



**YINGLING-RIDGLEY POST 7472  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT SEVEN, 4225 VFW LANE  
ELLICOTT CITY, MARYLAND  
21043. <http://vfw7472.org/> .**



## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021

**YINGLING-RIDGLEY POST 7472**  
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF**  
**THE UNITED STATES**  
DISTRICT 7, 4225 VFW Lane  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043  
(410) 465-4240 [www.vfw7472.org](http://www.vfw7472.org)



### YINGLING-RIDGLEY VFW POST 7472

#### OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

Commander ..... William A. Milner, Jr.  
Senior-Vice Commander ..... Lawrence J. Buehler  
Junior-Vice Commander ..... William B. Braid  
Quartermaster ..... Gilbert M. Sherman  
Adjutant ..... Christian J. Buehler  
Judge Advocate ..... Leonard Lee  
Surgeon ..... Shelby L. Rogers  
Chaplain ..... Howard A. Clark  
  
1 Year Trustee ..... Robert A. Berlett, Sr.  
2 Year Trustee ..... Robert Kimmerle  
3 Year Trustee ..... Michael Zanski  
Service Officer ..... Albert A. Hernandez  
Officer Of The Day ..... Jay M. Thorpe  
Guard..... Joseph G. Dunigan

### POST CANTEN HOURS OF OPERATION

#### OPEN

Monday - Wednesday 1600 hours

Thursday - Sunday 1200 hours

#### CLOSE

2000 hours or before

2000 hours or before

**REMEMBER:** The speed limit driving through the adjoining neighborhood is 25 mph; 09 mph in our parking lot and on Post property. The Canteen is closed on most holidays, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hours-of-Operation are subject to change. If you plan to arrive at the Post after 1800 hours; especially in cases of inclement weather (prior to, during and afterwards), please call the Canteen to confirm our Hours-of-Operation, 410-465-4240. The bartender on duty has prior approval to close the Canteen early if situations like those above warrant such actions.

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

**OFFICERS MEETING:** 1st Thursday of each month, 1900 Hours.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 1900 Hours

**SUBMISSION DATE FOR NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION:** UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NEWSWORTHY ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE POST NEWSLETTER IS THE 3rd SATURDAY OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE MONTH THAT THE NEWSLETTER IS DUE FOR PUBLICATION



## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE — VFW POST 7472 JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021

Greetings Comrades,

Well, 2020 is finally behind us and let us hope that 2021 is different. We are not out of the COVID pandemic yet, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I encourage all to get the vaccine when it becomes available to you. And, as Comrade Rogers has no problem telling you, 'WEAR THE DAMN MASK'. Our hands at the Post were tied by State and County requirements during 2020, but we have accomplished a lot and are working on many more projects. A new committee was formed at our last meeting to oversee and plan future Post improvements. This committee is being chaired by Comrade Dave Catania. I am sure he will be more than happy to accept any help you can give him.

I was informed at the District Meeting that the VFW National and State Departments will be requiring all Posts to go "DIGITAL" for reports. We have gotten an early start on this as Comrade Tim Ruland and Quartermaster Mike Sherman have been working on this. We started writing a Post Plan for future pandemics. We can hold Zoom Meetings and we have installed Quicken Books software which will allow us to do all our banking online. We are hoping that all this is in operation by the end of February 2021.

I hope to see all of you at our next Post meeting or around the Canteen.

**MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA**

Yours in Service, Bill Milner, Post Commander



Post Jr. Vice  
Cdr. Bill Braid  
& Post Cdr.  
Bill Milner,  
presents a  
VFW Post 7472  
plaque of  
appreciation  
to Project  
manager,  
Chris  
McCarthy, a  
Leach Wallace  
Associates  
representative,  
for the help he  
provided dur-  
ing the design  
and installa-  
tion of our  
recently in-  
stalled new  
HVAC system.

## QUEEN OF HEARTS

**T**he Queen Of Hearts game is still alive and well at Post 7472. This is a Post Fund Raiser. Drawings take place at the Post each Monday at 1700 hours. Our most recent jackpot reached a total of \$4,575. Our last drawing yielded a Queen of Hearts winner. You do not have to be present, when each drawing takes place to win, but you should come to the Post to play; or you can have one of your Post Comrades purchase a ticket in your name. The rules for playing the game are listed at the Post. Be on the lookout for more details regarding updates and/or any changes, e.g., ticket prices, drawing dates, payouts, prize amounts, etc. To learn the name of the winner, see page eleven.

