

You may get skinned knees and elbows, but it's worth it if you score a spectacular goal.  
- Mia Hamm, *Go for the Goal* (Harper Collins)

## VFW Post Pays Tribute To Dead from USS Serpens

By Karen Rauen  
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On the night of Jan. 29, 1945, 250 men died when the USS Serpens exploded off Long Beach, Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands.

Those men are buried in the largest group burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Originally buried at the Army, Navy and Marine Cemetery in Guadalcanal, the remains were moved and reburied in Arlington June 15, 1949.

On board the USS Serpens that day was a Green Bay man, Albert J. Manke. His name is among those listed on the octagonal shaped marker at the memorial.

Members of the Bellevue Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9611 paid special tribute to those who died aboard the USS Serpens during a trip to Washington D.C., earlier this month.

"Recognizing the local connection with it, we thought it would be a proper thing for our post to put on a memorial service at the site," said Harold Compton, a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific. "We went there with our banner...and wanted to pay tribute to the buried veterans."

Green Bay resident Elaine Jacobe, Manke's half-sister, was 10 when U.S. Coast Guard officials came to the door with news that Albert was "missing in action", she said. Later the family was told Manke had been killed.

"I'm very grateful that they had a memorial service there," Jacobe said. "It's very gratifying that people still take the time to remember."

According to the Arlington National Cemetery web site, killed in the explosion of the USS Serpens were 193 U.S. Coast Guard sailors, 56 U.S. Army soldiers and a U.S. Public Health Service surgeon. Ten people survived.

The explosion of the 14,250-ton ammunition ship was the largest single disaster sustained by the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II. The USS Serpens Monument was dedicated in November 1950.

"We thought that because of the history of it, the connection that some members of our post had at the time of the explosion and afterward, that as long as we were in Washington, it would be good to do a veterans' graveside right at the Arlington Cemetery," Compton said.

The service came as part of a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. The group's trip included visits to the Capitol Building, the White House, the U.S. Treasury, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Eisenhower Farm in Gettysburg, Pa. More than 50 people went on the trip to Washington.

"It was a very educational, interesting trip," said Norry Van Beek, also a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Coast Guard in the Atlantic.

The Bellevue VFW, which was formed in January 1948, has 211 members.

## TRIBUTE TO DEAD FROM USS SERPENS

## Merrill VFW Post Salutes Korean War Vets



Schmitt-Manecke-Donner Post 1638 and its Ladies Auxiliary, Merrill, have been designated a Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Post and Auxiliary. They proudly displayed their new flag and honored Korean War veterans at their annual banquet. VFW member Cliff Sabatke, the first Lincoln County soldier to leave for the Korean War, admires the new flag. Prisoners of War and Veterans Missing in Action were also remembered during the program.



Schmitt-Manecke-Donner VFW Post & Auxiliary 1638, Merrill, assembled this float for the veterans to ride on in Merrill.



# Rockin' on the Hill

## Classic Auto & Bike Show

Sat., July 28, 2001



11am-4pm  
showtime

5pm-10pm  
dancetime



Raffles & Door Prizes



Food & Drink Available

Jail & Bail

Music at Nite by  
CHROMELINE-59

\$5.00 / Person  
Show Car Owners  
No Charge

PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED  
50'S - 60'S LOOK



REGISTRATION \$6.00

Dash Plaques to the First 100 Cars  
Participant Judged Voting  
20 Classes Including  
Best V.F.W. Member Car

VFW Post 1621

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No  
July Issue

...The next issue  
will be delivered  
the week of  
August 13th.

Wisconsin  
VFW  
Convention  
in  
La Crosse  
June  
27-30