

## VFW POST 311 "TRAILBLAZER"

22341 GOVERNORS HWY  
RICHTON PARK, IL 60471

### "All American Post"

Good evening Post members and supporters. We are approaching the home stretch of another outstanding year. We are only a couple of reports away of being an All American Post for the second straight. It is because of you and your commitment of "Service Before Self" that we are where we are today and for that I am forever grateful to you.

It's that time of year again. Post nominations for Elected Officers were held on March 20, 2014 and are still open. The Voting will be held at our April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

If eligible, we welcome you to become a member of our VFW Post, our Ladies Auxiliary or our Men Auxiliary.

Our monthly meetings are; regular post members

meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month; the Men Auxiliary meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month & the Ladies Auxiliary meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month. The executive committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

#### COMMANDER'S Initiatives!

Membership!

Service Before Self!

Securing Home Of Our Own!

Every One Will Be Heard!

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# Congratulations! Kudos!



SGM Sherry Blackwell (currently on active duty from San Antonio, TX) is a life time member of our post who was on leave to attend a local funeral. We held a special swear in ceremony for her and Comrade (SGT) Lori Wilcox on January 31, 2014. Lori served in Bosnia from 1997 – 1998.

We want welcome new post members Demetrius Alexander, Jerome Benton, Wallace Braswell, Warren Everson, Thelmer Herbert, Deonte Knowles, Babafemi Littlejohn, Norman Luri, Gregory McLaughlin, Laplause Moore, Sharee Pearce, Eric Perkins, Paul Powell, Stephen Reinbold, Edward Rule, Vincent Saulsbury, Heather Smith, Thomas Stovall, Deborah Taylor, Stanley Trotter, Kenneth Walker, Mark Watts & Daron Williams.

✓ Thanks to Governors State University (GSU) and student life for volunteering to paint the post.

✓ Many thanks to Comrade Art Gipson Ladies Auxiliary Member Liz McDowell for all their hard work in organizing the Super Bowl Party; we would also like to thank Art Gipson for picking up computers donated to us from STATE FARM in Bloomington, IL.

- ✓ A Thank you to all of the post members that attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday's - VFW's Valentine's Party and "Post Mardi Gras Party! A special Thanks to Post Members Shanya Fullerton-Ingram who provided food, music and host of family and friends; Robert Robinson for coordinating and promoting the events; Arnold Taylor for providing lifelong memories by taking pictures and providing the post with memories of the event.
- ✓ Congratulations to Comrade (CSM) Eddie Rogers on his daughter's recent promotion to LTC. She is currently deployed to Kuwait.
- ✓ Community Blood Drive, March 15, 2014 – VFW Post 311 along with Life Source collected 19 units of blood. Each unit of blood will save three lives so fifty-seven was saved. Twenty comrades participated by signing 22 donors (some donors were ineligible to donate). The next blood drive is July 12, 2014 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We also conducted a raffle for all those that signed in. The winners are listed with the sponsors of the gift cards highlighted; Gail Perry – **Subway** \$10.00; Thomas Peidgeon – **Darden** \$10.00; Ken R. – **Walgreens** \$10.00; Robert Kroll – **LA Café** \$10.00; Nancy Shaulis – **LA Café** \$10.00; Willie Goodson – **Aurelio's Pizza** \$20.00.
- ✓ We would also like to celebrate one of own, Comrade Akeela M. White for being presented with the Illinois Governor's Proclamation as the Veteran of the Month for March 2014.



Pictured – Erica J. Borggren - Director of IL DAV, Akeela White - the Assistant General Counsel in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Legal Department for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A & Michael Evans – Asst. General Counsel at JPMChase.

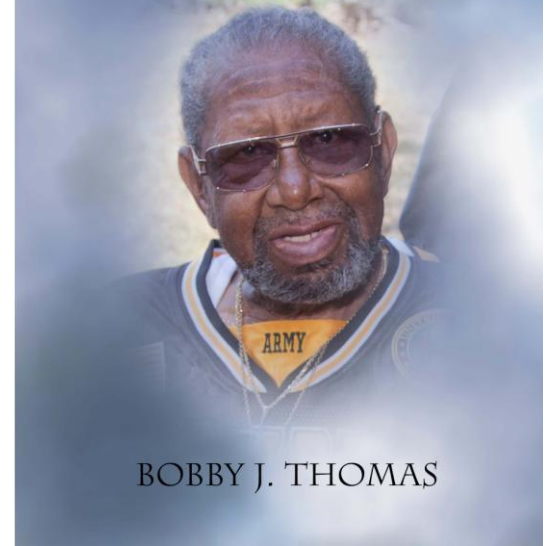


Pictured – Barry Walter - IL Dept. VFW, Bill Browne - Director, Cook County VA, Akeela White, Kenneth Coulture - DAV REP -Kenneth Coulture