### POST CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

***Notify the CHAPLAIN OR THE COMMANDER if you know of the death, illness or any distressful condition of any Post Comrade or family member, who is either at home, in the hospital or other medical treatment facility. The Post Chaplain may be contacted by calling the Post at 410-465-4240 and leave a message. He/She will return your call.***

#### ***SICK CALL***

***RAY TRAHAN — Ray is a Post 7472 Life Member and is a resident in the Lorien Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 7615 Washington Blvd, Elkridge, MD 21075. He welcomes visitors and loves Reeses Peanut Butter Cups. Please call the Center at (410) 579-2626 before visiting to ascertain the visiting procedures.***

#### ***TAPS***

#### ***NONE KNOWN***

## **Post Surgeon's Message**

**Comrades, it looks like the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for a while longer and no one can tell us how long that will be. Just as the scientists and doctors predicted, it is not going to just go away and will get worse when the weather gets colder and we are inside closed spaces more.**

**REMEMBER: Social distancing is one of the most important measures we can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Also: It's important to keep this in mind not only when thinking about, physically, how far you need to be from others, but also when thinking about which activities are safe. "There is not a 'safe' and 'not safe,' " she says, but by establishing which activities and environments are safest, people can try to focus on those.**

**Our year of 2020 is coming to an end and I sincerely hope that everyone is staying well and healthy during this time of extreme stress and danger that has been foisted upon us by the advent of this COVID-19 pandemic during the past 11 plus months. These past 11 plus months has been a very trying time in the history of the United States as well as for the rest of the world. As of this date in our history, the world has suffered in excess 77 million total cases and over 1.7 million deaths; and over 320 thousand of those deaths were United States citizens. There are in excess of 18 million total cases in the U.S. Of course, the watchword from our governor is "WEAR THE DAMN MASK". You might not like it and it is not one of my favorite things to do either, but it has been proven to work. Those numbers above are grim statistics, but help is on the way, so take advantage of it when it is made available for you. There is one certainty regarding the casualty and death numbers listed above. They will be much higher by the time you read this. I have heard from the experts regarding this pandemic and it is not even close to being over. Remember, only with all of our help can the 'spread' be slowed. So, at the risk of repeating myself, MASK UP EVERYBODY. The end is in sight.,**

**There are two Covid-19 vaccines that have been approved for administration and judging by all reports that we have been watching and listening to, most of us who are over the age of 75 years should receive our vaccinations in very short order. I have decided that when my turn comes to be administered this vaccine, I will take my turn in line as soon as it is available. Both vaccines have been proven efficacious and safe to be administered to most of us, realizing that there will be anticipated side effects, as is usual, when administering new vaccines and other new medications, I still plan to take my place in line.**

**Shelby L. Rogers, Post Surgeon**

**Service Set for Medal of Honor Recipient Killed by COVID-19,  
14 Dec 2020, The Associated Press | By [The Associated Press](#)**



**President Barack Obama bestows the Medal of Honor on retired Army Command Sergeant Major Bennie G. Adkins in the East Room of the White House, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)**

**OPELIKA, Ala. — A Medal of Honor recipient from Alabama who died after contracting COVID-19 earlier this year was laid to rest this past week at Arlington National Cemetery. Services for retired [Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins](#), of Opelika, were announced by the foundation he began to provide educational assistance for members of the Special Forces.**

**Adkins died in April at the age of 86 after falling ill with the illness caused by the new coronavirus. He received the nation's highest military honor in 2014 for his heroic service with the Army Special Forces during the Vietnam War. Adkins' body was escorted from an Opelika funeral home to the Atlanta airport by the Lee County Sheriff's Office on Monday, 14 Dec 2020. He was buried with full military honors on Wednesday morning, 17 Dec 2020 at Arlington beside his late wife, who died last year.**

**The service for Adkins was shown by livestream. His funeral was delayed because of the continuing pandemic.**

## **CALENDAR OF POST EVENTS: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021**

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED, ALL MONTHLY OFFICER AND MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE POST HOME AT 1900 HOURS ON THE 1st & 2nd THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH**

