# 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**

# **Auxiliary Officers**

Commander	Todd Van Sant	President	John Whisler
Senior Vice Commander	Gary Bean	Senior Vice President	Michelle Cordova
Junior Vice Commander	Joe Camarillo	Junior Vice President	Greg Almendares
Quartermaster	Lynn Peterson	Treasurer	Rachel Rodgers
Chaplain	Robert Derrera	Chaplain	Lisa Bernhardt
Adjutant	Rod Rodriguez	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

.Comrades, Auxiliary Members, and Friends,

As we push into 2025, membership remains our No. 1 priority! We need your help to continue growing both our Post and Auxiliary. If you know someone eligible for the VFW or its Auxiliary, bring them down to the post and get them signed up! The future of VFW Post 9644 depends on the new members we bring in, so let's make it happen.

# Upcoming Senior Lunch – A Longstanding Tradition

One of our most cherished traditions is returning! Our annual **Senior Lunch** is happening soon, and we're excited to invite senior citizens from surrounding nursing homes to enjoy a warm meal, bingo, and great company. This event has been a staple for decades, bringing joy to those who attend. The **City of Sheridan** provides school buses to shuttle guests back and forth, and we're hoping to have the **Scouts and Young Marines** on hand to assist. If you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to have you!

### Bingo Night - Every Tuesday!

Our **Tuesday Night Bingo** continues to grow in popularity! If you haven't been down to play yet, you're missing out! Dinner starts at **5 PM**, and the games begin at **6 PM**. As of now, the **Bingo jackpot is over \$1,000** – don't miss your chance to win big and support your VFW!

# Saturday Night Game Night – Come Join the Fun!

Looking for something fun to do on a Saturday night? **Game Night** at the Post has been a blast! Whether you're into cards, board games, or just socializing, we'd love to see you. Stop by, bring a friend, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes Post 9644 special.

### Spring Council of Administration – March 14-16, 2025

We are honored to be hosting the **Spring Council** of **Administration** this year!

• Friday Night, March 14th – Join us for great food and an Irish Dance performance to kick off the weekend.

Saturday & Sunday, March 15th-16th – The VFW and Auxiliary will hold trainings and council meetings, bringing together members from across Colorado. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow veterans and Auxiliary members from around the state.

#### Support Your VFW – Donate Today!

Have you considered donating to your VFW Post? It's easy to do and helps ensure we can continue supporting veterans and our community. By clicking this link – <u>Donate Here</u> – you can make a one-time or recurring donation. I personally give **\$20 every month** to support our Post, and if you can chip in a few bucks, it would make a big difference.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. Let's make February another great month at **VFW Post 9644!** 





Lynn Peterson VFW Post 9644 Quartermaster

Dear Post 9644 & Auxiliary Members:

The old traditional saying is "No News Is Good News!" Well, it doesn't work this month. So, here's some...." Stand By For News" (Paul Harvey, Iconic Radio News Broadcaster, from 1940s-2009).

Officially it's February, so Valentines Day is just around the corner and evident in our Post Home's Valentines Day Tree. Come see & post your heart ornament honoring someone dear.

Our Post Membership is increasing; let's welcome them. Come visit & join our ranks for fun & games & give them a big warm howdy duty, hand salute. Welcome...... Harry Dudley, US Army, Afghanistan, Annual Member and Anthony Feliciano, USMC, Iraq Campaign, Life Member.

Additionally, our Post continues to grow this month with several Pending to be approved New Post Transfer Members & one New Post Annual Member: to be formally announced in March newsletter.

\*\*\*Remember, we wear no rank, respecting each other and the privilege of serving our fellow Veterans & Families.\*\*\*

"Back in the day", it was Beano, lotto, tombola, housey-housey; now we call it Bingo. Come to the Post's Barrys Bingo on Monday, 12Noon - 2PM, as well as Post's Home Tuesday Bingo 6PM - 7:30PM, including the Post Auxiliary's

Thursday, Bingo, 12Noon - 2PM. While our attendees are growing, so is our Bingo Jack Post \$\$. Some Always Wins. Let it be YOU next! See Quartermaster Lynn Peterson, Games Manager @ 720-292-6992 or lepeterson47@comcast.net for details, beit as a Player or a helper.

Importantly, this past January, our Post 9644 was blessed & able to financially assist Two local veterans in need; who, based on their health & financial struggles, were able, thorough our Post Veterans Relief Fund Grant, to timely assist them with help.... totaling more than \$2,300.

