



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®

Post 2866 *Informer*

September-October 2026

Fall Is Just Around the Corner!!!!

As summer ends and we head into the fall season, I want to take a moment to thank all our Post members and Auxiliary members for everything you do to support Post 2866. Whether you're attending meetings, helping with Bingo, participating in community events, or simply checking in on a fellow veteran, your involvement makes a difference.

As we move into one of the busiest times of the year at the Post, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunities to learn, participate, and enjoy the fellowship that makes the VFW special. Our strength isn't measured only by meetings and programs, but also by the friendships and connections we build along the way.

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend the VFW Operations and Programs Seminar on September 12th. This seminar is a great opportunity to learn more about how our organization functions, the programs available to veterans and communities, and how each of us can contribute to the success of the VFW. Whether you're a new member or a long-time Comrade, there is always something new to learn.

A week later, on September 20th, we'll gather for our annual Family Picnic. Events like these remind us that the VFW is more than an organization. It's a family. The picnic is a chance to relax, enjoy good food, spend time with fellow members and families, and simply enjoy each other's company outside of our regular meetings and activities. I hope to see many of you there.

Looking a little farther ahead, October brings the return of one of our favorite traditions, Meat Shoot season. Beginning on the first Sunday in October and continuing through the Sunday before Christmas, the Meat Shoots provide a great opportunity for fellowship, friendly competition, and fun. Whether you're a regular participant or someone who has never attended before, I encourage you to come out and join us.

These events have long been a Post tradition and are a great way to connect with fellow members and members of our community.

The fall season always seems to bring renewed energy to the Post. With the Family Picnic, Meat Shoots, youth programs beginning in local schools, and the many activities happening around the Post, there will be plenty of opportunities to stay involved and enjoy all that Post 2866 has to offer.

Thank you for your continued support of our Post, our veterans, and our community. I look forward to seeing you at the Post this fall.

In Comradeship

Commander Randy Wansing

Randal Wansing
Commander
2026-2027



Jan Radcliff Post Chaplain

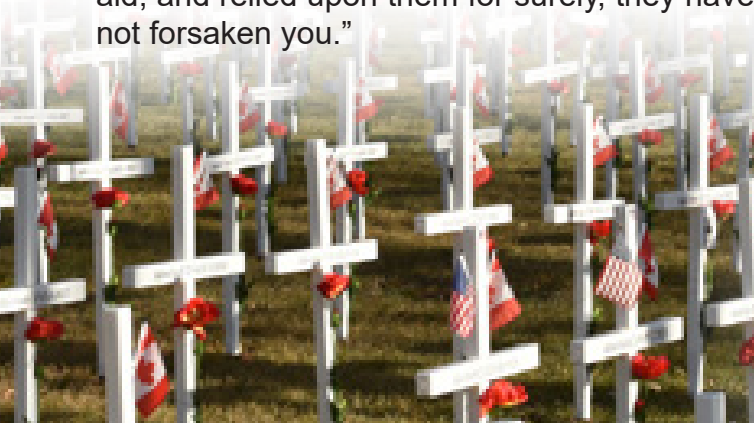
The next Informer is on Veterans Day, so start planning now for the fun freebies! Happy Veterans Day (early)!

September 18 th is recognition for POW/MIA which will be The Watchfire at the St. Charles Riverfront by the boat house. Watchfires are ancient military signal and comfort fires lit after battles or during long marches to guide lost or wounded soldiers back to their units. When attending The Watchfire a few years ago Bob Murphy gave an impressive speech about the statistics of the POW/MIA's in Vietnam as well as the presentation of the Missing Man/Fallen Comrade Table (in our VFW Hall Foyer, light always on over it).

Let us Pause and Remember POW/MIA TABLE LEST WE FORGET:

“As you entered the Hall this evening, you may have noticed a small table in the place of Honor. It is set for one. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called P.O.W. or M.I.A. We call them “Brothers” “Sisters.” They are unable to be with us, so we remember them because of their incarceration. The symbolism of this table:

The table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his/her aggressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting his/her return. The red ribbon tied so prominently to the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breast of those who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate. There is salt upon the bread plate, symbolic of the family's tears as they wait. The glass is inverted. They cannot toast with us this night. The chair is empty. They are not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors to the open arms of a grateful nation. May God watch over them and protect them. REMEMBER-all of you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them for surely, they have not forsaken you.”



IMPORTANT DATES

- SEPTEMBER 9TH POST MEETING 7PM
- September 12th VFW POST PROGRAM SEMINAR FOR MEMBERSHIP
 - SEPTEMBER 20TH POST FAMILY PICNIC
 - OCTOBER 10TH COOTIE MOUSE RACE
- OCTOBER 16TH -17TH BUDDY POPPY DRIVE
 - October 24th VETERANS BENEFIT FAIR
 - EVERY THURSDAY IS BINGO
 - EVERY TUESDAY IS QUEEN OF HEARTS

Letter from the Editor:

There is a lot happening here at Post 2866. We have new lights up on our patio surrounding our covered seating area. Repairs were made to our flag pole at our POW/MIA memorial and the meat shoot area is being spruced up in the next few weeks. We owe Vito Tifiletti a HUGE thank you for all of his hard work. He has also helped organize our Buddy Poppy Drive for 2026.