- 1. 01 Jan 2021 (Fri): New Year's Day. (The Post will be open for business.)**
- 2. 07 Jan (Thu): Post Officers Meeting, 1900 hours.**
- 3. 09 Jan (Sat): District 7 Meeting, VFW Post 7472, 4225 VFW Lane, Ellicott City, MD., 1000 hours.**
- 4. 10 Jan (Sun): C of A Meeting, Aberdeen Memorial Post 10026 210-272-1218, 821 Old Philadelphia Rd, Aberdeen, MD 21001, 1200 hours.**
- 5. 13 Jan (Wed): Finance & Investment Committee Meeting, 1300 hours.**
- 6. 14 Jan (Thu): Post Monthly Meeting, 1900 hours.**
- 7. 04 Feb (Thu): Post Officers Meeting, 1900 hours.**
- 8. 11 Feb (Thu): Post Monthly Meeting, 1900 hours.**
- 9. 13 Feb (Sat): District Seven Meeting, VFW Post 10076, 107 S. Main Street, Mt. Airy, MD, 1000 hours.**
- 10. 20 Feb (Sat): Bull & Shrimp Feast, VFW Post 7472, 4225 V.F.W. Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043. ( Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will most likely be cancelled, as well as most events that are usually held at the Post, such as large gatherings, which will most likely exceed the limits established by the MD State Governor, Hall Rentals, BSA Troop 851 meetings, etc. For more information regarding meetings and other gatherings, please contact the Post Commander at 410-465-4240. If you call after hours of operation, please leave a message.**



**“This flag which we honor and under which we serve, is the emblem of our power, our thoughts and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours. It floats in majestic silences above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or in war. And yet, through silence, it speaks of the past, of the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon us”.**

**President  
Woodrow Wilson,**



**1917**

## ***PROPER FLAG DISPOSAL***

***If you, or anyone that you know, have old flags that are in need of disposal, we have an old mailbox at the Post that is there for the sole purpose of receiving those flags that have outlived their usefulness. Just deposit it into the mailbox that is sitting on our front porch; and that is all there is to it. If the mailbox is full and is overflowing, just come inside the Post and give it to the bartender on duty. If you are unable to drop off the flag(s) yourself, just call the Post Canteen at 410-465-4240 and someone will come to you, within a reasonable distance, and pick up the flag(s) for disposal.***



**LISTED BELOW ARE FIVE LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH SPECIAL TIES TO POST 7472. THEY ARE:**

- 1. WARFIELD'S BARBER STYLING.** This barber shop is located at 4882 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043, PHONE NUMBER 410-750-6205. They are open Mon-Fri 0900 - 1900 hours; Sat 0830 - 1730 hours; Sun 1030 - 1600 hours. They cut the hair of men, women and children; and they are "Howard County's First Choice" and is open 7 days a week. **ALL VFW, AUXILIARY MEMBERS. AND MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS WHO PRESENT THEIR I.D. CARDS WILL RECEIVE A \$1.00 DISCOUNT OFF HAIRCUTS.**
- 2. KELLY'S LIQUORS - FINE WINE, SPIRITS AND MICRO BREWS. THEY SPECIALIZE IN CATERING, WEDDINGS AND PARTIES.** They are located at 4882 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Phone Numbers are: 410-750-0330/0331. Fax 443-325-0562. Cell 443-677-5091. **ALL VFW, AUXILIARY MEMBERS. AND MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS WHO PRESENT THEIR I.D. CARDS WILL RECEIVE A 10 PERCENT DISCOUNT OFF ALL WINE PURCHASES.**
- 3. KENDALL HARDWARE STORE, 12260 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD 21029. 410-531-2111.** **ALL VFW, AUXILIARY MEMBERS, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MEMBERS and AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS WHO PRESENT THEIR I.D. CARDS WILL RECEIVE A 10 PERCENT DISCOUNT OFF ALL PURCHASES.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE ABOVE: Contact Post 7472 Service Officer, Al Hernandez, U.S.M.C. (410) 465-1801: [al.hernandez127@gmail.com](mailto:al.hernandez127@gmail.com)**

