

# VFW POST 9644 NEWSLETTER

## NEWS, VIEWS, AND HAPPENINGS

### Verle Huffman VFW 9644 & VFW Auxiliary



Award-winning VFW, est. 1947, Closest Post to Fort Logan National Cemetery

#### ***VFW Post Officers***

Commander	Todd Van Sant
Senior Vice Commander	Gary Bean
Junior Vice Commander	Joe Camarillo
Quartermaster	Lynn Peterson
Chaplain	Robert Derrera
Adjutant	Rod Rodriguez

#### ***Auxiliary Officers***

President	John Whisler
Senior Vice President	Michelle Cordova
Junior Vice President	Greg Almandares
Treasurer	Rachel Rodgers
Chaplain	Lisa Bernhardt
Secretary	Concetta Kile

#### **Post Address**

2680 W Hampden Ave  
Sheridan, CO 80110

#### **Post Phone Number**

(303) 789-9733

We have an updated website thanks to our Commander, Todd Van Sant.  
Please check it out to see the latest events and happenings.

<https://www.vfw9644.org>





**Todd Van Sant**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**Commander**

Greetings, VFW Post 9644 family!

As we head into the holiday season, it's the perfect time to focus on building our membership! If you have a friend, family member, or neighbor who may qualify for the VFW or Auxiliary, please encourage them to join. They can easily sign up for the Post online by clicking this link: [Sign Up for the VFW](#). The only way we can continue making a difference every day is by growing our membership and ensuring we have the people to support our vital programs and events!

It was great seeing so many of you at the Post on Thanksgiving Day for our Thanksgiving dinner. It's always wonderful to come together as a family, share a meal, and give thanks for all we have.

I also had the privilege of spending time with our Boy Scout Troop and our new partners, the Front Range Young Marines, retiring flags. Over the last several months, we had collected about 1,200 flags in the attic, and it was time to take care of them properly. These young men and women, along with many Post and Auxiliary members, worked hard for four hours to get through the entire stack! It was a fantastic effort, and I'm looking forward to seeing more of the Front Range Young Marines soon. In fact, they'll be joining us at the Membership Dinner to serve food, so keep an eye out for them!

Before I go into what is coming up at your VFW Post, I want to take a minute to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a fantastic New Year! This Post accomplished so much this year that YOU should be proud of! From kids' events, the car show, thousands of meals cooked and served, thousands of hours of community service, veteran and member outreach, hospital/nursing home outreach, scholarships, our Annual Day of Service, all the work we were able to do on the Post property, the relationships made, and the fun had—it starts and ends with those of you who show up! For that, during this time of reflection after Thanksgiving, I'm

both thankful and grateful. I know that sometimes we bicker like family, but at the end of every day, we bring it together and do what must be done for all that we stand for.

Here's what's happening this December:

- ◆ **December 7th – Membership Meeting**  
 Our next Membership Meeting is on **Saturday, December 7th, at 11 AM**. Your attendance is vital to the success of this Post and Auxiliary! We have so much going on, and this meeting is the source of the seeds that will make 2025 a successful year. Please mark your calendar for the first Saturday of every month at 11 AM!
- ◆ **December 7th & 8th – The VFW Airlift**  
 Our annual VFW Airlift is just around the corner! On **Saturday, December 7th**, we'll be palletizing food, and on **Sunday, December 8th**, we'll load the planes to deliver food and toys to veterans and their families across Colorado. This event brings joy and relief to many, and we need your help to make it a success. If you'd like to volunteer, reach out to **Ron Davies**.
- ◆ **December 9th – Meal Planning Meeting**  
 Join us on **Monday, December 9th, at 6 PM** for our meal planning meeting. This is your chance to help us plan meals for the first quarter of the year. Sign up to take charge of a meal or share your ideas!
- ◆ **December 13th – Membership Dinner & Adult Christmas Party**  
 Celebrate the season with us on **Friday, December 13th**, at the Membership Dinner, followed by the Adult Christmas Party. Bring a gift for the gift exchange and stay for your chance to win a free lifetime or legacy membership for both the Post and Auxiliary!
- ◆ **December 14th – Kids' Christmas Party**  
 On **Saturday, December 14th**, from 10 AM to 2 PM, we'll host our annual Kids' Christmas Party! Bring the whole family for a fun day with Santa, free gifts, food, and tie-dye T-shirts for all the kids.
- ◆ **December 16th & 30th – Participation Meetings**  
 Join us on **Monday, December 16th and 30th**, for our Participation Meetings. This is where we take the ideas brought up in the monthly meeting and turn them into actionable plans. We also work on in-

creasing membership and participation in the Post.