So....IF you know of a Colorado Resident Veteran needing some valued & timely assistance, please contact either Commander Todd Van Sant &/or Quartermaster Lynn Peterson.

NOTE; Visit www.9644.org for more information & Veteran Relief Fund Grant. Grant funding expires on June 30, 2025. So please, if you know of a Colorado Veteran with immediate needs, act & apply NOW.

As always, thanks for your reading eyes, listening ears & guiding assistance. The Best....to all who help make it happen each week & month.

Lynn E. Peterson QM, VFW Post 9644 lepeterson47@comcast.net 720-292-6992





Gary Bean VFW Post 9644 Sr Vice Commander

Another month has passed, bringing another opportunity to make a difference in the life of a veteran and their family. Your participation in Post activities is what keeps our mission strong. Here's what's happening this month at the Post!

Monthly Meeting – Saturday at 11 AM
Join us for our monthly meeting this Saturday
at 11 AM. Your attendance is always appreciated as we discuss important business at both
the Post and Auxiliary levels. Stay afterward

for a free lunch!

# Get Involved in Upcoming Projects & Events

If you're looking to take a more active role in supporting veterans, consider joining us for our participation meetings on Monday, the 10th and 24th at 6 PM. These meetings are a great way to get involved in planning upcoming events and projects.

# Bingo Nights – Support the Post & Auxiliary

Monday & Thursday Bingo at Berry
 Bingo – Assist or play to support our fundraisers. Either way, it's a great time for a great cause!

**Tuesday Night Bingo & Dinner (5 PM – 8 PM)** – Enjoy a night of fellowship, fun, and maybe even take home some winnings!

#### Friday Night Dinners (5 PM - 7 PM)

Join us for a delicious meal and stay up to date on everything happening at the Post. A great way to connect with fellow members and support our efforts! (Please note: No dinner on Feb. 14 due to hall setup for the Senior Luncheon.)

#### Super Bowl Sunday - February 9

Cheer on your favorite team at the Post's **Annual Chili Cookoff!** Bring your best chili entry by **10 AM** and enjoy a day of great food and camaraderie. Thanks in advance to all who participate and help make this event a success!

## Senior Luncheon – February 15 Volunteers are needed on Feb. 14 to help

set up the hall (10 AM – 4 PM) and assist with cleanup after the event. Your time and effort are truly appreciated!

## **District 1 Meeting – February 22**

Our Post will be hosting the **District 1 meeting** this month. A special session will be held to pass the district bylaws, which are required for all Posts in our district. Your participation and input are valuable—this is **your** district, and **your voice matters!** 

A heartfelt **thank you** to all our volunteers who help make our Post one of the most active in the state. Whether you attend meetings, cook a meal, assist with bingo, or simply show up to support, **your dedication does not go unnoticed!** 

For additional events and activities not mentioned here, stay tuned to our updates. Let's continue making a difference—together!

Best wishes, 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 Iyr Trustee - Gordon Eatherton 2yr Trustee - John Bredenberg 3yr Trustee - Jason Abbey

## VFW Auxiliary 9644

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







Robert Derrera VFW Post 9644 Chaplain



# A Message of Love, Unity, and Service:

Dear Comrades, Families, and Friends,

As we step into February, a month that embodies love and togetherness, I want to reflect on the profound connections that bind us as members of VFW Post 9644. It is not just love for our families and friends that we celebrate this month but also our shared commitment to each other and to the principles we hold dear: service, sacrifice, and community.

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing appreciation to those who matter most in our lives. As veterans, we understand the sacrifices our families have made alongside us—whether waiting for us to return home, supporting us through challenges, or sharing in our triumphs. Let us take the time to show them how deeply they are cherished.

This month presents an opportunity to deepen the bonds within our Post. In times of service, camaraderie is forged through shared experiences. Now, as veterans, we have the chance to continue building those bonds through acts of kindness and support for one another. If you know a fellow member who might be struggling or feeling isolated, reach out to them. A simple gesture, like a phone call or an invitation to join us at the

Post, can make a world of difference.

This month, we also celebrate Presidents' Day—a time to honor the leaders who have shaped our nation. It is a reminder of the principles we swore to defend liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness. Let us continue to uphold these values not only in words but also in our actions within our Post and community.

I encourage each of you to join us for our February events, including our monthly meeting and the Chili Cook Off at the Superbowl watch party. These gatherings are more than opportunities to share time together; they are chances to strengthen our fellowship and renew our shared mission.

