

JANUARY 2026

SANTA FE EXPRESS

VFW POST 846 NEWSLETTER



COMMANDER's COLUMN

Principles Above Personalities

MARTIN FRIES, Commander

Comrades of Post 846, Hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. I want to wish everyone a great 2026.

Our Christmas Dinner was a great success we had over 28 people attending and had lots of fun. Great Job to Pricilla Turrel, the winner of the cookie decorating contest, and the other winners of Christmas trivia.

January 16th will be our 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff . Bring in your best Chili to see if you can win the prize. Due to this, there will not be a Steak Night this month.

Don't forget about Friday Nights when the post is open from 5 to 7. Dinner is provided for people who stop by. In this new year, please consider hosting, since it has been the same few people keeping this tradition alive.

We look forward to having more and more of our veterans and Post members involved in our on-going activities in 2026.

Commander Martin Fries

FROM YOUR AUXILIARY

DANA PFLUMM, President

Sisters and Brothers— The Holiday Season is always a special time of year and we hope you had some memorable experiences with family and friends. Now, as we say good-bye to the past year we welcome the New Year and all of its opportunities and future successes.

Don't forget the Auxiliary visits the veterans at Ft. Leavenworth on the third Tuesday, this month on January 20th. Please let us know if you can join us. The Bingo is always fun and the vets really appreciate it.

Our meeting is Thursday, January 8th at 5 pm with the Commanders dinner at 6 pm.
Then the Saturday breakfast, January 10th at 9 am.

The Annual Chili Cook Off is back on Friday, Jan 16 from 6 to 7 pm.

Make a resolution in 2026 to be more involved with Post and Auxiliary activities.

God Bless you all.

President Dana 913-391-0353

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER... LANE SMITH

May your New Year, 2026, be filled with Blessings.

*Infantryman's Creed: I carry America's faith and honor against her enemies.
I am the King of Battle. I am what my country expects me to be.*

V.A. HOSPITAL REPORT.... ...Christine Anderson, Chairman

We are playing **BINGO** at the domiciliary. We go the third Tuesday of the month. This month, Jan 20. If you are interested in going with us or helping with the treats we serve, please call me.

We have been blessed with mild winter weather, but we all know it will change. We are still collecting clothes and sweatshirts for Fort Leavenworth and Annie's Closet, this includes children's items. Please call me if you are unable to drop them at the post. Thanks so much for thinking of Annie's Closet. Our veterans appreciate your thinking of them .

Chris Anderson. 913.940.1003

VFW BREAKFAST

When: Saturday, Feb 15, 2025, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Where: VFW Post 846, 10630B Metcalf Ave, OPKS

Cost: Donations accepted

The speaker is Gary DeRigne, a Vietnam veteran with the 1st Cav Div. Gary in an author of two novels, *One Young Soldier* and *Angie's War*.

Menu: Biscuits and gravy, hash browns, bacon, pancakes, eggs, coffee, juice and more

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a fun, great breakfast! Bring the kids and grandkids!



*VFW Post 846
Chili Cook Off*

*Fri, Jan. 16th.
6 to 7 pm.*

Details on the next page.

**VFW POST 846
MEETING
2nd Thursday
Jan 8 @ 7 pm**

**Auxiliary
Meeting @ 5 pm**

**An informal
dinner @ 6 pm
Feel free to bring a
dessert!**



VFW Post 846
Chili Cook Off
Fri, Jan. 16th.
6 to 7 pm,

The Post is open from 5 to 7
Come early & Stay awhile.

Anyone is welcome to bring their special chili - about 1-2 quarts - so that all that attend can sample. It doesn't matter if you enter a chili or not, we would love for you to come and taste what others are making too!

846 HOLIDAY PARTY



A wonderful prime rib dinner, lots of holiday fun, and a time to spend with Veterans and their families and friends.

Martin congratulated Priscilla Turrel on winning the Cookie Decorating contest and Kim Bishop awarded prizes to the winners of the Trivia contest.

In Rememberance

A Tribute to a Great Veteran

Norman Lee Holle

May 3, 1943 - October 22, 2025



Norman was a veteran of the Vietnam War in 1966 as a crew chief on a DHC-3 Otter. This aircraft was used early in the war for its short take-off and landings. He shared his story of his experience on this aircraft as they delivered supplies, troops, and evacuated the wounded. Part of his job was loading and cleaning the aircraft before and after, often with only a moments notice to fly.

It was 23 years ago that Norman started teaching the PTSD class, which was recommended that he do by his psychiatrist at the time. At the time that I first attended his class it was being held at the Olathe VFW. When the Olathe VFW closed, Norman moved his class to the Overland Park Post 846 and transferred his membership there. When Post 846 sold their building, he once again searched and found a place to hold class, along with moving his membership to the Lenexa VFW. Norman felt he should belong to the host VFW for allowing him a place to hold his classes.

