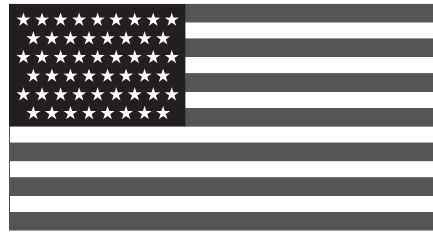


# Veterans of Mount Prospect Illinois



**VOL23** October 2022

*In Remembrance Editor Emeritus Bob Fey*



## **VFW Presents National Award To Gurnee Police Officer** by Jim Parker

At the September 26, 2022, Gurnee Village Board Meeting Commander Les Durov of the Mount Prospect Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 and VFW Department of Illinois Commander Bobby Edwards, presented the VFW National Law Enforcement Award to Gurnee Police Sgt. Jason Kalinowski. The award recognizes Sgt. Kalinowski as the Policeman of the Year in a competition involving all VFW posts worldwide. The program was developed and sponsored by the national organization of the VFW to honor and recognize first responders. Attending the presentation were several Village officials, including Mayor Tom Hood, the Village Trustees, Police Chief Brian Smith, and many officers of the Gurnee Police Department. Also in attendance was Sgt. Kalinowski's wife, Danielle. Joining Commander Durov were several officers and members of Post 1337.

Sgt. Kalinowski began his career as policeman in 2006 when he joined the Kenilworth Police Department after graduating

from the Police Training Institute in Champaign. In 2008 he moved to the Village of Gurnee where he has served for almost 14 years. During his tenure Sgt. Kalinowski has served the Village in many police positions including as the New Hire Liaison, the Field Training Officer Coordinator, and the Field Sobriety Test Trainer. He is also the current President of the Fraternal Order of Police Social Lodge. Sgt. Kalinowski and Danielle reside in Antioch with their son and daughter.

In accepting the award Sgt. Kalinowski expressed his thanks and appreciation to the VFW and Post 1337 for honoring him with the award. He told the audience that he was extremely proud to serve the citizens of Gurnee and to wear the badge and uniform of the Gurnee Police Department.

VFW Post 1337 is honored to have nominated Sgt. Kalinowski for the award. He is a dedicated police officer who helps make the Village of Gurnee be a better place to work and live by keeping its residents and employees safe.

## Post 1337 Adopts Mount Prospect Army Recruiters



The Military Assistance Program (MAP) is the outstretched hand between the local VFW and military community, offering support around the world. Since 2005, MAP has sponsored events supporting more than 2.3 million service members and their families.

A large part of MAP is the Adopt-a-Unit program, providing VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries the opportunity to adopt

hundreds of military units around the world. Adopt-a-Unit's goal is to develop supportive relationships with units before, during and after deployments to help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available to the military.

The Department VMS program may provide a requesting Post a grant to assist with sponsoring an event within their local military community.

## Post 525 & 1337 Veterans Advocates



Within 10 days members of post 525 & 1337 showed their fellowship and patriotism by attending meetings in Lake County at both the County Building and the Forest Preserve District Head quarters. In one case to express our displeasure at some of the board member of Lake County from trying to diminish Public Act 102-0732 which give the Veterans Assistance Commissions in each Illinois proper funding of the counties tax levy of .02%. We were by no means alone with members from many veterans service organizations attending including Medal of Honor recipient Allen Lynch. Even after this meeting some of the members are still challenging this with an upcoming veto session in Springfield.

Days later many of us returned to Lake county but this time to the Forest Preserve District to encourage the very modest donation of 4.7 acres of property to expand the VA cemetery at Ft. Sheridan. This was somewhat more successful. Although we have opponents on both boards we also have some advocates there. Our attendance did no doubt sway the vote in favor of expansion. It is hard to imagine any politician that would not be in favor of veterans, yet there are and we must keep our vigilance. Thank you for all members that took time to attend these functions, you make a difference.

## Our Partners

We are so fortunate to have many community partners and some of us are also members of these great organizations. The Mount Prospect Lions Club over the years has been one of them. Not only have they been supportive of our two post but they have even gone beyond that to help veterans. Here Commander Durov gives then Lions Club President Bob Tovella a plaque from the VFW Department of Illinois in appreciation of them supporting the VFW Veterans Service Office. The office helps veterans in many ways mainly helping them with service connected claims.



# An Adventure of a lifetime

by A1C Turkhoo Bayasgalan

My name is Turkhoo Bayasgalan. My journey to become an Airman started from just a simple conversations with MSgt Dutch at my local gym back in November of 2019. I used to go to YMCA located in Mount Prospect ,IL where I first met MSgt Dutch. At first I did not know he was in the military until he told me some of his stories of being in the Air Force.