I have finished all of the planning for our benefit fair , coming up in October.

My next focus is our 70th annual Fish Fry for Lent. I will be figuring out ways we can celebrate our Post's success and to honor our past comrades history.

I am also in the process of organizing our second attempt at an Adult Easter Egg Hunt Fund Raiser. Thus far we have already received several donations toward this event. I would appreciate anyones help in gatheirng donations to put in easter eggs. Gift Cards, airplane bottles of booze, scratcher tickets, and anything that you could think of that ADULTS might enjoy discovering in eggs.

And as always, making our newsletter fabulous.





Vito Trifiletti
3 yr. Trustee

"SEMPER FI COMRADES!"
VITO TRIFILETTI HERE.....

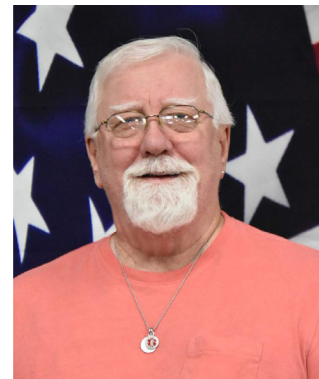
Happy to report that myself, comrades Newman, Auchenbach and Nichols, manned a membership drive at the Freedom 13 Event held at 370 Lakeside Park on 15 Aug. Excluding the 98-degree weather it was a Great Time! I had the honor of having a conversation with a Gold Star Mom who lost her daughter in a building explosion overseas. Truly a devastating loss. We managed to sign a couple of Iraq Vets who hopefully will follow up and join our Post.

We are working on our Buddy Poppy Event 16-17 OCT. Anyone interested in participating please contact me.

That will do it for now. Over and out!

Preparing for Fall and Winter:

As summer comes to an end and we prepare for the cooler months ahead, it is a good time to take a proactive approach to our health and well-being. Fall is an excellent opportunity to schedule routine medical and dental appointments, review medications, and make sure recommended vaccinations are up to date. As temperatures begin to drop, staying active remains important. Walking, stretching, strength exercises, and other activities appropriate for your abilities can help maintain physical health, balance, and overall well-being. Eating a balanced diet, staying hydrated, getting adequate sleep, and practicing good hand hygiene are also important ways to help keep our bodies strong during the fall and winter months. Preparing our homes for colder weather is equally important. Check heating systems, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and make sure walkways are safe to help prevent falls and other injuries. Most importantly, remember that our mental and emotional health deserves attention as well. Staying connected with family, friends, fellow veterans, and our community can help combat isolation during the winter months. By taking a little time now to prepare, we can enter the fall and winter seasons healthier, safer, and better equipped to enjoy the months ahead.



Pete Kappel
Post Surgeon

Veteran Benefit Fair

Assistance with VA disability claims.

- Community Resources
- Recreational Opportunities
- VFW Membership Benefits
- Crisis Hot-line info
- Homeless Veteran assistance

OCT 24, 2026
10AM - 3PM

66 VFW Lane
Saint Charles MO 63303

Post2866@movfw.org
vfw2866.org
(636) 724- 9612



VFW POST 2866
VFW POST 4105
VFW POST 4219
VFW POST 10350
VFW POST 5077

ULTIMATE DEFENSE



Humana



Comrades Vito Trifiletti, Don Newman, and Steve Achenbach attending the Freedom 13 event in Saint Peters MO. August 2026



DON FRETZ BUY - A - BRICK

Want to honor your Veteran this Memorial Day and every day after that? Reach out to Post member Don Fretz to discuss buying a brick at the cost of \$100. Stop in the Post to find out more.



Military Order of The Cooties
Running Bare Pup Tent 5 Fundraiser

Mouse Races

Saturday, October 10, 2026

VFW Post 2866 66 VFW Lane 63303

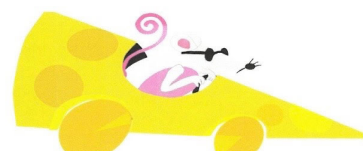
Doors Open at 6:00p.m. Races at 7:00p.m.

Proceeds to benefit Veterans in Need

Tickets \$30 per person

Can Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks and Snacks included

Questions call Jim Malson 636 219-7012 or email jmalso1@msn.com



AUXILIARY PAGES

ANNUAL QUILT BINGO

VFW POST 2866
AUXILIARY

66 VFW LANE, ST. CHARLES, MO
(OFF SOUTH OLD HIGHWAY 94)

LAST SUNDAY in OCTOBER

★ **SMOKE FREE** ←

DOORS OPEN 11:00 AM

FIRST GAME STARTS 1:00 PM

FOOD IS AVAILABLE

PAPER CARDS & PULL TABS



***Auxiliary President
Jan Buehrle***

I hope all of you have had a good summer, and now fall is just around the corner. I would like to take this time to remind you of the annual POW/MIA Watchfire, Friday, September 18th. It will be held in the Lewis & Clark Boathouse parking lot.

Auxiliary Quilters, Earline Baker

Auxiliary Quilters:

If anyone would like to quilt or learn how to quilt, please come to the Post on Monday and Tuesday where we quilt from 830am-1100am. You can also call me so we know to expect you and can direct you to the room we are in.

Earline Baker phone: 636-697-8157