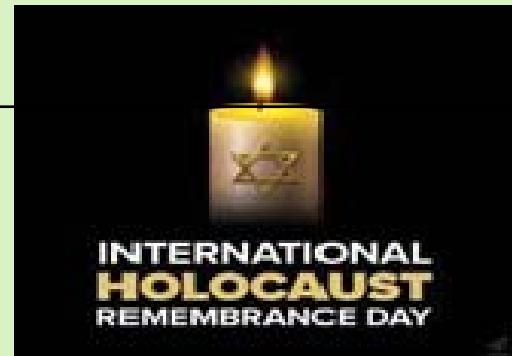
It was early 2014 when Chuck Golba and I started to assist in teaching, along with Norman, the PTSD classes on a rotating basis. As Norman's health was starting to decline and the Lenexa Post needed their hall for rentals on Tuesday evenings, Chuck and I, with Norman's consent, moved the class back to Post 846 in their new location. We will continue to teach Norman's PTSD class every Tuesday (Holidays & extreme weather exceptions) at 6:30PM.

Norman was not only a hero on the battlefield but also to a minimum of 1,104 vets that received their 100% VA Disability. Their lives have forever been changed because of Norman Holle's PTSD classes. I am one of them. Thank You, Norman.

Mike Martin
Post Veteran Resource Officer



January 19th



January 27th

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
New Year!	New Opportunities	To Serve Veterans!		1 	2 10:00 Veteran's Breakfast – [Village Inn 5800 Broadmoor] 5 – 7 pm POST OPEN	3
4	5 6:30 pm Vet's Benefits Class @ Post 846	6	7	8 5p Auxiliary meeting 6p Comdr Dinner 7p Post 846 meeting	9 10:00 Veteran's Breakfast – Village Inn 5 – 7 pm POST OPEN	10 Breakfast 9 – 11 Speaker: Gary DeRigne 1st Cav Div Vietnam veteran & author
11	12 6:30 pm Vet's Benefits Class @ Post 846	13	14	15	16 10:00 Veteran's Breakfast – Village Inn ** CHILI COOK-OFF ** 6 to 7 pm 5 – 7 pm POST OPEN	17
18	19 	20 AUX to VA	21	22	23 10:00 Veteran's Breakfast – Village Inn 5 – 7 pm POST OPEN	24
25	26 6:30 pm Vet's Benefits Class @ Post 846	27 	28	29	30 10:00 Veteran's Breakfast – Village Inn 5 – 7 pm POST OPEN	31

Veterans Benefit Program

Brothers and Sisters,

A message from **Mike Martin**: The **Veteran's Benefit Class**. We were saddened by the passing of Norman Holle, but inspired by his dedicated service to others. Chuck Golba and I will still be teaching the class on Tuesday evenings at 1830 hrs.

FYI: If you are not able to attend the Tuesday night class, I am available to meet you at the Post on Wednesday evening. Call me at 913-271-1832 to make an appointment.

Please know we are here to support you and our goal is to help you access Veterans Benefits

Michael Martin

A New Veterans Resource is now available.

Joe Arnold, a member of Post 846, has established a new organization, **US Veteran Charity**, recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt charitable organization. Its first on-going project is to develop a National Database so veterans can locate Veterans organizations that provide support services. It is searchable by State, County and City/Towns across America.

More information about the organization and its future projects or to access the database go to www.usvetcharity.org



Recruiting NEW members is on-going work. Let's work together to get this done!

VFW Post 846
10630-B Metcalf Lane
Overland Park, Ks 66212
Post# 913-735-3127
Email: cmdr@vfwpost846ks.org

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US AT VFW POST 846...
APPLICATION — For questions about eligibility, contact svcmdr@vfwpost846ks.org

VFW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION				ver. 01/24
NAME FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	FLUAVI	DATE OF BIRTH
ADDRESS		HOME OF RECORD		PHONE
STREET	STATE	ZIP	CITY	SSN (optional)
GENDER: (M) (F)				
BRANCH OF SERVICE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARMY <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE <input type="checkbox"/> MARINES <input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD		MEMBERSHIP TYPE (choose one)		
DATES OF SERVICE:				
QUALIFYING FOREIGN SERVICE				
<input type="checkbox"/> WORLD WAR II <input type="checkbox"/> DESERT SHIELD/STORM <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPATION SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> BOSNIA/KOSOVO <input type="checkbox"/> KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954) <input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY <input type="checkbox"/> KOREA DUTY (1955 - present) <input type="checkbox"/> AFGHANISTAN (2001-present) <input type="checkbox"/> VIETNAM SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> IRAQ (2003-2011) <input type="checkbox"/> EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA <input type="checkbox"/> HOSTILE FIRE/IMMINENT DANGER PAY				
Section		Title		
<input type="checkbox"/> NEW Post No. _____		<input type="checkbox"/> FORMER MEMBER ID No. _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSFER From Post No. _____ to Post No. _____ Transfer complies with Reg. 167				
RECRUITER (please print) _____				
QUARTERMASTER: _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL COPY <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> EXP Date _____ / _____ <small>Amount: \$ _____</small>				
<small>PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE.</small> <small>Please see reverse for terms and conditions of Automatic Payment and Installment Life Plans.</small>				