As your Chaplain, I am here to walk with you through life's joys and challenges. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need a listening ear, a prayer, or a moment of support. My heart and my door are always open.

Let us carry the spirit of love and unity beyond this month, ensuring it echoes in every interaction and every corner of our Post. Together, we can continue to be a beacon of hope and strength for each other and our community.

In comradeship and faith, Chaplain Rob, VFW Post 9644





John Whisler VFW Post 9644 President

Dear Members,

Greetings members of VFW Post and Auxiliary 9644. Wow, another month down. Where did January go so fast? We have pushed through the holiday rush and greeted a new year. It is February—snow is on the ground, and love is in the air. Love for our friends and family. Love for our fellow citizens and veterans.

We have had reasons to celebrate over the past month and reasons to mourn as well. We must stop and think, "Why are we doing this?" and "Who are we doing this for?" If we can answer these two questions with an honest heart and believe in the answer, we will be a better unit.

As we enter this month, please be mindful that it is "Heart Health Awareness" month. If you have a family history of heart conditions or know someone with a heart condition, this is the month to take a stand and get yourself checked out.

The Scout Law for February is "Cheerful." This is a nice change from the last few more serious Scout Laws. Let's take this opportunity to spread positivity and optimism in all we do.

Looking ahead, we have more opportunities to make an impact. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming events. Your involvement is what keeps our organization strong, and I encourage each of you to participate in any way you can.

As always, our mission remains steadfast: to serve veterans, active-duty military, and their families. If you have ideas, concerns, or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out. Let's continue to work together to make a difference.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Yours in service, John Whisler President



Michelle Cordova VFW Post 9644 Sr Vice President

#### **Happy Healthy Heart Month!**

February is Healthy Heart Month, and it's the perfect time to focus on heart health! What are you doing to take care of your heart? Maintaining a healthy blood pressure is one of the key steps to ensuring a strong heart. Small changes in your daily routine can make a big difference in improving heart health.

Here are some simple but effective hearthealthy tips:

- **Move More:** Swap sitting during meetings for walking meetings or stretch breaks.
- **Take the Stairs:** Choose the stairs over the elevator whenever possible.
- **Drink Smart:** Replace sugary beverages like soda and fruit juice with fruit-infused water, unsweetened coffee, or tea.
- Healthy Breakfast Choices: Instead of doughnuts, opt for yogurt with fruit to start your day right.

**Better Snacking:** Reach for a piece of fruit or veggies instead of a candy bar.

Making small, intentional changes can signifi-

cantly impact your heart health over time. Let's take steps to keep our hearts strong and healthy!

#### **VFW Auxiliary Membership News**

Do you know a friend or family member who might be eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary? Now is a great time to invite them to become a member! We have exciting new membership discounts for 2025:

- Current Annual Members: Receive a \$20 discount when upgrading to a Lifetime Membership.
- **New Annual Members:** Enjoy a special buy-one-year, get-the-second-year-free offer (one-time only).

New Lifetime Members (Aged 50 or Younger): Get a one-time \$25 discount when signing up.

Take advantage of these great opportunities and help grow our VFW Auxiliary family!

Stay heart-healthy and spread the word about these exciting membership benefits!



Rachel Rodgers VFW Post 9644 Treasurer

Dear VFW Auxiliary Members,

February is a time to celebrate love, service, and commitment—not just in our personal lives but also in our dedication to veterans, their families, and our community. As your Treasurer, I want to share important updates and reminders about our Auxiliary's financial health and membership.

## **Key Financial Updates & Reminders**

- 2024 Membership Dues If you haven't renewed your membership yet, now is the time! Your dues help us continue our mission of serving veterans and supporting important programs.
- Financial Report Our Auxiliary remains in good standing, thanks to your ongoing support. A full financial update will be shared at our next meeting.

## **How You Can Help This Month**

- Stay Engaged Your participation in meetings and discussions helps guide our organization's financial decisions.
- Ask Questions Have questions about our financial reports or procedures? I'm always available to ensure transparency.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families. In service,

Respectfully, Rachel Rodgers VFW 9644 Auxiliary Treasurer vfw9644auxtreasurer@gmail.com



Elizabeth Whisler Scout Troop 42 Scoutmaster

WOW! The scouts have hit the ground running!

They have already hosted breakfast for the post, Blood Drive, and an Eagle Court of Honor, and that is just the beginning!

With February just around the corner there is more to come. With just less than 2 weeks away a couple of the Scout and parents are going to a Winter camp trip. Klondike.