- 4. VETERANS' REAL ESTATE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM:** The Bob & Ronna Group Berkshire Hathaway Home Services PenFed Realty Veteran Owned and Operated. As a dynamic and energetic married couple, Bob & Ronna (in addition to their entire Real Estate Group) work full-time establishing clients for life by providing superior service and extensive knowledge in the Maryland Real Estate market. Bob graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and recognized a need for better opportunities to Veterans in Real Estate. In response, The Bob & Ronna Group created a unique program that not only helps raise money for the USO-Metro and Howard County Veterans' Organizations (American Legion Posts 156 and 300, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7472, and the Marine Corps League Detachment 1084), but also provides Veterans and their family members with Cash-Back and other benefits at settlement when you buy or sell with The Bob & Ronna Group. For every Real Estate transaction in our Veterans' Real Estate Advantage Program, The Bob & Ronna Group will proudly donate to the above organizations. Our cash-back credit **EXCEEDS** the amounts offered by the USAA and NFCU Real Estate Programs! Learn more about The Bob & Ronna Group's great service and how much you could save by visiting our website: [www.bobandronna.com/veterans/](http://www.bobandronna.com/veterans/) or call us at (410) 465-4440.

(See page eleven)

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES & WEB SITES FOR VETS**

1. **National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), 1 Archive Drive, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100** or you may visit the website at: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans>. If you are an Army Veteran or the next-of-kin (un-remarried widow, eldest child, parent, eldest sibling, eldest grand-child) of an Army Veteran, you may request a set of authorized medals and decorations by sending a written request along with a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214 (or other discharge if available) and death certificate (if applicable) to the address above. If you are a veteran and you have never received a set of your medals, your request will be processed free-of-charge. If this is a replacement set, there will be a nominal fee. If you are the primary next-of-kin, only one request for medals will be honored. After the NPRC processes your request, they will send you a list of the medals you are authorized. You can check on the status of your request, as well as view some general information about medals and decorations at: [www.veteranmedals.army.mil](http://www.veteranmedals.army.mil). The Veteran Medals Unit is located on the U.S. Naval Support Activity Philadelphia at U.S. Army Clothing and Heraldry, Product Support Integration Directorate, Veteran Medals Unit, Building 6B, North Room 328, 700 Robbins Avenue, P.O. Box 57997, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 877-827-9026, OP #4 or go to the website listed above.
2. **Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office (National Call Center): 800-827-1000.**
3. **Department of Veterans Affairs Voc. Rehab. Office, Baltimore, MD: 410-230-4500.**
4. **To reach the nearest VA Regional Office to your desired location, contact: VA Home Loan Guaranty, Atlanta Regional Office Loan Center, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, GA. 30033 or call 888-768-2132. Hours of operations 0800 to 1630 hours EST.**
5. **To reach the nearest VA Regional Office for the District of Columbia, KY, MD, VA, & W.VA. Write to The Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Loan Center, 210 Franklin Road S.W., Roanoke, VA 24011 or call: 800-933-5499.**
6. **Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Care Enrollment Center: 877-222-8387.**
7. **Department of Veterans Affairs, Gulf War Era Benefits (Direct Deposit): 800-749-8387.**
8. **VA Benefit Payment Option, (Direct Deposit) 877-838-2778.**
9. **Arlington National Cemetery: the final resting place of many who gave their lives in service to the country. Two US, Hours: Open, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm, Website: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil> Phone: (877) 907-8585, Address: Memorial Dr, Fort Myer, VA 22211.**
10. **American Battle Monuments Commission: 703-696-6897.**
11. **Memorial Headstones or Marker status: 800-697-6947.**
12. **Military Headstone Honors (Maryland National Guard): 410-576-6133.**
13. **Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training (MCVETS), 301 N. High St., Baltimore, MD 21202: 410-576-9626, Fax - 410-576-9628.**
14. **[www.va.gov/vaforms](http://www.va.gov/vaforms).**
15. **[www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).**
16. **[www.va.gov/directory](http://www.va.gov/directory) (for a current telephone list of VA facilities) Or: call the VA Health Benefits Service Center (HBSC) at 1-877-222-VETS to get the telephone number of your local health care facility.**
17. **<http://www.va.gov/health/aca/>.**
18. **Below is the link for the online copy of *The Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents & Survivors handbook for 2018*. This is the latest edition and has many pages of new information. The book can be found at the website at [https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)**

