

# The Silver Star



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5061

April 2024



## Commander's Corner

Happy Spring! The District 1 Auxiliary Potato Bake is April 6th, and I thank each and every one of you for signing up to bring toppings, soups, prizes, and especially volunteering your valuable time! Elections at the Post and Auxiliary meetings will happen on April 10th. Not only will we elect Post Officers, we will elect Post Delegates to the State Convention in June to vote on important issues such as re-Districting the greater Denver area Posts. District convention will be at Post 5061 on Weds, May 15th at 6pm, and the Department convention will be June 5-8 in Cripple Creek, CO. The important voting will happen Friday and Saturday that week. Membership is a little behind the 102% goal this year. See if you can bring a friend, neighbor or family member into our great organization. Every member the VFW has is important in strengthening Veteran voices heard on Capitol Hill, and making Veterans legislation like the PACT Act a reality. This is a great organization! Please renew your memberships, find another member, and volunteer to the best of your ability!

*With Respect,*  
*Jim Kruse, Commander*

### Post Officers

**Post Commander:** Jim Kruse  
**Sr. Vice Commander:** Tammy Greene  
**Jr. Vice Commander:** Vince Miller  
**Quartermaster:** Tony Nickerson  
**Adjutant:** Duane Johnson  
**Chaplain:** Manuel Sais  
**Judge Advocate:** Duane Johnson  
**Surgeon:** Craig Clark  
**Service Officer:** Gary Williamson  
**Trustees:** Tom Yepsen, Ron Lattin, Gary Williamson  
**Home Board:** Lee Bonney, Joe Gomez, Bernie Nilson, Duane Johnson, Craig Clark  
**Bingo Manager:** Tony Nickerson

### Canteen Appointees

**Canteen Personnel Management:** Jim Kruse  
**Canteen Logistics Manager:** Jerry Jones  
**Hall Manager:** Joe Tafoya  
**Kitchen Manager:** Vince Miller  
**Bartender Scheduler:** Brenda Vigil

### Auxiliary Officers

**President:** Dan Asimus  
**Sr. Vice:** Tim Gilmore  
**Jr. Vice:** Sharon Ervin  
**Treasurer:** Janet Farris  
**Secretary:** Kathy Kurtenbach  
**Chaplain:** Joe Tafoya  
**Conductor:** Scott Kingsbury  
**Trustees:** Colin Mason, Tim Gilmore, Charlotte Lattin  
**Guard:** Colin Mason

## Auxiliary News

Hello Auxiliary members,

ALL HANDS ON DECK!!! It's time for the 12th Annual Potato Bake Saturday April 6th! So to repeat what I said last month, get your tickets in the Canteen in advance just in case we run out. We will have giant baked potatoes with all the fixins, and lots of crock pots full of soups. We are also going to have drawings and silent auction items. This year it is solely a District 1 Auxiliary fund raiser with Auxiliaries 1 and 501. It has been a big money maker for us for us in the past so we need everyone to show up and have a good time supporting the District. We still need volunteers to help out, so if you can, pick a time slot that you can work on the signup sheet at the Canteen. We also need desserts and soups.

The next Auxiliary meeting is on 4/10 at 6pm and is open to all Auxiliary members, so please come down and see what activities we have upcoming. This meeting we will be electing officers so please try to attend.

*Best regards,*  
*Dan Asimus, Auxiliary President*

**If an Auxiliary member becomes ill or loses a family member, please let our Auxiliary Chaplain, Joe Tafoya know as soon as possible. (720-347-0843)**

**Post Members: Did you pay your dues? Check your membership card for your anniversary date.**

**Auxiliary Members: Membership dues are due by December, 31, 2024.**

# Bingo Volunteers Needed!

*Make a Difference in the Life of a Veteran and their Family!*

Volunteers are needed to help support the MISSION of the VFW. Our main mission is to fundraise to help support veterans programs. Bingo is a main fundraiser. **Give back!** Proceeds from Bingo are donated to local, regional, and national veterans programs.

**Make a difference TODAY!  
VOLUNTEER!**

Contact Tony Nickerson at 720-314-5990 to make a difference!

**Get Your Hot Dog!**  
Thursday, April 11 - 6 pm



**Post and Auxiliary  
Elections  
Wednesday, April 10, 6 pm**



## Reminder to all Post 5061 members:

Please ask your guests to sign in at the podium upon entry to the Canteen. Please also remember to bring your membership card and magnetic door card!

**Have Medicare questions?  
I have answers.**



**Debbie Beaudry**  
Licensed Sales Agent  
303-881-9362, TTY 711



**RV Interiors, Inc** BOB JOHNSON  
*By Donna* OWNER

10% military discount on labor  
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877.716.1832 DENVER, CO 80229



**Brittney Baskall**  
Realtor

bbhomes.co@gmail.com  
303-564-9936



## Is it your Birthday this Month?

Stop by the Post on your or close to your birthday and get your free birthday drink. Present your ID and membership card to the bartender.



## BEAR VALLEY CAR WASH

"YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
CARWASH"

4900 W. DARTMOUTH AVE,  
DENVER, 80227



## Canteen Volunteers Needed!

### Burger Night Cook Teams!

Burger Night on Mondays is popular. We are looking for additional cooking teams of 4 to join in on the cooking rotation. Gather up your volunteer team of 4 or sign up as an individual and we will put you on a team. Contact Vince Miller, to sign up!

### Volunteer Bartenders!

Looking for something to do one or two afternoons or evenings a week? Like to socialize? The Canteen is in need of volunteer bartenders. No experience necessary. Contact Brenda Vigil, Bartender Scheduler, to sign up!

