

in our post home >>>

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2024
DECEMBER



POST 52'S NEWS

A Publication of VVnW Jack Greer Memorial Post 52



Our Troops >>>

Project Support our Troops

**UPCOMING
PACKING:**

- **Tuesday, January 15th at 5:30pm**

➤ Visit us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-Support-Our-Troops/>

We are accepting stateside names and addresses, in addition to those deployed! Reach out to your friends and neighbors and let's get as many soldiers boxes as we can.

Please Contact:
Kim Lengling at (814) 724-9099
OR
Laurie Davis at (814) 853-8145

Commander's Comments

It's hard to believe the holidays are upon us. I hope everyone was able to get all their chores done before the weather changed. It sure did change quickly. I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and in good health. This is the time of year for giving and as usual the Post will be sending Christmas presents to those living in the Soldiers and Sailors Home. Many of them do not have families and this is our way of letting them know someone cares and is thinking of them.

Our local National Guard Stryker Unit recently returned home from Africa and Captain Nathan Geroux came to talk to us at our last troops packing as well as our Post meeting. He told us that our packages make a big difference to the soldiers and they were very thankful for the things we send because it was things that were needed. He also added that everyone in his unit came home. The unit is on rotation, so that means the ones that came home were replaced and now we have another 115 or so soldiers we are sending to. We need your continued support.

The last dinner of the year is December 7th and then we will get back to business as usual in January. As always, help is needed in the kitchen and dining room. Please let us know if you can help and we can schedule you so our staff can have some needed time off. Dinners are what keep the building going and enables us to help many veterans and their families.

Our benevolent fund has been active helping Veterans and their families with a hand up. We continue to help as many veterans as possible through our many projects. Remember we are an all-volunteer organization, and all the money goes back out 100% to help veterans, their families and our soldiers. Thank you for your continued support.

Happy Holidays.

Yours In Brotherhood,
Phil 814-282-9737



DECEMBER 2024 MENU

Open for dine-in or Take-Out 4 pm - 7 pm
Homemade Dinners are open to the public

Gift Certificates available

Featured dinners change weekly

NOTE: We are closed for major holidays

CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE – CALL 814-807-1661

DECEMBER 7TH IS THE LAST DINNER OF 2024

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BACK IN JANUARY 2025!!

Beer Battered Fried Fish

\$15

Deep fried haddock served with choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato. Served with choice of coleslaw or applesauce, veggie and dessert included.

Lemon Pepper Baked Haddock

\$15

Haddock seasoned with lemon pepper seasoning, freshly baked served with choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato. Served with choice of coleslaw or applesauce, veggie and dessert included.

Shrimp Basket

\$15

8 pieces of golden fried butterfly shrimp served with choice of fresh cut French fries or baked potato. Also served with a choice of coleslaw or applesauce and dessert included.

Spaghetti

\$10

Post 52 homemade spaghetti meat sauce. Served with choice of coleslaw or applesauce, bread and dessert included.

Feature dinner December 7th

BEEF TIPS OVER NOODLES

\$12

. Served with choice of coleslaw or applesauce, bread and dessert included.



Details and Dates.....

Troops packing: Wednesday, January 15th, 2025 at 5:30 pm

You can keep up-to-date on Post information at www.post52.com.

Lions dinner: No dinner in December.

Post Meetings:

All Post monthly meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.

NEXT MEETINGS –NO meeting in December / January 20th

December 3rd, 9:00 am. Pack gifts for Soldiers and Sailors Home. Visit to Soldiers and Sailors Home date is pending; watch next month's newsletter for details. If you can help, just come to the post. 167 GIFTS will be wrapped!!

December 13th – 6 PM. Set up the building for the Post Christmas Party.

Post Christmas party – December 14th. Please RSVP by December 5th. Call Laurie 814-853-8145. See enclosed flyer.

Membership:

Dues are due December 31st.

\$20 annual

\$200 life membership

Pay Dues

RENTALS of the POST HOME

Use of Building Only:

- Member Rental Fee - \$75
- Non-Member Rental Fee - \$100

Use of Kitchen with Building:

- Member Rental Fee – \$125
- Non-Member Rental Fee -- \$150

Renter is responsible for set up of building prior to event and clean up after event. Thank you!

