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.	VFW 846 Meeting at our new Post 846 7pm	BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME, 0200 hrs. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour		"Life with PTSD" 1830 hrs. at VFW Post 7397, Lenexa	BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.		BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		"Life with PTSD" 1830 hrs. at VFW Post 7397, Lenexa	BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.		BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.	
28	29	30	31			
Legion 370 BREAKFAST 8:30 — 11am		"Life with PTSD" 1830 hrs. at VFW Post 7397, Lenexa	BINGO AT LEGION 370 7 p.m.			

## **MARCH IS "WOMEN IN THE MILITARY" MONTH.**

Here is a brief history of the dedicated women who served in the military from World War I to the War on Terror:



**Julia Parsons, a WWII code-breaker, turned 100 on March 2, 2021.**

In WWI, women were allowed to join the military. 33,000 women served as nurses and support staff. More than 400 nurses died in the line of duty. The first woman to enlist in the military was Loretta Walsh in 1917.

In WWII, more than 400,000 women served at home and overseas as mechanics, ambulance drivers, pilots, administrators, nurses and other non-combat roles. 88 women were captured and held as prisoners of war (POWs)



Not until 1948, when a law was passed by Congress called the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, were women granted permanent status in the military and subject to military authority and regulations, which entitled them to veteran's benefits.



During the Korean War, over 50,000 women served at home and abroad. 500 Army nurses served in combat zones and many Navy nurses served on hospital ships.



In Vietnam, approximately 7,000 or more women served as nurses in all five divisions of the military, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines and Coast Guard. All were volunteers. Eight women's names are on the Vietnam Wall in D.C.

In 1976, West Point welcomed their first female cadets and the Air Force also allowed women to be trained in military science.



1978 was the year women in the Navy and Marines were allowed to serve on non-combat ships as technicians, nurses and officers.

In 1991, an act of Congress allowed women to fly in combat missions.

During the Persian Gulf War in 1991 to 1992, more than 41,000 women were deployed to combat zone. Two were actually taken captive.



1993 is the year that women were allowed to serve on combat ships by another Act of Congress.



In the year 2000, Captain Kathleen McGrath becomes the first woman to command a U.S. Navy warship.

In 2003, during the Iraq War, three Army women were taken as prisoners of war (POWs) in the first few days of the invasion.

In 2004, Colonel Linda McTague became the first woman commander of a fighter squadron in the history of the Air Force.



In 2005, during the "War on Terror," Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman awarded the Silver Star for combat action.

**GOOD JOB, ALL !!**





**VFW POST 846 MEETING,  
Thursday, March 11, 7pm**



**at our new location,  
10630-B Metcalf Lane  
(Next to Hooters)**

**The dinner this month will  
be BBQ meats and fixin's.**

**Feel free to bring a dessert to share!**

**\*Auxiliary will meet at Chris Anderson's  
home, 7727 Hardy St. at 7pm, March 11th.**

**ZOOM Available — passcode e-mail will be sent.  
Nominations open for elected positions at Post 846.**

# SPRING TIME!

We all knew it was coming, sooner or later. So the "vernal equinox" will occur on Saturday, 20 March 2021, at 0437 hours (Central). Get ready for more sunshine and flowers and all that cool stuff. Little birdies singing, etc. Ahh Spring! Enjoy it while you can, for in no time we'll have 105-degree days. Have fun!



## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT...

**LANE SMITH**



Spring is on the way, so keep smiling! The good news is that we haven't had any reports of members testing positive for the COVID. Hope you are keeping safe and staying healthy. Please keep the Post aware at 913-735-3127 of any illness or hospitalization, so I can be of assistance as your Chaplain.

Be well and stay safe, and have a lovely "end of winter"!

**...Chaplain LANE**

Let me get this  
straight: you've eaten  
bologna your entire  
life, but you'll refuse a  
vaccine because you  
don't know what's in it.

## BUDDY POPPY DRIVE

**...JACK HILES, Chairman**

Comrades, we are now planning for the **Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Drive**. As you know, the proceeds from Poppy distribution go directly into the Post Relief Fund, assisting area Veterans and members. We need YOUR help to keep the Relief Fund refreshed and viable.



