



# The Patriot



### Memorial Day is fast approaching.

But there's a problem. Most people have come to look upon Memorial Day as a kickoff for summer, a time for picnics and barbecues. Memorial Day is much, much more than that. We need to remember and we need to offer our respect for those who paid the price for our freedoms; we need to hold in sacred reverence the memory of those who died serving their country. We need to ensure that they are never forgotten.

Over the years, the original meaning and sprit of Memorial Day has faded from the public consciousness. If it is considered a holiday, why? I consider it to be a national day of mourning. That is how we observe the day in our home. Because of what that day represents, the rest of the days of the year are our holidays. Memorial Day is a day to stop and pay, with sincere conviction, our respects for those who died protecting and preserving the freedoms we enjoy, for they are owed more than we can ever repay.

On May 5, 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, the head of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of Union Army veterans, established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30, a date believed to be chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

Unfortunately, when Congress made Memorial day part of a mandatory three-day weekend through the National Holiday act of 1971, it made it all that much easier for us to be distracted from the spirit and meaning of the day. It wasn't until after World War I that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then that it was also assigned to the last Monday in May, similar to other federal holidays relocated to Mondays. These veterans lived and died, but not in vain, for they paused with us on their way to immortality--and our world is a better place for their efforts. Let us never forget the sacrifices of the many who have paid the ultimate price to defend their country's freedom. May they rest in Peace. The perpetual light shines upon them. Written by Richard Kendzierski, chairman of the Bedford Joint Veterans Council.

...the editor

### Monthly Quote

I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually. ...James A. Baldwin

**House Committee:** Rob Elkin, Rich Gagnon, Wayne Howell, Howard Murray, Bill Trask, Ralph Best and Chairman, Art Courtemanche

**Fort Mill VFW  
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- VFW Post 9138 Officers**
- Commander.....Bill Trask
  - Sr. Vice Cmdr.Art Courtemanche
  - Jr. Vice Cmdr...Richard Gagnon
  - Quartermaster.....Ralph Best
  - Chaplin.....Rob Elkins
  - Surgeon.....Hal Rutter
  - Judge Adv.....Bob Wiltz
  - 3 Yr. Trustees... ..Sam Griffin
  - 2 Yr. Trustee.....Glenn Harris
  - 1 Yr. Trustee...Jack Mac Allister
  - Membership.....Bill Trask

- Ladies Auxiliary Officers**
- President.....Anne Cash
  - Sr. Vice Pres. ....Sarah Clinton
  - Jr. Vice Pres.....Pam Elkin
  - Treasurer.....Lori Gordon
  - Secretary.....Carolyn Griffith
  - Chaplain.....Frances Howe
  - Conductress.....Danielle Jinks
  - Guard.....Kathy Shirley
  - 3 Yr Trustee.....Dee Rutter
  - 2 Yr Trustee...Charlotte Podgorski
  - 1 Yr Trustee.....Suzie Rushing

- Men's Auxiliary Officers**
- President.....Jerald Efidr
  - Sr.Vice Pres. ....David Cash
  - Jr.Vice Pres.....Vacant
  - Treasurer.....Dave Podgorski
  - Secretary.....Dave Podgorski
  - Chaplain.....Russel Planer
  - 3 Yr Trustee.....Dave Shaw
  - 2 Yr Trustee.....Ted Bowling
  - 1 Yr Trustee.....Paul Skinner



## A Note from the Commander

As we come into May we have a lot still to do to complete the year. Loyalty Day and Memorial Day are both this month. We will be taking part in the York County Memorial Day program at Lakeview Cemetery in York this month. I want to thank all of you for what we have been able to accomplish this year. We have once again expanded our Community Service program and our membership is over 100%. This could not be accomplished without the combined efforts of the entire post. I look forward to another year as Commander with a new team of officers. If you are planning to go to the Department Convention, registration forms are available on the State website and at the post for both the convention and hotel rooms. In closing I just want to say "Great Job This Year" and let's keep up the work next year.

Bill Trask: wtrask@gmail.com

## From the Quartermaster

The Post would like to thank everyone for their participation the past month and the many who are coming in and donating time to do work at the post. We are blessed to have these people who donate a good bit of labor and time and the post staff appreciates the job you have done.

