

NATIONAL V. F. W. WEEK JAN. 24-30

Wm. H. Coffield Post Schedules Program Each Day Next Week

William H. Coffield, Jr., Post No. 9280, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will join a nation-wide observance of National VFW Week January 24 to January 30.

A million and a quarter members of this overseas veteran organization, who earned their rights and privileges to membership of this unique group, by seeing foreign duty in war time, believe that the precarious years confronting America and other free nations of the world, call for a re-dedication of the principles of democracy and fundamental objectives of their organization.

The organization had its beginning some 55 years ago when the Spanish-American war veterans organized the first units of what is today known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Those men did so with a definite and far-reaching purpose in mind. That purpose was born of necessity—of compassion for their comrades who had undergone unusual hardships in America's first major war on foreign soil.

For those men who returned to their homes, fresh from their triumphs on the field of battle, there was no bonus, no nationwide chain of veteran hospitals, no government life insurance, no pension or compensation for the disabled veterans or the families of deceased veterans, and no veterans educational program. Those volunteers who had fought so gallantly on hostile seas and strange lands, came home to find that the American people were not greatly concerned about the problems of returning veterans. From the moment they were discharged with \$17.65 in their pockets, they were on their own.

Those founders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were disturbed and deeply distressed by this lack of consideration for their comrades, most of whom were ill with tropical fever or other disabilities so prevalent during those days. But, determined as they were to do something about this tragic situation, they fully realized that they could do little as individuals. Only by raising their voices in unison could those "forgotten men" hope to be heard by the people—and by the representatives in the legislative halls of their state and national capitals. Certainly that is true today, when all peace-loving citizens should raise their voices in unison on the major problems facing our nation.

But, there was another and far more compelling and unselfish reason for bringing together of these Spanish-American War veterans. It was inspired by the experiences of the men who had fought our first full-scaled war beyond our own shores. That war against Spain was waged with inferior equipment, with food unfit for human consumption; poor medical facilities, and with men who, though their courage was unsurpassed, were woefully untrained.

More than any other group of Americans, those founders of the V.F.W. who had served under Teddy Roosevelt, General Irving Hale and Admiral Dewey and others, recognized the tragedy of being unprepared for war. They were deeply conscious of the suffering and losses in human lives that an untrained and poorly equipped army must endure.

There were leaders throughout the nation who foresaw the need of such an organization, who could speak from experiences that could never be gained on the blackboard or on maneuvers. That same basic idea sprang up in various parts of the nation in 1899, all of which was later to become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Throughout the succeeding years, the V.F.W. won the respect of the American people as the "Gold Chevron" organization, because its members had earned the right to wear "Gold Chevrons" or "Bars" on the sleeves of their uniforms, as recognized by the United States as their symbol of overseas service in times of war, just as our Comrades have earned them in far-off Korea for the past several years.

The V.F.W. won the respect of the people because of their continual fight for a stronger America, and to support legislation to help disabled and needy veterans, and families of deceased veterans. Of course they always worked unceasingly for such other objectives to improve their communities, state and nation for which

they served—overseas to protect.

For example, the 1926 National Encampment of the V.F.W. held in El Paso, Texas, the organization then adopted strongly worded resolutions seeking the establishment of Universal Military Training and to outlaw Communism and other subversive doctrines. Yet, many members of Congress and people all over the Nation, ignored these mandates from combat

veterans, saying that they were militarists or war mongers who were seeing a "Red" behind every bush.

In the United States there are now some 10,000 V.F.W. Posts and some 7,000 Ladies Auxiliary Chapters, comprising a total membership of some 2 million members. When the organization was chartered by Congress, the following reasons were listed in the Record: The purposes of this corporation shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades, to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead; and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States of America; and fidelity to its Constitutions and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.

ies, whomsoever.

"During the week of January 24-30, while we are re-dedicating ourselves to the noble principle for which the V.F.W. and America was founded," says Bill Perry, commander of Wm. H. Coffield, Jr. Post, "let me say that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is holding high the banner of human liberty, of justice of peace and understanding among the free peoples of the world. We are carrying on our crusade that had its beginning 55 years ago. We ask no more of the American people, including the good people in Chowan County, than to work with us—to play with us—to pray with us—to die with us if need be—to preserve the God-given heritage of freedom and happiness and peace."

Mr. Perry hopes the observance of National VFW Week will influence all eligible veterans to join the local VFW Post.

National VFW Week Program

Following is the schedule of activities by Wm. H. Coffield Post, No. 9280, Veterans of Foreign Wars, January 24-30 in connection with the celebration of National VFW Week.

Sunday, January 24—All VFW members are urged to attend the church of their choice and take someone along.

Monday, January 25, Community Service Day—All out effort will be made to complete the March of Dimes campaign which is now in progress under the direction of the VFW Post and Auxiliary and Degree of Pocahontas.

Tuesday, January 26—Obligation meeting for all new members in Post 9280. All members are urged to attend.

