



McCONNELL

Post 137 Dispatch!



**VETERANS OF
FOREIGN
WARS**



MODEEN

Volume 16 Issue 1

501 3rd Ave, Proctor, MN 55810

Jan 15, 2025

From the Post Commander — Allen Young

Greetings Comrades!

On behalf of all the officers of the Post, we hope that you have all had a wonderful holiday season and wishing you a happy, prosperous and most of all, safe New Year!

As we start the New Year, I want to start with reminiscing about how busy the Post has been over the last year. The updates to the building and especially to the outside have been incredible and I again want to thank everyone involved in getting the Post and property looking great! I also want to add we could not have done any of these great accomplishments over the last year without YOUR help! Although the building really looks great, we now have to start on the new building that we purchased and all the projects that will go along with that endeavor. Although some of these projects will have to wait until we do some fundraising to get them accomplished, I believe that we are definitely moving in the right direction! I also want to personally thank all the people who have generously donated to the Post this past year. This has greatly enhanced our ability to solidify the future of the VFW in our community!

Recently the Post has been very involved with the local community and we have had the great pleasure of hosting a few events this month. We recently hosted a burger fundraiser for the Proctor Senior High Rails TV. It was a great night and well attended. We are also very proud to announce that the Post is again sponsoring the Proctor/Hermantown Mirage girl's hockey team. We all welcomed them with a team dinner hosted at the Post. In addition to these events, we also hosted a few other holiday private parties and we still have a few more to go.

One last note, as always the Post is always looking for your thoughts or suggestions to make it a better experience for you as we look forward to another great year for VFW Post 137!

God Bless America and Happy New Year!

God Bless America!
Allen Young
Post Commander
VFW Post 137

CANTEEN HOURS

- Wed-Thu-Fri 3:00 PM – CLOSE
- Sat 11AM—CLOSE
- Sun (football season) 11AM — CLOSE
- Open for Private Party's ...
Call for Reservations

DJ / KARAOKE

- DJ by VETertainment
- EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT
- 7 to 11 PM
- Let's hear you sing!



From the Auxiliary President — Marilyn Nelson

Greetings and Happy New Year 2025!

The Auxiliary is sponsoring raffles every month at Post 137. For January, the raffles are:

- Ice Fishing Bucket Raffle
- Lottery Basket Raffle
- 50/50 Raffle

The raffles will be featured every month, with the baskets changing from month to month. The 50/50 Raffle will be a feature every month. Tickets are on sale at the bar -- \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The winning tickets will be drawn at the end of each month — the drawing date is on the Chalkboard with the baskets. You do not have to be present to win (as long as your phone number is on the ticket you drop in the bucket). Stop in for a beverage or meal on any of our open times and join the fun.

We invite you to join the Auxiliary. We are a service based organization providing support for McConnell-Modeen VFW Post 137 and for our community. For information, please call Marilyn Nelson (218-940-3316) .

The Friday Night Dinner at VFW Post 137 is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to join our team to have a fun night—give back to the Post and give to our Community, please contact Marilyn Nelson. I will work with the Post Commander to fill vacancies as they come up. It takes all of us as a team!

The next Post./Auxiliary meeting is February 4th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. If you want to get involved with volunteering or learn more about Friday Dinners, come to our House meeting starting at 6:00 pm.



Warmest regards,

Respectfully,
Marilyn Nelson
 Auxiliary President
 VFW Post 137
 218-940-3316

POST OFFICERS

COMMANDER — *Allen Young*
 SENIOR-VICE — *Kevin Beichler*
 JUNIOR-VICE — *Jody Ruotsalainen*
 QUARTERMASTER — *Mark Wasserbauer*
 ADJUTANT — *Mark Wasserbauer*
 JUDGE ADVOCATE — *Dwight Nelson*
 CHAPLAIN — *Bruce Johnson*
 SURGEON — *Will Peterson*
 SERVICE OFFICER — *Kevin Beichler*
 1 YEAR TRUSTEE — *Dave Toelcke*
 2 YEAR TRUSTEE — *Chris Olson*
 3 YEAR TRUSTEE — *Jared Hinks*
 GAMBLING MANGER — *Jody Ruotsalainen*

AUXILLIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — *Marilyn Nelson*
 SENIOR VICE — *Lorraine Doherty*
 JUNIOR VICE — *Darlene Hollatz*
 TREASURER — *Terri Frederickson*
 SECRETARY — *Kay Wronka*
 CHAPLAIN — *Kathy Drummond*
 CONDUCTRESS — *Cindy Talerico*
 GUARD — *Kathy Drummond*
 1 YEAR TRUSTEE — *Kathy Toelcke*
 2 YEAR TRUSTEE — *Lilly Gibbons*
 3 YEAR TRUSTEE — *Kay Wronka*
 PATRIOT INSTRUCTOR — *Vacant*



Bingo

When: 5 Feb

Time: 5:30pm

Meat Raffle

When: 24 Jan

Time: 5pm

Sponsored by:

Proctor Amateur Hockey Association (PAHA)



VFW Post 137 is now online!

Check us out at

<https://vfw137.org>.

Information on Post calendar events, bi-monthly newsletters, membership updates, and more!

Also see us on Facebook®. Search McConnell-Modeen VFW Post 137.

Now Open!

5 Days a Week!

Wed 3-Close

Thu 3-Close

Fri 3-Close

Sat 11-Close

Football Sundays 11-7 PM

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The year 2024 is history and as you read this, 2025 has started. Some people make resolutions, or set goals that they want to achieve. Perhaps they'd like to save more, spend less, and live within their means. Some people come up with a word that will be their theme for the year. These can be words like honesty, courage, grateful, generous, and so many others. I kind of like the word genuine. I see a lot of shallow and phony ideas floating around, especially in the media, be it TV, radio, or in print. So called reporters seem to be unable to ask tough, penetrating questions when they interview political and government officials. It's as if we must be polite and never step on anyone's toes, no matter how misguided their ideas are. Today we see people who actually condone murder. The cheering of the killer of the CEO of United Healthcare is shocking to me. There are those who regard patriotism and respect for our flag as old fashioned and out of date. We dare not offend anyone by saying Merry Christmas. Stick with the bland Happy Holidays. That doesn't get it for me. I would encourage all of you to stand up for your beliefs and be ready to defend them, without being meanspirited. Be genuine and gentle and thank God you live in the U.S.A. It really is something worth cheering about!

*Comrade Bruce Johnson
Post Chaplain*

VFW Winter Cribbage League

Join us for some fun at the Proctor
VFW for our winter cribbage league.

✓ THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30PM ✓ 8-WEEK LEAGUE STARTING 1/30/25 ✓ UP TO 16 TEAMS COMPETING ✓ ALL ARE WELCOME



To sign up, contact Ed Montgomery at:

emontgo628@gmail.com

or visit Proctor137.com



TAPS

Please remember in your prayers our fellow members that have passed since our last newsletter.

- Duane J. Schinn (Jan)



\$13 Lent Special

EVERY FRIDAY STARTING
7 MARCH THROUGH LENT

WELCOME!

Please welcome our newest members to Post 137!

- Peter Bergherr (Nov)
- Douglas Ion (Nov)
- Duane Persch (Nov)
- Mark Rukavina (Dec)
- Bryan Graddy (Dec)
- Jennifer Cady (Jan)
- Jacob Warkentin (jan)



V F W
NATIONAL HOME



Scan and share our mission with your friends and family at vfnationalhome.org

Friday Night Pasta Options!

We now will have both Chicken Alfredo and Penna Pasta Marinara available each Friday.

Only \$12 a plate!

BE OUR GUEST

Friday Dinner Special

Your choice of

- Chicken Strip Basket
- Fish Fry Basket
- Butterfly Shrimp Basket

Includes: Fries, Roll, Coleslaw, and Coffee served from 5-7:30 pm

Only \$15.00

"The Best Value in Town!"

Friday Night DJ / Karaoke

By VETertainment

From 7:30 – 11 PM

VFW POST 137

501 3rd Ave, Proctor – 218-727-1912



VA Announces Further Presumptive Service Connections:

As of Jan. 10, 2025, VA has established presumptive service connections from exposure to particulate matter 2.5 for leukemias, multiple myelomas, myelodysplastic syndromes, and myelofibrosis. Eligible veterans must have served on active military, naval, air, or space service in Somalia or the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after Aug. 2, 1990; or in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, or Yemen on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This interim final rule will ease the evidentiary burden for VA disability compensation claimants with these conditions. The public may submit comments until March 11, 2025.

