



KELLY INGRAM VFW

JUNE, 2010

2010-2011 Officers

Commander – Mel Shinholster

Senior Vice – Bucky Walter

Junior Vice – Gordon Hearn

Quartermaster – Mike Zarichnak

Chaplain – Roger Salter

Commander's Greeting

Mel Shinholster, Commander

Greetings, Comrades. As incoming Post Commander, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for their confidence in me by nominating and electing me your Post Commander for the coming term 2010-2011. As I take the oath of office for the upcoming term, I am reminded of the Commanders who have held this office before me. I know the tasks which lay ahead of me may be difficult at times, but not impossible. I promise to the membership my commitment to perform my duties as your Commander to the best of my ability.

Duty, Honor, Country and Integrity. Those four words will be foremost in my mind as I, along with the elected officers who will assist me, perform the duties you have entrusted to not only me, but to all of us. It is my challenge to work with my staff in finding new ways to invite veterans from all theaters of operation to join Kelly Ingram VFW Post 668. We invite their participation, talents, their gifts and their services in a concerted effort to improve our service to our veterans and to our community. For those of you who attend our meetings regularly, thank you for the service you render. For those of you who do not attend by choice, we ask you to reconsider. We miss having you among us. You are the life blood of our organization and we need your help more than ever. For those of you who cannot attend for one reason or another, how can we help you?

Our Post is only as good as the membership that supports it. Each and everyone of us as veterans has a duty to ourselves, our comrades, and our Post to support our veterans, our Post and our community. As your new Post Commander, I will do my very best to lead our Post. As members of Kelly Ingram VFW Post 668, I ask your support to be the best we can be to make our Post successful in every way. I look forward to challenges ahead and remind you a Commander does not a Post make. Only with your support can we make this work. God bless our veterans, God bless Kelly Ingram VFW Post 668, and God Bless America! Thank you.



Mel Shinholster, our incoming Commander of Kelly Ingram VFW Post 668, is a resident of Hoover, Alabama. He is married to his wife Ann of forty (40) years and has two adult children, a son in Atlanta, Georgia and a daughter in Birmingham. Mel was employed by BellSouth for 35 years until his retirement in 2002 as a Project Manager/Product Developer. Mel's military background began in 1967 when he joined the U.S. Army as a volunteer and was accepted into the Army's helicopter flight program. Upon completion of flight school in September 1968, Mel was appointed the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) and awarded his Army Aviator Wings. He served his tour in Vietnam from October 1968 to October 1969 as a combat helicopter pilot assigned to the 123rd Aviation Battalion, Americal Division (23rd Infantry Division) in Chu Lai, Republic of South Vietnam. Within six months of his arrival and before his 21st birthday, he was made an Aircraft Commander. During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Mel flew 987 combat hours in support of troop efforts on the ground and attained the rank of CW2 before departing Vietnam. After returning to the United States in October 1969, Mel was stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia where he was a helicopter flight instructor to Vietnamese Air Force officers training in UH-1 (Huey) helicopters. He held this assignment until his discharge from the Army in December 1970 at which time he returned to work with BellSouth until his retirement.

Washington Weekly

May 21, 2010 – Part I

1. Defense Bill Update: The House Armed Services Committee marked-up the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill, HR 5136, provides \$760 billion for DOD programs and is the primary vehicle for all military activities, to include quality of life improvements for service members and their families. It is scheduled for a floor vote next week. Some of the VFW-supported provisions include:

A 1.9-percent military pay raise.

Increased hostile fire pay and family separation allowances.

Authorizes the most comprehensive legislative package ever to address Military Sexual Trauma.

A pilot program to provide career counseling to military spouses.

For more details, go to: <http://armedservices.house.gov/pdfs/HASCFY11NDAA051910.pdf>.

2. Senate VA Committee Hearing: The VFW testified before the Senate VA Committee on a wide-range of bills designed to address the changing needs of veterans. Of particular interest was a comprehensive employment bill sponsored by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). VFW was instrumental in helping to draft portions of the bill, which will improve training, provide placement services and increase small business opportunities for veterans, to help ease unemployment for those hardest hit - OEF and OIF veterans. For more on the bill or the recorded hearing, visit the Senate VA Committee website at <http://veterans.senate.gov/>. To send a letter to your senators to encourage their support of S. 3234, visit the VFW website at <http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=15058441>.

2010-2011 Officers Induction Dinner



2010-11 slate of officers (l to r): Mike Zarichnak, Roger Salter, Mel Shinholster, Bucky Walter, Gordon Hearn



Incoming State Commander, Rod Stone, passing the gavel to Mel.



Past Post Commander, Bucky Walter, passing the gavel to Mel.

From the Junior Vice

Gordon S. Hearn

Kelly Ingram has undergone some exciting major transitions in these last few months. We have a new slate of officers and everybody is feeling out their new positions and working together to give the best possible service to your post. Unfortunately, some things have lagged, but are now back on track. The **post newsletter** will be published monthly. Thanks very much to **Ben McKinnon** for his years of dedication to this project. Doing a newsletter is not as easy as it looks. The **post web page** www.kellyingramvfw.com will carry these newsletter updates, along with other information you would like to provide. In an effort to cut down printing and postage costs, we are very interested in e-mailing the newsletter to as many members as possible, so please contact me at gordonhearn@aol.com with your e-mail address and I will add you to the monthly mailing, as well as any special events that we hear of. Great things are in store for Kelly Ingram, so jump on board!

June Highlight...

United States Army founded
14 June, 1775



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Shaggers	2 Boppers	3	4	5 Archers
	State convention through Sunday, Marriott, 280					
6	7	8 Shaggers	9 Boppers	10	11	12 Archers
13	14	15 Shaggers	16	17	18 Boppers	19 Archers
20	21	22 Shaggers	23 Boppers	24	25	26 Monthly meetings, Battle of the DJs, 1-6pm Archers
27	28	29 Shaggers	30 Boppers	Shaggers, Tuesdays, 8pm Magic City Boppers, Wednesdays, 8pm Archers Country Night, Saturdays, 8pm		



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