

Dr. C.E. Hassel, President

Chapter 411 V/P of Veterans Affairs Richard Mrozinski is also Commander of VFW Post 9423 and Chair of the Indiana Legislative committee



Mike Stinfor, Richard Mrozinski, Congressman Pete Visclosky, IN State VFW Commander Darrell Knight (Photo Courtesy Richard Mrozinski)

Chairman Mrozinski and committee attended the National Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. March 1st thru the 5th; the purpose was to deliver to Indiana Legislators VFW and Chapter 411 Veterans priority goals for 2015. Each office was given publications, The Long Road Home and VFW Priority Goals. Presented were, Sequestration and Budget, Veterans Access Choice, Health Care, Benefits Delivery, Success after Service, Transition, Education, Employment and as always the reminder of POW/MIA Personal time was spent with Congressmen, Visclosky, Carson and Congresswoman Walorski. Eight other legislative offices and staff were schooled thoroughly of the 2015 goals. The legislators were in and out due to the visit of Benjamin Netanyahu! Many were given the 2015 goals on the run.

Netanyahu's visit caused the street to be filled with demonstrators. Israeli and possibly Muslims had a huge shouting match! The police were effective and maintained control.

Richard advised the legislators to establish a Veterans Advisory Board in their districts. The Board will consist mainly of young Vets as they are knowledgeable in modern technology and social media. When legislators are home interaction with the board will prove valuable.



Benjamin Netanyahu

Pets Healing Vets



Pictured above Sheri L. Ashcraft
Photo Courtesy Larry Michael

At the Indiana State AFA meeting, held March 21, 2015, guest speakers were Jamison Leach. Leach is with the Humane Society for Hamilton County. He along with E-4 Sheri Ashcraft with her adopted pet, Ranger. Leach spoke on the outreach project "Pets healing Vets".

The statistics Leach gave were:

It's estimated that over 300,000 veterans are currently suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and another 320,000 Veterans have TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). TBI has become known as the "signature wound" of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

There is no FDA approved medication to treat TBI. Veterans are more than twice as likely to commit suicide as civilians. In fact, the VA Inspector General's Office estimates 18 veterans commit suicide every 24 hours.

25% of our nation's prison/jail population is comprised of veterans. It is estimated that 60%-70% of those inmates are suffering from PTSD or TBI--which will go untreated during their incarceration.

1 in every 3 homeless males in the United States is a combat veteran.

The Mission

Our mission is to help rehabilitate veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) by pairing them up with a carefully selected shelter dog or cat in need of a home.



The healing power of pets is undeniable. Programs like Pets Healing Vets are operating around the country with great success. Program facilitators have found that veterans often relate to shelter animals who are themselves often misunderstood and dealing with anxieties associated with fear and abuse.

The comfort of knowing a loyal dog is there to make them feel safe, an adoring feline companion waits at home, or just having a living being who is depending on them can make all the difference in the recovery process...and even save a life.

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Michael Stinfer was also a Member of Commander Mrozinski's Indiana Legislative Committee



Mike Stinfer, a 5th generation military volunteer is a born and raised Hoosier. Mike was a Combat Marine, Airborne Ranger and a VFW Wars-Student Veterans of America Legislative Fellow.

He graduated from Bethel College and Theological Seminary with a Bachelors of Science in Business Management. Joining the Marines in 1999 he was trained in explosives and served as a construction engineer leader. Participating in the initial Iraq invasion in 2003 he earned many awards, combat and in leadership. Mike served 15 years of honorable service to the United States Marines and Indiana National Guard. Eleven years were on active duty.

Presently, Mike hopes to complete his Masters of Science Degree in Orthopedic Regulatory and Clinical Affairs in 2015. He has also studied extensively in American Constitutional Law and Economics.

In addition to his military service and being deeply involved finishing his Thesis for graduation he manages time for volunteering especially issues involving youth and economic empowerment. Mike is a life member of the VFW, American legion, US Army Ranger Association, US Army Sniper Association, National Infantry Association and the Indiana National Guard.

Important AFA Chapter 411 Meetings

Notre Dame AFROTC Awards Night

April 28, 2015, 6:30pm
Jordan Hall of Science

Merrillville High School JAFROTC Awards Night

May 13 2015, 6:00pm
Park in the Stadium parking lot on the East side of the school

Mark your Calendar NOW for Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th Rotors and Ribs Fly-In, Goshen Airport



.Photo Courtesy Larry Michael

Indiana Helicopters and HeliMotion will present the fourth annual Rotors and Ribs Fly-in.

The previous three events were immensely successful and this year promises to be even better. Plans have been made to break a national record with 60 helicopters flying in!

Both days offer a wonderful time visiting with aviation friends and the crews who serve on the hospitals life saving helicopter teams. Talk to these precious people and let them know they are appreciated.

The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation on Friday at 3:00pm will present a seminar on helicopter flying formation. Following the seminar participants will gather to do a formation helicopter flight over Notre Dame. AFA Chapter 411 is counting on Captain's Chuck Surack and Randy Sharkey to be the lead aircraft for this event..

Don't miss Friday evening! An old fashion Indiana hog roast has been planned with live music! Be sure to bring the children as they will be delighted with the airborne antics of OTTO THE HELICOPTER! Otto will light up the evening sky performing night pyrotechnics!

Saturday features the 5K runway run, vendor booths and never to be missed Tony's Famous Ribs. Flying demonstrations will continue all day. And everyone will have the opportunity to look inside a helicopter, it's an amazing adventure.

The best adventure not to be missed is a helicopter ride with Captain Steve Johnson, Goshen Airport flight instructor. Captain Johnson will be giving rides both days.



Bell AH-1F Cobra – Photo Courtesy Larry Michael