## Sick/Shut-In – Grievance/Wishing You Get Well

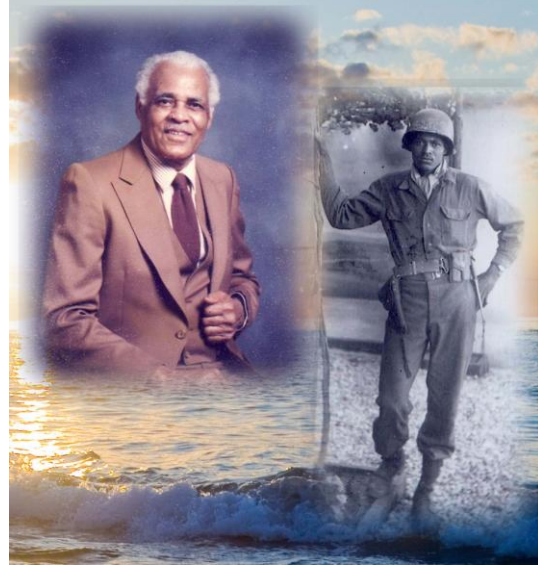


IN MEMORY OF  
OUR FALLEN COMRADE



BOBBY J. THOMAS

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADE  
ROBERT ROBERTSON  
WORLD WAR II VET



Wishing you or your family member overcome your/their illness and make a speedy recovery to getting well soon;

- ✓ Jim Rhodes,
- ✓ Herb Jackson,
- ✓ Brigette Roberson,
- ✓ Comrade Bill Brown's daughter,
- ✓ Comrade Art Neely

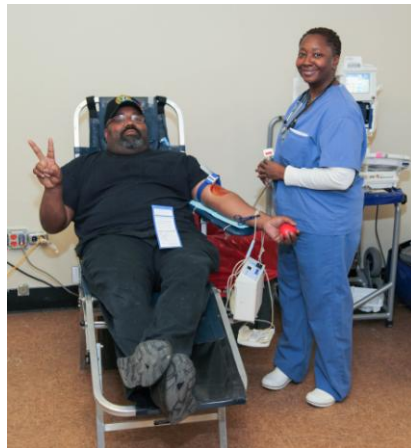
Comrades if know of any Comrades that are sick or shut-in, please let us know as soon as possible.

**We apologize if we failed to include any members or their immediate family members during your time of healing. We have made every attempt to reach out and gather information.**

## Blood Drive Photos



Post Commander Eugene Blackwell



Comrade Spearman and LifeSource employee



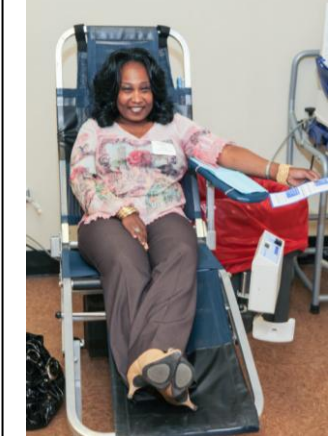
Geneva Barnes & Gail Perry – New Faith Baptist Church Volunteers with New Post Member.



Matteson resident Toni, Rick Reinbold – President, Village of Richton Park (also Post member), Joan Jones – New Faith Baptist Church volunteer, Post Commander Eugene Blackwell, Gail Perry – New Faith Baptist Church volunteer. Francisco of LifeSource



Comrade Willie Goodson



Comrade Shanya Fullerton-Ingram

## Upcoming Events

- March 22 - Blues Band featuring “Super Percy” with special guest appearance of “Moms Mabey”
- April 5 – Pumps, Pearls, & Fancy Hats Fashion Show, 6pm – 10pm, Tinley Park VFW
- April 12 – Get on the Map Post 311 – Scholarship Fundraiser, 7pm
- June 20, 5pm, Scholarship Application Deadline
- June 28 – Annual Post Picnic, Noon – Sundown, Glaseser Park, Richton Park, IL
- August 16 – Commander’s Ball, 7pm – 11:30pm, Dinolfos’s Banquets, Mokena, IL
- August 23 – Veterans Outreach, 9am – 4pm (Look for More Info)

Post Elections – Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the regular post meeting.