Why is VA Transitioning to Login.gov or ID.me Accounts? VA currently has four online sign-in account options (Login.gov, ID.me, My HealthVet, and DS Logon) and VA is transitioning down to two sign-in account options in 2025: Login.gov and ID.me. Copy and paste the link below to watch to learn the reasons why and how you can set up an account during the transition.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Psqfqs-XLc>

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

VFW priorities are:

HR 1139/S.740 (Guard VA Benefits Act) 5/1
 HR 4157/S.928 (Not Just a Number Act) 4/1
 HR 3933/S.2888 (TAP Promotion Act) 2/0
 HR 1282/S.344 (Major Richard Star Act) 7/2

VFW Call to Action:

HR 8371 — Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act

Other veteran legislation we are tracking:

HR 333 — Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act
 HR 984 — Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
 HR 1301 — Federal Employees Civil Relief Act
 HR 2537 — BAH Restoration Act
 HR 5492 — Veteran Families Health Services Act of 2023
 HR 5995 — Federal Retirement Fairness Act
 HR 8088/S. 4166 — To authorize reimbursement to applicants for uniformed military service for co-payments of medical appointments required as part of the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) process
 HR 8336 — Amending Title 10 USC to establish a counseling pathway in the Transition Assistance Program for members of the reserve components of the Armed Services
 HR 9188 — Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act
 S. 4116 — A bill to amend Title 10 USC to allow members of the Selected Reserve and National Guard holding employment within the Federal Government the choice between military and civilian healthcare plans
 S. 4437 — Coordinating Care for Senior Veterans and Wounded Warriors Act
 S. 4650 — Housing for All Veterans Act (establish rental assistance program for low-income veteran families)
 S. 4891 — A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to limit copayments for outpatient visits for mental health or behavioral health under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes)
 HR 7543 — Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2024
 HR 8312 — Combat Veterans Pre-Enrollment Act of 2024
 S. 28 — A resolution honoring the service of women in combat roles in the Armed Forces.



PROCTOR - DULUTH - EST. 1919

Veterans of Foreign Wars



Come visit our new Post home

Open Wed - Fri ... 3—close

Sat 11AM—close

Sun (football season) 11AM—7PM

501 3rd Ave

Proctor, MN

Karaoke, Camaraderie and
Cocktails!

Serving Friday Dinners from 5-7:30!!!



BOOK A PRIVATE PARTY!



Are you looking for a place to hold your next private party! Why not Post 137? We offer affordable pricing, a stocked Cash Bar and full kitchen service. Contact Allen Young (218-591-8733) or Post 137 (218-727-1912) to make reservations. Most days are available.

Come down and check out our rotating selection of local Craft & seasonal beers!



UPCOMING EVENTS!!!!

Mark Your Calendars!

- ⇒ Private Party — 4 Jan (4-11pm)
- ⇒ House/Post/Auxiliary Mtgs — 7 Jan (6-9pm)
- ⇒ Meat Raffle — 24 Jan (5pm)
- ⇒ Private Party — 1 Feb (5-11pm)
- ⇒ House/Post/Auxiliary Mtgs — 4 Feb (6-9pm)
- ⇒ Bingo — 5 Feb (5:30pm)
- ⇒ House/Post/Auxiliary Mtgs — 4 Mar (6-9pm)
- ⇒ House/Post/Auxiliary Mtgs — 1 Apr (6-9pm)



Every Friday Night
from 7-11pm!

