

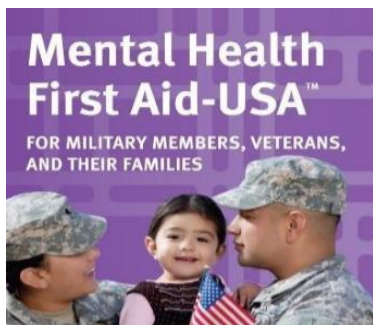
VFW Post 477 Carlisle Recent Activity Report

The 4th quarter of 2016 has been quite noteworthy for Carlisle VFW Post 477 and many of our members.



On Oct 3rd, a stretch of the highway from the Carlisle borough line to Ashland Avenue was dedicated as the Marine Lance Corporal Gary Lee Ream Memorial Highway. Members of VFW Post 477 participated in the ceremony, and a lunch in his honor was sponsored at our Post by Gary's family for veterans and friends. Many of the Vietnam veterans and members of VFW Post 477 had gone to school with Gary prior to the war.

On the evening of October 20th, VFW Post 477 honored members and spouses of the Cumberland County Honor Guard with a Thank You Banquet. Over 60 people were in attendance, and a good time was had by all. Some of the Honor Guard in attendance have been rendering military funeral honors for over 18 years, since the Cumberland County Honor Guard was first established.



An all day Mental Health 1st Aid class for Veterans and their families was hosted by VFW Post 477 on the last Saturday of October, with breakfast, lunch and snacks provided. A total of 16 veterans, family members, and social workers were in attendance for the training which was conducted by Dr. John Bart and Sharon Engdahl of The Mental Health Awareness Association. VFW Posts interested in conducting similar training at their locations are invited to contact VFW Post 477 Commander Rick Olson for assistance in lining up certified professionals to administer such training.

In total, nearly a dozen Vietnam veterans and members of VFW Post 477 were interviewed and profiled in a joint Army Heritage Education Center, Carlisle Regional Medical Center and Sentinel newspaper "Voices of Service" series. Numerous VFW Post 477 members attended a reception at the Carlisle Regional Medical Center, where they all received commemorative Vietnam pins. Post member Jack Kranchick is shown here receiving a certificate and pin from David Steitz (CEO of Carlisle Regional Medical Center) for his participation in the series



Members of Post 477 participated in a dedication ceremony at the US Army War College. COL Ken Adgie presided over a somber ceremony in which we dedicated two Soldier's Crosses donated by benefactors from the Union League of Philadelphia. These bronze statues of the boots, inverted rifle, and helmet now frame the memorial to the fallen graduates from the US Army War College.

Veterans Day celebrations started early at VFW Post 477 when 20 or so of the Combat Vets Association motorcycles arrived for an early breakfast. The Chapter is based in Ft. Indiantown Gap and veteran members from Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan participated in this ride, including several women riders who had served in combat.



Veterans Day celebrations continued, with a very fitting dedication ceremony at center city Carlisle where VFW Post 477 Veterans Service Officer Neal Delisanti introduced Eagle Scout Matt Kunkle and his parents to unveil an awesome war memorial which the young scout had brought to fruition from concept to unveiling as his Eagle Scout Project. Neal spoke of how young Matt came to his office for some initial guidance and help, and proceeded to demonstrate that he had formulated a well thought out "battle plan", which ultimately led to the unveiling of a beautiful and inspiring war memorial.



A final Veterans Day Celebration commenced at VFW Post 477 immediately following the dedication ceremony, where a delicious and free lunch buffet was served up for Veterans in attendance. The Cumberland County Honor Guard presented the Colors, and led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Col James Lock then graced our ceremony as our guest speaker, and gave a humbling speech about Courage - as it relates and pertains to those who have fought for our country. VFW Post 477 Commander Rick Olson presented a Veterans Tribute Plaque to the Post Adjutant, as a gesture of thanks from him and his wife for the support the Post has rendered to their family this past year.