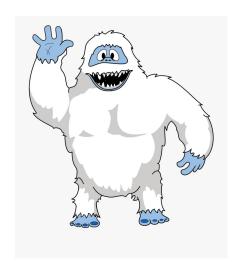
Klondike is a wintertime event for Boy Scouts of America (BSA) patrols to test their Scout-

ing skills and leadership abilities. Scouts earn points for completing challenges at each station. The patrol with the highest score wins the derby, Scouts use homemade sleds to transport their gear. Every year they have a theme and This year their theme is I believe in Yetis.

My thoughts are you must be a Yeti to camp in the snow. I will be there to make sure no one gets "eaten" by a hungry Yeti Lol.

Elizabeth Whisler Troop 42 Scoutmaster





# Canteen News from Jandra Czarnek, Canteen Manager

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

## February 9th - SUPER BOWL SUNDAY - CHILI COOKOFF

Bring down your best red or green chili for the chili cookoff. You MUST have your chili at the Post no later than 2:30pm. Bragging rights and prizes for best chili.

#### February 15<sup>th</sup> – SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON

HELP NEEDED!! Come down and help if possible or enjoy the luncheon with friends.

## POST HOURS (CLOSING TIMES DEPEND ON BUSINESS)

Sunday - Open at 9am. Breakfast from 9am to 12pm

Monday - Open at 2pm

**Tuesday –** Open at 3pm. Dinner from 5pm to 7pm & Bingo starts at 6pm with Queen of Clubs to Follow last bingo game **Wednesday –** Open at 3pm

Thursday - Open at 3pm

Friday - Open at 2pm. Dinner from 5pm to 7pm, Queen of Clubs at 7pm

**Saturday** – Open at 4pm. Game Night from 5pm to 10pm. (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month is the Post/Auxiliary Monthly meeting, Canteen opens at approximately between 12pm and 1pm)

Come down and enjoy a drink or two and some good company.

Mark your calendars for Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Wearing of the Green with Corned Beef & Cabbage/Potatoes OR Shepards Pie and Irish Dancers!



Patriot's Pen is an annual youth essay contest created by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1995. Each year, over 68,000 students in grades six to eight, and it encourages young minds to examine America's history and their own experiences in modern American society by drafting an essay expressing their views based on the patriotic them chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Each first-place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000. This year's theme was "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

This year's first place essay for the VFW Department of Colorado is from Avi John Novotny, who is in 7th grade at Campus Middle School in Greenwood Village, CO. Her entry is from District 1,VFW Post 9644 & District 1,VFW Post 9644 amp; Auxiliary in Sheridan, CO.

# CONGRATULATIONS AVI FOR MAKING IT ALL THE WAY TO NATIONAL FOR YOUR AMAZING WORK ON THE PATROIT'S PEN!!

#### Preserving the Heart of America's Democracy

President James Buchanan once remarked, "I like the noise of democracy." America provides citizens a sacred opportunity for everyone to share their voices with our government. My voice in our democracy carries principles of hard work and passion, champions the diverse fabric of our nation, and advocates for public education.

First, my voice in democracy demonstrates the power of dreams and perseverance. The concept that anyone can succeed with their aspirations and resilience drives the American voice. A study from The Harvard Business Review finds that sixty percent of chief executive officers owe their success to motivation and passion. Furthermore, a Developmental Psychology study claims that aspirations as a youth increases completion of higher education and raises income by twenty-five percent. Evidently, the promise of the American dream drives our country and motivates us to be successful. Essentially, my voice in democracy urges people to find their colling and fulfill it wholeheartedly. As Martin Luther King Junior reminds us, anything is possible with a dream.

Next, my voice in our democracy embraces the differences that build America. Having been exposed ot different cultures and lifestyles, I understand the beauty of diversity. I reassure the privilege of learning different languages, freely reading books, and attending a school that is a sanctuary for different perspectives. To demonstrate the impact of global voices, forty percent of American Noble Laureates have been immigrants. From Rosa Parks to Cesar Chavez, our differences make us prosper, and my voice in our democracy champions the pluralism that is America.

Finally, my voice fights for American public educations. Nelson Mandela once remarked, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Public schools nurture learners in a crucial way. Instead of a censored education, public schools embody the "messiness" needed to understand the world. A study by the Center for American Progress found that public school students are thirty-five percent more likely to discuss "difficult" topics like inequality and racism, which are essential for being an informed and impactful citizen. As an attendee of a diverse and noisy public school myself, my voice amplifies their importance when uplifted and supported.