Received from Post No.: _____ Received By: (circle one) CASH CHECK VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX TEMPORARY RECEIPT Membership Application - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Date: _____	The Review Committee has performed its duties and recommends _____ approval _____ rejection. (signatures of Committee members below)			
	Committee member	Committee Member	Committee Member	Date _____
PLEASE SEPARATE FORMS BEFORE SIGNING				
DUES PAID: _____	ADMISSION FEE PAID: _____	DATE: _____	Received by: _____	
VFW PLEDGE I do, of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise and declare that: I will bear true allegiance -- to the Constitution of the United States of America -- and I will always be loyal thereto. I do further solemnly promise and declare -- that I will comply with the Congressional Charter -- By-Laws and Ritual of this order -- and that I will always be loyal thereto that I will never wrong or defraud this organization -- nor a member thereof -- nor permit any wrong to be done to either -- if it is in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership -- any person not eligible -- nor one whom I know to be unworthy. I will never make known to anyone -- not authorized to receive it -- any of the work of this order. Should my affiliation -- with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States -- cease in any way -- I will consider this pledge -- as binding outside of the order -- as though I had remained a member of same. All this I promise and pledge -- upon the honor of a true comrade -- and a citizen of our great republic.				
CERTIFICATION (See Sec. 104 By-Laws)  I attest that I am a citizen or national of the United States, that my Campaign Service was honorable, that I have never subsequently been discharged from military service under dishonorable conditions. I also certify that (1) I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. Government based on my overseas service or; (2) I have served overseas in Korea or; I have received Imminent Danger or Hostile Fire Pay. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to verify honorable overseas service entitling me to membership.				
DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____				

**Thank You for your
Membership and Support of
SANTA FE TRAIL POST 846
VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS
Please stay involved
AND WE'LL SEE YOU SOON !**



Questions? Please call (913) 735-3125

Here is your opportunity to participate in POST 846 as a member of the Auxiliary.

If you have questions about the Application or your Eligibility contact the Post.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Recruited/Recommended by:	Recruiter Member ID	
Auxiliary No. <input type="text"/> City <input type="text"/> State <input type="text"/>	Member ID (If already a member)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejoin Membership <input type="text"/> Rejoined Previous Member ID No. <input type="text"/>	Previous Auxiliary <input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member at Large in Department of <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters	
THESE FIELDS REQUIRED		
Name <input type="text"/>	Date of Birth <input type="text"/>	
Address <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
City <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/> ZIP <input type="text"/>	
Phone <input type="text"/>	Email <input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a member to the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)		
Relationship <input type="text"/> to Eligible Veteran* <input type="text"/>	VFW Membership ID <input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER <input type="text"/> Previous Auxiliary <input type="text"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL TRANSFER <input type="text"/> Previous Auxiliary <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Paying <input type="checkbox"/> Nonpaying	
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership information below.) Previous Auxiliary <input type="text"/>		
THESE FIELDS REQUIRED		
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)		
Relationship <input type="text"/> to Eligible Veteran* <input type="text"/>	VFW Post (If applicable) <input type="text"/>	
Name of campaign ribbons or medals: <input type="text"/>		
Dates of Service: <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>	Location: <input type="text"/>	
Investigating Committee Signatures		
1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>	3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>
Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted		Meeting Date <input type="text"/> Obligated Date <input type="text"/>
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a gift. Credit cards may NOT be used for initial payment of Annual Dues.		
<input type="radio"/> Cash <input type="radio"/> Check <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> MasterCard <input type="radio"/> Discover <input type="radio"/> AMEX		
Life Membership Fee <input type="text"/>		
Name on credit card <input type="text"/>		
Billing address for card <input type="text"/>		
City <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/>	ZIP <input type="text"/>
Credit Card No. <input type="text"/>		
CVV Code <input type="text"/>	Exp. Date <input type="text"/>	
Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>	Date <input type="text"/>	
OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I further state that I believe in God. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.		
(Must be signed by all members.) Date <input type="text"/>		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY		
<input type="checkbox"/> ACH (Bank withdrawal) <input type="text"/>		
Name of Bank <input type="text"/>		
Bank Routing No. <input type="text"/>		
Account No. <input type="text"/>		
Attach voided check HERE. (Required) <input type="text"/>		
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES		
Life Membership fees are not refundable.		
Attained age by 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.		
Through 20 \$253		
21-25 \$242		
26-30 \$230		
31-35 \$219		
36-40 \$213		
41-45 \$201		
46-50 \$196		
51-55 \$184		
56-60 \$173		
61-65 \$161		
66-70 \$150		
71-75 \$132		
76-80 \$109		
81-85 \$86		
86-90 \$69		
91 and over \$58		

Signature X

(Must be signed by all members.) Date

Revised 9/1/2021