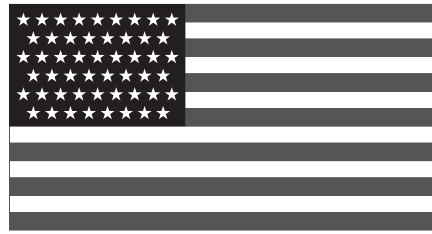
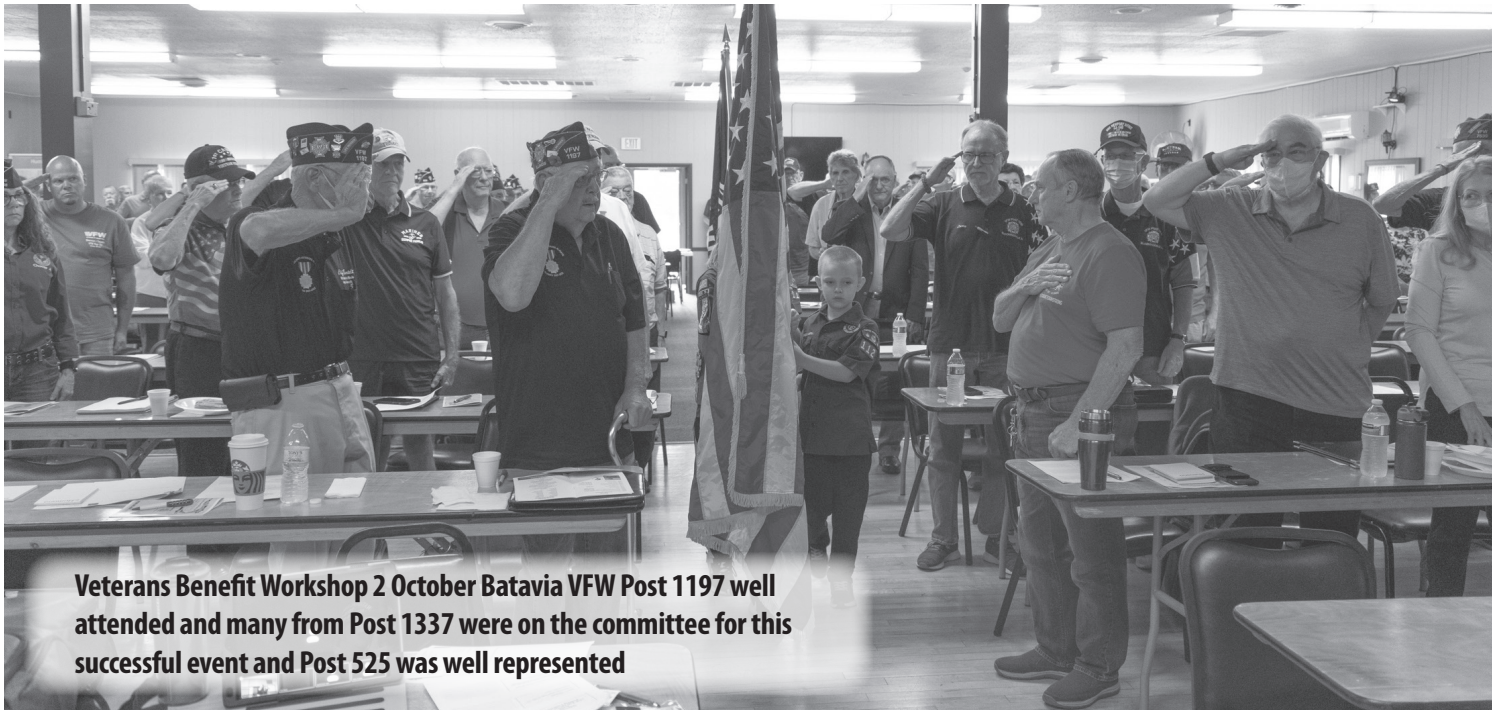


# Veterans of Mount Prospect Illinois



**VOL20** November 2021

*In Remembrance Editor Emeritus Bob Fey*



**Veterans Benefit Workshop 2 October Batavia VFW Post 1197 well attended and many from Post 1337 were on the committee for this successful event and Post 525 was well represented**