◆ **December 18th – America Says & GET MUGGED Night**

Don't miss **America Says & GET MUGGED Night** on **Thursday, December 19th**. Bring a coffee mug filled with candy to exchange. The game is always fun, the food is always good, and a special thanks to Steve and Michelle for making this night so successful!

◆ **December 25th – Christmas Potluck Dinner**

When the family festivities wind down, head over to the Post for a Christmas potluck dinner. Bring your leftovers to share and enjoy the holiday spirit with your VFW family.

◆ **January 1st – Black-Eyed Peas Lunch**

Kick off the new year with our traditional **Black-Eyed Peas Lunch** on **Wednesday, January 1st**, starting at 2 PM. You won't want to miss this delicious way to start 2025!

### Ongoing Events

- **Buddy Checks & Holiday Support:** The holidays can be tough for many. Remember to check in on your battle buddies. A quick call can brighten someone's day. If you need support, dial **988** – the Veteran Crisis Line is always there for you.
- **Saturday Game Nights:** Game nights have been a hit at the Post! Join us for Xbox games, board games, card games, and more. Spend your Saturdays with us and bring the whole family!

There's a full calendar of all events on our website at [www.vfw9644.org/calendar](http://www.vfw9644.org/calendar). I've missed several things like the weekly meals, bingo, Queen of Clubs, and other events, but they are all listed on the website.

We hope to see you at these events and around the Post this December. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Come spend time with your VFW family – you belong here!

# MONTHLY MEETING

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH  
11:00 AM POST/AUX MEETING  
FREE LUNCH TO FOLLOW**





**Lynn Peterson**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**Quartermaster**

Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

With 2024 ending & 2025 about to begin, a quick summary review "look in our rear view mirror" to see the highlights of the combined Post & valued assistance from our State's Top Auxiliary 9644 unit regarding the successes of our annual Community Event Fundraisers.

To begin our years-first Annual Post/Auxiliary Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Community Event, located at our perennial three local King Soopers Stores at S. Federal Blvd./Bellevue, S. Kipling Ave./W. Bellevue & S. Kipling Ave. resulted in a Post/Aux. total net income of: \$10,153.

Secondly, our Post/ Auxiliary August Annual Pig Roast was less generous, though a success, resulting in a total net income of \$1,438.

Thirdly, our 4th Annual Car Show Community Event, again a real success, along with ideal weather, com-

binated for a total net income of \$6,125.

Lastly, our year-end annual Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Community Event, at our key local three King Soopers stores, resulted in a total net income of: \$11,440, which included a \$5,000 private donation.

Special Thanks to All Post & Auxiliary members for your time, commitment & efforts.

Lastly, our membership is trending upward, slowly, but surely. We have four, pending approval, new post members. Continue to Bring or inquire of a relative, friend, co-worker or neighbor to visit & join our ranks. Keep em coming!!

As always, thanks to all who help make it happen each week & month.

Lynn E. Peterson  
 QM, VFW Post 9644  
 lepeteron47@comcast.net

*14th Annual*  
*VFW Airlift*

**November 4th TO December 7th**

**Donations:**

- *Non-Perishable Food*
- *Toys*
- *Personal Hygiene Items*
- *Gently Used Clothing*
- *Cash*



Gary Bean  
VFW Post 9644  
Sr Vice Commander

Dear Friends and Members,

As the year winds down, we are excited to share a lineup of events and gatherings this December. Let's come together to celebrate, connect, and plan for the future. Here's what's happening:

### **Friday, December 6: Steak & Shrimp Night**

Kick off the weekend with a delicious Friday night dinner! Choose between steak, shrimp, or both. Bring your appetite and good company.

### **Saturday, December 7: Monthly Meeting**

Join us for the monthly meeting to discuss important topics, including plans for the Queen of Clubs. It's a great opportunity to welcome new members and catch up with those we haven't seen in a while.

### **Monday, December 9: Dinner Planning Meeting**

We need your help! We're seeking volunteers to assist with Friday night dinners and Sunday breakfasts. If you have meal ideas or want to support in any way, we'd love to see you there.

### **Friday, December 13: Members' Dinner & Celebration**

Let's celebrate another successful year at the Post! Enjoy a great meal,

win some prizes, and join us for the Adult Christmas Party afterward. Don't miss the White Elephant gift exchange—always a crowd favorite!