Ultimately, my voice embodies the perseverance and passion that has made our nation prosper and expresses the importance of pluralism and public education in fostering youth.







Dignity, Honor, Respect

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Vietgam Veterans Way

1100 to 1400

Doors Open at 1030

WHERE: VFW Post 9644 2680 W. Hampden Avenue Sheridan, Colorado 80110

# \$35 Event Ticket

Each event ticket includes sponsorship for one veteran.

FREE event to Veteran's of all Eras
- Veteran's must preregister



- BBQ
- Cash Bar
- 11 am Opening & Honor Bell Ceremony
- · Official Launch of "Honor Bell" Song
- · Louis Olivera & Michelle Mallin Awards
- · Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony
- Entertainment
- Silent Auction and Drawings



HONOR BELL FOUNDATION

www.HonorBell.org

Thank You! For your service

For Tickets and Sponsoring
<a href="https://HBWelcome.givesmart.com">https://HBWelcome.givesmart.com</a>
or Text HBWelcome to 76278



**Event Partner** 

rage II - VI w Fos		, ,				rebluary 2023
9644	Sat	1—OPEN @ 4 PM 10 AM—Finance Meeting 11 AM—Post/Aux Meetings 5 PM—Games Night	8—OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night	15—OPEN @ 4 PM SENIOR LUNCH 5 PM—Games Night	22——OPEN @ 4 PM 5 PM—Games Night	
VFW Post 9644	Fi		7 ——OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner—Steak and/or Shrimp 7 PM—Queen of Clubs	14——OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs	21——OPEN @ 2 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 7 PM—Queen of Clubs	28—OPEN @ 2 PM
/FW	Thu		6—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night	13—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night	20——OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—American Says	27—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Games Night
THE COLUMN COLUM	Wed		5—OPEN @ 3 PM	12—OPEN @ 3 PM	19—OPEN @ 3 PM	26—OPEN @ 3 PM 6 PM—Home Board Meeting
	Tue		4—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	11——OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	18——OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs	25—OPEN @ 3 PM 5-7 PM—Dinner 6-8 PM—Bingo 8 PM—Queen of Clubs
February 2025	Mon	CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE. See web- site VFW9644.ORG for latest calendar.	3—OPEN @ 2 PM	10——OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting	17—OPEN @ 2 PM PRESIDENTS DAY	24—OPEN @ 2 PM 6 PM—Participation Meeting
Febr	Sun	UPCOMING EVENTS 7/4 JULY 4th PICNIC 7/6 ROCKIES GAME 8/16 PIG ROAST 9/13 CAR SHOW	Z——OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast	9 AM—Breakfast 4 PM—Superbowl Chili Cookoff	16——OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast	23—OPEN @ 9 AM 9 AM—Breakfast



•	<b>.</b>
David Briggs	February 1
Norman Chilcote	February 1
Delane Ihli	February 1
Patrick Fraley	February 6
Kenneth Kingsley	February 8
John Benedetti	February 11
Michael Cox	February 11
Henry Fellerman	February 11
Richard Karnik	February 11
Larry Keller	February 11
Brian Kemp	February 12
Nicholas Ricci	February 12
James Gowans	February 13
Matthew Goligoski	February 14
Tommie Brunz	February 16
Jack Carbaugh	February 16
James O'Donnell	February 18
Juan Gonzales	February 19
Carlos Peralta	February 19
Sam Searcy	February 21
James Steele	February 23
Elden Rasmussen	February 26
Jerry Cutshaw	February 27
Christopher Basquez	February 28
Jeffrey Marten	February 28
Fabisn Arreola	February 29

Kimberly Swanson	February 1
Nicholas Huerta	February 3
Carol Corsaut	February 6
Teresa Howell Longfellow	February 6
Florence Zamora	February 7
Teddie Hernandez	February 7
Maxine Blaine	February 10
Connie Hohn	February 10
Michael Straka	February 10
Joel Knutson	February 12
Leticia Vega Boggs	February 12
Barbara Mondragon	February 14
Gerard Ramirez	February 18
Mary Howell	February 19
Diantha Trujillo	February 19
Eileen Rodriguez	February 21
Helen Roy Smart	February 22
Tony Ross	February 22
Barbara Maschka	February 24
Sue Murphy	February 24
Mary Fisher	February 25

If you are seeing that your birthday is incorrect please let Lynn Peterson, Post Quarter-master for the Post side or Rachel Rodgers, Auxiliary Treasurer for the Auxiliary Side.

# 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.

