

December NEWSLETTER



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Commander's Corner

Greetings Everyone!

I hope this finds each of you enjoying some extra holiday cheer with your loved ones.



The unveiling of comrade Bob Motley's statue at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum on November 22nd was truly a first class event. Numerous local dignitaries were on hand. Multiple city council members spoke, along with Royals Hall of Famer and current Jackson County Executive, Frank White, along with Mr. Motley's son. Each speaker pointed out that his service to our country was something he was immensely proud of. Moreover, Post 7356 was well represented with Comrades Cherry, Bennett and myself in attendance. The negro museum field of dreams now has an umpire.

If one of your new year's resolutions is becoming more involved with the post, I urge you to consider volunteering to serve on the breakfast crew. As you know, several months ago, before the winter break, membership voted to reconvene the Saturday morning breakfasts on March 3rd. However, with St. Patrick's Day falling on a Saturday, March 24th is more practical. That said, the breakfast crew needs a break from committing full-time to this endeavor. Consequently we need at least 6 preferably about 12 members to step-up to assist, along with a new breakfast coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for buying groceries each week, comes in on Wednesday's to do the thaw (moving items from freezer to refrigerator) and then of course works making sure there is a crew for Saturday. If anyone is interested, please let me know. If not, we may be forced to abandon this tradition for the coming year.

A very Merry Christmas to you, your families and a great 2018!

Post Commander,
Jeff Fox

———— 2017-2018 Post Officers ————

Commander	Jeff Fox	816-584-2688	Judge Advocate	Larry Maher	816-587-2213
Sr. Vice Commander	Tara Arteaga	816-726-7777	Chaplain	John Bugg	816-741-8359
Jr. Vice Commander	Barney Hill	334-475-5077	Surgeon	Mike Vogt	816-522-5944
Quartermaster	Robert Eckerle	816-741-8766	3-year Trustee	Rick Butler	816-739-0693
Adjutant	Tara K. Arteaga	816-726-7777	2-year Trustee	Jerry Felker	816-587-8026
Post PSO	Philip Duncan	816-587-1117	1-year Trustee	John Hoffman	816-728-6760



If you would like weekly updates on what the VFW Legislative Department is doing to make headway in Washington, sign up for the VFW Action Corps here:

<http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>

Dec 13, 2017

WASHINGTON — Following several weeks of negotiations between the U.S. House and Senate, President Trump signed the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (FY18 NDAA) into law yesterday. The final bill authorizes just over \$692 billion for ongoing and planned defense programs, including \$65.7 billion for overseas operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, and for the Global War on Terror. Additionally, the FY18 NDAA authorizes \$241.2 billion for operations and maintenance; \$146.2 billion for military personnel; \$33.9 billion for defense health care programs, including \$396 million from the overseas operations account; \$15 billion for ballistic-missile defense and \$10.7 billion for military construction and family housing.

Despite the authorization bill's passage, funding it will be an appropriation's challenge since the total amount is well above the \$551 billion spending cap enacted by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

In the recent months, the VFW has placed significant pressure on Congress to take care of members of the military, retirees, veterans and their families. As a result, the final version of the FY18 NDAA contained the following provisions supported by the VFW:

—A 2.4 percent increase to base pay, and restricts the President's ability to reduce it through Executive Order.

—The preservation of dual-military with dependent rate Basic Allowance for Housing.

—The preservation of the grandfather clause that ensures that TRICARE fee increases would not apply to current service members and retirees.

—The permanent extension of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance. The review and declassification of documents concerning toxic exposure if more than 100 service members were intentionally exposed to a substance that has caused at least one of them to become ill.

—Expanded reporting requirements for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, to include military family members who report sexual assault or harassment in annual SAPRO reports; the establishment of legal protections for victims of revenge pornography and/or victims who were subject to non-consensual broadcasting of intimate photography or recordings; and new protections for individuals enrolled in the delayed entry program who are sexually harassed or assaulted.

—Pre-mobilization and transitional TRICARE benefits to Reserve Component members activated under 12304a or 12304b orders.

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

**Need help with VA
Claims?**

Veteran Service Information Officer Philip Duncan is available to assist veterans with information on VA claims.

Auxiliary Information

We hope that everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving.

I am very happy to report that we reached 100% for our 2017 – 2018 membership! Thank you to all members who helped us reach our goal by paying their dues on time. The drawing for the conversion to life membership will be held at the next Auxiliary meeting on Thursday, December 21st.

