



NILES MEMORIAL POST 3579

SENTRY NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWS PUBLICATION – Fall 2026

www.VFW3579.org



Commander's Columns

Greetings Comrades,

As always, we had a very busy season, before we know it we will be in winter mode. I hope everyone had a safe and pleasant summer. Our Niles 4th of July parade was successful. We had the Color Guard from Army Reserve kick off the parade followed by our VFW Post. The Army Color Guard were very professional, and it was a good advertising campaign for all attendees. Candy and flags were handed out to all who came to the parade and was very well received. Also, I want to thank **Kristina Vasilic** from Niles Village Committee for her support. Scholarship Program letters from VFW Post 3579 send out to local business, schools and our post members asking to make a gift to the scholarship Program. I would like to thank **Harry Benjamin** and the committee for their outstanding effort to make this program a success. Our Post had a very good turnout on Patriots Day (9/11) Ceremony, Thank you to all who attended and the Niles Police Department and Fire Department. The Police Department Color Guard did a great job and looked very sharp. Also, thanks to our Color Guard Captain John Bugajski and our own Color Guard they did an outstanding job.

Our VFW Post 3579 made the All-American Post for year 2026, thanks to **John Tomzik**, **GOOD JOB JOHN!** Home Depot store 1907 PRO DESK TEAM helped our VFW Post install shrubs and flowers to beautify the front of the building this will help improve

the looks of our Post. Again, this year **Kevin Morrison** promoted **Jimmy Mac** baseball outing which was a big success with largest attendance so far, may more to come. VFW Post 3579 is hosting Niles Park trunk or Treat on Saturday October 17, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the Oasis parking lot, thank you **Jim Hanks** for the information. Bring your grandkids to see the spooks and get their bag filled with candy.

Chicago Bears Games: Come on out and watch the Bears on giant TV screens with your fellow friends, enjoy some great food and drinks, you can also try your luck on 50/50 raffle hosted by **Mike Reilly**. As a reminder our Post is hosting a *Christmas Party on December 19*, tickets and more information will be available soon and hopefully we will have a good turnout, **SAVE THE DATE!** Veterans Day Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday November 11 at 11:00 AM at Niles Veterans Memorial waterfall. We Had a very successful golf outing promoted by no other than **Robin Miller**, **WAY TO GO ROBIN!** Unfortunately, Robin will be retiring as a Golf Outing Director. We are looking for volunteers to fill his shoes.

NOVEMBER 3RD IS VOTING DAY, SO GO OUT AND VOTE.

I encourage everyone to attend monthly Post meetings held every second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM, come on out and meet your fellow comrades and listen to the latest VA updates. Enjoy some pizza and a cold beverage after the meeting. Also, for more information and updates, check out our Post 3579 website. Thank you, all Post officers and members,

dedicating their time and effort to making our Post what it is today. It's a sacrifice that cannot be ignored. Thank you everyone for the support that I have received and hopefully we can make our Post 3579 ALL AMERICAN again.

On closing I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you, **Bob Fuggiti**, for your dedication to the Newsletter.

GOD BLESS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA

Joe Kowacyk,
Commander

Our **Veterans Day** Ceremony will be at the Niles Veterans Waterfall at Milwaukee and Touhy Ave
11-11-26 at 11:00 a.m.
Refreshments after at Post 3579

Special Discount Dues Information

ANNUAL VFW MEMBERS: Please note that VFW Post 3579 is currently offering a discount for new or current members that wish to convert their Annual Membership to Life Membership. The discount provided by the Post is 25%. This dues is needed to be paid in order to take advantage of this offer, which depends on your age as of December 31st of the current calendar year. You may pay with a check, cash or credit card. This offer also extends to qualified veterans that wishes to join VFW Post 3579. As a life member, you will not pay any increases and never pay dues again. To take advantage of this offer, please contact the Post Quartermaster at 847-825-4588

Life Member Dues

Attained Age	Cost	Discount	Net Cost
Through 30	\$425	\$106	\$319
31-40	\$410	\$103	\$307
41-50	\$375	\$94	\$281
51-60	\$335	\$84	\$251
61-70	\$290	\$73	\$217

Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579
7255 N Caldwell Ave.
Niles, IL 60714