These simple but personal stories and conversation led me to become future Airman in US Air Force. Definitely, It wasn't the easy process for me and it took me a year to finish with my applications, because Covid happened and everything slowed down. After I got on DEP program it took another year for me to get the job I wanted Cyber field. Since I waited so long and I was so close to change my mind and give up. Then I called MSgt Dutch and he told me: "just give it little time and see if it's meant to be then it will happen, if not then it won't". Like he said everything happened and I got the job.

Left for BMT (*basic military training*) in March of 2022. Where I became part of Wolf Pack and spent 8 weeks of training and learning many things that I would have never learned anywhere else. It was challenging and hard at first, but it gave me chance to rediscover myself once again. Most hard part of BMT was being away from my family and my 3 years old son. He was my biggest support every time when I had chance to call him he would encourage me and told me "Daddy you are strong!". I am grateful for those time and opportunity. I learned to be resilient, being faithful, being wingman and just grateful for the chance to stay strong and together with hundreds of new Airman.

I have made some very close friend for life and we shared some proud moments together. Day after day I tried doing my best. At BMT graduation I have received a Marksman and Honor grad ribbons. I became an A1C and went to my technical school, where we learned about my job and basics. One of the hardest thing was that we had many test to pass the order to qualify our job, if not either we would washed back or re-classed to different job. I did not want to risk anything I wanted to finish everything on time if not early to graduate. So I studied everyday to take the test and I was happy with my test score too. The hard work really paid off. Then I did my

RAP program back at home. I was just grateful being with my family and get to hug my son Getty once again after 5 months later. Since I am the first in my family to join the military, everyone is so proud of me.

Now I am at my first duty station learning more about my job and trying to do my best at my job. My experience in Air Force has been filled with amazing, challenging and proud moments. And I want to keep it that way and it all starts with me. Being in the military thought me being part of something bigger than just myself. Challenges grow us and led us to do Amazing things to be proud of. I want to thank you MSgt Dutch, who inspired me to challenge myself and lead me to where I am today. One day I hope to inspire someone and help to Aim High!

**Note:** I'm of course extremely proud of Turk for what he has accomplished and what is in his future. He received the prestige of "Honor Graduate" when he finished basic training and advanced school. Only one airman from the program receives this. He is attempting to continue his education and going into a Master degree program as well as hopefully going on to OTC (Officers Training Course) and obtaining a commission. As we do with local service members that wish to join our post we pay for their membership. Airman Bayasgalan is eligible for the American Legion and post 525 has sponsored him. **Dutch**



New 525  
Member



**U.S. AIR FORCE**



**Join Us Thanksgiving Day when our two post host Navy Recruits at the Moose Hall. Contact Casey to volunteer! [mcgee045@icloud.com](mailto:mcgee045@icloud.com)**

## VFW Department & National Conventions

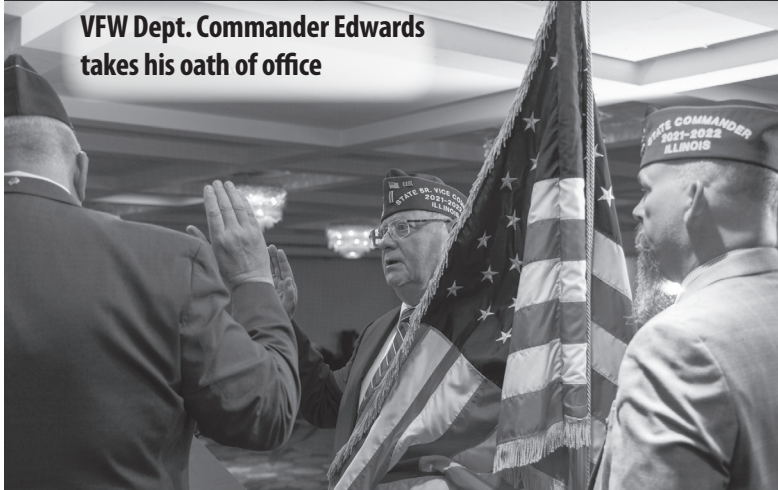
As in past years some of us attended the VFW department of Illinois held in Springfield as well as the National Convention which this year was held in Kansas City MO also the home of our VFW headquarters. Here are some images from each.



Les accepts Educator of the year award for teacher sponsored by 1337



Dutch receives our post first place award for this newsletter. Looking to repeat!