### **Saturday, December 14: Children's Christmas Party**

It's time for the kids to celebrate the holiday season! Join us for fun activities and festive cheer at our annual Children's Christmas Party.

### **Friday, December 20: Voice of Democracy & Patriot Pen Awards**

Support the next generation by attending the award ceremony for our Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen scholarship winners. Hear their inspiring speeches and celebrate their hard work.

### **Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Dinner**

Spend Christmas with loved ones—both family and Post friends. Join us for a warm and welcoming Christmas dinner here at the Post.

Thank you all for your support and friendship over the past two years. I am truly grateful for each of you and look forward to many more years of camaraderie, celebration, and new connections.

Gary Bean  
Sr. Vice Commander



### VFW POST 9644

Commander - Todd Van Sant  
Sr Vice Commander - Gary Bean  
Jr Vice Commander -  
Quartermaster - Lynn Peterson  
Adjutant - Rod Rodriguez  
Chaplain - Robert Derrera  
Service Officer - Paul Gremse  
Officer of the Day - Paul Leveque  
1yr Trustee - Gordon Eatherton  
2yr Trustee - John Bredenber  
3yr Trustee - Jason Abbey

### VFW Auxiliary 9644

President - John Whisler  
Sr Vice President - Michelle Cordova  
Jr Vice President - Greg Almandares  
Treasurer - Rachel Rodgers  
Secretary - Concetta Kile  
Chaplain - Lisa Bernhardt  
Conductor - Jason Hibsman  
Guard - Joel Knutson  
1yr Trustee - Jandra Czarnek  
2yr Trustee - Vicki Rodriguez  
3yr Trustee - Sherry Rock





**Robert Derrera**  
VFW Post 9644  
Chaplain



### **A Season of Hope and Unity: Christmas 2024**

Dear Comrades and Friends of VFW Post 9644, wonderful to see all who attended our Thanksgiving dinner! As we approach Christmas 2024, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and hope for our VFW family. This year has been one of challenges and triumphs, and through it all, our bond as veterans and supporters has only grown stronger.

### **A Season of Reflection and Gratitude**

The holiday season offers us a moment to pause and reflect on the true meaning of service and sacrifice. As we gather with loved ones, let us remember those who cannot be home for the holidays, serving our nation both at home and abroad. Their dedication embodies the spirit of the VFW and reminds us of the cost of the freedoms we hold dear.

### **Unity in Our Community**

This year, our post has continued to be a beacon of support and camaraderie in our community. Our participation in the 14th Annual VFW Airlift this December which will bring food and toys to over 1,600 veterans and their families, to our ongoing efforts to support local veterans in need, we have shown that together, we can make a significant difference.

### **Buddy Poppy Success**

I am thrilled to share some wonderful news that exemplifies the generosity and spirit of our community. This year, through our dedicated participation in the Buddy Poppy program, we raised an incredible \$25,000! This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our volunteers and the overwhelming support from our

local community. These funds will go a long way in supporting our veterans in need, aiding with medical expenses, housing, and other crucial services. Your efforts in distributing these small red flowers have bloomed into a significant impact on the lives of our fellow veterans.

### **Buddy Check: Supporting Each Other**

As we celebrate this joyous season, it's crucial to remember that the holidays can be a challenging time for many of our fellow veterans. I urge each of you to perform a "Buddy Check" on your comrades, friends, and family members who have served. A simple phone call, text message, or visit can make a world of difference to someone who might be struggling.

Take a moment to reach out and ask how they're doing, really listen, and offer support if needed. Your gesture of care and concern could be the lifeline someone desperately needs. Remember, we're all in this together, and looking out for one another is what we do best.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please don't hesitate to seek help.

The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 at 988 - simply press option #1 when prompted.

This confidential support is always there for veterans, service members, and their loved ones.

### **A Message of Hope**

As we look forward to 2025, I am filled with hope for our post and our mission. The challenges we face as veterans and as a nation may seem daunting, but I am reminded of the resilience and strength that define our community. To-

gether, we have the power to create positive change, to lift each other up, and to continue the legacy of service that brought us together.

### **Christmas Blessings**

May this Christmas season bring you moments of peace, laughter, and love. As we celebrate, let us embrace the spirit of giving that is at the heart of our organization. Whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or a moment of your time, your contributions make our VFW family stronger.

Remember, comrades, that you are never alone. Our post is more than just a meeting place; it is a home where you will always find support, understanding, and friendship.

As we gather this holiday season, let us renew our commitment to each other and to the ideals that unite us. May the coming year bring new opportunities for service, growth, and fellowship.