I will reserve sites for the entire 3-day Memorial Day weekend, and you can pretty much pick your times. Even a few hours will help. Please let me know if you can participate, at [hiles.jack@yahoo.com](mailto:hiles.jack@yahoo.com).

Thanks for your help!

**...JACK**

## POW/MIA REPORT...

**RAY CALORE, Chairman**



March is Women in Military month, and as such it is appropriate to remember the eight women who died in Vietnam, and one still listed as prisoner of war. Most of them were nurses. There were also 59 civilian women who lost their lives in Vietnam. They were there as Journalists, USAID, Missionaries, CIA, Catholic Charities, Red Cross, Special Services.

LTC Annie Graham  
1LT Sharon Lane  
2Lt Carol Ann Drazba  
2LT Elizabeth Ann Jones  
CPT Eleanor Grace Alexander  
1LT Hedwig Diane Orlowski  
2LT Pamela Dorothy Donovan  
CPT Mary Therese Klinker  
Eleanor Ardel Vietti— Prisoner of War  
POW/MIA — Betty Ann Olsen  
POW/MIA — Beatrice Kosin  
POW/MIA — Evelyn Anderson

**TOTAL OF 59 Civilians, 8 Military**

We owe a lot to these courageous Women.

*May they find peace.*



## LIFE WITH PTSD...— Classes Return!

Norm Holle and Mike Martin are back in action assisting Veterans with PTSD issues. The group meets every Tuesday, 1830 hours. If you feel the need, please check it out. It's worth it.

### VA Hospital Report...

**Christine Anderson, Chairman**



The Junior Girl Scout troop we help has donated 15 boxes of GS cookies. Perfect for an Easter celebration! We are collecting crafts for the domiciliary craft room at Leavenworth. Things to paint, models, brushes. Anything you think the patients would like to do. If you would like to buy something or donate to our craft fund contact me. 913-940-1003.

Our Veterans at the V.A. really appreciate what we do. We would love to see you at our next meeting!

**...CHRIS ANDERSON, Chairman**

**LETS BE CAREFUL  
OUT THERE...**



## **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

**If you can find a place to celebrate the day (darn COVID), please be careful and try not to be too Irish. Maintain 6-foot separation!**



### **MEMBERSHIP:**

If you have not renewed your Annual Membership for 2021, then your membership has **expired** as of December 31, 2020. Please bring or send your \$45 to the Post ASAP to remain a Member in Good Standing. Auxiliary dues are \$25.

VFW Post 846 needs you, especially this year.  
**THANKS!**



### **ANSWER to February's TRIVIA...**

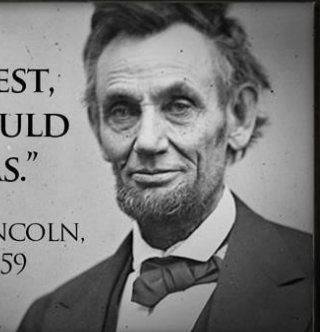
President Theodore Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba, with his *Rough Riders* in the Spanish-American War of 1898.

### **THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION...**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall), in Washington, D.C. was dedicated on Veterans Day of what year?

**"IF I WENT WEST,  
I THINK I WOULD  
GO TO KANSAS."**

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
DECEMBER 1859



## **VA's GULF WAR ILLNESS PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS**

The Veterans Administration presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms that exist for six months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause.

These presumptive illnesses must have appeared during active duty in Southwest Asia since Aug. 2, 1990, and be at least 10 percent disabling.

### **These illnesses include:**

- ◆ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.
- ◆ Fibromyalgia, which causes muscle and soft tissue pain.
- ◆ Functional gastrointestinal disorders.
- ◆ Undiagnosed illnesses, such as weight loss, fatigue, joint pain and cardiovascular disease.

Gulf War veterans who have any of these presumptive conditions do not need to prove a connection between their military service and illnesses to receive disability compensation.

For more of VA's information about Gulf War illness, visit [publichealth.va.gov](https://publichealth.va.gov).



**Questions? Please call (913) 735-3125**