## **Veterans Benefits Workshop It's Finally A Wrap.** by Jim Parker

About two years ago then Dist. 19 Commander George Miller had an idea for a workshop to help Illinois veterans really understand the benefits to which they were entitled. He contacted his good friend Dutch DeGroot and asked him to chair the planning committee for the workshop. DeGroot had many irons in the fire at that time. He was the Service Officer and Adjutant of Post 1337 and the Service Officer of the 4th District. His busy schedule notwithstanding, DeGroot agreed to take on the committee leadership position. He recognized at once that to make the workshop special and to attract attendees he needed to have a truly outstanding group of presenters who could speak knowledgeably and effectively on subjects that were current and important to vets. He knew from the beginning that he had to have Barry Walter, the Past Director of the VFW Service Office of Illinois and a current VSO for the Department of Michigan. Mr. Walter quickly agreed to speak at the event. Steve Fixler, the Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of DuPage County volunteered to help fill out the list of presenters. In short order they assembled a group of the "pro's pros" to participate. Meanwhile, Mr. Miller secured the assistance of then Jr. Vice Commander of the 19th District, Brett Nila, and Jay Davis, the Commander of Post 1197 in Batavia. Davis

secured the approval of his Post to host the event at their large Post HQ building. Other volunteers signed on, including many from Post 1197 and Post 1337, and DeGroot's committee set about their work. Issues came up and were addressed, a date was set in March 2020, an informational flyer was prepared and distributed throughout the State, and veterans were registering to attend. Then came Covid. The March date had to be cancelled as well as the next set date in May. By now the seriousness of the pandemic had become apparent to all. Despite that, the committee still believed in the value of the workshop and met regularly (via Zoom) to address the many issues raised by the disease and the delays that accompanied it. All the while the committee kept up planning for seating, audiovisual, meals, beverages, and the many other necessary components of their ambitions program. They stayed at it until they were able to set a final date. By Saturday morning on October 2 everything was in place. Most of the presenters and committee members remained dedicated to the program and the veterans who had registered. Incredibly, despite almost two years of unavoidable delays, only five of the 180+ veterans who paid to attend had withdrawn and requested the return of their payments. But, in the end, it was worth the wait.

## Mount Prospect Veterans Welcome Two Combat Veterans One Receives Belated Coveted Eagle Scout Honors



Comanders Right Bill Starr Left Les Durov present a joint certificate of merit to Andrew Tangen long overdue recognition for him achieving the rank of eagle scout in his youth.

Comander Les Durov present a joint certificates giving Tim Deleaney & Andrew Tangen honorary membership to All American VFW Prospect Post 1337.



In the first gathering in memory Prospect VFW Post had an open meeting to invite their comrades from American Legion Post 525 to witness the presentations to Delaney & Tangen. They stayed to enjoy the meeting and refreshments later a great time had by all. Some of the attendees posed with the banner made from a local school honoring them "the Early Learning Center in Mount Prospect"

At its most recent regular meeting Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 of Mount Prospect an American Legion Post 525 welcomed two new honorary members. Commander Les Durov presented Certificates of Honorary Membership to a pair of distinguished veterans who, since completion of their active duty, have lent their considerable talents to assisting fellow veterans and veteran organizations. These two remarkable individuals are Andrew Tangen, currently the Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County, Illinois, and Timothy Delaney, presently employed by Humana Inc. as it Veterans Community Engagement Executive for the States of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Mr. Tangen is a US Navy veteran who rose to the rank of Lt. Commander. During his military service Mr. Tangen, whose primary assignments were in support of Counterintelligence and Counterterrorism, was deployed many times including

assignments in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Central and South America and Europe. In his current position, he represents veterans in claims involving the VA. At the meeting Mr. Tangen also received a Certificate of Merit marking his achievement of the Boy Scout rank of Eagle Scout in 2000.

