



POST 331 NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

SOUTH OMAHA MELTING POT POST #331

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Website: <https://southomahapost331.org>



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Happy Holidays! I would first like to remind everyone to sign up for the Veterans Day Celebration as soon as possible. It will be held on Sunday, November 10th, at 1300 at the Disabled American Veterans building, located at 4515 F Street. The sign up deadline is Wednesday, November 6th, and you can RSVP either by signing up at the DAV or calling the Legion phone (402) 731-5185. Last year's event was quite a success and we are hoping for a bigger success this year.

The quest continues for our new Legion home. We have looked at multiple locations, but still have not found the perfect fit. But we are determined, and none of the members of the Transition Committee that are on the hunt are quitters!

The baseball outing at the Storm Chasers was a big hit! There were over 35 of our Legion Family members in attendance to represent South Omaha American Legion Melting Pot Post 331. Some of these folks really know how to tail gate. We will hope for even more of our Legion family to join us next year.

There will be no Chicken Bingo in November. With the Holidays fast approaching and the Veteran's Celebration, along with Feather Bingo, we decided to cancel November. Chicken Bingo will be back in full force in December!

Thus far 139 of you have sent in your contact information for us to verify and update. If you haven't done so, please get that in soon. It will be the best way for us to make sure you receive any information that needs to be disbursed outside of the Newsletter.

As always, watch the calendar for upcoming events.

A Bit of Military Humor: My mom was ex-Army, so during the holidays she and Dad would invite local Marines from Camp Pendleton over for dinner. One night, my sister came home from work at Kentucky Fried Chicken, still in her uniform. One of the Marines asked where she'd been. "I've been to visit the colonel," my sister joked. The Marine looked confused. "Colonel Sanders!" she explained. "Sorry, ma'am," he said, "I don't know those higher-ups." - *Steve Chiales, Corona, California (Reader's Digest, May 2021).*

For God and Country,
Lynn Bergman
Commander
Post 331

MADAME PRESIDENT'S BY-LINE

Greetings Unit 331!!! The holidays are upon us and that means lots of exciting things going on in our Unit. Let's start with the Annual Feather Party aka Turkey Bingo!! Once again, we are partnering with the S.A.L. for this amazing event. The fun will be on Sunday, November 17th. Be sure to arrive early to get a good seat and join in the fun to win a turkey or a fantastic door prize. We will again have the 50/50 and other raffle prize options. This is one of two main fundraisers for both the Auxiliary and S.A.L. and we love seeing your smiling faces! Don't forget to grab a neighbor and come on down!

Saturday, December 14th, will be the American Legion Family Christmas Party. The cost is \$30 per person which includes dinner and entertainment. Unit 331 Auxiliary members, in good standing that RSVP by 12/6, will have the \$30 cost covered by the Unit. You must RSVP to Becky Saathoff (see below for contact information) by 12/6 and indicate your choice of Steak (please indicate how you want your steak cooked), Chicken Marsala or Pasta Primavera. If you have a spouse/guest that is not a member of Post 331, you will be responsible for the \$30 cost. Each Legion Family organization will be doing their own level of participation/cost, if you have a Legionnaire or S.A.L. member that is joining you, please have them RSVP with that group. This is a hard deadline and **NO RSVPs will be taken after 12/6.**

We will be having a December meeting on 12/9 at 6:30 p.m.

Please call me at 402-212-2292, email me at becky.saathoff@gmail.com to RSVP for dinner or ask any questions.

Yours in Service,
Becky Saathoff
President
American Legion Auxiliary
South Omaha Unit 331

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMENTS

Dear Sons of the American Legion, Legion Family, and DAV family,

Holiday season is upon us. While it has been a turbulent year in many ways, we are still going and doing our best to stay strong. We were planning to go Italian for our dinner special this month, but I believe we are going Italian for Veteran's Day and I would be loathe to compete with that holiday. We will have a special but it will be of different origin to be determined so we can make sure we have people for both events. Please do join us on November 4th for a great dinner as per usual. Speaking of Veteran's Day, as I'm sure has already been mentioned, I will be attending and hope we have a huge turnout.