## Veterans Outreach 2014 – August 23, 2014

VFW Post 311 will be hosting its annual **Stand Down on Saturday, August 23, 2014** at the VFW post. The VFW post 311 Stand Down is our way to give back and provide services to our homeless veterans. The Stand Down will run from 8 am to 3 pm at 22341 S. Governor's Highway, Richton Park, IL. We will be providing services to homeless Veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, VA, IDVA and Social Security benefits counseling, and referrals to a variety of other necessary services, such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment. There are many non-profit agencies that will also participate to help give back to the veteran. Our Stand Down is a collaborative event, coordinated between VA, IDVA, Hines Hospital, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, local Vet Centers, and community agencies who serve the homeless.

We are always looking for volunteers that day to help serve food, pass our supplies, coordinate the flow of traffic and be a helping hand to our veterans. For further information or questions, please contact Bill Browne, Stand Down Outreach Coordinator.

## Pat McClure - Ladies Auxiliary President



*What a winter we have experienced!* Finally, we can look forward to the birds singing, flowers blooming and the sun shining—all signs that the season of spring is on its way. Therefore, as we transition ourselves into spring let us look back at what we have experienced thus far and renew our commitment. We can now proceed with greater clarity, and a greater determination to succeed with our goals of the “You Served. You Deserved. We Care” year.

As you know, cancer attacks the body unseen until it shows itself through symptoms or testing. It can hide inside anyone. Surveys show that often many people with cancer are asked, “What if you had one more day?” we are hoping to raise money so people can have that one more day. We have planned a fabulous “*Pumps Pearls & Fancy Hats Fashion Show*” proceeds will benefit Department President Mercie Woolfolk’s special project “Pass the Hat for Cancer.” The Fashion Show will be on Saturday April 5, 2014 at the Tinley Park VFW Post from 6 to 10 p.m. The cost of the event is \$30.00. For ticket, information please contact Cancer Chairperson Carole Jamison-Mattox at 708-935-4862. Monetary donations are also accepted write your check or money order to Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 311 earmarked Cancer Aid and Research. Mail your donations to **Ladies Aux. Post 311 P.O. BOX 179, Richton Park, Illinois 60471.**

Congratulations to Sister Ann Flowers and Comrade Willie Goodson for their hard work on the Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Pen Program. Due to their diligence, many families were honored and proud. The delight in the eyes of the contestants at the District 16 VOD celebration was wonderful. *Congratulations to all of the contestants.* We had an exciting time at our Voice of Democracy Banquet and Council of Administration meeting held on Saturday February 8 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Springfield Illinois. Join in extending a special congratulation to the State of Illinois Voice of Democracy Champion Madison Haley from the 10<sup>th</sup> District who took home the National Award of \$30,000.

The Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring “**Motown - The Musical Play.**” We will attend the play held at the Oriental Theatre - Ford Center for the Performing Arts – IL on Friday June 6, at 7:30 p.m. The ticket cost is \$55.00 per person. Those interested in tickets can contact Sister Patricia McClure 708-805-9718. In addition, watch our website for upcoming “Summer Garage Sales.”

Thanks to all the Officers, Chairmen who make up the body of this great Auxiliary. Senior vice president Liz McDowell continues to do an excellent job getting the word out promoting growth in our membership. We are 114% in membership at this time. In addition, new members continuously submit applications. We still have many opportunities to serve our Veterans and their families.