Tim Delaney served in the US Army and retired after 25 years of service holding the rank of Sgt. First Class. In his long career Mr. Delaney also was deployed many times to the Middle East and Afghanistan. Recently, Mr. Delaney has been instrumental in helping Post 1337 obtain volunteer help and financial assistance of Humana Inc. in connection with many of its projects and programs.

Mr. Delaney and Mr. Tangen are both regular members of other VFW posts but Post 1337 is proud to include each of them as Honorary Members.

## Mount Prospect Police Officer Presented with VFW State of Illinois Law Enforcement Public Servant of the Award



**Comander Les Durov with Quartermaster Chuck Ohrn present plaque from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Illinois to Officer Sparr at the Village board meeting where Officer Sparr's family and friends also gathered.**

At its State convention this past June in Springfield the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Illinois named Mount Prospect Patrol Officer Stevan Sparr as the winner of its Law Enforcement Public Servant of the Year for 2020-2021. Officer Sparr was nominated for this prestigious honor by Mount Prospect VFW Post 1337. Post Commander, Les Durov, presented the award to Officer Sparr at a recent meeting of the Village Board meeting. Other officers and members of the Post also were in attendance along with Chief John Koziol and Mayor Paul Hoefert. The award is made annually by the Department of Illinois as part of a program developed and sponsored by the national organization of the VFW.

After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Winona State University in Minnesota and graduating from the Cook County Sheriff's Police Academy, Officer Sparr began his 21-year career with the MPPD in 1999. His job title was Patrol Officer and as such his duties included (and continue to include) foot and vehicle patrols and responding to calls for service. In addition to enforcing Illinois laws and Village Ordinances Officer Sparr says he endeavors to "foster and maintain community relations with the citizens I serve." In 2018 he was assigned the additional duties of a Field Training Officer. As such he is responsibly for training and mentoring probationary police officers to prepare them for a career with the MPPD. In 2015 Office Sparr found away to incorporate

his police duties with a life long passion – a love of animals and his commitment to animal rescue. He suggested to his Department that a Department Facebook page be created to help reunite lost and found pets with their owners. The MPPD agreed and since 2016 Officer Sparr has been the Administrator of the Village of Mount Prospect Lost and Found Pets Program, which is his personal creation. Since then the page has been expanded to include the placement of stray animals with appropriate shelters and rescue agencies. The publication also includes information about Village Ordinances regarding animals. Today the Facebook page has over 1800 followers from all over the area. It has helped reunite about 150 family pets with their owners and has assisted in the rescue of dozens of stray, abused and neglected animals. Office Sparr is the proud owner of two previously neglected or abused dogs.

Officer Sparr's resume includes two Honorable Mention Awards and two Exceptional Performance Awards. Chief Koziol describes Officer Sparr as having "an excellent work ethic and a strong set of personal and professional values" which make him "an important valued member of member of this Department." VFW Post 1337 is honored to salute this talented, dedicated and brave police officer who helps make Mount Prospect a better place to work and live by keeping it safe.



**VFW1337**

@vfw1337 · Nonprofit Organization

Edit Send Message

**VFW Post 1337 has a new Facebook page please like it**

VFW National has made it mandatory for any post wishing to make All American to have their own public Facebook page. Post 1337 has complied and it is getting a lot of likes and post. [www.facebook.com/vfw1337](http://www.facebook.com/vfw1337) Our joint Mount Prospect Veterans page is still active and we invite you to publish on that as well. [www.facebook.com/mpvets](http://www.facebook.com/mpvets)

**Need to contact VA?**

**Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1,  
Chat, or Text 838255**

**Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838  
or Chat**

**White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311**

**Don't know what number to call?**

**1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is never the wrong  
number**

**The number to call when you don't know  
who to call.**

You only need to remember one number for  
information on VA care, benefits,  
and services or to speak to a live agent for assistance!