Thanks for all you do every day of every month!

Commander: Phil Davis

1st Vice: Del Preston

2nd Vice: Tom Burbidge

Master Sgt-at-Arms: Jack Sheets

Trustee: Ken Novosel

Quarter Master: Laurie Davis

Secretary: Marsha Manning



The paper edition of Post 52's News is a quarterly publication.

The email (e-Edition) is issued monthly.

If you wish to receive a monthly copy, please send your email address to: post52snews@gmail.com

Paper Edition/Copy Schedule (subject to changes / extra editions): March, June, September, December.

Email Edition Schedule: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

Submission Deadline for the Post 52 Newsletter is the 28th of each month. Items received after the 28th will be held for future issues, printed as time and space permit, and as appropriate.

Lion's Club dinners are listed on our calendar so that members are aware of when we need additional kitchen help; our Post caters the dinners for the Lion's Club. Stop in, lend a hand, and thank the Lion's Club members for their community work!

It's OKAY to Ask for Help!

Please utilize this link to sign up and receive updates from the Veterans Administration via email and/or text messages:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVA/subscriber/new/>

CRISIS LINE – Crawford County 800-315-5721

and Erie County 800-300-9558

Suicide Hotline 800-273-8255 IF IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911

National Resource Directory- www.nrd.gov – online directory to services and resources for wounded troops, veterans and their families.

AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY INFORMATION – 412-822-1707 OR

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

Herbicide Storage Location Link (OUTSIDE of Vietnam):

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp>

CRAWFORD COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

814-333-7314 (phone) OR website information:

<https://www.crawfordcountypa.net/VeteransServices/Pages/home.aspx>

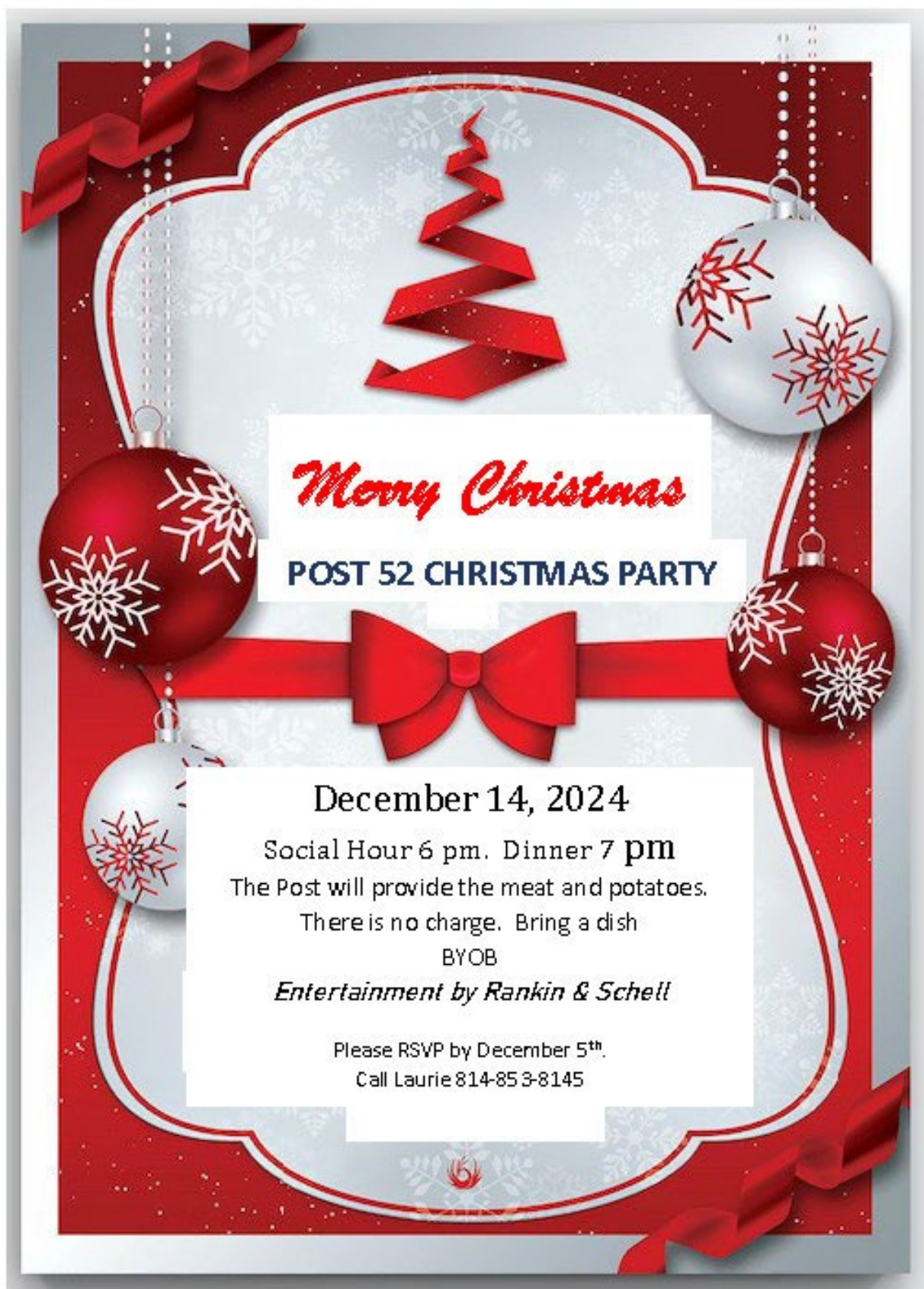
There is help available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

