



# 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  
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February 2018

*Honor the Dead by Serving the Living*

**POST 4737 WILL MEET:** On **Thurs, Feb 8, 2018, 7:00pm** at the HP Police Dept's Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road. Future mtgs: Mar 8, April 12, May 10 and all second Thurs. Feb Chef: Greg Detlie.

\*\*\*\*\*Trustee attendance required at Feb mtg for quarterly audit\*\*\*\*\*

\*The April 12 meeting will take place at the legendary Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave., Highwood, IL\*

**POST HOSPITAL NITE:** Our next Post Bingo Nite is on **Feb 26 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

**SCRATCH, SCRATCH:** Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3 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 Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified.

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

**NEED A "HERO AMONG US" FOR MEMORIAL DAY 2018:** Post 4737 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\*\*\*

**WHY WE WORRY ABOUT NORTH KOREA:** This month's NewsGram includes an obit for Life Member James R. Fleming. For our younger readers, we recommend research into the era our Comrade served, which should provide some insight into why the US must deal with North Korea at some point and should raise serious questions as to why prior US Presidents and other nations have allowed this rogue regime to develop nuclear weaponry and ICBM technology.

**LEGIONELLA BACTERIA AT THE SPRINGFIELD CAPITOL COMPLEX?????:** As you all are aware, Legionnaires Disease has killed 13 people at the Quincy IL veterans' home operated by our fiscally irresponsible and insolvent state government. And despite the state spending \$6 million to upgrade Quincy's water system, this fall, three more residents tested positive for legionellosis, including one who died.

Now we learn that preliminary test results show the possible presence of Legionella bacteria in the Illinois Capitol Complex's hot water system and officials have removed aerators and shut off the showers to reduce the possibility of infection. (Chicago Tonight website, 01/22/2018). Quincy is a bit over 100 miles from Springfield, and both communities have some old government structures dating back to more prosperous times. Checking the Capitol Complex made sense.

But now what? Legislators are supposed to meet again this month regarding Quincy's water system and now the Capitol Complex system may join the agenda. But the Governor is required to present a budget in mid-February, and Illinois statewide primary elections take place on Mar 20. Remember the last Illinois budget fight? And Illinois is considering a \$107 billion bond sale to save its insolvent pension plans. (Chicago Tribune, Jan 30, 2018). There's no money left for anything.

Comrades, over the last decades we have seen how veterans have been made the Evening Special at the Road Kill Café by both the federal and state governments. The federal government, currently, seems inclined to improve the veteran environment, especially concerning the Veterans Healthcare Administration. But federal mid-term elections in Nov 2018 may bring that to a screeching halt.

We, at the Post level, will need to be more vigilant regarding the welfare of our aging and needy Comrades because probably there will be no one else to do it.

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES:** Feb 15 (Sinking of USS Maine, 1898, which led to the Spanish-American War); Feb 15 (Presidents Day remembering the births of Presidents Washington and Lincoln). Remember to display the flag.

**ELECTIONS AROUND THE CORNER:** Per the VFW Manual of Procedure (MOP) Sec. 217, Post Officers shall be elected in April with nominations opening in March. Positions requiring election are: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three (3) Trustees. No member may hold two elected positions. See Sec. 215, VFW By-Laws.

We encourage our new members to consider elected office or seek the appointed offices of Adjutant, Judge Advocate or Surgeon. The duties of the elected/appointed officers are set forth at VFW Manual of Procedure (MOP) Sec. 218.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT PEN ESSAY THEMES ANNOUNCED:** The VOD theme for 2018-2019 is "Why My Vote Matters", and for Pat Pen the them is "Why I Honor the American Flag."



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
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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 James R. Fleming on December 13, 2017. He joined our Post in 1969 and resided in Arizona at the time of his passing. Comrade Fleming served with the USAF's 94th FIS (Fighter Intercept Squadron) during its 1969-1971 deployment to South Korea when international tensions arose following the 1968 North Korean attack and capture of the USS Pueblo and the 1969 North Korean downing of a USN EC 1212 electronic observation plane. He was the nephew of three-time, past Post Commander Gene Nero. We thank Gene's daughter, Loretto Nero Murdoch, for notifying the Post of Comrade Fleming's passing.

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

### 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.

**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.

**April 12**-Election of Post Officers.

**April 21**-5th District Spring Frolic at Fox River Post 4600, McHenry, IL.

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

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

**SAME DAY URGENT CARE SERVICE AT VA????:** On Jan 12, 2018, the VA announced that:

"100 percent of its more than 1,000 medical facilities across the country now offer same-day services for urgent primary and mental health-care needs. Same-day services means a veteran with an urgent need for primary care and mental health-care receives services that may include: a face-to-face visit with a clinician; advice provided during a call with a nurse; a telehealth or video care visit; an appointment made with a specialist; or a prescription filled the same day, depending upon what best meets the needs of the veteran."

That's a bold statement for an organization that appears to be having trouble meeting its staffing needs. Recent staffing problems were reported in the on-line Stars and Stripes on Jan 17, 2018 in relation to the new VA Medical Center in Aurora, Co. And there are VA staff vacancies in TX as reported in the Nov 30, 2017 San Antonio Express-News. And there is a mental care provider shortage at Chicago's Jesse Brown VA Med Ctr as reported by the Chicago Tribune on Feb 2, 2018. We could go on and on and on.

And what about the 15 underperforming medical centers identified by the VA on Feb 1, 2018 as having a one star out of five rating which are in need of immediate intervention? See, VA on-line press releases. One wonders what same-day urgent care looks like at these facilities.

Perhaps, the VA will manage what it considers an "urgent need," which probably differs substantially from the rest of the medical community. In any event, there appears to be a disconnect between the VA's press releases and reality.

**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.**