## VFW Post 1337 American Legion Post 525 Picnic a big hit

For the first time in many years our yearly picnic returned to the Moose Lodge. My children recalled fond memories of their experiences attending the picnics here. This time it was their children attending! We had almost 250 members and their families attend and the weather was perfect. We also experimented with getting a bouncy house for the children. It was an immense success. Tim Delaney with his then co worker Cheryl O'Donnell from Humana showed up and hosted the children's games and provided prizes. Some of the volunteers that worked so hard to make this happen are Carol Ohrn, Marcie Kane, Jan DeGroot, Les Durov, Bill Starr....our grill masters Alan Hopper, brothers Joe & John DeGroot **THANK YOU!** (*if we left anyone out, apologies.*) Also thanks to our amazing Host Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 660. We'll be doing this again next year, and if all goes well bigger and better.





## Local Veterans Broadcast Veterans Day Program From Mount Prospect.

On November 11, 2021, Veteran's Day, Mount Prospect Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525 broadcasted a virtual Veterans Day program for the second time from the Village Board Chambers using the facilities of Mount Prospect's Comcast Channel 17. Several veterans attended the live program, which included some pre-recorded portions. The program remains available on You Tube via this link: <https://youtu.be/19thy-77TFY>. This event was quite different from prior years when members of our local Posts visited many area schools in small groups. The students, faculties and staff of these schools liked hearing about the holiday from actual veterans. For the vet's part, they always enjoyed interacting with children – telling stories about their service and answering questions. In person meetings like this were not possible this year and last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic so the idea of a virtual program was born. Post 1337 Commander, Les Durov and Post 525 Commander, Bill Starr, invited local school districts and many area parochial schools to participate in the program. Many schools choose to do so by making it available for viewing by students through the schools' AV facilities or by contributing portions of the program itself.

Commander Starr (who acted as the Master of Ceremonies) opened the celebration by thanking Mayor Paul Hoefert and the veterans in attendance. He noted that American armed forces are equipped with the best ships, airplanes and other military hardware available anywhere on the planet. But, he pointed out that this equipment would be useless without the volunteers who choose to join the American armed forces and who operate it. These are the brave men and women who protect our nation and enable us to enjoy its freedoms. They are the reason we celebrate Veterans Day every year.

Commander Durov then led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. That was followed by a pre-recorded rendition of the National Anthem by the MacArthur School Chorus. After the Invocation by Pastor Christie Webb of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Commander Starr introduced Makala Schmitt and Alaina Costello, two students from MacArthur Middle School who read an essay, the Origins of Veterans Day. Next, Commander Starr asked everyone to join in with vocalist Delaney Nold, a senior at Prospect High School, who sang "God Bless America". Miss Nold was accompanied by pianist Jennifer Troiano, the PHS Choir Director.

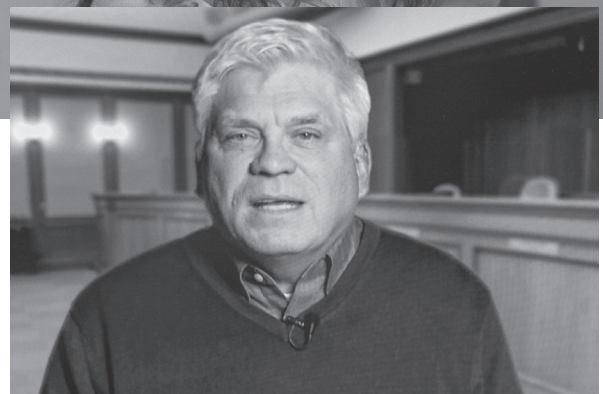
Commander Starr introduced the Keynote Speaker Navy Captain (ret.) George K. Busse. After graduating from Vanderbilt University Commander Busse was commissioned as an Ensign and served eight years on active duty after which he joined the naval reserve. He retired in 2006 after 30 years of service. He currently holds the position of Elk Grove Township Supervisor and serves on several corporate and charitable boards.