The Veterans Crisis Line — Call (800) 273-8255, then press 1. You can also text and chat online at 838255.

Dial 988 then Press 1 for crisis support 24/7!

Also available is the Women Veterans Call Center, which provides U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs services and resources to women veterans, their families and caregivers. You can also chat online anonymously with a call center representative. Call (855) VA-Women (855-829-6636) 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 8 to 6:30 Saturdays. Use the same number to text.





Awesome Christmas Presents....



Veterans who made it home... Veterans Day 2024

THANK YOU to:



ONE Federal Credit Union & all the volunteers!!

Filling the Jeep w/ Rocky Radio
in October



Thanks to ALL who helped Support our Troops!!

FROM the VA



Medicare open enrollment and your CHAMPVA eligibility

Your Medicare status affects your eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits

November 29, 2024, Britta Gullahorn

Communications Specialist, VA Office of Integrated Veteran Care

It's open enrollment season. Now through Dec. 7, millions of Americans can select 2025 Medicare plans. If you're currently enrolled in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA) or may be eligible, your [Medicare](#) status can impact your CHAMPVA benefits.

CHAMPVA eligibility

[CHAMPVA](#) is a health care benefits program through VA that shares the cost of certain health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. You may be [eligible](#) for CHAMPVA if you are a spouse, widow(er), or child of a service-connected, permanently and totally disabled Veteran, or they were when they died.

You need Medicare Parts A & B to be eligible for CHAMPVA

If you are eligible for Medicare for any reason at any age, you must have both Part A and Part B to be eligible for CHAMPVA. However, there are exceptions. For example, if you are over age 65 and were never eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A, you do not need Part B. Call the CHAMPVA help line, 800-733-8387, or visit [Ask VA](#) for information about your specific situation.

Tips about your CHAMPVA eligibility and Medicare

- If you already have Medicare, keep your Medicare Part B coverage. If you cancel Medicare Part B coverage, your eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits will end on the same day your Part B coverage ends.
- If you are a CHAMPVA beneficiary turning 65, make sure you enroll in Medicare Parts A and B.

Send us a copy of your Medicare card and a CHAMPVA Other Health Insurance Certification Form ([VA Form 10-7959c](#)). We will send you a new CHAMPVA identification card with an extended expiration date.

