



**ESHLEMAN PANKAKE WOLF
(Shellsville)
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Post 9639 & Auxiliary
376 N. Crawford Road
Grantville, Pa 17028
(717) 469-2195**



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As the Post Commander of VFW Post 9639, I am writing this personal letter to update you, and invite you to be active in any of the various programs of our Post.

Some members believe VFW Post 9639 (Shellsville) no longer exists, but this is far from the truth. **Shellsville VFW is a pure veterans' organization.** Yes, it is true that we no longer have a Post Canteen (bar and restaurant operation), but that is not what a VFW is. Shellsville VFW Post 9639 is not a bar or restaurant, it is a veterans' organization that helps our veterans, community, and youth.

If you enjoy the social aspect of a VFW with a Canteen (bar and restaurant operation), **you can enjoy the Post Canteen of any VFW in Pennsylvania, or of any other state, by merely showing your Shellsville VFW Annual or Life membership card.** You do not have to be a member of that VFW Post to enjoy the hospitality of their Post Canteen.

Shellsville VFW currently has **378 veteran members**, representing all branches of service and spanning from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars, and many other foreign conflicts. We no longer accept Social (non-veteran) members, who are only eligible for membership in affiliated Post Canteens.

A few of our veteran programs include:

- Assisting our members with their VA medical claims through our Post Service Officers, and providing our Post Honor Guard as we lay our members to their final rest.
- We provide “creature comforts” to our Active Service veterans through our Support Our Troops program, and through our adopted unit, the 201st Red Horse Squadron of the PA Air National Guard. This year we also hope to adopt the 165th Military Police Battalion of the PA Army National Guard.
- We provide financial support through the Lebanon VA Medical Center for recreational and morale programs for our veterans, such as monthly birthday parties, cruises on the Pride of the Susquehanna, and trips to local baseball games.
- We provide financial support to the Pennsylvania Wounded Warrior Project, and Homeless Veterans Program.

A few of our Community support programs include:

- PennDOT “Adopt a Road” road clean-up (10 miles) throughout the year.
- Blood donations to the Central Penn Blood Bank
- Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Providing financial support to:
 - Hospice of Central Pennsylvania
 - Grantville Volunteer Fire Company
 - Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and Grantville Food Pantry

A few of our Youth programs are:

- Support of Scouts to earn "Eagle Scout" through community and VFW Post projects.
- Teaching American Flag etiquette in our local elementary schools.
- Providing Safety and Citizenship training materials in our elementary schools.
- Conduct VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen writing contests for middle and high school students.

These are only a few of our Post programs that you could be involved.

Hopefully, you have been receiving and enjoying the national VFW Magazine, and the Pennsylvania VFW Newsletter. VFW Post 9639 also has a Facebook webpage at <https://www.facebook.com/VFW-Post-9639>.

If I sound like I am bragging about our VFW Post, it is true. **The Shellsville VFW has long been known for its friendliness and hospitality, along with its helpfulness and generosity.**

I am not the only one realizing the Shellsville VFW is a "premier" Post, since we have been honored 4 times with the prestigious "All-American Post" award. This award is given by the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters to less than 5% of the Posts across the nation, for their veterans, community, and youth programs. We are all enormously proud to be the recipient of this award, not once but four times, an accomplishment very few Posts ever achieve.

Eshelman-Pankake-Wolf (Shellsville) VFW Post 9639 will soon celebrate 75 years of supporting our veterans, community, and youth; but our leadership is growing older and it is time for newer and younger leadership to carry the torch forward.

I ask you, as a member of Shellsville VFW, to attend just one meeting to see if your individual skills could help further the programs of **YOUR/OUR** VFW Post.

Please mark your calendar to attend one of our VFW Post monthly meetings on Thursday, February 25th or March 25th, at 7:00 PM, and share some light refreshments and comradery with your fellow veterans. I guarantee it will put a smile on your face, even if it is under a mask.

It is extremely important to be able to stay in contact with our members, so if you have email capability, please email me your e-mail address and telephone number so we may enter them into our Post Member database and stay in contact with you. U.S. mail postage is expensive and terribly slow. Just to send out this letter to all members of our Post, cost over \$200.00. Email will allow the Post to save funds for other programs.

If you have any questions, please call me at home 717-534-2478 or email me at tgordon1951@comcast.net Either I, or one of the other Post officers will respond to your questions.

With great respect for your Service to our Nation,


Thomas E. "Tom" Gordon

Post Commander