Commander Busse began his address with a visual aid – a US One Dollar bill – and referred the audience to the two circles on the reverse side of the bill. He pointed out that these circles are the front and back of the US National Seal. The circle with the eagle, he noted, is the same symbol that appears at the entrance of all federal buildings. As an aside, he said that when designation of our national symbols was debated by the founding fathers many years ago, none other than Benjamin Franklin suggested that, rather than the Bald Eagle, the symbol should be the Wild Turkey. Commander Busse said that he was happy that Mr. Franklin's suggestion was rejected because the eagle is much more appropriate symbol of our country's strength. Looking at the eagle he noted that the left talon holds the well-known symbol for peace, the olive branch. The eagle's head is turned in that direction to show our country's preference for peace. But sometimes, he said, we must fight for our peace and freedoms – that is shown by the arrows held in the right talon. Veterans are our nation's eagles he said. They prefer peace but will fight if necessary. Commander Busse said that throughout his naval career he has known many, many veterans. They come from all parts of the country, from many religious and cultural backgrounds and have many different skin colors. But, he said they all have three common traits. First is bravery, as evidenced by their well-known courage under fire. Second is their strength, as shown by their willingness to follow orders that may cause them to be separated from their families and to serve in many foreign lands. Third is their loyalty because, as they have demonstrated over and over again, while in uniform, the needs of their country comes before them and their personal safety.

Ms. Nold then returned to the stage to sing "America the Beautiful." Following that, in a prerecorded performance, the Joint Color Guard of both Posts honored all veterans with the traditional 21-Gun Salute. The final patriotic musical selection of the day was an outstanding performance of a special Veteran's Day number, "Freedom Finale", by the MacArthur Middle School Orchestra and Band. This was followed by the traditional playing of "Taps" by bugler Ryan Mullen, a talented student at Prospect HS.

Before closing the program, Commander Starr took a moment to recognize and appreciate the mothers & fathers, wives & husbands and all family members of our veterans who served in combat zones overseas. They were the ones who waited, agonized over and prayed for the safe return of their loved ones and from whom came the biggest sigh of relief when they did. Pastor Russ Bechtold, the Mount Prospect Fire Department Chaplain, gave the closing prayer.

On behalf of Mount Prospect's veterans, Commander Starr expressed his thanks and appreciation to the attendees and the staffs of the Village, the Mt. Prospect Park District and the school districts whose dedication and hard work made this year's Veteran's Day program such a great success.





**American Legion Post 525 Golf Outing  
Benefits Homeless Veterans**

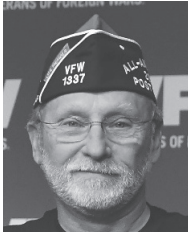
The 6th Annual Legion Fall Classic golf outing exclusively benefiting homeless American veterans was successfully held on October 7th at Mt Prospect Golf Course. Seventy four golfers showed up, despite the serious threat of rain. "The forecast was for scattered showers and the weather radar picture was dismal, but these hardy folks showed up ready to play. I was amazed and thankful!" said Bill Starr, Legion Commander. The rain held...Thank You Carol Ohrn. The end result of these patriotic golfers was a donation to Veterans Path to Hope (formerly TLS Veterans) of \$7,586.53. Veterans Path to Hope of Crystal Lake is a non-profit organization exclusively devoted to assisting homeless veterans. An additional \$5,000 of matching funds will soon be donated by a philanthropic organization out of Los Angeles, California. Total for Homeless Veterans = \$12,586.53. Thank you to all.



**Legion Post Commander, Bill Starr and VPH Executive Director Laura Franz**



## From the Commander of VFW Post 1337



The year is moving fast. It will soon be upon us. I like to wish each and every one of you to have the best Holiday you can have. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL. Covid is still playing a big curve ball in all that we do. I want to get back to what we used to do. It's been far too long.

Our VFW Post 1337 has started the year off on the right foot. We have work together to finish the X Sheet, except for membership. Let us all work together and finish this and make it four years in a row. I am very proud as to what our post has accomplished. It is only because we all work for the command goal. Veterans helping Veterans. Let's keep going and help more Veterans in need.

Right know it is all about membership. We need to get all our members paid up early. If your membership is about to expire, or expiring before the end of June 2022. Please help the cause and get your money in early this year. It is important that everyone understands this and makes the effort to give back. This will help Veterans and our own post as well. Thank you for your support on this issue.