**LAW OFFICES OF  
Skeen & Kauffman, L.L.P.  
Stephen P. Kauffman, Attorney/CPA  
9256 Bendix Road, Unit 102  
Columbia, Maryland 21045  
(410) 625-2228 (voice)  
(410) 382-9606 (mobile)  
(410) 625-2292 (facsimile)**

**I am the co-founder of the law firm, Skeen & Kauffman and an accounting firm, Kauffman Kim; both of which are located right here in Howard County. While our primary focus is helping small-to-medium-sized businesses with tax, business and litigation challenges, we and our affiliates also offer a wide range of reasonably-priced professional services of interest to individuals and families; such as tax return preparations, simple wills; including durable powers of attorney and advanced medical directives, bankruptcies and family law.**

**Most importantly, we strongly support our Veterans and first responders, and offer free initial consultations and twenty percent discounts for these American heroes.**

**All of your VFW Post 7472 Comrades and Auxiliary members; as well as other Veteran Service Organizations that are affiliated with your Post, are free to contact me anytime at (410) 382-9606 or better yet, via e-mail to [skauffman@skaufflaw.com](mailto:skauffman@skaufflaw.com) or by telephone.**

**Sincerely, Stephen P. Kauffman**

**NOTICE — NOTICE — NOTICE**

**The Queen Of Hearts drawing was held on 21 Dec 2020 and was finally won by Comrade and Post member, Mike Poysa. His prize, 60% of the total of \$4,575 was \$2,757. The remainder of the total goes into the Post 7472 Veterans' Relief Fund, which is used to pay for the needs of Veterans. A new game is already in action, so come on in and play a really fun game. REMEMBER: It only costs a dollar a ticket and all proceeds realized from our Queen Of Hearts game will be used to pay for the needs of Veterans by way of our Veterans Relief Fund.**

## The Medal of Honor, 7 Dec 2020, Military.com

By **Jim Absher**



The President, in the name of Congress, has awarded more than 3,500 Medals of Honor to our nation's bravest Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen since the award was created in 1861. Nineteen of these heroes received a second award, fourteen received two separate Medals for two separate actions and five received both the Navy and the Army Medals of Honor for the same action.

The award is often bestowed posthumously to fallen heroes in recognition for their extraordinary acts of valor. A total of six such heroes have received the MOH while serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. On November 16, 2010 [Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta](#) became the first living Medal of Honor recipient in 40 years. Medal of Honor recipients are given the following special privileges and special benefits:

- A Special MOH pension of \$1,406.73 per month above and beyond any military pensions or other benefits for which they may be eligible. The MOH pension is subject to [cost-of-living increases](#).
- Special entitlements to Space A air transportation.

(See MOH on the next page)



(MOH from previous page)

- **Enlisted recipients are entitled to a supplemental uniform allowance.**
- **Commissary and exchange privileges (includes eligible dependents).**
- **Admission to the United States military academies for qualified children of recipients -- without nomination and quota requirements.**
- **10% increase in retired pay.**
- **Medal of Honor Flag.**
- **Allowed to wear the uniform at anytime as long as the standard restrictions are observed.**
- **Many states offer Medal of Honor automobile license plates.**
- **Interment at Arlington National Cemetery if not otherwise eligible.**



**Post 7472 representatives, Post Service Officer, Al Hernandez, along with the Post Commander, Bill Milner (not pictured) in the Howard County Veterans Day car parade which took place on 8 November 2020. The parade began in the area behind the Merriweather Post Pavilion and ended with a ceremony, with many guest speakers, at the Columbia Lake Front in the area around the newly opened Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Park. It was a great day!!**