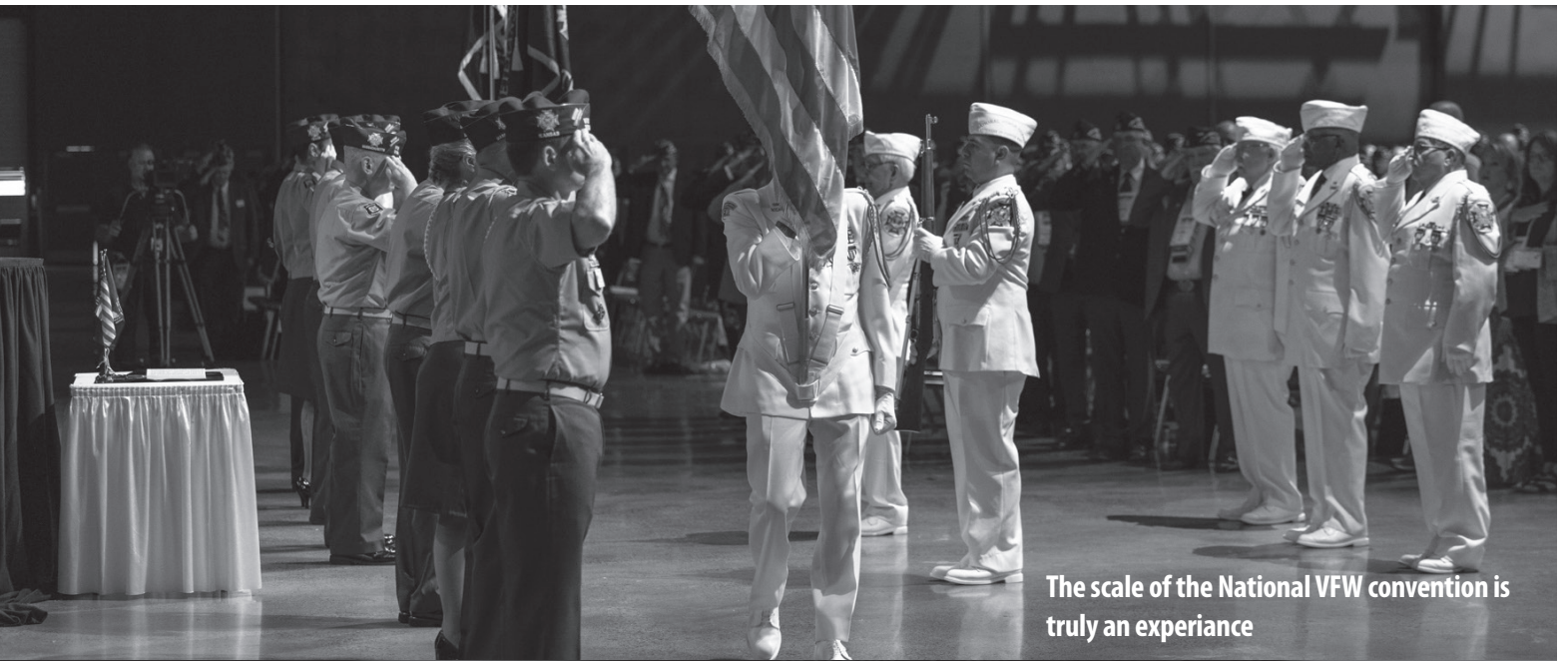
VFW Dept. Commander Edwards takes his oath of office