847-825-4588

www.vfwpost3579.org

71-80	\$225	\$56	\$169
81 plus	\$170	\$20	\$150

Calendar of upcoming events

2ND Monday each Month
General meeting
9 Nov. Marine Corp Birthday Party
11 Nov. Veterans Day Ceremony
14 Dec. Birthday of National Guard
7 Dec. Pearl Harbor Day
13 Dec. Wreaths Across America
19 Dec. Post Christmas Party
20 Dec. Birthday of Space Force
25 Dec. Post is Closed

Patriot Day Ceremony
September 11, 2026



See more photos on last page

**Does your family know
where your DD 214
(Discharge papers) are??**

PM at VFW Post 3579 7255 N CALDWELL Av.
NILES, IL 60714

Post 3579 Brick Fund raiser.



Bricks can be purchased for placement in our memorial Brick garden which is located at the front of the building. The cost of the engraved brick is \$100 for three lines. No more than 16 characters per line (Spaces count as 1 Character). Download form at:

<https://vfw3579.org/uploads/Documents/BrickOrderFill-inForms.pdf>

United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program

- VFW 3579 is asking for your support
 - Please help by donating a **new, unwrapped toy (NO stuffed animals)**
 - A collection box will be at the Post from November to 10 December Please consider donating at least ONE \$15-\$20 toy
- Every child deserves a toy for Christmas**

Marine Corps 250th Birthday



Come Join us 9th November 1000 to 1200 hrs. and celebrate with the Cake cutting ceremony. Stick around with your fellow Marines and Veterans to have a few drinks and watch the Bears game.

BLOOD DRIVE AT POST

Save the date! You are invited to donate at the blood drive below:

NILES VFW POST 3579 & NILES FIRE
DEPARTMENT 10/10/2026 09:00 AM - 01:00

Wreaths Across America

On Saturday 19 December 2026, the annual coordinated *Wreaths Across America* ceremony will take place. At 11 AM (Central Time) following a short ceremony volunteers will begin laying wreaths at the grave sites of veterans and their spouses at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, in Elwood Illinois. Niles Memorial VFW Post 3579 has identified the gravesites of 18 Post members, and eight of their spouses who have been laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. This year, as in past years, the Post will sponsor wreaths to be placed at each VFW 3579 Post members' gravesites and at the columbarium site of five Post members.

The Niles Memorial VFW Post Auxiliary will sponsor four wreaths that will be placed at the gravesites of the spouses of the Niles VFW Post member.

If you know of a Post member or the spouse of a Post member who was laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, contact VFW 3579 **Jim Henk** at 312.813.1645 before 1 November 2026.

Trips for Veterans

Each year your Post makes donations to support veterans' organizations and programs. The donations come from the Post Relief Fund which is supported by our Memorial Day Poppy Day Event. Three of those organizations offer veterans the experience for a special journey of remembrance and recognition. *Honor Flight Chicago* flies veterans from Midway Airport 7 or 8 times a year to Washington D.C. The return flight to Chicago is later the same day. *Lake County Honor Flight* flies veterans 3 times a year to Washington D.C. from Milwaukee. Veterans stay one over night and come back next day before returning to Milwaukee. *VETSROLL* has one trip a year and transportation is by luxury coach bus from South Beloit, IL. The first night is in Dayton, Ohio and then to Washington D.C. for two nights. All travel and lodging expenses are paid for by the Honor Flights and VETSROLL.

For more Information:
Honor Flight Chicago – 773.227.8387
honorflightchicago.org
Lake County Honor Flight-847.282.0374
lakecountyhonorflight.org
VETSROLL – 1.800.383.2267
vetsroll.org

BEARS SCHEDULE

Join us at the post Lounge for Televised
games and Drinks Specials

WK	Date	Team	Time
4	Sun, Oct 4	vs New York Jets	Noon
5	Sun, Oct 11	at Green Bay Packers	Noon
6	Sun, Oct 18	at Atlanta Falcons	Noon
7	Thu, Oct 22	vs New England Patriots	7:15 PM
8	Mon, Nov 2	at Seattle Seahawks	7:15 PM
9	Sun, Nov 8	vs Tampa Bay Buccaneers	7:20 PM
10	—	BYE WEEK	
11	Sun, Nov 22	vs New Orleans Saints	Noon
12	Thu, Nov 26	at Detroit Lions	Noon
13	Sun, Dec 6	vs Jacksonville Jaguars	Noon
14	Sun, Dec 13	at Miami Dolphins	Noon
15	Sat, Dec 19	at Buffalo Bills	7:20 PM
16	Fri, Dec 25	vs Green Bay Packers	Noon
17	Sun, Jan 3	vs Detroit Lions	3:25 PM
18	Sun, Jan 10*	at Minnesota Vikings	TBD*