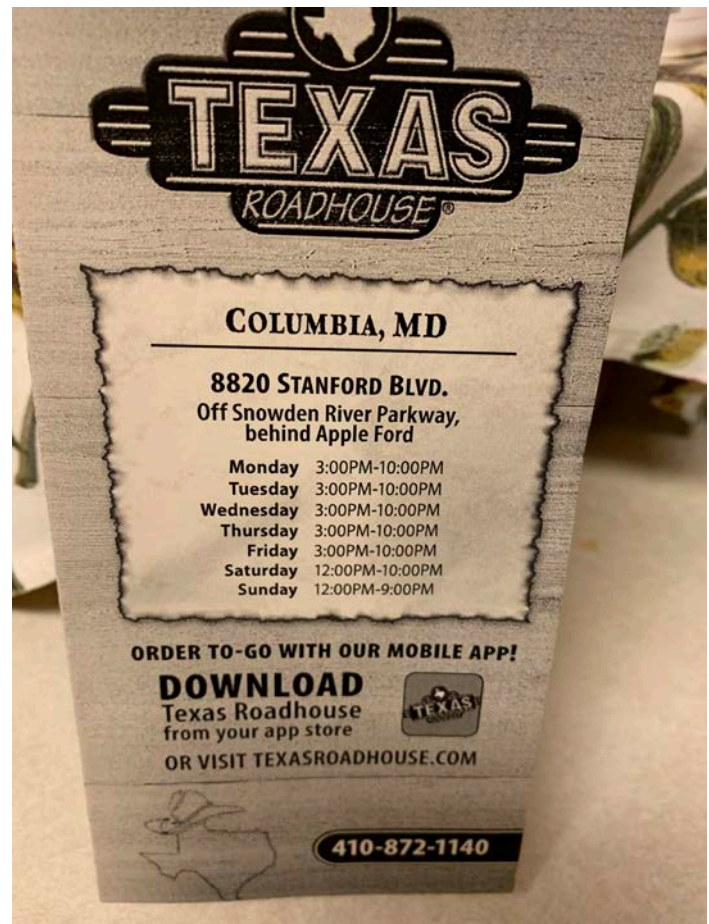


**Bill Milner, Post Commander, presents a plaque to Steven McCoy, owner of the Redmiles Tree Service in appreciation for services rendered by the cutting down of a number of dead or dying trees at the entrance to the property of VFW Post 7472 on 26 October 2020. Mr. McCoy would not accept payment for the work that was done, instead he told us that his work was a donation to the Veterans of the Post. He told the Commander that his services would be available in the future, whenever he was needed. He just wanted to help Veterans.**





**L-R: Post Surgeon, Shelby Rogers, Post Commander, Bill Milner and Post QM, Mike Sherman. We are all surrounded by three employees of the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant. The restaurant presented us with over \$1,600 in Roadhouse gift cards that were donated this past Veterans Day by many patrons of the restaurant. Many of the gift cards have already been given to to Post members. If you have not received a gift card, please contact the Post Commander or QM. After receiving your gift card, please use it/them to patronize the Roadhouse. See the location, phone number and hours of operation at the right. WHILE THEY LAST, COME TO THE POST AND GET YOUR GIFT CARD(S.)**



## **My HealtheVet**

**The Department of Veterans Affairs [My HealtheVet website](#) is designed to allow veterans enrolled in VA health care to check their health records, make and/or cancel appointments; or refill prescriptions from a computer or tablet. Veterans can send secure e-mails back and forth to their doctors about available treatments without having to go in for an appointment or wait for a phone call. The VA hopes to expand the program and other benefits under one specific app for Android or iPhones. For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the [Military Advantage blog](#).**

## **Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET)**

**Comrades, Post 7472 is a repository to handle useable and serviceable clothing to be donated to the homeless Veterans who are overcoming homelessness and undergoing job training at the MCVET Organization located in Baltimore. Many times, he/she will show up with only the clothes they are wearing. If you have men's or women's clothing or shoes to donate, just bring them to the Post and give them to the bartender on duty. Please do not donate overly used, ripped, torn or dirty items of clothing.**

**Due to the advent of COVID-19 collections have slowed, but we are still in business. Our homeless veterans now, need us more than ever. After a suitable number of articles have been donated, they will be taken to the MCVET Organization and donated in the name of the VFW and Post 7472.**



## 2021 VA Disability Payment Schedule, 2 Dec 2020

Military.com | By [Jim Absher](#)

If you receive [VA disability payments](#), you probably were happy to know that for 2021, you get a 1.3% raise in your benefits, but when will you get those monthly checks?

