



# Bolingbrook Legionnaire



American Legion Post #1288

Auxiliary Unit Post #1288

P.O. Box 1133 Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133

Veterans Serving Veterans for over 40 years

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Website: [www.legion1288.org](http://www.legion1288.org) • Phone Number (630) 226-8484 • E-mail: [ilam1288@yahoo.com](mailto:ilam1288@yahoo.com)

## 2019 Vet Fest Was a Hit!!



The rain didn't stop this year's 5<sup>th</sup> annual Vet Fest. Pictured (left) members of the American Legion Post 1288 and VFW Post 5917 read off prize winners; (right) the band Within 4 Days perform the night cap at Vet Fest.

Although the forecast called for rain all day, this didn't dampen the spirits of all who came out for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Vet Fest held on Saturday, August 31 at the Bolingbrook Town Center Performing Arts Stage. In fact, we only had a passing shower in what was otherwise a terrific day for veterans, family, and friends. This year's Vet Fest supported Honor Flight Chicago and featured incredible musical acts throughout the day. Randy Klotter – Welcome Back Klotter – was the event MC, and music was provided by David's Bazaar, Star Chasers, and Within 4 Days. Numerous vendors were also on-hand to provide resources, information, and much more to the many veterans, family members, and friends in attendance.

A special "thank you" to all of our volunteers, participating organizations, and everyone who helped put this year's successful event together.

### Aim High!!! Happy Birthday Air Force!!

The United States Air Force celebrated its 72<sup>th</sup> Birthday on September 18, 2019. For over 70 years the USAF has provided the Nation with incredible air-superiority. Happy Birthday Air Force!!

## Commander's Corner

Greetings to all,

It's a great honor to serve as your commander and I look forward to an exciting year.

Have you taken the time recently to ask yourself why you're a member of the American Legion?

Last count we had around 144 paid members. However, routinely there are only 12 to 15 members who regularly attend monthly meetings and about half as many who participate in Post activities.

Why did all these people join the American Legion?

While I can't answer the question for anyone else I'll share with you why I'm a member of the American Legion. It is a sense of patriotic duty. The same sense of Patriotism I felt as a young man who volunteered to serve during the Vietnam War. And while my service today is not the same as it was back then, the desire to continue serving remains strong.

I find fulfillment on a social level through the camaraderie with both older and younger members who serve in varying capacities from all branches of the Military.

Not only do I receive fulfillment from being involved with post meetings, but also with our many community service and veterans programs, Honor Guard, Veterans in the classroom and other youth programs, Boy scouts, Boys State, State Police academy youth program.

While some members are restricted in their ability to participate, there are still ways to be involved that range from encouraging and supporting members while interacting with them, to serving on committees and participating in fund raisers.

I ask you to take my challenge to think about why you're a member of the American Legion and become more involved with Post activities. I also encourage you to share with others why you're a member, and think about your skills that can still be used to serve our community and our youths.

Your Comrades need your help because there is more work than a few of us can handle!

"First in last out"

Commander

Herschel Nelson

## 2019 National POW/MIA Recognition Day



Members of Post 1288 and VFW Post 5917 gather at the Village Veteran's Memorial for the POW-MIA Recognition Day.

In 1979, Congress passed a resolution authorizing a National POW/MIA Recognition Day. On Friday, September 20, members of Post 1288 and VFW 5917 gathered at the Bolingbrook Veteran's Memorial in observance of National POW/ MIA Recognition Day. Thanks to all who took time this year to remember the service and sacrifice of our POWs as well as those who are MIA and their families.

## Don't Delay - Renew Today

The 2019-2020 American Legion membership year is well underway and we are currently processing renewals and new members. Remember, the LEGION Act which was recently signed into law modified the eligibility dates for membership to the Legion. Veterans who were previously not eligible to join may now be eligible under the Act. Please see [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) for more info or contact the Post. Remember – don't delay – renew (or join) today!!!

## With Special Thanks to...



Post 1288 is proud to partner with many of our community organizations and businesses. It is these important relationships and collaborations that give visibility to the important work we do for veterans and the Bolingbrook community.

