



POST 331 NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
SOUTH OMAHA MELTING POT POST #331
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Website: <https://southomahapost331.org>

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

What a busy couple of months we have had!

Cribbage 101 honed in a few more future players and the Cribbage Tournament had more entries than ever before. Congratulations to Stan Petrulis for taking home "all the marbles." Second place was taken by a contestant, Linda, that "heard about the tournament" at a diner and thought it would be fun, with Bob Labs coming in third place. We will be having another class in late March and there will certainly be another tournament scheduled.

There were six contestants for the Chili Cook Off, challenging the tasters and voters' pallets to decide whose was the best. In the end, Bob Labs came out on top and took first place, Larry Druskis second, and Mark Dreier coming in third. Fun was had by all and I am sure there were plenty of antacids taken later that evening!

We had two special guests at our February Chicken Bingo. John Hilgert, Director of Nebraska Department of Veteran Affairs, Nebraska, and the Honorable Governor Jim Pillen. They were in attendance as part of the Governor's initiative to honor WWII Veterans. The Governor presented Carl Schrat with a Nebraska WWII Recognition Medal and Certificate. The following are Post 331 members who are also WWII Veterans, and will be receiving the Medals and Certificates: August Boukal, Bernard Brennauer, Dano Danoff, Sr., Marion Griffith, Jr.; Anton Martinez, and Donald Roth.

At the March Chicken Bingo, which will be held on Wednesday, March 12th, Chuck Gilmore will be making a donation from Post 331 to the Buena Vista Legion Baseball Team. If anyone would like to make a contribution, please call the Legion phone at (402) 731-5185 and we will make arrangements to collect the donation.

In March we will be holding a Buddy Check Luncheon on Wednesday, March 19th, at 11:00 a.m.. If you have 30 minutes or two hours and would like to join us, please stop in at the DAV, 4515 F Street. Whether you can volunteer and make a few phone calls, or just want to stop in, have a bite to eat and visit with fellow Veterans, we encourage you to join us.

Military Humor: We were hanging out in the lounge of our naval supply ship when the executive officer walked in. He took one look at the pilot sitting atop a table and blew a gasket. "Don't sit on the table," he barked. "Is that what you do at home?" "No, sir," said the pilot calmly. "But, then, we don't land helicopters on our roof, either." *Brian Lavalley North Branch, Michigan*

For God and Country,
Lynn Bergman
Commander, Post 331

MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Greetings, Unit 331!

It has been an interesting winter and things are getting in full swing for spring! Do not forget, if you have not turned in your membership renewal, please do so as soon as possible. If it is a matter of getting it to us, let me know and I will make arrangements to pick it up.

Unit 331 Auxiliary Scholarship applications are due by March 31, 2025. If you need an application, please let me know and I will get one for you.

Do you have a girl who is a Junior at Bryan, Buena Vista, South or Gross? Are they interested in learning how our government works? Have them see their guidance counselor at their respective school to talk about Cornhusker Girls State.

Mark your calendar, Ham It Up Bingo is back!! Sunday, April 13th, is the day! Grab your friends and neighbors and head to the D.A.V. for a fun time! This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year that helps pay for programs such as Scholarships & Girls State. Do not forget your dobbers!!!

Auxiliary meetings are the 2nd Monday of the even months at 6:30 p.m. in the large ballroom at the D.A.V., come let your ideas and voice be heard about anything regarding Unit 331 Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Hamburger Night is always the 3rd Monday of the month from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. We need volunteers to help the Auxiliary crew. Please let us know if you are able to help!

Exciting things are happening in the Unit and we cannot wait to see what the future holds.

Yours in Service,
Becky Saathoff
Unit 331 President
becky.saathoff@gmail.com
402-212-2292

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMENTS

Dear Sons of the American Legion,

There are a few updates for those not in the know.

Our dinners are still going well and we try to have a special for each one in order to keep things interesting. While our specials are always subject to change, we have been talking about some cool ideas that we will be doing.

We do have some business that is new as well. There is a new supervisory committee that will be a form of oversight for us. While at first I was not a fan, it is pretty standard in these organizations to have that as an element for entities that are on the Legion's charter. I look forward to working with Jill Druskis, Chuck Gilmore, and Mark Dreier on this committee. It's something that has not been observed for some time and National is pushing for compliance so it's good that we are getting this figured out now. The committee has made it very clear that their goal is not to micromanage. Any program within the Legion needs to be in compliance with this.

We also will be doing scholarships for this year so keep that in mind.

I continue to go to the Legion meetings in the interest of good communication between our entities. The search for a new building persists. Building from scratch has been tabled for now at least.

As always, our meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. Anyone who wishes to attend is encouraged to do so.

Best,
Hunter C. Brooks
Squadron 331 Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED

HONOR GUARD

Military Honors were performed at the funerals of veterans listed below:

01-03-25	John Krzycki (55 yr mbr)	01-10-25	William Rutherford
01-07-25	William Monson	01-20-25	Robert Monzingo
01-08-25	John Cain	01-25-25	Robert Heller
01-09-25	James Henry	02-05-25	R. Morgan

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Post 331 Honor Guard Members:

Tim Svoboda, Captain	Dick Olson, Lieutenant
Lynn Bergman	Mark Lowe
Mark Dreier	David Miller
Jill Druskis	Greg Miller
John Gulizia	Richard Murcek
George Hallman	Jim Murphy
Terry Jones	Stan Petrulis

Respectfully Yours,
Timothy J. Svoboda, Captain
Post 331 Honor Guard

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At the time of drafting this article on February 12th, Melting Pot Post 331 had 294 members current for the 2025 membership year. This is 84% of our 2025 membership goal of 350. Please continue to focus efforts on renewing and recruiting fellow veterans for membership with us by talking to your neighbors, friends, church members, etc. Special shout-outs to Ron Druskis, Tom Rome, Gary Roth, John Klemiato, Jill Druskis, and Becky Saathoff for their concentrated efforts in bringing in new Legion members throughout this membership year.

