

THE RIVERVIEW MEMORIAL DEBRIEF

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Riverview Memorial – Post 8108
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POST8108@VFWFL.ORG

February 2024



Silver Star Award

Post 8108 is recognized as a leader in the organization. During this year's VFW Department of Florida Mid-Winter Conference meeting, held in Orlando on January 20, the Post was presented with the Silver Star award.

Flanked by Florida VFW Dept Commander Mac McLucas and VFW National Commander in Chief Duane Sarmiento, Post Commander Nelson Betancourt proudly accepted the award on behalf of Riverview Memorial – Post 8108.

This yearly award is presented for achievements in membership, both at the individual and Post level.

Post 8108 attained a 94.67% by December 26, surpassing the required minimum of 90%. Our Post was the only one to do so within District 12, which has a total of 7 posts.

The Post continues to lead the District, currently standing at 97%, with only nine (9) more members needed to hit the 100% mark. The next two closest posts have 90% each.

Renewals and new members are the lifeblood of every post. Post 8108 and Auxiliary members conduct quarterly recruiting drives at the MacDill AFB Base Exchange. There, our members provide information on Post activities, how we impact the veteran and local community, our Service Officer program, and yes - post membership. If you would like to participate with our recruiting team, stay tuned to our announcements regarding upcoming trips to MacDill.

Congratulations to Post 8108 and everyone that contributes to making it a successful post! ***BRAVO ZULU***



Commander's Message:

Friends all,

Already it's February and things will only speed up from here on in.

Congratulations to our Post Auxiliary on their 25th anniversary. An organization such as ours runs heavily on TEAMWORK, and our Auxiliary is very much a TEAMPLAYER. We are fortunate to have them at our side. Thank you for all you do and your continued support. Congratulations, and here's to the next 25!

During the Mid-Winter Conference meeting in Orlando this past January 20th, the Department leadership once again stressed the requirement

and importance of members, both Post and Auxiliary, showing their respective membership card upon entering a Post's social quarters – better known as the Canteen. Doing so helps protect the Post and its liquor license. You've earned the right to be here, show your card with pride.

Lastly, congratulations to Comrade John Rizzo who posted as the top marksman in the informal competition during the Post's recent Vintage US Military Rifles Range Day event.

Hope to see you all around the Post soon.

In comradeship,
Nelson Betancourt, Hooah!

Auxiliary President's Message:

Happy February 8108 family. We just finished up a successful midwinter with the Auxiliary hitting over 90% membership. Thank you to Laura Schuler (membership chair) and all those who helped to recruit. We are currently at 96% and 11 away from our 100% goal. Now is the time to share with your friends, family, co-workers the benefits of our amazing organization.

February will be busy. We are hosting the Sweetheart dinner, a crock pot cookoff, and starting our Easter cards for troops campaign.

I would like to thank all those who helped us celebrate our 25 year auxiliary appreciation. Thank you to the post for your support and comradeship! Here's to the next 25!

I look forward to seeing you all at the post!

Yours in Service,
Anita Webb
VFW 8108 Auxiliary President



**Welcome to Our
Newest Post Members**

**Paul Fickett, Army: Afghanistan, Earl Lewis, Army: Vietnam
Christopher Romig, Army: Iraq**

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, **THERE IS HELP.**



Dial 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Or **844-MyFLVet** (844-693-5838)

Florida Veterans Support Line

Or text to **“NAMI”**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness



Anita, Laura, Teresa

Chilling in the back patio.



TAPS

Comrade Walt Racing – Jan 9, 2024

Bring Your Membership Card

A friendly reminder that as per Florida ABC laws – all Post and Auxiliary members need to show their membership card to the on-duty bartender when entering the Post.

Did You Know?

There are 5,667 posts worldwide, with at least one in every state, the District of Columbia, US territory, and even overseas. Total VFW and VFW Auxiliary membership hovers at close to 1.4 million. Check out the full [VFW Fast Sheet online](#).



During January's Bike Fest Week, Auxiliary member Carole Johnson stands ready to provide information on My Warrior's Place.

VFW Department of Florida attendees at the Mid-Winter Conference, Orlando Florida – Jan 20, 2024. During the proceedings, Post 8108 was presented with this year’s Silver Star Award for attaining 94% membership before December 31, 2023. The Post was the only one in District 12 to achieve the goal and be so recognized.



Post 8108 Auxiliary President Anita Webb (second from the right) presents her board members each with a stemmed flower as a token of her appreciation during the Auxiliary Appreciation activities. The Auxiliary also celebrated its 25th Anniversary.



Happy Anniversary!