JOYRIDE

\$10 OFF A SOBER RIDE HOME TO A RESIDENCE



THIS PROGRAM IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR SPONSORS



January 2025



MCCONNELL-MODEEN VFW POST 137

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
VFW Post 137 - McConnell-Modeen 501 3 rd Ave, Proctor, MN 55810 (218) 727-1912 Email: postvfw137@gmail.com			1 CLOSED <i>Noon Service Day</i>	2 OPEN 3-CLOSE	3 Friday Night Dinner 5—7:30 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	4 OPEN 1130-3PM CLSD for PRIVATE PARTY 4-11PM
5	6 Yellow Ribbon Mtg 5:30-7:30pm	7 House Mtg – 6PM Post & Aux Mtg – 7PM	8 OPEN 3-CLOSE	9 OPEN 3-CLOSE	10 Friday Night Dinner 5—7:30 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	11 OPEN 1130-11PM NFL Wildcard Games
12 SUNDAY FOOTBALL 11-7PM NFL Wildcard Games	13 TCU Union 5-8PM	14 TPWA Mtg – 7PM	15 OPEN 3-CLOSE RAILS TV BURGER BURN 3-8pm	16 OPEN 3-CLOSE	17 Friday Night Dinner 5—7:30 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	18 OPEN 1130-11PM NFL Divisional Games
19 SUNDAY FOOTBALL 11-7PM NFL Divisional Games		21 Dock Union 5:30-9pm	22 OPEN 3-CLOSE	23 OPEN 3-CLOSE	24 Friday Night Dinner 5—7:30 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	25 OPEN 1130-11PM
26 SUNDAY FOOTBALL 11-7PM NFL Championship Games	27 	28 BTYR Mtg 5:30	29 OPEN 3-CLOSE	30 OPEN 3-CLOSE	31 Friday Night Dinner 5—7:30 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	



February 2025



MCCONNELL-MODEEN VFW POST 137

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
VFW Post 137 - McConnell-Modeen 501 3 rd Ave, Proctor, MN 55810 (218) 727-1912 Email: postvfw137@gmail.com						1 OPEN 1130-3PM CLSD for PRIVATE PARTY 5-11PM
2	3	4 House Mtg – 6PM Post & Aux Mtg – 7PM	5 OPEN 3-CLOSE	6 OPEN 3-CLOSE	7 Friday Night Dinner 5—7 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	8 OPEN 1130-11PM
9 SUPER BOWL 3-11PM	10	11 TPWA Mtg – 7PM	12 OPEN 3-CLOSE	13 OPEN 3-CLOSE	14 Friday Night Dinner 5—7 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	15 OPEN 1130-11PM
16		18	19 OPEN 3-CLOSE	20 OPEN 3-CLOSE	21 Friday Night Dinner 5—7 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	22 OPEN 1130-11PM PAHA Event 7PM-close
23	24	25	26 OPEN 3-CLOSE	27 OPEN 3-CLOSE	28 Friday Night Dinner 5—7 PM Karaoke 7 —11PM	



March 2025



MCCONNELL-MODEEEN VFW POST 137

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
VFW Post 137 - McConnell-Modeen 501 3 rd Ave, Proctor, MN 55810 (218) 727-1912 Email: postvfw137@gmail.com						1 OPEN 1130-11PM
2	3 Yellow Ribbon Mtg 5:30 PM	4 House Mtg – 6PM Post & Aux Mtg – 7PM	5 OPEN 3-CLOSE 	6 OPEN 3-CLOSE	7 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	8 OPEN 1130-11PM
9 Daylight Savings	10	11 TPWA Mtg – 7PM	12 OPEN 3-CLOSE	13 OPEN 3-CLOSE	14 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	15 OPEN 1130-11PM
16	17 	18 POPPY Mtg 6PM	19 OPEN 3-CLOSE	20 OPEN 3-CLOSE	21 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	22 OPEN 1130-11PM
23	24	25	26 OPEN 3-CLOSE	27 OPEN 3-CLOSE	28 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM Vietnam Veterans Day 	29 OPEN 1130-11PM
30	31					



April 2025



MCCONNELL-MODEEEN VFW POST 137

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 House Mtg – 6PM Post & Aux Mtg – 7PM ** Election of Officers **	2 OPEN 3-CLOSE	3 OPEN 3-CLOSE	4 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	5 OPEN 1130-11PM Olson Retirement Party 5-close (Open to Public)
6	7 Yellow Ribbon Mtg 5:30 PM	8 TPWA Mtg – 7PM	9 OPEN 3-CLOSE	10 OPEN 3-CLOSE	11 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	12 OPEN 1130-11PM
13	14	15 	16 OPEN 3-CLOSE Vets on the Hill	17 OPEN 3-CLOSE	18 GOOD FRIDAY Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	19 OPEN 1130-11PM
20 	21	22 Poppy Mtg – 6PM	23 OPEN 3-CLOSE	24 OPEN 3-CLOSE	25 Friday Night Dinner 5–7 PM Karaoke 7 –11PM	26 OPEN 1130-11PM
27	28	29	30 OPEN 3-CLOSE		VFW Post 137 - McConnell-Modeen 501 3 rd Ave, Proctor, MN 55810 (218) 727-1912 Email: postvfw137@gmail.com	