Disability payment benefits for a particular month are paid the first business day of the following month. When the first business day of the month falls on a non-business day or a holiday, VA benefits will be paid on the last business day of the preceding month.

Military benefits are always changing. Keep up with everything from pay to health care by [subscribing to Military.com](#), and get access to up-to-date pay charts and more with all latest benefits delivered straight to your inbox.

## Army's Uniform for Army-Navy Game Inspired by Wolfhounds of Korean War, 1 Dec 2020 Stars and Stripes | By [Wyatt Olson](#)

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The U.S. Army's Hawaii-based "Tropic Lightning" 25th Infantry Division is serving as the inspiration for the uniforms that was worn during the recent Army-Navy football game that was played on 12 Dec 2020 at Michie Stadium, an outdoor arena at West Point in New York.

Army players' uniforms honored the division's Korean War-era 27th Infantry Regiment, the Wolfhounds, which played a decisive role in repelling the initial massive assault by the North Korean People's Army in 1950, according to promotional materials released Sunday by the Army. Army helmets sported the division's distinctive insignia: a golden lightning bolt emblazoned upon a red taro leaf, dubbed by soldiers long ago as the "Electric Strawberry." The division was activated on Oahu shortly before Japan's surprise attack on the Island on Dec. 7, 1941. Its soldiers participated in the invasion of Luzon, Philippines, in January 1945 and were among the occupying forces in Japan after its surrender later that year.

On one shoulder of the uniform is a wolf's head, symbol of the division's Wolfhounds, whose soldiers were deployed from the tranquil Japan occupation to Korea when war broke out in June 1950. The Wolfhounds were among the units defending the Pusan Perimeter and then pushed the enemy back toward the north, earning three Presidential Unit Citations during the conflict, which ended in 1953. "The Wolfhounds have more Medal of Honor recipients than any other regiment going

(See WOLFHOUSES on the next page)

**(WOLFHOUNDS from previous page)**

back to the Spanish-American War," the Army said. The uniforms carry a shoulder patch of an American flag from the early 1950s, which had only 48 stars before Hawaii and Alaska became states in 1959.

The uniform also featured insignia from 10 units that have been subsets of the 25th, such as the Wolfhounds, 24th Infantry Regiment and the 5th Ranger Infantry Company. During the Army-Navy game, each player sported one of those insignia upon his helmet. The game venue of West Point, chosen in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, was a significant departure from the longtime tradition of holding the game at neutral locations.

Not since 1943 has the Army-Navy game been held at the campus of either service's academy, the Army said. It took place at West Point because the Army team is designated the "home team" on even-numbered years. Over the 120 years the rivals have competed, about three-quarters of those games were played in Philadelphia, which is roughly equidistant between West Point and the Annapolis, Md. home of the Naval Academy, according to the website [footballscoop.com](http://footballscoop.com).

**Editor's Note:** As a result of The Army Black Knights beating The Air Force Falcons on 19 December 2020. Army has now won the Commander-in-Chief Trophy for three of the past four years.

**Female World War II Vet Is One of the First Americans to Get the  
COVID-19 Vaccine, 14 Dec 2020, Military.com**  
**By [Patricia Kime](#)**

A female WWII veteran has become the first VA patient to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced Monday. Margaret Klessens, 96, was inoculated Monday at the VA Bedford Healthcare System, the first of thousands of veteran residents of long-term health facilities and VA medical staff expected to get the vaccine in the coming weeks.

According to the VA, the department began delivering and administering the vaccine, made by Pfizer and BioNTech, at the New Orleans and Bedford, Massachusetts, VA medical centers. Thirty-five more VA hospitals are expected to receive shipments of the vaccine this week to administer to staff and veterans living in communal facilities, who are considered at risk for serious cases of COVID-19.