- Medicare Part D, the prescription drug plan, is optional. Consider instead using the [Meds by Mail](#) program (you can only pick one). Meds by Mail provides maintenance medications at no charge to you (no premiums, no deductibles, and no co-payments) if you don't have any other prescription drug coverage.

[Apply for CHAMPVA](#) today in three steps:

1. Fill out the application for CHAMPVA Benefits, [VA Form 10-10d](#) (up to three beneficiaries per form).
2. Complete the Other Health Insurance Certification, [VA Form 10-7959c](#) (fill this out for each beneficiary).
 - Include a copy of your Medicare card (if you're already enrolled).
 - If you or an eligible family member are age 65 or older and not entitled to Medicare, you must send documentation from the Social Security Administration that confirms you are not entitled to Medicare benefits under anyone's Social Security number.
3. Submit your forms by:
 - Fax to: 303-331-7809.
 - Mail to: VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care, CHAMPVA Eligibility, PO Box 137, Spring City, PA 19475.

CHAMPVA and other health insurance

If you have any type of other health insurance (for example, Medicare, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Aetna), CHAMPVA will be the secondary payer. If you have more than one health insurance, CHAMPVA will pay after the other plans. CHAMPVA only pays first if you're enrolled in Medicaid, Indian Health Services, State Victims of Crime Compensation Program or CHAMPVA supplemental health insurance.

Support and resources

- Check out these [videos](#) to learn more about CHAMPVA.
- Call the CHAMPVA Help Line at 800-733-8387, available 8:05 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- Submit a question online to [Ask.VA.gov](#).
- Visit the [Social Security Administration](#) to enroll in Medicare Part B.
- Explore [health and disability benefits for families and caregivers](#).

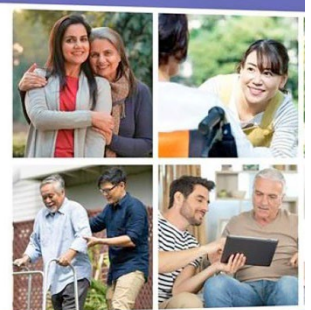
FROM the VA

Caregivers find support and services at VA

"They provided care that went beyond dad's medical needs."

November 21, 2024, Jesus Flores

Writer and Editor, VISN 19 Creative Task Force, and Marine Corps Veteran



Caregivers are vital to ensuring Veterans can live with

dignity and independence. Caregivers can be family members managing medications or acts of daily living, close friends regularly taking a Veteran to appointments or a neighbor helping with grocery shopping.

The role of a caregiver is often both rewarding and challenging.

VA's Caregiver Support Program (CSP) empowers caregivers with resources and guidance to help them care for themselves while caring for their Veterans.

CSP provides education, emotional support and fosters a sense of community among caregivers.

As a part of this community, these resources enhance a caregiver's ability to provide high-quality care to their Veteran while maintaining their own health and well-being.

Ron's experience caring for his father, Lee, a World War II pilot, illustrates [this journey](#). When Lee broke his hip, Ron stepped in as his primary caregiver. "He didn't want to be in a nursing home," Ron said. With his father resolved to age in his home and with his community, Ron was resolute. "I was going to make that happen."

Determined to let his father age at home, Ron quit his job and moved in with Lee to provide full-time care. "Nothing could have prepared me for the challenging yet rewarding experience. I had no prior experience being a caregiver and it was overwhelming at first," he shared.

He sought support from [Salt Lake City VA](#) CSP. They provided Ron with resources, including respite care, which is short-term relief for caregivers that allows them to take a break, run errands or go on vacation.

Lori Davis, a nurse on Ron's caregiver support team, played a key role in his journey.

"Lori changed what I thought about VA by helping me navigate the health care system and providing care that went beyond Dad's medical needs. She even helped me get him a new wheelchair. VA helped me care for him at home, where he was happiest, and it made all the difference," he said.

A team to help caregivers at every step of the journey

Caregivers have a VA caregiver support team dedicated to helping them navigate VA health care and connect to a wider caregiver support community.

The CSP has been invaluable for Sharon, who sought help from [Western Colorado VA](#) while caring for her husband, Bob. "The programs and group sessions helped me understand Bob's conditions and adapt as his conditions changed. I wouldn't have been able to care for him without that understanding," she shared.