This is the time of the year for giving. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas party. It is December 3 at 6:00 PM at the Moose Lodge. The cost is only \$20.00 per person. This will get you a catered meal, buffet style and an open bar. We are asking you to bring something for a donation for the Veterans at Lovell Hospital. We are asking to bring personal items such as tee shirts, lounge pants, socks, and toiletry items. Noting sharp like razors or anything with alcohol.

**AGAIN, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPORT**

*Les Durov, All State All American Commander*

## From the Commander of the American Legion



Members of Post 525 can be very proud of our involvement in the Mt Prospect community (it's in the Preamble) this past quarter. On October 7th we sponsored the 6th Annual Legion Golf Classic which benefited homeless veterans through the non-profit organization, Veterans Path to Hope. Including an additional \$5,000 of funds from a philanthropic organization

out of Los Angeles who match the first \$5,000 of our proceeds, the final total going to assist homeless veterans was \$12,586.53. Seventy four golfers braved the threatening rain and showed up. Made me proud to be among them.

The pandemic rules for schools and school children prohibited our hosting a normal Veterans Day ceremony at Lions Park Recreation center. So we did it virtually again. This was our second virtual Veterans Day Celebration and I think it was a resounding success. In particular, our legion member Captain George Busse's keynote address was perhaps the best I have ever witnessed, as appropriately, it was directed to the thousands of school children in our audience. It's a must see! So, here is the link to watch the YouTube video. <https://youtu.be/19thy-77TFY> We worked hand in hand with the Village, the Park District, local schools and the VFW to pull it off. Again, thank you to all who helped make this telecast a success.

Let's make this upcoming Holiday party one for the books. December 3rd beginning at 1800 hrs. \$20 per person gets you dinner, dancing and open bar at the Moose Lodge.

In addition I would like to point out that attendance at monthly Legion meetings is up. Thank you! We are vital to the overall image of the Village of Mt Prospect and I think we are doing it right! Your involvement is more than welcome. Thank you all! *Yours in Service, Bill Starr*

## From the Service Officer



Never a dull moment for being a S.O. Helping the American Legion 9th district as VSO legend Ray Toczek is unable at this time to perform the duties of District S.O. I have tremendous respect for Ray and wish him all the best. I'll do my best to somewhat fill his large shoes. He will retain his title of district S.O. As long as I shall substitute for him. My main goal

is to reconstruct the 9th district's Post S.O. Program. We'll accomplish this using the successful template that we have been working on in the VFW 4th district. Training classes and recruitment of members that honestly take the time and effort to be effective. It's a long term goal and expect it to take a year. The Leadership of the 9th district has been supportive. Always keep in mind when meeting a vet ask them if they need help, membership should always be the last thing on ones mind.

**Holiday Party 3 December  
18hr00**

**Moose Lodge 660**

**\$20 pp**

**Contact Marcie Kane**

**mfkane5@aol.com**



## Annual Donation Lovell FHCC

*"Comrades - It is that time of year that we put together a donation for our brothers and sisters confined to the Great Lakes Captain Lovell Health Care Center. Bring your gifts unwrapped please!"*

### **Suggestions:**

T shirts and briefs sizes XL - XXXL

Shaving Equipment - Safety Razors, Shaving Cream

Tooth Brush - Tooth Paste - **NO MOUTHWASH with alcohol!**

Slippers for men or women

Sweatshirts for men or women - size XL or larger

Remember our female Veterans also with personal items such as pajamas, lotion, underwear.

Deodorant

Packaged snack items

Books, magazines

Hats, gloves, scarves

**NO HAND SANITIZER**

**NO COLOGNE OR AFTER SHAVE**

*Shop the after Holiday sales! Let's make this a banner year of contributing to our less fortunate VA brothers and sisters.*

*Please drop off your donations at one of these three options:*

- 1) Moose Lodge, January 3rd VFW meeting or February 7th VFW meeting**
- 2) Drop off at Les Durov - 819 Graceland #202, Des Plaines, please call before 630-670-1355**
- 3) Drop off at Chuck Ohrn - 2261 Forest Ave, Rolling Meadows, please call before 847-636-1121**  
**Last donation accepted February 7th**  
**Chuck Ohrn - Project Chairman**