From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year filled with hope, health, and happiness.

### **A Christmas Prayer for our Post**

Let us bow our heads in a moment of prayer:

Heavenly Father,  
We come before You this Christmas season with grateful hearts. We thank You for the gift of Your Son, whose birth we celebrate, and for the blessings of freedom that we have defended.

Lord, we ask for Your continued guidance and protection over our veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Comfort those who are separated from loved ones, heal those who bear the physical and invisible scars of war, and grant peace to those who have lost comrades.

Unite us in purpose and strengthen our bonds of fellowship. Help us to serve our community with compassion and to support one another with unwavering dedication.

May Your light shine upon us, bringing hope to the discouraged, strength to the weary, and joy to all.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

In comradeship and faith,  
Chaplain Rob,  
VFW Post 9644





**John Whisler**  
**VFW Post 9644**  
**President**

Happy Holidays to all the members of Verle Huffman VFW Post and Auxiliary.

Great news the year is almost over for 2024 and we are half way through the VFW year 2024-2025. As I hit this point of the year I wonder where did it go, where will the rest take us.

It was a lot of hard work and a lot of fun. We have seen new members join and we have mourned the passing of other members. We prepare to spend time with blood family and friends we call family I try to remain calm with the rush and the chaos that comes with this time of the year.

As members of a group like this we get a chance to spread the joy and kindness of this holiday season with members of the military, their families and their communities. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

The point of the Scout Law for December is "KIND". I want to Thank everyone for their hard work and support of this Post and the leadership of this Post.

Thank you from your Auxiliary president,  
 John Whisler

You're Invited To

# Membership & Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13th

- \* Cocktail Hour ~ 4:30 - 5:30pm
- \* Dinner ~ 5:30 - 6:15 pm
- \* Awards & Closing ~ 6:15 - 7:00pm
- \* Adult Christmas Party ~ 7:00 - 8:30pm

**White Elephant Gift Exchange**  
 (Gift can be exchanged 2 times)

If you are going to participate please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$20 & \$25

Let's Eat, Drink & Be Merry!

2680 W Hampden Ave  
 Sheridan, CO 80110





**Rachel Rodgers**  
VFW Post 9644  
Treasurer

Dear Members,

As the year comes to a close, I'd like to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued dedication and support of our Post and Auxiliary. Your involvement, contributions, and participation make everything we do possible.

Here are a few important updates and reminders:

### **Membership Dues**

If you haven't renewed your membership for the upcoming year, now is the time! Annual members must renew their membership by December 31, otherwise you risk being a member not in good standing. Membership dues help fund our Post's activities and programs, ensuring we can continue to support veterans, their families, and our community. Please reach out to me if you need assistance with renewing.

### **Financial Updates at the Monthly Meeting**

Join us at our next monthly meeting on Saturday, December 7 at 11am, where I'll provide an overview of the

Auxiliary's financials. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and stay informed about how we're managing resources to support our mission.

### **Holiday Gathering**

Don't miss this year's **Members' Dinner and Holiday Celebration** on Friday, December 13. This event is always a wonderful time to come together, reflect on the year, and enjoy the company of fellow members. A delicious meal and festive activities await, including the much-anticipated White Elephant gift exchange. Let's make it a night to remember!

If you have any questions about our financials, membership, or upcoming events, don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for trusting me to manage our Auxiliary's finances. It's an honor to serve as your Treasurer.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

In comradeship,  
Rachel Rodgers  
Treasurer

[vfw9644auxtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:vfw9644auxtreasurer@gmail.com)

**Saturday, December 14th 10am to 2pm**

**CRAFTS**  
**GAMES**

**FOOD**  
**TIE-DYE**

**VFW Post 9644 Childrens' Christmas Party**  
Please sign up for a table at the party (See Greg or Rachel for Information)  
**SPECIAL GUEST: SANTA CLAUSE**



Greg Almendares  
VFW Post 9644  
Jr. Vice President

Dear Members,

The holiday season is in full swing, and we're excited to celebrate with you and your families! Mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming festive events:

**Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

- **Membership Dinner & Adult Christmas Party starting at 4:30pm:** Celebrate the season and our shared camaraderie with a delicious meal, great company, and holiday cheer. Don't miss out on this festive gathering!

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

- **Kids' Christmas Party from 10am to 2pm:** Bring the little ones to meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

A fun-filled event for kids to enjoy the holiday spirit.

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

- **Mug Exchange During "America Says" at 6pm:** Join in the fun and laughter with a festive mug exchange during the game night.