Our Turkey Bingo is coming up on November 17th. We will be coordinating with the Auxiliary and so far it looks like it will be the same arrangement we have had in the past. I would like to confirm the specific time and that information will be made available ASAP.

We do have an All VSO Christmas Dinner on December 14th. Our usual DJ, Anthony, will be providing entertainment and it should be a great time as always. Please RSVP by Thanksgiving if attending. There is a \$30 cost for this event.

As far as business. We are planning to update our bylaws as they have been due for a while and our new situation does warrant it. I would ask that everyone stay active. I know we have lost members and the building sale probably has played a role. However, we are a Legion family and I would ask that everyone consider giving the Legion family time while we are in this in between stage. Right now we are still able to do what we exist to do and that is only possible through our members. I have been attending our Legion meetings and will continue to advocate for improved communication. Both Lynn and Becky have been excellent in reaching out to me to coordinate efforts.

I wish the entire family well and would like to thank the DAV for their continued hospitality.

Best,
Hunter C. Brooks
Squadron 331 Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

SITREP on finding a building for the New Melting Pot. The site selection committee has reviewed multiple properties in the South Omaha area looking for the perfect location either an existing building or build to suit on an empty lot. So far, the PERFECT property has not reviled itself. We have two realtors working with us and we will continue our search. Meanwhile, our brothers and sisters at the DAV have been so accommodating and friendly and have allowed us, and other VSOs to enjoy their facility and continue many of our events and fundraisers. I encourage you to stop by and check it out.

Hey, Adjutant, what about our funds? I'm glad you asked. Your investment committee is working with Creative Planning Investments to invest our funds to get maximum return on our money while the search continues. More details will be given at our Legionnaire meeting in December or January.

As we are moving into this holiday season, we are planning an All-Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 14th, at the DAV Hall. This will follow the Army-Navy game which starts at 2:00 p.m. on December 14th. The cost is \$15 per person with your choice of Steak, Chicken, with all the sides plus Desserts. We will have our own USMC veteran,

Anthony, as our DJ, should you get happy feet and wanna dance. Please contact me, Mark Dreier, with your reservations ASAP.

American Legion Post 331 scholarship applications will be available at the beginning of 2025. Any American Legion Post 331 member who may have a daughter, granddaughter, son or grandson who would like to apply for an American Legion Scholarship, you may pick up an application at the DAV club. Please follow the instructions provided with the applications which need to be signed off by their school counselor and returned no later than March 15, 2025. 331's Auxiliary and S.A.L. also have their own scholarship programs should you be a member of their organization.

For God and Country,
Mark Dreier, PC
Post 331 Adjutant

HONOR GUARD

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

08-18-24	Hobert 'Bob' Estep (PAST COMMANDER)	09-19-24	Joe Zuchriki
08-21-24	William Barnes	09-25-24	James Murtum
08-22-24	William 'Bucky' Morris (PAST COMMANDER)	09-26-24	Joseph Zuchnik
09-06-24	Raymond Milroy	10-01-24	Donald Stepson
09-07-24	Paul Meier	10-03-24	Robert Soberson
09-18-24	Kurt Lindmer	10-08-24	Marvin Mollner (HONOR GUARD MEMBER)
		10-15-24	Richard Stopak

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

The 2025 Legion membership year for our Melting Pot Post, which kicked off July 1st, is off to a very brisk start. At the time of drafting this article on October 8th, the Melting Pot Post has 101 members who are current for the 2025 year, with more renewals being received every day. Within those 101 members of our 2025 membership year, we are incredibly pleased to welcome two transfers into our Post, Leo Selk and Tanner Buckley, and two brand new Legionnaires, David DeLeon and Kade Cameron.

Just a reminder that Post 331 dues for the 2025 membership year are \$55. You may pay your dues by either:

- Going online to www.legion.org and clicking on the "Renew" button at the upper right.
- Mailing your dues payment to:
American Legion Post 331
Attn: Membership
C/O 3513 Monroe St
Omaha, NE 68107
- Giving your dues payment directly to Commander Lynn Bergman or First Vice Commander Jill Druskis when you see them at the DAV.