This month, Post 1288 would like to give a special shout out to Tailgaters Sports Bar & Grill. Owner Bob Zalewski and his friendly staff have been terrific partners for both Post 1288 and VFW Post 5917. In addition to hosting the weekly Veteran's Draw (every Thursday evening), Tailgaters has participated in numerous events and activities alongside veterans in the community.

The next time you stop in to Tailgaters for some terrific entertainment, great food, cold drinks, or to catch the game, please be sure to give Bob and his staff a big thank you for their work with veterans.

Tailgaters is located at 431 W. Boughton Rd in Bolingbrook. Check them out on Facebook or visit their website at [www.tailgaters.com](http://www.tailgaters.com).

## See You at the Next Post Meeting

As a reminder, the Post meets every third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Post 1288 home (201 Canterbury Ln. Suite B). Please join us!!

## In the Spotlight – Honor Flight Chicago



Honor Flight Chicago sends Chicago area veterans on a one-day all expense paid trip to Washington DC. Pictured: (Left) Post 1288's Angelo Irizarry during his Honor Flight trip this summer. (Center) During Angelo's trip Former Sec. of State, Gen. Colin Powell greeted veterans. (Right) Veterans at Midway Airport wait to board their flight to DC.

This year's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Vet Fest which took place on Saturday, August 31 at the Bolingbrook Town Center Performing Arts Stage supported Honor Flight Chicago. Honor Flight Chicago is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2008 to recognize America's senior war veterans by flying them for a day on an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC. Affiliated with the national Honor Flight network of over 130 hubs, Honor Flight Chicago is one of the largest hubs in the country.

According to Doug Meffley, Co-Director of Honor Flight Chicago, veterans selected to participate go on a one-day trip to Washington DC where they are greeted by volunteers upon their arrival. From there they board buses and travel to various memorials in the DC area accompanied by police escort. The final stop of the day is at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center which houses the Enola Gay and the Space Shuttle Discovery. "This is a deeply personal experience that is different for every veteran," said Mr. Meffley who added that the day is built around honoring the veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. "They are surrounded by love and get the 'thank you' that many never received."

Post 1288's very own Angelo Irizarry, an Army Vietnam Veteran, was fortunate to be selected to participate in an Honor Flight trip this past summer. Departing from Midway Airport on July 10, Angelo mentioned that they were treated to songs from the Andrews Sisters in the airline terminal. Upon arriving in Washington DC, Angelo mentioned, "there were a ton of people greeting us on our left and our right saying 'thank you.'" From there they boarded buses to travel to memorials in Washington DC. Angelo mentioned that the police escort had sirens on the whole time. The bus took them past the Pentagon, into Arlington and also featured a stop at the WWII Memorial where they were able to see former US Secretary of State and retired four-star General Colin Powell. "It was a great trip and I took a ton of pictures," said Angelo.

Every World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran in the Chicagoland area is invited to apply to travel with Honor Flight Chicago to Washington DC for their day of honor and remembrance. Applications are available on-line at <https://www.honorflightchicago.org>. Of course donations to Honor Flight Chicago are also greatly appreciated and go to help fund the trips for veterans. Information on

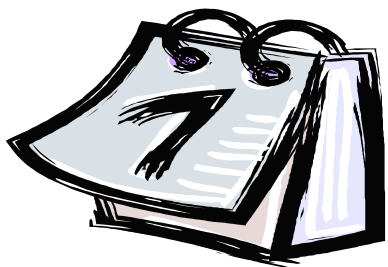
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how to donate can also be found on the Honor Flight Chicago link. When asked what else can people do to help out Honor Flight Chicago, Mr. Meffley mentioned it would be helpful to spread the word about Honor Flight Chicago especially to those veterans who are eligible to participate. Currently there is a wait list of more than 2,000 veterans, and eligible veterans are encouraged to apply.

Thanks to Honor Flight Chicago for honoring and remembering our nations veterans!

(To check out Angelo's pictures see our photo gallery at <https://www.legion1288.org/>)

## Calendar of Events



Please consult directly with the Post website as many additional activities are currently being planned and calendared.