4th Tuesday of the month

# TACO TUESDAY



5-7 pm

## Volunteer Opportunities at the VA Hospital

- Compassionate Contact Corps

This tele support program benefits veterans who are lonely, socially isolated or would simply like someone to talk to. Trained volunteers provide support by making periodic phone calls or video calls. For more information contact Keith Anderson at 719-227-4408 or email him at keith.anderson3@vs.gov.

Other Volunteer opportunities:

- Reminder Phone calls for clinics-Move program
- HR Clerical Work and answer phone
- Prosthetic Department - mailing items
- Patient Transportation
- Pharmacy Administration Assistant
- Emergency Department Ambassador
- Fleet Vehicle volunteer
- Badging Admin volunteer
- VISIT (Visual Impairment Service Team) Coordinator
- Volunteer -Reminder Calls

For more information, contact Eva Gergely,  
720-723-3074 or 720-443-9834



# Happy Hour!

Tues, Wed,  
Thurs, and Sat

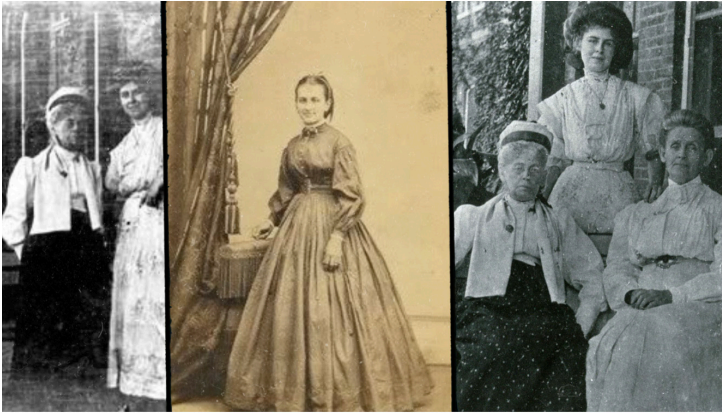
3-6 pm

\$1.00 off  
All Drinks

No buckets  
No drink chips



## Delphine Baker and Emma Miller: Women and the Creation of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers



By Parker Beverly, VA History Office intern and Wake Forest undergraduate student

Following the Civil War, the United States was left with historic devastation as an estimated 360,000 Union soldiers and 260,000 Confederate soldiers lost their lives in the conflict. Many Veterans were left with severe injuries, some life-altering. [To care for Union Veterans, Congress authorized the establishment of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (National Home).

The idea for establishing a domiciliary and hospital for Union Veterans was generated by Delphine Baker, a volunteer nurse during the Civil War in both Chicago and St. Louis. At the time, organizations like the U.S. Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C. and the Naval Home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania housed officer and career Veterans, but not volunteer servicemen. Unique in its mission, the National Home served all volunteer soldiers.

Delphine Baker was a supporter of a national system and legislation to care for injured soldiers after the Civil War. Her efforts led to President Abraham Lincoln signing a bill to establish the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1865. Just one year later in 1866, the first National Home was opened in Togus Springs, Maine. Two more were established a year later in Dayton, Ohio and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Dayton campus, also known as the Central Branch, officially opened on March 26, 1867 and Perry Trudden was admitted as the first resident.

With Thomas B. VanHorne as the landscape architect,

the Central Branch of Dayton, Ohio began to take shape with the 627-acre home becoming a tourist attraction which drew 100,000 visitors annually as of Henry Howe's recollections in 1888.

Keeping the Home in line was Emma Miller, a devoted caretaker of Civil War Veterans who served as the Matron, the first woman to hold such a position. After the loss of her husband in the Civil War, Miller worked closely with a civilian-run group, the U.S. Sanitary Commission, to help returning Veterans and their families. When the Central Branch home was opened, she was appointed as Matron. Known for her great care, Miller was a perfect fit for the position at the newly opened Dayton Home. In this capacity, Miller oversaw the daily necessities to keep the Home functioning, including securing food, taking stock of rations, restocking hospital supplies, overseeing distribution of goods, and cleaning.

The "Little Mother" of the Home was eventually promoted to Superintendent of the General Depot, meaning Miller facilitated the manufacturing and distribution of supplies for Homes across the Nation. Her success led to her appointment to the Board of Managers of the National Home system. Upon her death in 1914, Miller received full military honors at her funeral, the only civilian to have such an honor. Reflecting on her contributions, Colonel White, governor of the Home wrote, "She showed through her long period of service to the nation she loved a faithfulness, devotion, and efficiency which would do credit to any soldier that every fought for the flag."

Through the vision and foresight of two women, Delphine Baker and Emma Miller, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers system was established and maintained. With their leadership, generations of Veterans were cared for and supported, ensuring they received the best care possible following their service to the Nation and establishing the basis for today's system of Veteran hospitals.

*July 21, 1930, President Hoover consolidated and coordinated government activities affecting war veterans, thus creating the Veterans Administration.*

# 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISTRICT 1

VFW AUXILIARY

## POTATO BAKE FUNDRAISER



**SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2024**

**11AM – 2PM**

**DEAN K PHILLIPS VFW POST 5061**

**5220 W WARREN AVE, DENVER 80227**

**TICKETS \$10.00 EACH**

- BAKED POTATOES W/ALL THE FIXINGS, SOUPS & CHILI, DESSERTS
  - GREAT BASKETS TO WIN - DOOR PRIZES THROUGHOUT THE EVENT
  - GET TICKETS FROM YOUR AUXILIARY, OR AT THE DOOR
  - COME JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD & COMPANY
- AND HELP US SUPPORT OUR VETERANS



**Auxiliary Dinner**  
**Reuben Sandwich**  
**\$10.00**

**Friday, April 19**  
**5-7 pm**



**corned beef, saurkraut, swiss cheese, thousand Island  
spread on rye bread with fries and potato salad**

**Karaoke 6-10 pm**