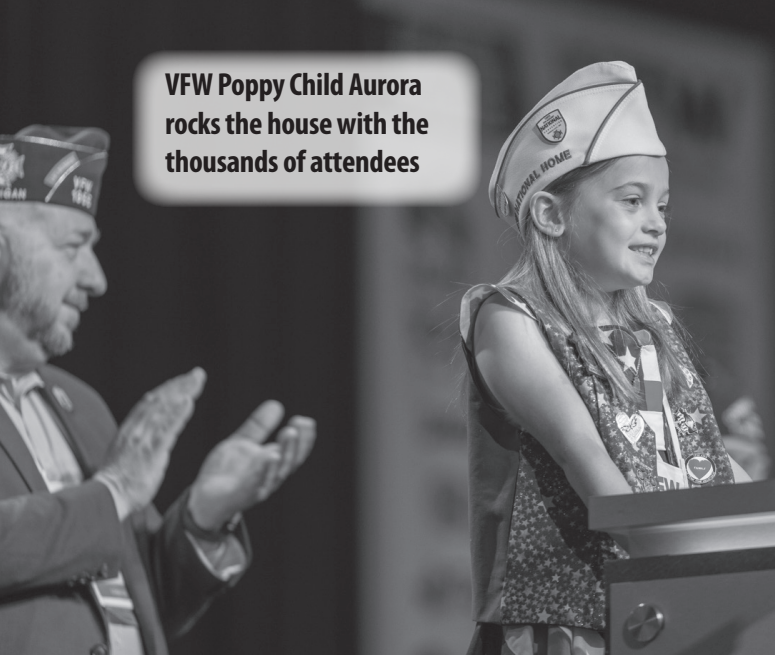
Post 1337 takes state safety award



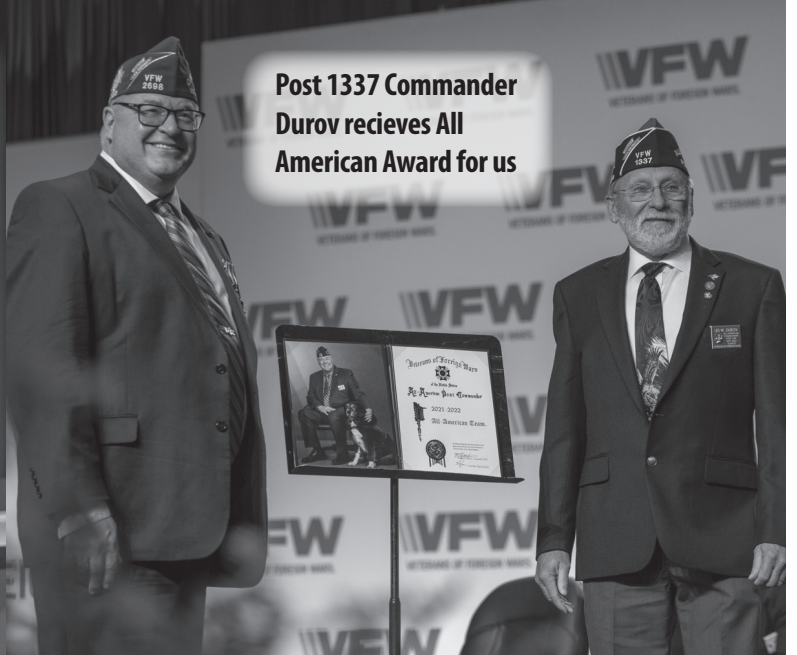
The Springfield Convention is always well attended. Make plans to attend next year.



The scale of the National VFW convention is truly an experience



VFW Poppy Child Aurora rocks the house with the thousands of attendees



Post 1337 Commander Durov receives All American Award for us



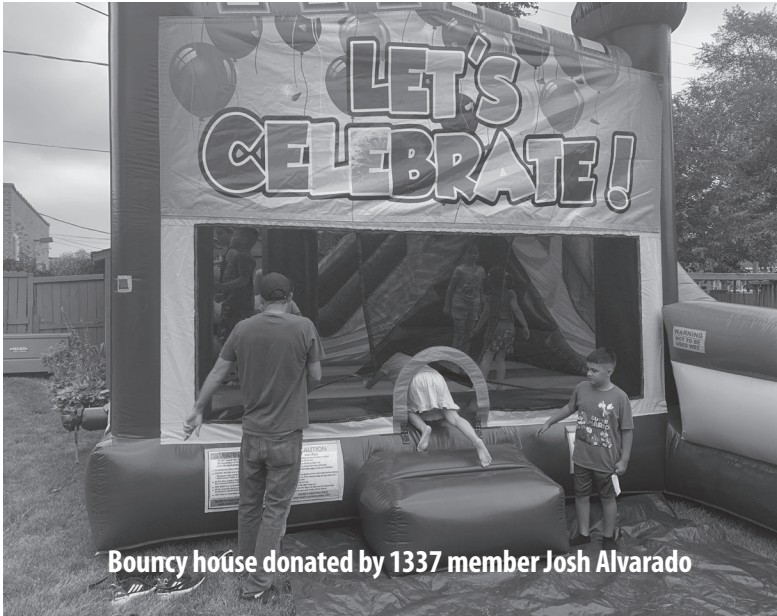
Part of the Illinois contingent at the national convention



Aurora receives commanders pin

# Veterans Picnic & 525 Golf Outing

We had two major events since the last golf outing. Our annual picnic and the 525 classic golf outing. Both major successes with the help of our major partners & sponsors who make this possible.



