



# Highland Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 4737 NewsGram

P.O. Box 47, Highland Park, Illinois 60035  
Meetings at HP Police Dept., 1677 Old Deerfield Rd., Deerfield IL



January 2018

*Happy New Year*

*Honor the Dead by Serving the Living*

\*\*\*\*\*NEWGRAM TO CEASE MAIL DELIVERY IN 2018 UNLESS REQUESTED\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*POST WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE\*\*\*\*

Due to the cost and time involved in preparing a mailing and the readily available digital alternatives, the Post has ceased mailing a hard copy NewsGram in 2018, unless you request it in a letter to the Post's PO Box, above, or call 847-763-1793 (Editor's home phone).

The Post has a website at [www.vfwpost4737.com](http://www.vfwpost4737.com) and a Facebook page. You will find the Newsgram there in addition to email availability in 2018.

**POST 4737 WILL MEET:** On **Thurs, Jan 11, 2018, 7:00pm** at the HP Police Dept's Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road. Future mtgs: Feb 8, Mar 8, April 12 and all second Thurs. January Chef: Greg Detlie.

**POST HOSPITAL NITE:** Our next Post Bingo Nite is on **Jan 22 at 6:30 PM** and on most following fourth Mondays at Bourke Hall, Bldg. #4, Capt. J. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.



**HO TAI PUP TENT NO. 67** - A brief resume of "Louse-y" News

**GRAND SCRATCH C OF A:** Nowalkao High Post #42 will be hosting the Grand Scratch C of A on Jan 20 at Post 5220 in Oak Lawn. Committee meetings will begin at 9:00AM, with the Council Meeting starting at 1:00PM. A late lunch/dinner will be served at 3:00PM. Tickets for the dinner are \$15.00 each. Please inform Joseph Stachon @ 708-361-2693 to make your dinner reservation.

**SCRATCH, SCRATCH:** Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5 and all subsequent Scratches (first Thurs unless otherwise notified) will be held at 6:59 1/2 PM, at the Highland Park Police Dept. Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL.

**COOTIE HOSPITAL NIGHTS:** Capt. James Lovell Fed Health Care Ctr, Bldg. 134, Bingo and Ward visits, 6:30 PM. Coming dates are Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 15 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified.

**"KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE"**

**NEED A "HERO AMONG US" FOR MEMORIAL DAY 2018:** Our Post is scheduled to present a Highland Park Post member as a Hero Among Us at the Highland Park ceremony on May 28. Nominations needed.

\*\*\*MUST BE A HIGHLAND PARK RESIDENT\*\*\*

**"A" RATED VETERAN AND MILITARY CHARITIES:** The winter edition of Charity Watch recently came out, and the ratings of national Military and Veteran charities remain disgraceful. Too many national charities in this category just can't seem to get their expenses down and use more of the donations they receive for legitimate programs which aid vets and active military. The following are recommended "A" rated national charities: Armed Services YMCA of the USA (A-); Bob Woodruff Family Foundation (A-); Fisher House Foundation (A+); Gary Sinese Foundation (A); Homes for Our Troops (A); Hope For The Warriors (A-); Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (A); Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America (A-); Mission Continues (A); National Military Family Association (A); Navy Marine Corp Relief Society (A); Operation Homefront (A); Semper Fi Fund/Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund (A+); TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Fund for Survivors)(A); Wounded Warriors Family Support (A). Please research all donations carefully. Many low-grade charities will have names similar to respected and efficient charities. Assume ALL charities are scams and perform your due diligence investigation before you give.

Local charities often are your best option, like your local VFW Post. All donations to Post 4737 are placed in a Relief Fund and 100% is used for veterans or community programs like the Post's monthly Bingo Nite at Lovell FHCC and the VFW's Voice of Democracy high school essay program.

### UPCOMING LOCAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR:

**All first Thursdays** of the month: Ho Tai Pup Tent No. 67 Scratch.

**All second Thursdays** of the month: Post 4737 meeting.

**All third Wednesdays** of the month (except July and August): Meeting of Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission at Forest City Community Center, 2001 Virginia Avenue, Great Lakes, IL 60088.

**All third Thursdays** of the month: Ho Tai Pup Tent No. 67 Hospital Nite.

**All fourth Mondays** of the month (except June, July, August and holidays): Post Bingo Nite at Lovell FHCC.

**Saturday, Jan 13-5th District VOD/Pat Pen Award Dinner** at Antioch Sequoit Post 4551 commencing 5:00pm.

**February 9-11-Council of Administration** will meet at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL. **Also**, Department VOD Banquet on **Feb 10** at this location.