Home Games are in Bold



VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

On September 9, we welcomed **Diane Ahren**, last year's President of the Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary and a new officer of **Illinois VFW Auxiliary District 4**, of which we are now members. Diane spoke about District 4 and encouraged us to become actively involved in its programs and activities.

Supporting Our Veterans: President Mary Ann Miller met with **Julia Marino**, Activity Director at the Chicago Veterans Home, to deliver Chicago Bears pins, drinking cups, pencil holders, assorted snacks, and both mini and full size Ty Beanie Babies. These items will be used as prizes for resident activities such as bingo. Thanks to several Auxiliary members who have collected Beanie Babies, we will be able to continue donating them for months to come.

A thank you letter from Post Commander **Joe Kowalczyk** was received and read expressing his appreciation for our Auxiliary's generous donation to the Post's scholarship fund.

Membership: Treasurer **Myrna Schiro** contacted our Annual Members to let them know that membership cards will no longer be issued at the Annual Membership level. Dept. of IL VFW Auxiliary awarded our Auxiliary the opportunity to award a **free** Life Membership to a member of our choosing. Following a unanimous vote, the life Membership was awarded to **Deborah Gray**. Because Deborah had already mailed in her annual dues, she generously donated that money to our Relief Fund.

Quilt of Valor: Members discussed candidates for a Quilt of Valor, and one Post member was selected. We are keeping the recipient's name under wraps for now while the nomination is being processed by the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Due to the large number of recent awards, the Foundation is currently experiencing a critical shortage of quilts. We expect to announce our recipient in early 2027.

Remembering and Honoring: In preparation for the September 11 ceremonies and September 18 POW/MIA Recognition Day, Auxiliary members helped prepare the Post for members and guests. The entryway, including the Missing Man POW table, was thoroughly cleaned, along with the three floor-to-ceiling windows. The garden area near the back entrance to the Veterans Club received a seasonal makeover with fall colors, along with Red Friday and 9/11 remembrance flags.

We were honored to participate in an emotional 9/11 ceremony at the Post officiated by Commander **Kowalczyk** and attended by Niles dignitaries, Niles Police and Fire personnel, VVA, VFW and Auxiliary members, and other guests.

Operation Gratitude: Our commitment to the Operation Gratitude Letter Writing Program resulted in 31 *handwritten letters and cards* for active-duty service members, veterans, wounded service members, caregivers of veterans, and recruit graduates. **Mary Ann** also donated more than 100 beautiful blank message cards for Auxiliary members to use in writing messages of support and appreciation.

Plans for our holiday activities at the Chicago Veterans Home are still being developed as of this publication. We are also putting on our thinking caps as we look ahead to the New Year and consider new ways to support our Post, meet our Auxiliary's goals,

and remain productive in service to veterans and our community.

To all members of Post 3579: You are recognized. You are appreciated. You are never forgotten.



TAPS



The following V.F.W. Post 3579 members have passed away.

Carmel Abbate -Army SF

Robert A. Traglia - Army

Thomas Foglestad - Marines

Norman Sachman -Marines

Rest in Peace Comrades

Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Committee continues to meet and has made progress toward the goal of making scholarship awards. We have approximately \$25,000 in the Post Scholarship Fund and we are on track to award our first scholarships in 2027. We are working toward receiving additional funding.

VFW POST 3579 AUXILIARY

Our Auxiliary meets the First Wednesday of each month 1:00 pm at

7255 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, IL. 60714

Guests and all who may be qualified for membership are always welcome to join us!

Myrna Schiro, Treasurer

773-775-4567

Email: myrnaschiro1@gmail.com

Website: vfwauxiliary.org



Patriot Day Ceremony