Bouncy house donated by 1337 member Josh Alvarado



Fun had by all games and prizes furnished by our partners at Humana. Mike Relaz wins the framed Constitution. Presented by Tim Delaney

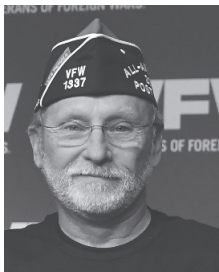




The well attended golf outing was helped by a perfect day of weather proceeds going to homeless veterans



## From the Commander of VFW Post 1337



This year is our fifth year trying to make All State and All American. I would like everyone to put in a little extra push to make this happen. We could use a few more members. Talk to your friends and neighbors and bring them to our next meeting, December 5TH at 7:00.

This year is moving fast. It soon will be the Holiday. This year we will hold our Christmas party on December 9TH. It will

be held at the Moose Hall. We are asking that everyone that attends to bring a donation for the Veterans at Captain Lovell Hospital.

Our VFW Post 1337 will be submitting two teachers this year, for teacher of the year. At our December meeting, we will present them with the post award. The post also has VOD and Patriots Pen Awards to submit. We are moving forward and a good pace. Thanksgiving we will host 50 sailors from Great Lakes Naval Station for Thanksgiving dinner. Comrade Bachara, Casey almost single handedly is making this happen. Reach out to him and ask him what you can do to help.

Day of service project accomplished with 10 volunteers Jodie the owner of Soul Harbor Ranch was well pleased as to how we cleaned up the weeds round the fence line. Soul Harbor Ranch has comfort animals for Veterans. A great job by all.

Our next project is having Helen from Humana coming to the post for a question and answers for your health benefits. We invited the American Legion 525, Lions Club of Mount Prospect, The Moose of Mount Prospect to this event. This should be a great don't miss this one.

Veterans Day is around the corner and the post is the procces for setting up invitations from many schools in the area. We will try to make as many of them as we can. Our post VFW 1337 will also host a ceremony for the Veterans on November 11, at Lions Park. Always a great presentation.

Thank you for all of you at VFW Post 1337 for your donated time to make all these events great for the Veterans and our community.

*Les Durov, All State-All American Commander*

## From the Commander of the American Legion



Great big Thank You to all from the Legion and VFW members who contributed to the success of the 7th Annual Legion Fall Classic golf fundraiser on 6 October. A special thank you to Carol Ohrn for the beautiful weather. The final result is a check to Veterans Path to Hope for \$13,657.48. VPH is exclusively devoted as a nonprofit to aiding homeless veterans and their families. We will present the

check to Executive Director Laura Franz at our meeting on November 14th. What a relief! Veterans Day this November 11th will we celebrated once again at Lions Park Rec Center with the hundreds of children from Lions Park School back again sitting on the floor in front of the stage and helping us celebrate and sing patriotic songs. In addition, we have all been invited to attend the Veterans Day celebrations at several local schools during the days before and after Veterans Day. The kids want to see us as we continue to "foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism". Ron Vlcek has the list. Sign up to visit the kids. You won't be disappointed! Also, mark your calendars. The Christmas Party is 9 December.

*Bill Starr, Commander*

## From the Service Officer

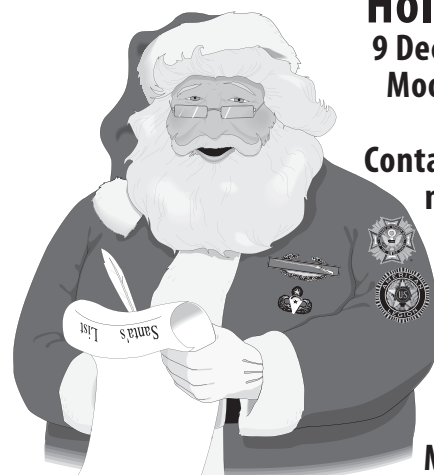


It has been a busy year with much accomplished and more left to do. We certainly do not do it by ourselves. Our valued partners, Moose Lodge 660, Mount Prospect Lions Club, Humana, the Village of Mount Prospect, Mt. Prospect Park District and other organizations seem to always be out there to lend a hand. Lately Post 1337 reached out to DesPlaines

American Legion Post 36 to support their upcoming Korean War traveling wall.

This thanksgiving we shall be hosting Navy recruits for the first time. If you can spare an hour or two please volunteer.

We strive to help others in any way we can because frankly thats what we're suppose to do.



## Holiday Party

9 December 18hr00

Moose Lodge 660

\$25 pp

Contact Marcie Kane

mfkane5@aol.com

make

check payable

to VFW Post 1337

and mail

to Marcie at

1809 Cree Lane,

Mt Prospect, IL 60056

## 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**

## Also, the Veteran's Closet is looking for winter gloves

*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**