As National Headquarters states on its website, "The American Legion stands as a beacon of inclusivity and camaraderie, offering a welcoming embrace to veterans and their families from all walks of life. Serving as more than just a gathering place, it fosters a sense of belonging and understanding within the veteran community, transcending differences, and uniting individuals under a shared bond of service." It is no wonder why we join The American Legion, and the American Legion Family, and stay a member!

To those who have already paid their 2025 membership dues, thank you. For those who have not yet done so, the Melting Pot Post looks forward to receiving your membership renewal via any of the options noted above. And, of course, keep inviting new members and transfers to join our Post. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the South Omaha Post 331 phone number at 402-731-5185.

Jill Druskis
First Vice Commander

BELLEVUE POST 339 NEWS

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED

VFW POST 2704 NEWS

Post Calendar:

Oct 23 – 7:00 p.m., Poppy Drive, Hy-Vee, 50th & Saddle Creek
 Oct 24 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
 Nov 2 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn VI, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
 Nov 12 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
 Nov 14–16 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
 Nov 20 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Post Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
 Nov 29 – No Bingo – Thanksgiving
 Dec 7 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
 Dec 10 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
 Dec 12–14 – Recruiting at Offutt AFB Main BX
 Dec 14 – 6:00 p.m., Xmas Party, DAV, 4515 F St
 Dec 26 – 6:15 p.m., ENVH Bingo, 12505 Harrison Tull Rd, Bellevue (about 40th & Capehart Rd)
 Jan 4 – 8:30-11:30 a.m., Village Inn, Fort Crook Road, Post Membership Drive. Post provides breakfast.
 Jan 14 – 7:00 p.m., 2704 Auxiliary Meeting, DAV, 4515 F St
 Jan 17, 18, 19, – Recruiting at Offutt AFB
 Jan 23 – 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 restrictions!

Membership: We are at 94.46% and only need 26 more to achieve 100%. However, once again, the National Commander has set 102% as the minimum need to qualify for All American so we need 36 just to qualify! 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 this early in the 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. **The new Membership Year started July 1st; VFW Nebraska has set aside more money for \$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! Help keep our Post, Department and National strong. If you have a family member, friend, or coworker who may qualify for the VFW, please ask them if they would like to learn more and to contact me or if you may give me their contact information so I can get with them.

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 accumulated about 60 hours of service helping veterans and/or their families this past quarter.

Farewells: Roberto Benitez-annual, David Hansen-life, William Morris-life

Members New to the Post: Benjamin Underwood, Kristin Underwood, Patricia Hamler, Brian Bowman, Valerie Bishop, Tom Narofsky, David Jones, Matthew Friesen, Bruce Rowe, Amanda Rowe.

Auxiliary: They have also performed another 18 hours of community service helping a disabled veteran and participating in ENVH Bingo. 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.

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

POST 331 OFFICERS 2024-2025

Legion Post 331:

Commander	Lynn Bergman	
1st Vice Cmdr (Membership)	Jill Druskis	
2nd Vice Cmdr (Children & Youth)	Richard Klinger	
3rd Vice Cmdr (Building & Grounds)	Vacant	
Adjutant	Mark Dreier	
Finance Officer	Terry Jones	
Chaplain	Frank Durham	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill McCollum	
<u>Executive Board</u>		
Chuck Gilmore	Gary Roth	Tim Svoboda
Past Commander		Mark Dreier

Auxiliary Unit 331:

President		Becky Saathoff
Vice President		Vacant
Secretary		Rhonda Ebert
Treasurer		Pati Roth
Historian		Vacant
Chaplain		Mary Martinez
Sergeant-at-Arms		Vacant
<u>Executive Board</u>		
Shirley Livingston	Deb Dreier	Betty Lowe
Past President		Beverly Hofsheier

S.A.L. Squadron 331:

Commander	Hunter Brooks
1st Vice Commander	John Klemiato
2nd Vice Commander	Rich Kellison
3rd Vice Commander	Brad Sutton
Adjutant	Alan Kalskett
Finance Officer	John Bowhay
Historian	Ron Osborn
Chaplain	Larry Druskis
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pat Zymola
Past Commander	Alan Kalskett