Post Hours of Operation:

Monday – Saturday: 1100 ~ 2000 Hours

Sunday: 1100 ~ 1900 Hours

Sunday Breakfast: 0900 ~ 1200 Hours

Phone: 813. 671.9845

Coming soon – information on the upcoming Auxiliary sponsored:

Feb 17 - Sweetheart Dinner

Evening – ‘A Tour of Italy’ - \$12



Are you or someone you know not receiving our emails or the newsletter? Send us a note and email address to Post8108@vfwfl.org



Comrade Tommy explains the operation of the M1A, the civilian version of the M14, prior to going HOT during the Range Day activities. The participants commented on the marked difference between the vintage US military rifles and the modern M16/M4 family of rifles. A good time was had by all. Special thanks to comrades Tommy and Nelson for organizing and conducting the event.

Military Jargon...

Roger – OK
 WILCO – Will Comply
 Mess Hall – dining facility
 IFAK – Individual First Aid Kit
 Boot Camp – USMC Basic Training
 Police Call – pick up trash from area
 Good copy – good radio/cell reception
 SNAFU – Situation Normal All 'Fouled' Up

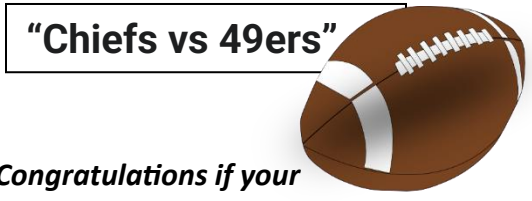


VFW Riverview Post 8108

Follow us on Facebook to find out about the latest Post events.



Membership Update:
 Our current membership number stands at **330 (97%)**, our 100% goal is **339**.
 Renewals are a crucial component...
 For **“All State”** we need a grand total of **346** which is our 339 + 7 more.
 You can help us get there. Renew in a timely manner. **IT'S THAT IMPORTANT.**



“Chiefs vs 49ers”

Congratulations if your team is headed to Super Bowl LVIII



Post members kitchen crew for 01.14.24. (l-r) Chris R, Andy, Chris W, Dwain Missing in photo: Heather, Monty, Madison, and Molly.
Good job and Thanks!!!

The Post's 2024 VOD winner, Sklyer Baker, receives Honorable Mention Award at the District quarterly meeting.



Teach of the Year Stephanie M, Mesa is announced as the District 12 winner in the Elementary Teacher category.



Navy speak: **Port & Starboard**
Rest of the world: **Left & Right**



Craig manning his station at the cash register during Steak Dinner night.



Coming Soon – donated elegant coffee table, with a six piece coffee plate set to be raffled off. Proceeds to benefit the Post.

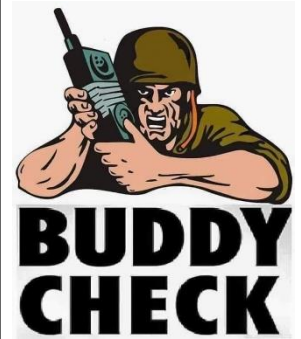


During a recent visit, personnel from the local Wounded Warrior Project support group presented the Post with their logo flag in appreciation of our support.

Post members (l-r) Cody Palmer, Anita Webb (Auxiliary), and Heather Rivera were on hand to receive the flag.

If a Buddy, or someone you know, hasn't checked-in in a while... then it just might be time for you to simply reach out and see if they're alright.

They just might happen to be waiting for that call. You can make a difference,



The House Committee will be announcing the date of the next Post GI Party soon. Since going with regularly scheduled maintenance events, cleanup has been less taxing, and issues have been identified and address long before they become problems.

Your volunteer participation is key to keeping your Post in the



VFW 8108 STEAK NIGHT

FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

5-7 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!



\$23

**14OZ NEW YORK STRIP, BAKED
POTATO, GREEN BEANS, BREAD
DESSERT**

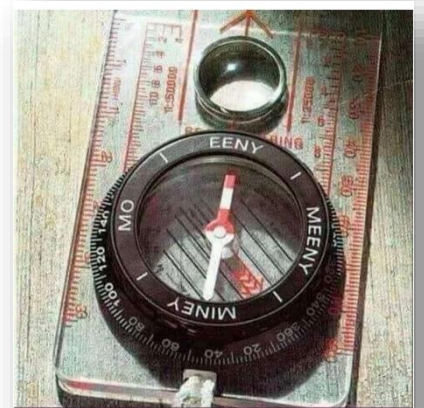
7504 RIVERVIEW DR RIVERVIEW FL 33578
813-671-9845

ANCIENT



ARMY RUNNING SHOE

*And there
I was...*



Officer's Compass Mk1



Circa 2000

The Post's Mural Restoration Project is underway. Thanks to everybody that donated money. Completion is expected in late February. Stand by for updates.



February 2024

| January '24 | | | | | | | March '24 | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | | |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 HC MTG 1900 HRS | 2 | 3 Steak Dinner 1700 HRS |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Taco Tuesday | 7 | 8 Post MTG 1930 HRS | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 *AUX MTG 1900 HRS Taco Tuesday | 14 St Valentine Day | 15 | 16 | 17 Aux Dinner & Sweet Heart Evening |
| 18 | 19 Presidents' Day | 20 Taco Tuesday | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Taco Tuesday | 28 | 29 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | Notes | | | | |