

# VFW Post 6258 Membership Meeting March 11, 2021

## Halifax Town Hall, Massachusetts

Presiding Officer: Commander David Walsh

Meeting 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance – Chaplain opening prayer (Peter Carlson is filling in for Chaplin).

**REPORTS FROM THE COMMANDER:** (Dave Walsh) (a) Thank You to Senior Vice Commander, William (Bill) Finn for Presiding over last months membership meeting. (b) New members to our VFW Post 6258 were welcomed: Robert Blais (Army), and Joseph Cunningham (Army).

**QUARTERMASTERS FINANCIAL REPORT:** (a) (Dave Walmsley) We are in good shape and have General Money Fund in the bank **\$3074.58**. (b) That's not mentioning the **\$8,575.56** in Relief Fund which is used to assist worthy comrades. (c) Last month in our General fund we have **\$2,660.56** (d) Also last month we got **\$849.00** from North Easton Savings Bank for our share in the Community Fund and also a quarterly payment a percentage for our VFW members who have an account with them. (d) We are now going through an Audit of our books for this quarter. (e) Our unit strength is **105** and we are at the top of our District. (f) I have a VFW catalog here if anyone is interested in ordering some items. (g) If you want to see our National Home I have a map and pictures you can look at.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:** Bill Finn, nothing to report.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:** Stephenie Jones, Happy that your back (Dave Walsh).

**CHAPLAIN:** Peter Carlson is filling in for Chaplin. Wishing everyone the best health wise. Both nationally and locally.

**ADJUTANT / JUDGE ADVOCATE:** (Vin Burdziuk) (a) We went to District 12 meeting on Monday in Whitman and we received this Pennant that says we were a 100% Membership Post in 2020. Jim Ingargiola had Covid and now has a heart problem with fluid in his legs and pneumonia. So looking at the Pennant we decided to have our comrades sign it and give it to Jim. (b) And also I made up these membership recruiting business cards. What we did was made up a webpage and purchased the domain name of **VFW6258.ORG** so when talking to someone who was deployed just hand them the card and tell them to just go on the site to check us out. If they wish to join they can download the form, fill it out and mail it in. What we're offering is the **1<sup>st</sup> Year FREE for New Members**. That will be a little incentive as it won't cost them anything to join and check us out. I gave out the cards and if anyone needs more cards let me know as I can print them out. You can email me from our website.

**SURGEON:** (Buzz Smith) (a) I have 2 items for tonight. House Bill and a Senate Bill with over 60 co-sponsors already that was filled over a week to 2 weeks ago. We have send our letters to our adjutant for people who like to write letters to our politicians and ask them to co-sponsor those bills. **House Bill 1355** and **Senate Bill 454**. They are the **K2 Veterans Care Act of 2021**. They are asking us to **register at the Burn Pit Registry** and the VA Hospital in **West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain or Bedford**. You will get a brief physical exam, blood test, verbal exam, and schedule a few tests. (b) We are making progress on the **Purple Heart Town Program and the Purple Heart Ships in Boston**. Got one approval for **The USS Cassin Young** and for the **USS Constitution** had to edit and resubmit the paperwork for a final draft with the skipper of the Constitution give his blessing and we are moving the date from April to July for the ceremony in Boston around the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kamikaze hit of the USS Cassin Young.

**FROM THE COMMANDER:** (a)The Purple Heart Community honors all the Soldiers, Airman, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsman that have received the Purple Heart. Joshua here with us has received it and is alive to still enjoy his life. And, there are many others here who have received it too. (b)Tuesday night I presented it to the Halifax Board of Selectman the **Purple Heart Town Program** and they were very happy with it as it was long overdue. We used **Halifax** to spearhead **Hanson, Kingston, Pembroke** and **Plympton**. When they get back to us we will forward to Buzz, he will forward to the Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and he will forward it onto Washington DC who will issue a **Proclamation declaring Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Pembroke and Plympton a Purple Heart Community**. We will provide signs for the towns. (c)Warren Buzz Smith wrote a nice article for the State VFW Newspaper on the USS Cassin Young Kamikaze attack. And has done some nice work on YouTube you should see.

(d)Presented Peter Carlson with a Poppy Pin for his work on our Poppy Drive. (e)Citations arrived for Plympton Fire Captain **Sharon Davis** our nominee for National Paramedic of the Year. We will present it to her sometime in April. (e)Troop 39 in Halifax we will not be able to do a presentation for Eagle Scout of the Year this year as their Scout Master Curry Russell has passed at age 44. So, we will do it next year. (f)If we have not yet sent a donation to the VFW National home for Children we will send them \$200. (g)David Gaspar has to resign as Post Trustee and Honor Guard. Him and his wife have relocated out of state to warmer weather. But he will stay a member of our post.

**COMRADES IN DISTRESS:** (a)Bob Dugan its nice to see you back again. You were suffering for a while and sounded very weak. But later when we talked you sounded stronger. (b)Dennis Olson's wife had upper back surgery, she is mending, but very slowly. And needs more recuperation. Mister Thomas is nice enough to fill in for Dennis Olson as Officer of the Day. (b)Jim Ingargiola (age 96) was in the hospital with Covid-19. Jim is a WW2 Marine who was in Iwo Jima. Jim now has a heart problem with fluid in his legs and pneumonia. As of this morning he is in good spirits. And he is reciting **The Grand Old Flag** to the personal at the rehab hospital. (c)This bronze Statue of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising on Mount Suribachi came in the mail yesterday. There are lights all around it. *"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"* is engraved on it. I (Dave Walsh) will bring it to Louise (along with the signed pennant) so she can give it to Jim. (This was a gift for Jim form our Post for his 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday).

**OLD-NEW BUSINESS:** (a)This year we will set up our Field of Flags (2) feet apart with a field size of 30x60 feet on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. (b)Memorial Day Poppy Drive May 29-May 31. (c)Memorial Day Parade

**OFFICER NOMINATIONS:** Commander **Dave Walsh**, Senior Vice Commander **Warren Buzz Smith**, Junior Vice Commander **Stephenie Jones**, Quartermaster **Dave Walmsley**, Chaplain **David McPhillips**, Judge Advocate **Bill Finn**, Surgeon **Christina Bolman**, Trustee(3)Year **Bill Finn**, Trustee(2)Year **John Dorney**, Trustee(1)Year **Bruce Thomas**, Adjutant **Vin Burdziuk**, Service Officer **Stephenie Jones**, Officer of The Day & Communications Officer **Bruce Thomas**

**REQUEST FOR ADJOURNMENT: 8:00pm <> FINAL SALUTE TO THE FLAG (Salute Only) OFFICER OF DAY**

**Kevin, Quartermaster from Bridgewater Post 2125 <> The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm we host a free dinner for Veterans and First Responders.** There is no alcohol involved. The program was started from Florida by a mother whose LCpl son has died. It's a safe place for Vets / First Responders to go have a Free Dinner. It's a simple dinner such as Chicken Parm and Spaghetti.

**VFW Post 2125, 40 Orange Street, Bridgewater, MA 02324**