Our monthly breakfast will be on May 8th from 8 till 11:00 a.m. come out and have breakfast with your comrades. Cost for breakfast is \$6.00 plate.

Dick Swan and his clan will be back in town for their annual get together shortly, check with the canteen staff for date he will be here.

Thanks to our ladies and others for their work on the welcome home Vietnam Vet service.

Ralph Best: ralph.best@gmail.com

## News from Ladies Auxiliary President

If you did not attend the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration" you missed a heart warming experience. The Vietnam Veterans were asked to come on the field at District 3 Stadium and be welcomed home as a group. Many came off the field with huge smiles on their faces and there were some with tears, hopefully tears of joy. If we brought comfort to one Vietnam Veteran then we accomplished our mission.

Lori and Sarah are both resting at home after their surgery, hopefully they will be back at the Post soon. Get well soon both of you.

We will have installation of new officers May 10 at our regular meeting.

Remember our Friday night dinners, always reasonable priced and good food.

Thanks to Frances and Pam for helping with Friday night dinners during hectic time with our event for the Veterans. See you at the Post...

Anne Cash: acash09@yahoo.com

## News from the Men's Auxiliary President

Don't forget our monthly breakfast is on the 8th. If you have not paid your dues, you need to right away. Please check you dues card, we still have some members who have not paid. Remember our meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. (May 18th ). Look forward to seeing you at the Post!

Jerald Efird: jerald1@comporium.net

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

We have several members of our VFW family that could use a call or card. Contact the Post for their names, telephone numbers and addresses. If you know any comrades or families in distress, please let us know. God bless our men and women in the military. .... Rob Elkins

## Breakfast at the Post

Monthly breakfast at Fort Mill VFW Post 9138 – second Saturday of each month. The next breakfast is to be held **May 8th** - 8 AM to 11 AM. Breakfast will include eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage, orange juice and coffee for only \$6.00 per person. Come out and support your Post and have a great breakfast!

## From Officers and Members

Please give a big thanks to Dave Podgorski and Dennis Cain for their volunteer work at the Post.

## Post Election results for 2010-2011

The following officers were elected at the April 13th 2010 Membership meeting and take office on June 27th 2010.

Commander	William Trask	Judge Advocate	Robert Wilusz
Sr. Vice Commander	Arthur Courtemanche	3 Yr Trustee	Isaac Miller
Jr. Vice Commander	Richard Gagnon	2 Yr Trustee	Jack MacAllister
Quartermaster	Ralph Best	1 Yr Trustee	Glenn Harris
Chaplain	Edward Gallagher		
Surgeon	Harold Rutter		

## Our Sponsors

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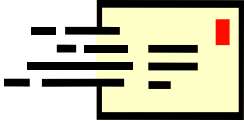
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The Post now has a Facebook Group  
<http://facebook.vfw9138.org>

[www.vfw9138.org](http://www.vfw9138.org)

“Honoring the dead by helping the living”



# May 2010



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

HD-TV Sports	Support your Post	Happy Hour 5-7pm	Socialize with veterans And families	HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	1 HD-TV Sports
2 HD-TV Sports	3 Support your Post	4 Happy Hour 5-7pm	5 Socialize with veterans And families	6 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	7 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	8 <b>Breakfast 8pm-11pm</b>
9 <b>Mother's Day</b>	10 <b>Regular Meeting 7pm</b>	11 Happy Hour 5-7pm	12 Socialize with veterans And families	13 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	14 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	15 HD-TV Sports
16 HD-TV Sports	17 Support your Post	18 <b>Men's Auxiliary Meeting 7pm</b>	19 Socialize with veterans And families	20 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	21 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	22 HD-TV Sports
23 HD-TV Sports	24 Support your Post	25 Happy Hour 5-7pm	26 Socialize with veterans And families	27 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	28 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	29 HD-TV Sports
30 HD-TV Sports	31 <b>Memorial Day</b>	Happy Hour 5-7pm	Socialize with veterans And families	HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	HD-TV Sports