And having said that, we are incredibly pleased to have recently welcomed into South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331 a new transfer, Leo Wichert (Army veteran). And we are equally pleased to welcome four brand new members: Bill Wolff (Marine Corps veteran), Vinny Palermo (Navy veteran), Joe Waldron (Marine Corps veteran), and Bill Reese (Air Force veteran). We thank our five new members for their honorable service to our Nation making them eligible for membership in The American Legion, and we are excited and pleased that they chose to place their Legion membership with our Melting Pot Post. Welcome to all of our new Post 331 veterans – Leo, Bill, Vinny, Joe, and Bill!

As this new year began, American Legion South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331 was pleased to give special recognition for our members of The Greatest Generation. Post 331 implemented a new practice to honor the military service of our highly regarded veterans of World War II. Beginning with the 2025 membership year and each year going forward, Post 331 will pay for the membership dues of all its members of the World War II era. WWII veterans no longer need to send in dues every year as long as they remain a member of American Legion South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331. It is but a small, but very heartfelt way, for Post 331 to show honor and appreciation for the courage, sacrifices, and unwavering dedication given by our WWII veterans who protected our most cherished freedoms, and helped blaze the way for veterans in the generations that followed.

Thank you to all of our Legionnaires for your proud service to our nation and for your continued service to community, state, and Nation through your membership with American Legion South Omaha Melting Pot Post 331. Should you have any questions regarding membership, please do not hesitate to call the South Omaha Post 331 phone number at 402-731-5185.

Jill Druskis
First Vice Commander

VFW POST 2704 NEWS

Post Calendar:

Mar 8 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Mar 11 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Mar 13-15 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB Main BX
Mar 26 – 7:00 p.m., Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Mar 27 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
Apr 8 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Apr 12 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
Apr 17-19 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
Apr 23 – 7:00 p.m., Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
Apr 24 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)

All activities subject to change/cancellation depending on COVID-19 and weather restrictions!

POST 331 OFFICERS
2024-2025

Membership: We only need 12 more members to pay their dues and our Day of Service project to qualify for All American! If you are an annual member, please help us by paying your dues now! You will still get 12 months of additional paid membership, but it helps us immensely by knowing how many more we need to recruit yet this year. You can pay your dues online at www.vfw.org, call me to meet with you to pick them up, or mail your dues (\$40) to me (8510 Monroe St, Ralston, NE 68127). **Checks should be made payable to VFW Post 2704.** You can also call me (402.618.2731) with your credit/debit card information or to have me stop by your home. **VFW Nebraska still has some \$50 life incentives! Our Post set aside \$2.5K for 50 ea. \$50 incentives again this membership year--that's \$100 off the price of a life membership! This is a really big deal--as an example, if you are Under 30, the outright cost of a life membership is \$410. You could have a life membership for only \$310 instead of \$410 (I'm in my 70s and the American Legion now wants \$1025 for me!). But if you are or will turn 81 this year, your cost is \$170-100 for only \$70!** If interested, please contact me as the money for life incentive will go fast!

Community Activities: We continue to lead Bingo at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue each month and average 20-25 players each time. We also purchase 100 lbs. of potatoes each month for New Visions Homeless Veterans Shelter.

Farewells: Donald Estrada, James Jirsak, Michael McGurn.

Members New to the Post: Scott Dickson, Jake Germain, Aaron Jirovsky, Alexi Zayas.

Auxiliary: They have also performed another 12 hours of community service participating in ENVH Bingo and delivering potatoes to New Visions. . Our Auxiliary can always use more members too. Spouses, children and step children (16 or older), siblings, parents and grandparents of our members are eligible and encouraged to join. Help us help our community by contacting me for more information.

Service Officer: There is a new Nebr. Dept. of VA Resource Center in the Main BX at Offutt manned by a qualified Veteran Service Officer – the first in the Nation! They are open Monday-Thursday.

Larry M. Gerlt 8510 Monroe St (402) 618-2731
QM, Post 2704 Ralston, NE 68127 larry.gerlt@cox.net

Legion Post 331:

Commander
1st Vice Cmdr (Membership)
2nd Vice Cmdr (Children & Youth)
3rd Vice Cmdr (Building & Grounds)
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms

Lynn Bergman
Jill Druskis
Richard Klingler
Vacant
Mark Dreier
Terry Jones
Frank Durham
Bill McCollum

Executive Board

Chuck Gilmore Gary Roth
Past Commander

Tim Svoboda
Mark Dreier

Auxiliary Unit 331:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Historian
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms

Becky Saathoff
Vacant
Rhonda Ebert
Pati Roth
Vacant
Mary Martinez
Vacant

Executive Board

Shirley Livingston Deb Dreier
Past President

Betty Lowe
Beverly Hofsheier

S.A.L. Squadron 331:

Commander
1st Vice Commander
2nd Vice Commander
3rd Vice Commander
Adjutant
Finance Officer
Historian
Chaplain
Sergeant-at-Arms
Past Commander

Hunter Brooks
John Klemiato
Rich Kellison
Brad Sutton
Alan Kalskett
John Bowhay
Ron Osborn
Larry Druskis
Pat Zymola
Alan Kalskett