Wednesday, January 27—VFW Youth Activities Day. Sponsored by ladies of the Auxiliary.

Thursday, January 28, VFW National Home Day—The VFW is proud of its home for orphans. The VFW Department of North Carolina is now building a cottage at the National Home Site in Eaton Rapids, Mich. Pictures of the National Home and other interesting material is now on display in the building formerly occupied by Tots & Teens.

Friday, January 29—Americanism Day—All merchants are requested to display flags in observance of this day.

Saturday, January 30, VFW Open House Day—Wm. H. Coffield, Jr., Post, No. 9280, located on the old Hertford Highway, will be open to the public. Everyone is cordially invited to visit the home.



For Its 55 Years of Service To The Veteran His Dependents and The Nation

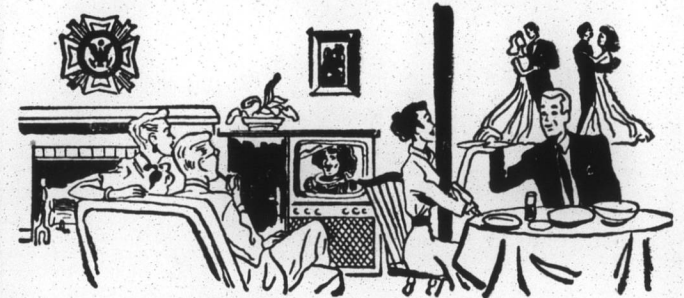
WE SALUTE

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. 1899-1954

National V.F.W. Week January 24-30, 1954



WHAT THE V.F.W. MEANS TO THE OVERSEAS VETERAN



As a Comrade...

There's magic in the Cross of Malta emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars because it tells the world that the wearer served overseas with the Armed Forces.

It's a symbol of a fellowship that exists only between overseas veterans. They may have served in Africa or Alaska, Italy or Iwo Jima, Saipan or Sicily, Guadalcanal or Germany, but they speak the same language—whether its Pidgin English or Fractured French. There's no tie between men that's stronger than the bond of war time experiences equally shared.

In the V.F.W. you will enjoy a brand of comradeship that will prompt you to forget the things that often keep other men apart—politics, wealth, social position or petty rivalries.

For V.F.W. members—and the members of their families—the social calendars of their V.F.W. Posts offer satisfying friendships that seldom fail to stand the test of time.

Veterans are Good Citizens! Be a V.F.W. Member and be a Better Citizen! Join the V.F.W. Now!

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Wm. H. Coffield Post 9280, Edenton

TELL ME HOW I CAN JOIN THE V. F. W.

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....

IF A V. F. W. MEMBERSHIP CARD COULD SPEAK, THIS IS WHAT IT WOULD SAY:

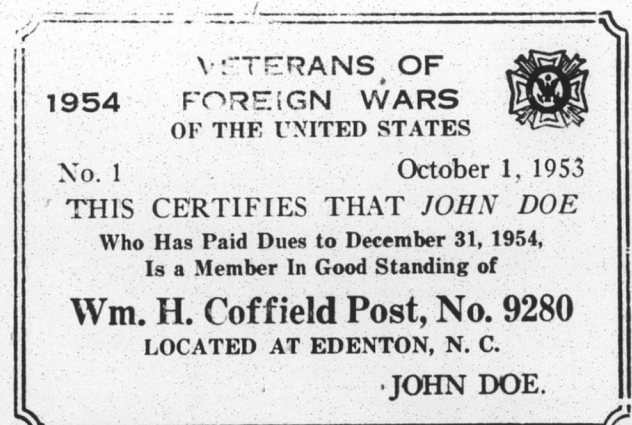
By James H. Basnight, Member of VFW Post No. 9280

"I am documentary evidence of your unselfishness—your willingness to assist other veterans who are less fortunate than yourself—because your membership helps support the V.F.W. national rehabilitation and welfare service program on community, state and national levels.

"I am proof, beyond dispute, of your compassionate interest in the tragic plight of the widows and orphans of the men with whom you served in the Armed Forces—because your membership is supporting the V.F.W. National Home at Eaton Rapids, Mich., and the V.F.W. fight for adequate pensions for the nation's widows and orphans.

"I am a testimonial that you did not discard your love for America when you swapped your military uniform for civilian garments—because your mem-

bership gives added strength to V.F.W. national security policies.



"I am witness to your continuing devotion to the welfare of the United States—because your

membership helps support the V.F.W. program of education in Americanism for all citizens.

"I testify to your faith in the basic principle that the youth of today must be properly trained to assume the duties of citizenship in the future—because your membership helps the V.F.W. foster a constructive youth activity program.

"I am a symbol of your contempt for communism and all other subversive doctrines—because your membership is making it possible for the V.F.W. to fight these evils with unrelenting vigor on every front.

"I certify that you are a civic-minded citizen, one who displays an honest concern for the welfare of all citizens—because your membership helps activate V.F.W. sponsorship of a great variety of community service projects."

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