"Ultimately, the department's goal is to offer the vaccine to all veterans receiving care at VA," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said. "As increased vaccine supply is obtained, VA plans to distribute these vaccines at additional facilities to provide the vaccine to more veterans and employees." According to the VA, the 37 facilities to receive the vaccine this week were chosen for their large veteran populations and ability to store vaccines at extreme subzero temperatures. The Bedford VA nursing home where Klessens lives serves 240 veterans. Since the beginning of the outbreak, 473 people at the Bedford VA, including patients and staff, have

**(See FEMALE WWII VET on the next page)**

**(FEMALE WWII VET from previous page)**

**contracted COVID-19; 38 have died. Currently, the facility is monitoring 42 active cases in its patient population.**

**At the VA facility in New Orleans, a total of 1,275 veterans have tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the outbreak, with 77 veterans or staff members currently fighting the virus. Seventy-nine veteran patients have died in New Orleans. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 129,979 veterans have tested positive for the virus and 5,542 have died. Nearly 18,000 veterans, VA employees and other VA patients were fighting active cases of the illness as of Dec. 11, according to the most recent data published by the VA. The department has said it will distribute its allocations of vaccines first to frontline health care workers and residents of its nursing home and spinal cord injury long-term care facilities.**

**After essential personnel and the oldest veterans are inoculated, the VA will prioritize minorities, those with preexisting conditions such as cancer, diabetes or heart diseases; and veterans who live in high-risk environments like non-VA nursing homes or group living facilities. As more vaccines become available, the VA will enter a "general implementation phase," when most patients will be able to get one, although officials with Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's effort to field a coronavirus vaccine, said widespread availability is not expected until June.**

**"Hopefully by the middle of the year, I hope most Americans will have been immunized, which means the level of hesitancy that exists currently will have been decreased because people will have learned more information ... about the vaccine," said Moncef Slaoui, Warp Speed's chief science adviser, during an interview hosted by The Washington Post. Clinical trials of the Pfizer vaccine indicate it is 95% effective in preventing COVID-19. Two doses are required, 21 days apart. Vaccine advisers for the Food and Drug Administration will also meet this week to consider an emergency use request from vaccine developer Moderna -- a company that has created a vaccine similar to Pfizer's that data indicate is also roughly 95% effective against the illness.**

**Last week, the VA announced the list of its facilities expected to get the vaccine, with the first allocation of 73,000 doses shipping this week. According to the VA, the sites will closely monitor patients and staff for side effects related to the vaccine, as well as any adverse medical events following administration. Anecdotal reports from participants in the vaccine research trials say they experienced pain at the injection site, fatigue, fever and general malaise mainly after the second dose -- a sign researchers say means that the body is generating an immune response to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, the pathogen that causes COVID-19. The 35 other sites where the VA is distributing the vaccine include:**

**Birmingham, Alabama, VA Health Care System — Phoenix VA Health Care System, — Greater Los Angeles VA Health Care System — Palo Alto, California, VA Health Care System — Eastern Colorado VA Health Care System — Connecticut VA Health Care System — Washington, D.C., VA Health Care System — Orlando, Florida, VA Health Care System — Augusta, Georgia, VA Health Care System — Edward J. Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Illinois — Lexington, Kentucky, VA Health Care System**

**(See FEMALE WWII VET on the next page)**

**(FEMALE WWII VET from previous page)**

**Maryland VA Health Care System — Ann Arbor, Michigan, VA Health Care System — Minneapolis VA Health Care System — Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital, Columbia, Missouri — St. Louis VA Health Care System - Omaha, Nebraska VA Health Care System — Southern Nevada VA Health Care System — Raymond G. Murphy VA Health Care System, New Mexico — New York Harbor VA Health Care System — Western New York VA Health Care System — Durham, North Carolina, VA Health Care System — Cleveland VA Health Care System — Oklahoma City VA Health Care System — Portland, Oregon, VA Health Care System — Cpl. Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, Philadelphia PA — Pittsburgh VA Health Care System — Caribbean VA Health Care System — Memphis VA Health Care System — Dallas VA Medical Center — Michael E. DeBakey VA Health Care System, Houston — Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, San Antonio — Richmond, Virginia, VA Health Care System — Puget Sound, Washington, VA Health Care System — Milwaukee VA Health Care System**

**-- Patricia Kime can be reached at [Patricia.Kime@Monster.com](mailto:Patricia.Kime@Monster.com). Follow her on Twitter [@patriciakime](https://twitter.com/patriciakime).**



**Post Auxiliary members prepare Christmas bags for delivery to the hospitalized Veterans at the VA Loch Raven Medical Center in Baltimore, MD**