**Sunday, Feb 18-5th District Meeting** at Antioch Sequoit Post 4551. Business meeting commences at 1:00pm.

**March 3-7-Washington, DC trip** for Department VOD winners and announcement of national winners.

**March 8-Nomination of officers at Post meeting.**

**May 19-5th District Meeting** at Fox River Post 4600.

**(Further info on events available on VFW Natl/Dept websites, gen internet search or contact QM Quilici)**

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES:** January 27 (Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973); Feb 15 (Sinking of USS Maine, 1898, which led to the Spanish-American War); Feb 15 (Presidents Day commemorating the births of Presidents Washington and Lincoln). Remember to display the flag.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
HIGHLAND PARK MEMORIAL POST 4737  
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...INCLUDES NEWS OF  
HO TAI P.T. #67 MOC



## WELCOME TO HIGHWOOD POST COMRADES



**IN MEMORIAM:** We are saddened to report the passing of Life Member Joseph L. Radzin on August 10, 2017. Comrade Radzin served with the USMC, Hq. Co., 1st Marine Division, during the Korean War. Our Post records show he served in Korea from 4/14/51 to 4/27/52, which placed our Comrade in the fighting at the valley known as The Punchbowl. He joined our Post in 1989.

Although in recent years he did not attend our meetings, he contacted your Editor in 2015, shortly after the passing of his wife, Irma, and we visited on several occasions.

We also are saddened to report the January 1, 2018 passing of Theresa Werhane, wife of deceased (2005) Post Life Member and WWII veteran Lorenz Werhane.

*Our Sympathies go out to the family and friends of the departed*

**VFW MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND OUR POST:** According to the Jan 2018 Natl VFW HQ Bulletin, the VFW is 32,981 members short in recruiting behind last year's figures as of Dec 15, 2017. This isn't enough to offset the general drop in membership. As of Jan 2, 2018, membership stood at 1,046,601 compared to 1,179,189 as of June 30, 2017. No state Department is at 100%. The Dept of Illinois is currently 43,670, down from 50,362 as of June 30, 2017 or 86.712%. The best in the nation is the Dept of Alaska, which is down to 93.357% from June 30, 2017.

Recruiting in our piece of Illinois is daunting, primarily due to the cost of living. Also, the aging vet population, fewer qualified vets and time constraints on younger vets due to work and family make finding active members even harder.

Nevertheless, we aren't ready to throw in the towel. There is a need for the VFW in our end of Lake County, especially with Lovell FHCC and Naval Station Great Lakes in our back yard. Qualified VFW candidates are out there. And although they may move on in a few years, more will probably rotate in to fill their slots. How do we reach them?

One of our newer members suggested an information packet for Great Lakes Naval personnel arriving from overseas duty. Anyone interest in following up on that?

Are there military only internet sights we can post on?

Are we interested in subsidizing memberships to some extent as an incentive for active participation?

We once had a Public Relations Chairman. Anyone interested?

How about some suggestions on Post activities which may appeal to younger veterans?

We've been throwing around the idea of a Post name change and maybe moving meetings around a bit. Let's get serious on at least discussing the name change.

Comrades, the time to get off the pot is at hand.

**NEW VETERANS ID CARD:** U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for veterans.

Only those veterans, including the reserves, with honorable service (honorable discharge or general under honorable conditions) will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to veterans.

**SUNTIMES CALLS FOR CLOSURE OF QUINCY IL VA HOME:** The December 15, 2017 Chicago Sun-Times editorial advised Gov. Rauner to close down the Quincy IDVA Homes because: "In the last three years, 13 people have died at the Quincy facility from legionellosis, a respiratory disease caused by bacteria that is spread through water droplets in the air. Sixty-one people at the facility, including staff members, have gotten sick from the disease. The most serious cases have led to Legionnaires' disease, a deadly type of pneumonia."

And despite the state spending \$6 million to upgrade Quincy's water system, "[T]his fall, three more residents tested positive for legionellosis, including one who died." Quincy is 131 years old. Can it be upgraded?

And where would Quincy's almost 400 veteran residents and their spouses go? The on and off construction of a new 200 bed home in Chicago at 4250 N. Oak Park Ave. appears to be in "off" status due to a defect discovered in the construction circa March 2017. Completion maybe in 2019?

**CONTACT THE NEWSGRAM WITH NEWS/COMMENTS THROUGH:** Editor and QM Peter A. Quilici, 7501 Kostner Ave., Skokie, IL 60076/ Phone: (847) 997-7662 (cell) or (847) 763-1793 (home hard line) / E-mail: pquilici@ameritech.net. **Please feel free to submit for publication news of interest to veterans.**