November 11th was our Annual Veterans Day Dinner at the Post sponsored by the Auxiliary. A traditional Spaghetti dinner was served to 195 attendees. The free dinner was a thank you for Veterans Service and to those who ensure our safety. The South Platte Fire Department attended as well as a visitor from Florida – a veteran who is 99 years young!

The Annual Christmas Party at the Cameron Veterans Home was on Sunday, December 10th from 1 to 3 pm. VFW 7356 Post and Auxiliary members visited with residents with favors, and our Boy Scout troop entertained with various songs and Christmas carols.

Our Auxiliary adopted a military family of five through Pathfinder Elementary for Christmas; mother, two girls ages 2 and 12, and two boys ages 3 and 7. We also provided personal items donated through three area Sport Clips to a military unit located in the Emirates. Five large boxes were shipped to arrive before Christmas.

The next projects for our Auxiliary will be the Annual St. Patrick's Day dinner and a Family Freedom Festival.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is Thursday, December 21st at 7 pm. This meeting date has been changed to due to Christmas holidays. I hope to see you at our next meeting. We would love to have you attend.

Please reach out to me or any other auxiliary member to let us know what we can do for you. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions at 816.550.1049 or anita.crowell@yahoo.com.

I wish all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2018!

Anita Crowell, President

Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

President:	Anita Crowell	816-550-1049	or	Anita.crowell@yahoo.com
Senior-vice:	Mary Helbock	816-741-9676	or	maryhelbock@gmail.com
Junior Vice:	Jodi Kersten	913-638-7734	or	kerstenjodi@att.net
Secretary:	Lorie Green	816-663-2194	or	lgreen_59@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Judith Green	741-9489	or	hwkeye@kc.rr.com
Conductor	Randy Green	816-663-2236		randygreen0628@yahoo.com
Chaplain:	Rosemary Karp	587-5313	or	rosemrykarp@gmail.com
Guard:	Mary Lou Wilkinson	769-1157	or	mwilk6378@yahoo.com
3 Year Trustee:	Cheryl Hainkel	816-806-2796	or	otterhalf@msn.com
2 Year Trustee:	Linda Eckerle	816-741-8766	or	lindae8110@aol.com
1 Year Trustee:	Ricki Butler	816-256-0728	or	rickibutler17@gmail.com
Patriotic Instructor	Stephanie Skinner	660-464-0648		sscjmajor@yahoo.com
Historian	Crystal Deshazer	520-3858		crysdesh@yahoo.com



That's right, **"Get on the Bus!"** with your fellow VFW Post 7356 members and our Auxiliary. This is a special trip to visit the **VFW National Home for Children** with a side trip to the **"Holland Michigan Tulip Festival"**.

5 DAYS - 4 NIGHTS

May 7 - 11, 2018

\$ 529 per person (double occupancy) cash or check
\$545 per person (double occupancy) using credit card
\$778 per person, single occupancy, cash or check \$801 by credit card

We must have 40 paying to qualify. We can accommodate 50.

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 nights lodging, including overnights
- 2 Dinner, including "Church Supper"
- Veldheer's Tulip Gardens
- Reserved seats for the Volksparade
- VFW National Home for Children
- Luggage handling in Michigan
- 2 Breakfasts
- Dutch Village
- DeKlomp Wooden Shoe & Delft Factory
- Evening Revue Show
- Souvenir gift
- Taxes and meal gratuities

Day 1 - We will depart from Post 7356 early morning of the 7th of May, traveling to our first overnight lodging (Dinner is on our own).

Day 2 - After breakfast we depart for Holland, MI arriving early afternoon, lunch on our own and visit the Dutch Village, where we will see Dutch folk dancing, wooden shoe carving, Windmill Gardens & DeZwaan Windmill and Amsterdam street organs. Dinner at a local church for a "church supper".

Day 3 - Visit the Veldheer Tulip Gardens and DeKlomp Wooden Shoe & Delft Factory, after lunch on our own reserved seats await for the Volksparade. After parade enjoy dinner and then a spectacular show.

Day 4 - After breakfast checkout and head for **Eaton Rapid, MI and the VFW National Home for Children**. We will have a guided tour and then depart for our final overnight accommodation with dinner on our own.

Day 5 - Following breakfast check out and depart for home.