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everyone at these events. Let's make this holiday season one to remember!

In Comradeship,  
Greg Almendares  
Junior Vice President

We had an amazing time and meal for Thanksgiving!! Thank you to all that participated and a special thank you to our Celebrity Bartender - Commander Todd Van Sant!!





# SATURDAYS VETERAN GAMES NIGHT

@VFW POST 9644  
2680 W HAMDEN AVE, SHERIDAN, COLORADO  
POST OPENS AT 4 PM

**XBOX - NINTENDO - CARD GAMES - D&D - CROKINOLE**



## Christmas Dinner

Join us for dinner 12.25.2024

Canteen to open at 1pm Dinner at 2pm

More Information to Come Soon



# VFW 9644 - December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b>—OPEN @ 9 AM</p> <p>9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p><b>2</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>6 PM—Participation Meeting 6:15 PM—Broncos Game</p>	<p><b>3</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p><b>4</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>6 PM—Home Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>6</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>5-7 PM—Dinner (Steak and/or Shrimp) 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p><b>7</b>—OPEN @ 4 PM</p> <p>10 AM—Finance Meeting 11 AM—Post/Aux Meetings 5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p><b>8</b>—OPEN @ 9 AM</p> <p>9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p><b>9</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>6 PM—Meal Planning Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p><b>11</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>12</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>5:30 PM—Membership Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs 7 PM—Christmas Party</p>	<p><b>14</b>—OPEN @ 4 PM</p> <p>10 AM to 2 PM—Kids Christmas Party 5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p><b>15</b>—OPEN @ 9 AM</p> <p>9 AM—Breakfast 2:25 PM—Broncos Game</p>	<p><b>16</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>6 PM—Participation Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p><b>18</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>6 PM—American Says</p>	<p><b>19</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>6:15 PM—Broncos Game</p>	<p><b>20</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>	<p><b>21</b>—OPEN @ 4 PM</p> <p>5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p><b>22</b>—OPEN @ 9 AM</p> <p>9 AM—Breakfast</p>	<p><b>23</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Post/Canteen Closed</b></p>	<p><b>25</b>—OPEN @ 1 PM</p> <p>2-4 PM—Christmas Dinner Merry Christmas!</p>	<p><b>26</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p>	<p><b>27</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p><b>Dinner Cancelled</b> <b>Queen of Clubs Cancelled</b></p>	<p><b>28</b>—OPEN @ 4 PM</p> <p>5 PM—Games Night</p>
<p><b>29</b>—OPEN @ 9 AM</p> <p>9 AM—Breakfast TBD—Broncos Game</p>	<p><b>30</b>—OPEN @ 2 PM</p> <p>6 PM—Participation Meeting</p>	<p><b>31</b>—OPEN @ 3 PM</p> <p>5-7 PM—Dinner (Pot Luck) 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs</p>				



## Post

Douglas Leaf	December 1
Zebulon Mongelli	December 1
Floyd Nuss	December 1
Kenneth Strother	December 1
Jason Kneuer	December 4
Paul Morgan	December 7
Steven Schreiner	December 9
Steven Selheim	December 14
Robert Barber	December 15
Charles Callahan	December 16
David Martinez	December 16
Don Smith	December 16
Danny Berg	December 17
Gary Guenther	December 17
Warren Tellgren	December 17
Ted Childs	December 20
Anthony Duran	December 21
Bill Kirksey	December 24
Donald Campbell	December 25
Alan Stevens	December 25
Greta Bleau	December 26
Robert Cecil	December 27
Edward LaForett	December 28
David Escudero	December 31

## Auxiliary

Colleen Gilmore	December 2
Bobby Cordova	December 6
Fremilyn Cutshaw	December 7
Alejandro Rivera	December 9
Conrad Hall	December 9
Angela Perez	December 10
Edward Veith	December 11
Gregory Engle	December 11
Kathy Valdez	December 11
Andrea Newlyn	December 13
Rachelle Miller	December 13
Charlene Cochren	December 15
Roberta Perkins	December 15
Bobbie Lineberger	December 20
Darlene Martinez	December 20
Claudia Stough	December 22
Romona Kirskey	December 22
Shirley Conway	December 22
Mary Carter	December 26
Karol Sventko	December 30
Donald Goodsell	December 31

## ***Donate to VFW Post 9644***

Use the QR Code to donate to your local veterans through your VFW Post.  
Donations go directly to veterans in need.



(This QR Code will take you to PayPay where you can add your donation)