



American Legion Post 280
Mike Cross, Commander



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2671
Gary Fravel, Commander

June 2022

COMMANDERS NOTES

These past three years I've been involved at our Post has been a blessing. To begin with, I could have done absolutely nothing without the support of our fine volunteers. If you've been involved in the day-to-day operations here at the Post over the past three years, please know that you are greatly appreciated. Thank you Jim Willis, Nayt Stewart, Albert Fowler, and all our bartenders. Special recognition to Nikita Benns and Faith Wyant, who both have gone above and beyond for us. A very special recognition to Ron Rose. His contributions to our Post have been above what any one person should have to give. Thank you, brother, you have been awesome to work with. These past three years we've done some incredible things. Our Post has been upgraded, we've earned Membership Awards, and our community outreach has been wonderful. These are just a few of our accomplishments. There is a literal laundry-list of our accomplishments that I could write here, but it would take up too much space. That is the beauty of this place, all the good works we can do. This leads me into the "down side" I would like to address, and I do this in hopes that we can avoid continuing this in the future. First off; Titles mean absolutely nothing. It doesn't matter if you're "The Commander", or "The President". What matters is the work you put in. Anyone can run around and tell folks what kind of title they hold, but it means nothing if a title is all you have to lean on, but no work to back it up. It is the work and the effort that you put in that

means something. Another issue we've faced is unnecessary drama. In conversation with a few people, I've likened this to an on-going game of "Dramatic Whack-a-Mole". One person will create drama, and just like clockwork, within a week or so of their drama being resolved, up comes the next one. No one likes this, and the Officers of this Post have done their best to shield our members and customers from it. Sadly, what tends to happen is the person who creates the drama then goes around telling their drama to anyone who'll listen, all the while making themselves the hero of their own story. Please don't buy into this, it's garbage. We have one mission up here; to serve our Veterans and our community. Unnecessary dramatics impedes our ability to do this. We've had to spend far too much time, time that could have gone to doing good works, into settling dramas. It is my hope our organization lasts another 100 years. If we continue on the path of community service, have a strong base of dedicated volunteers, continue bringing in new members, and creating an environment that is welcoming to all, we can do that. Thank you all so very much for the opportunity to serve. If anyone ever needs anything from me, please reach out at any time.

This We'll Defend—Mike Cross

Stanley McCollum Am. Legion Post 280

If you've not yet paid your 2022 dues, please do so. The Close of Books for the 2022 Membership Year is this month. We are holding our Annual Installation of Officers on Tuesday, June 7th at 6pm. Food will be available after the ceremony.

Harry H. Kinman VFW Post 2671

The liveliest VFW in Town... Congratulations to all the 2022 Officers of our VFW and American Legion Posts, who take office June 7th at 1800 (6pm) during the annual INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS. There will be sandwiches and drinks after the ceremony. I encourage everyone to support our Post and its Auxiliaries as we continue to support our Veterans, and our greater Benton community, through VFW and American Legion programs and events. We begin June by remembering those who served on D-Day, June 6th 1944. This is the 78th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion in northern France during WWII. There are several other events this month; the VFW Department Convention is June 9th, 10th, and 11th. Our next Post meeting is on the 14th at 6pm. The VFW District 15 Golf Scramble is June 25th at the West Frankfort Golf Course.

No Mission to Difficult – No Sacrifice to Great! Gary Fravel

AM. LEGION AUX UNIT 280.

I would like to thank the ladies for voting for me. If you need me, call me anytime. Our meeting is the third Sunday of the month at 2pm. We would like to thank Mike Cross for doing a good job, and congratulations to Mike Smith for being elected our new Legion Commander. Thank you, Jackie Wyskiel

VFW Aux Post 2671

Greetings! Our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm.

**Respectfully, Howard D. Johnson,
President.**

Sons of the American Legion Post #280

Sons of the Legion meetings are at 2pm on the 3rd Sunday of every month. The next meeting will be on Sunday, 19th.

Legion Riders of Post #280

Our next meeting is on Monday, June 20th at 6pm in the Hall. All Riders are asked to please attend this meeting. Attention all past Riders!

We are looking for previous members to rejoin our organization. Please reach out to Debbie Ferguson, or the Post, for more information. Thank you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7th Installation of Officers
June 14th VFW meeting at 6pm
June 14th House Committee meeting at 6pm
June 19th Legion Auxiliary meeting at 2pm
June 19th Sons of the Legion meeting at 2pm
June 20th Legion Riders meeting at 6pm
June 21st VFW Auxiliary meeting at 7pm

REOCCURRING EVENTS

Wednesday: Queen of Hearts ticket sales end at 7:00 p.m. - Auxiliary 50/50 Drawing and Queen of Hearts at 7:30 p.m. Game Night begins at 4pm!

Thursday: Extreme Bingo at 6:30pm. Chicken Wings Hot, Mild, or Boneless. 5pm to 8:30pm. Other items available: Potato Wedges, Mac-n-Cheese Bites, Onion Rings, Potato Dippin' Wedges, Fried Mushrooms, Chicken Strips, Fries, Onion Rings, Cheese Sticks, and more!

SATURDAY – Free Darts All Day!

**HALL RENTALS
AVAILABLE
FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK AND OUR
WEBSITE: bentonvets.org**