**September 16, 2019 – 7:30 PM** Post 1288 monthly meeting.

**October 13, 2019** – Cheesy Pretzel 5K at the Promenade (we help park cars)

**October 20, 2019** – Manteno Bingo Trip.

**October 21, 2019 – 7:30 PM** Post 1288 monthly meeting.

**November 3, 2019** – Utica Veteran's Parade

**November 11, 2019** – Veterans Day Ceremony at Village Memorial at 11 AM

**November 16, 2019** - Festival of Lights at Promenade

**November 18, 2019 – 7:30 PM** Post 1288 monthly meeting.

**December 8, 2019** – Post Oratorical Contest

**December 14, 2019** – Annual Veterans Christmas Party

## At Pathway's Parade, the Veterans Were Winners... Sort of



Larry Shaver and Bob Adame celebrate a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish from last year's Pathways Parade.

As we were mustering for our color guard detail in this year's Bolingbrook Pathways Parade, a member of the parade commission approached us with a trophy. He mentioned that our performance from last year's parade earned us a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Trophy!! Unfortunately, the trophy was never awarded over to us until this year. We will take it!! Our performance at this year's parade was outstanding as usual. Don't know if we won an award... maybe we will find out again next year!

## Our Solemn Duty to Our Fellow Veterans



Members of the American Legion Post 1288 and VFW Post 5917 Honor Guard join US Army service members at a recent ceremony for fallen comrade, Frank Cale.

From time to time, members of the Bolingbrook Veterans Honor Guard from American Legion Post 1288 and VFW Post 5917 are called upon to perform military ceremonies at the funerals, wakes, or memorials of fallen service members and veterans. This is a duty we as veterans are honored to perform. And we have been fortunate to be able to staff our Honor Guard with enough participants from our Legion and VFW members, but we can always use more help. Please reach out to us if you are a veteran or local active military or reservist that can help with our Honor Guard detail. We certainly can't anticipate when an Honor Guard will be needed, but to have a roster of veterans and active military that we can call upon will help fulfill our solemn duty when a veteran or service member has fallen. To get on our roster, please send an email to Post 1288 at [ilam1288@yahoo.com](mailto:ilam1288@yahoo.com).

Additionally, if you are aware of any veteran or service member family that would like a military ceremony for their fallen loved one, please pass along our contact information. We would be honored to help.

### - In Memoriam -

Frank Cale – US Army  
 Matthew J. Berszoner – US Air Force  
 Stanley S. Liszka – US Marine Corps  
 Charles S. Swanson – US Army  
 Frank Joseph Green – US Air Force  
 Drew A. Carsten – US Army  
 John M. Armstrong – US Air Force

### All the Places Are In Pieces



Components of the M1 Garand rifle are laid out after field stripping during the last American Legion Post 1288 meeting.

Members of the Post who attended the August meeting were in for a treat when Commander Herschel Nelson led a class on the proper dis-assembly, assembly and cleaning of the M1 Garand Rifle. The rifle is used by the Post during parades and ceremonies, and therefore must be routinely cleaned and maintained. Did you miss out on this class? Do you have a M1 Garand "thumb"? Do you miss the smell of CLP and RBC while cleaning a rifle with your buddies? Well come on out and join us at our next meeting. We don't take apart and clean rifles at every meeting (this was a first), but there is a lot that we do that you do not want to miss out on!!

American Legion

Post 1288

Presents

**2019-2020**

# **Oratorical Contest**

- A Constitutional Speech Contest –

Sunday, December 8, 2019

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

American Legion Post 1288

201 Canterbury Ln. Unit B

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

All area High School students under age 20 are eligible. Qualifying contestants may go on to compete in American Legion District, Division, Department and National Competitions with a chance to earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. See [www.legion1288.org](http://www.legion1288.org) for complete rules and details. Contestant slots are limited so register today. For questions or to register as a participant, please email [Sgtroy0341@gmail.com](mailto:Sgtroy0341@gmail.com) or call 630-730-1225. Registrations must be received by no later than midnight November 30, 2019.