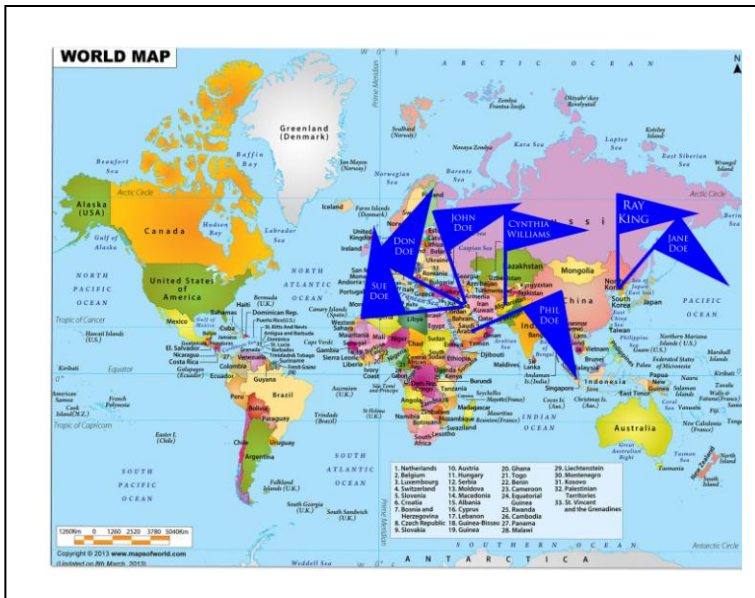
As you know, 2013-2014 year is winding down. We will look for your enthusiasm and commitments towards our next Buddy Poppy Drives. Thank you for your great work – on all projects and in all that you do for our organization. Your contributions make a real difference! I know how much time and energy assignments demand, and I deeply appreciate all of your efforts to make them an enormous success. As always, it’s great to know that people like you could always be counted on to go the extra mile. Thank you again for all you do for our organization and for our veterans ...*They Served ...They Deserved ... We Care.*

I look forward to working on projects together in the future. See you at the State Convention June 12-15, 2014 Springfield, Illinois.

Patricia McClure, President  
Benjamin O. Davis Post 311 Ladies Auxiliary

*Our prayers to Sister Carol as she endures the hardship of the passing of her husband Comrade B.J. Thomas.*

# Brian Coleman – Mens Auxiliary President



**Get on the Map - Post 311  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
Saturday, April 12th @ 7pm  
22341 Governors Highway  
Richton Park, Illinois 60471**

The Mens Auxiliary cordially invites you to come out and help us raise funds for the 2nd Annual VFW Post 311 Scholarship Fund.

We will have live music, raffles and plenty of fun.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000 on behalf of the Men's Auxiliary to match the \$1,000 provided to the scholarship winner in 2013 during the first year of the program. We will be requesting donations of U.S. or foreign currency, with a minimum request of \$5 and a desire for much more. This scholarship is consistent with our mission of supporting the veterans and their families.

Each contributor will be given a pin to be placed on the Men's Auxiliary Map (see above sample). This map is our way of recognizing the services delivered by our Veterans of Foreign Wars over the years throughout the world in support of this great country. In addition, each contributor will be asked to sign our book of thanks that will always be on display at the Red Tails Bar and Grill.

On our fundraising night, we will have a performance by one of Chicago's best Jazz bands "Due Season". They will be performing at 8pm featuring "one of our own" Men's Auxiliary member Wasi Young.

Don't miss the inaugural Men's Auxiliary fundraiser. We are here and we will do what is needed to ensure the success of our Benjamin O. Davis VFW Post 311 organization.

The Men's Auxiliary was formed in 2013 as a support organization to Benjamin O. Davis VFW Post 311. We are committed to building an organization that enhances the lives of our veterans and their families through volunteerism and focused support efforts in partnership with the members of our VFW and the Women's Auxiliary.

Please come out and show your support by contributing to this effort. We will accept U.S. and foreign currency to assist us in meeting our goal.

Brian Coleman, President  
Benjamin O. Davis Post 311 Men's Auxiliary

## VFW Post 311 - Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	CONTACT
Membership (A)	Leon Jeffries	312-307-2182 <a href="mailto:jeffries12@yahoo.com">jeffries12@yahoo.com</a>
Relief (B)	Clyde Wilson	708-250-3461 <a href="mailto:wilsonclyde@hotmail.com">wilsonclyde@hotmail.com</a>
Poppy (C)	Jesse McDowell	708-267-7551
Publicity (D)	Arnold Taylor	708-224-1502 <a href="mailto:arnoldtaylor21@comcast.net">arnoldtaylor21@comcast.net</a>
Youth Activities (E)	Willie Goodson	708-606-8457 <a href="mailto:goodsn8@att.net">goodsn8@att.net</a>
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Americanism (G)	James Baker	708-945-9364 <a href="mailto:dabake1@aol.com">dabake1@aol.com</a>
Ways and Means (H)	William Thomas	708-732-7838 <a href="mailto:bilnez05@sbcglobal.com">bilnez05@sbcglobal.com</a>
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Scholarship	Georges Sanon	773-350-7849 <a href="mailto:geosanon@comcast.net">geosanon@comcast.net</a>