

strongsvillepost.com **THE POST**

CEREMONY HONORS U.S. ARMED FORCES BRANCH ON BIRTHDAY *Coast Guard bench unveiled at VFW Post 3345*

BY TERRY BRLAS
Strongsville Post editor

The VFW Post 3345 Veterans Memorial is now complete when it comes to benches dedicated to the five branches of the United States Armed Forces.

The final piece of this portion of the memorial, a bench dedicated to the U.S. Coast Guard, was unveiled during a special ceremony on Aug. 4, also known as Coast Guard Day, the date that the branch was founded in 1790.

The Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy benches were previously dedicated at the VFW Post 3345 Memorial.

Speakers at the Coast Guard bench dedication included State Sen. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville), State Rep. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea), Strongsville City Council President Michael Daymut, Coast Guard Commander George Martinez and VFW Post 3345 member John Hohne, who was instrumental in getting the memorial constructed.

Martinez and Hohne unveiled the Coast Guard bench that will forever be part of the VFW Post 3345 Veterans Memorial.

"In our service's 222 year history, we have performed countless challenging maritime missions," Martinez said. "I am humbled and privileged by what has been built here... As



Sen. Patton with Cmdr. Martinez, City Council President Mike Daymut, and Tim Zvoncheck. Photo Credit: VFW Post 3345

the smallest of the five armed services, the Coast Guard is oftentimes overlooked. This is a true memorial with all five services represented."

"The blue book (Coast Guardsman's manual) says we have to go out. It doesn't say a damn thing about having to come back ... A country is judged and honored by the way it treats and honors those who served. No person is ever gone until they are forgotten. Thank you all for living those words and remembering all who have served."

Daymut thanked all veterans for their sacrifice and the VFW for memorializing those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"For all veterans in the audience and their

families, I'd like to thank you for your service personally," said Daymut, a Marine Corps veteran. "We appreciate what this VFW has done for the city of Strongsville with this memorial. Other communities only wish they could attain this type of memorial."

Patton has been a staunch supporter of the men and women serving this country in the armed services. He represents 28 cities in Cuyahoga County and stated there are no memorials like the one at VFW Post 3345.

"There are other VFW Posts, but what you see at this particular Post and what you see at this particular memorial is not duplicated anywhere," Patton said. "We should be proud of the men and women who made sure that this memorial was here to represent those men and women who served us and in some cases served us with the greatest sacrifice."

Hohne gave five reasons why the United States is the greatest country in the world. He said they are the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and the Coast Guard.

"I worked with the Coast Guard on a lot of search and rescue things," Hohne, a Vietnam veteran, said. "They were there for us and it's important that they be included. We're proud of this memorial. We had the past VFW national commander come here and he told me this belongs in Washington (D.C.)."

The VFW Post 3345 Veteran's Memorial broke ground in December 2009. It was officially dedicated on Veteran's Day 2010.