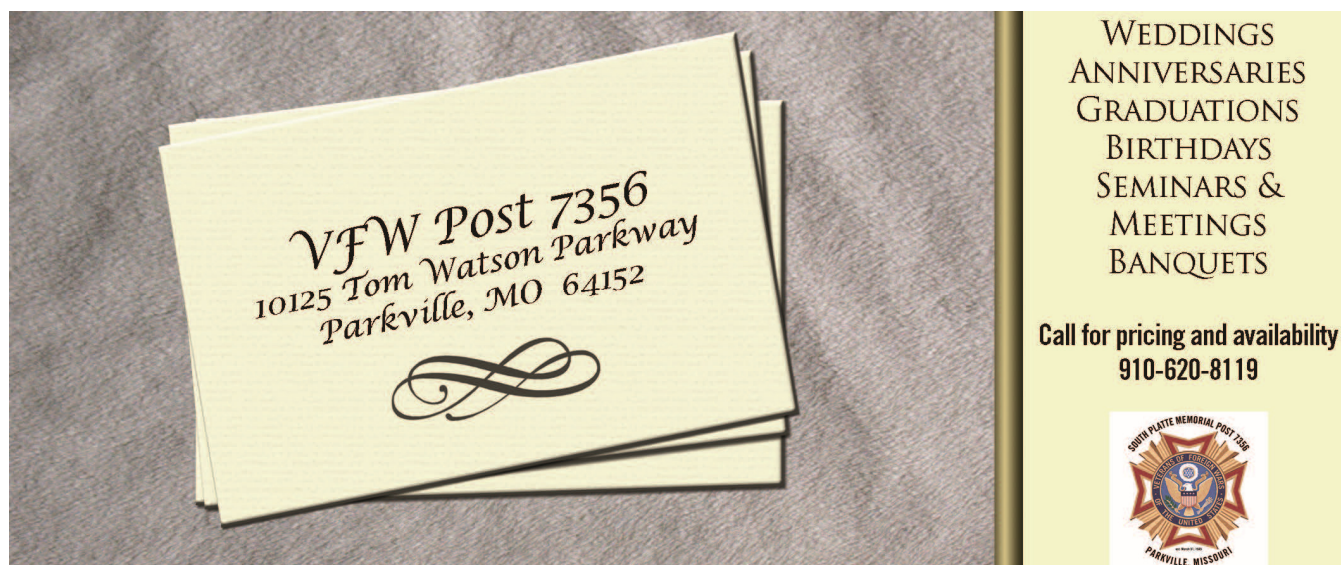
Reservations can be made at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4da8af2ba13-get> a link is on this page to pay by credit card. For more information or questions call Jodi Kersten at (913) 638-7734 or email at kerstenjodi@att.net

Deadline for reservations and full payment March 16th, 2018.

Cancellation insurance can be obtain by calling 1-800-388-1470 with location #386097 or online at <https://nta.aontravelprotect.com>

Comrades and Auxiliary Members, don't forget we have a monthly social at the Garden's on Barry Road. Below are some pictures of the December gathering. Take an hour of your time once a month to pay-it-forward.



**South Platte Memorial Post 7356**

P.O. Box 12121
Parkville, MO 64152

816-746-8010

<http://myvfw.org/mo/post7356/>



<https://www.facebook.com/ParkvilleVFW7356>

Instagram



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Calendar

December 2017



- 3— First Sunday of Advent
- 5— Somalia Campaign began (1992)
- 7 — National Pearl Harbor Day
- 8— War Declared on Japan (1941)
- 11—Germany+Italy Declare War (1941)
- 12—Hanukkah Begins
- 15—Iraq War Ended (2011)
- 20—Panama Campaign Began (1989)
- 21— **VFW Meeting**
- 21— Winter Begins
- 25—Christmas Day
- 26—Kwanzaa
- 31—Official End of WWII (1946)
- 31—Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013)

Every Monday Night

Civil Air Patrol
6- 9 p.m.

Every Saturday Morning

breakfast 8-10 a.m.

NOTE:
Breakfast will
be closed
starting
November 11
to
March 24,
2018

January 2018

- 1— New Year
- 6— Epiphany
- 15— Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 15— Social at Gardens
- 17— Persian Gulf War (1991)
- 25— **VFW/Auxiliary Business Meeting**
- 27— Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
- 31—Panama Campaign End (1990)

