

# VFW POST 311 "TRAILBLAZER"

22341 GOVERNORS HWY  
RICHTON PARK, IL 60471

## "All American Post"

Welcome to the VFW Post 311 Newsletter. I would like to personally thank each and every one of our members and our supporters for closing out 2013 with their strong commitment to "Service Before Self."

As I look back on the many successful events we planned and participated in over the past six months, I must give a thumbs up to all those that were involved.

I've asked the Public Affairs staff to use this end of the year publication to highlight those events.

My staff and I look forward to continuing to work with you and our supporters toward achieving and exceeding the goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

If I didn't get a chance see you at the December Post Meeting followed by our Members and & supporters social, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

If eligible, we welcome you to become a member of our VFW Post, our Women 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!

### WHAT'S INSIDE!

- Annual Picnic
- Commander's Ball

Veterans Outreach

Night at the Races

VFW Post 311 Supports New Faith Baptist Church Blood Drive

Holiday Social for Members, Supporters & Kids with Santa

VFW Essay Participants

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#### Editor/Photographer:

Comrade Arnold Taylor

**Annual Picnic with Members of VFW Post 311 – August 24, 2013**



**Annual Picnic with Members of Ladies Auxiliary – August 24, 2013**



**Annual Picnic – Members of Mens Auxiliary – August 24, 2013**



## Commander's Ball – August 31, 2013



**Presentation of \$1,000.00 Scholarship to Natalie Mason mother of recipient Khalil Mason. Others pictured are 16<sup>th</sup> District Commander Clyde Wilson, Scholarship Committee Chairperson Georges Sanon and Post Commander Eugene Blackwell**



**IL Congresswoman Robin Kelly was special guest speaker pictured with Post Commander Eugene Blackwell and his wife Mattie.**

### Commander's Ball – August 31, 2013



**Presentation of National VFW Community Service Award to the Village of Richton Park Trustees Brian Coleman & Monica Holden, Village President Rich Reinbold, Village Clerk Joseph Canady, Post 311 Commander Eugene Blackwell, and Trustee Julian Alexander, Sr.**



**IL State Representative, 38<sup>th</sup> Legislative District- Al Riley pledges \$1,000 donation to Scholarship Fund.**

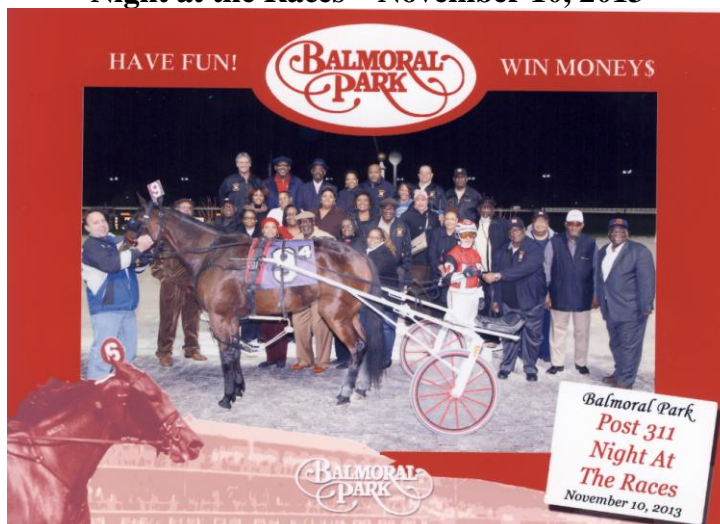


**Hope Jovicin accepts Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteerism.**



**IL State Senato, 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District- Micheal Hastings presents \$1,000.00 donation to Post 311**

**Night at the Races – November 10, 2013**



Supplied Photo – Balmoral Race Track

**Post 311 Supports New Faith Baptist Church Blood Drive – October 27, 2013**



Giving Blood – Post Member Walter Sanders



Providing comfort – Post Commander Eugene Blackwell



Support Services during the Blood Drive - Members of Post 311  
 Seated - Comrades Charles Hunt, George Bulley, Virgil Turner, Nate McClure  
 Standing - Post Commander Eugene Blackwell Rev. Herb Jackson, Walter Sanders, Clyde Wilson, Seated Front - Jesse McDowell & Roscoe McClendon



Post Member – Virgil Turner

Village of Richton Park 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade – November 9, 2013



Leading the Way - Members of Post 311 Color Guard



Members of the Ladies Auxiliary



Tuskegee Airman Virgil Poole





**Certificates of Appreciation were presented to our VFW Essay Participates on December 15, 2013.**

**An Evening with Santa (Kids Gifts) – Hosted by Ladies Auxiliary on December 20, 2013**



**In attendance are 16<sup>th</sup> District Commander Clyde Wilson, Mattie Blackwell, Post Commander Eugene Blackwell, Junior Vice Bill Browne**



**Comrade Walter Sanders at his best as Santa Claus**



**Members of Ladies Auxiliary**



**Members of Post 311**

**Continued - An Evening with Santa (Kids Gifts) – Hosted by Ladies  
Auxiliary on December 20, 2013**



## Veterans Outreach 2013 – September 7, 2013



Close to 30 vendors offered services.



Members of Post 311 assisted with signing in of participants, volunteers and vendors.



Members of New Faith Baptist Church – assisted with meal distribution.



Excess Military Clothing Distribution – from Military Depot.



Volunteers from Hines VA provided support.



Haircuts were provided by volunteers



Volunteers from the National Women Veterans United organization



Team Combined Insurance provided support and services.