Caregiving can be physically and emotionally taxing. The CSP ensures caregivers are never alone. This knowledge can bring a sense of relief and reassurance, knowing there is a support system in place.

No matter where a caregiver lives or when their Veteran served, VA ensures the dedication and sacrifices of caregivers are met with community, team, support and services.

How VA can help you

The CSP includes [two programs](#). [The Program of General Caregiver Support Services \(PGCSS\)](#) offers skills training, peer mentoring and coaching for caregivers. [The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers \(PCAFC\)](#) provides additional support for those caring for Veterans with severe service-related injuries or illnesses. This can include financial assistance. VA is committed to caregivers and recognizes them as critical partners in Veteran health care. Every VA health care system has a CSP team to assist caregivers with information, training and support. VA is currently serving more caregivers than ever.

If you're a caregiver for a Veteran, [VA's Caregivers Support Line \(CSL\)](#) is also available at [1-855-260-3274](#) to provide information on available programs and connect you with local resources.

Visit [VA Caregiver Support Program](#) to learn more about available resources and how the CSP can support you in caring for your Veteran. All caregivers are encouraged to take advantage of these resources to help you provide the best care for your Veteran and yourself.

FROM the VA



**Check your Veteran Health Identification Card
1.5 million VHICs have or will expire soon
November 2, 2024, Health Eligibility Center**

The Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) is not required to

receive VA health care, but it is beneficial to quickly check in for your VA appointments. Please see the notification regarding the VHIC renewal is not a scam: The National Health Eligibility Center (HEC) is in the process of notifying 1.5 million Veterans nationwide that their VHIC has or will expire soon.

How to renew online... the preferred method



Renew your [VHIC online](#). Online or self-service requests are processed by our local team as soon as possible.

Make sure your camera is in photo mode when scanning the QR code. Go directly to the website noted on the postcard. If the QR code doesn't work, choose the VHIC option and submit the required information to renew your card.

Once your card request is submitted, you will receive a response that your request is "On Hold." The card request will then be manually reviewed and approved for printing and shipping.

Card processing procedures

Once your VHIC request (photo and ID) has been received, the facility will review your photo and ID to make sure it meets the requirements.



If your VHIC request didn't meet the guidelines, you will receive an email stating why and you will be asked to re-submit online or at your local VA facility.

Presenting in person will not result in receiving your renewed card any faster.

All cards are printed and mailed from a central off-site location regardless of renewal method.

Normal processing time is 7 to 14 days for domestic and 21 to 30 days for foreign addresses, but could be longer during this mass renewal period. If it has been longer than 30 days, contact your local VA facility.

If you renew online and your card request status says HOLD or On Hold, your card request was received and is in the queue for processing.

Travel pay is not authorized when visiting a VA location solely for the purpose of renewing a VHIC; however, you can renew your VHIC before or after your next VA appointment. Having a VHIC is not required to receive VA health care.

In-person renewals

If renewing in person, bring a valid or non-expired state-issued driver's license, passport, or federal, state or local government-issued photo ID containing your name and date of birth. There may be a bit of a wait due to the high volume of walk-ins. The renewal process includes presenting a valid photo ID and taking a photo for your VHIC renewal.

What's Happening at Post 52 and around the Globe

December 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 9:00am Packing for Soldiers & Sailors Home	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 6:00pm Set up for Christmas Party	14 Post 52 Christmas Party! Social Hour 6pm Dinner 7pm BYOB
15	16 NO MEETING this month	17	18	19	20	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)
22	23	24	25 Christmas Hanukkah begins	26	27	28
29	30	31 Membership Dues due date New Year's Eve				

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day	2 Hanukkah ends	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Lions Club Dinner, help needed	10	11
12	13	14	15 5:30pm Troops Packing	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Post 52 Monthly Meeting 7:00pm	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Super Bowl	10	11	12	13 Lions Club Dinner, help needed	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents Day Post 52 Monthly Meeting 7:00pm	18	19	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday
23	24	25	26	27	28	

