



# **BRAINERD VFW**

309 South Sixth Street Brainerd, MN 56401

[BrainerdVFW.org](http://BrainerdVFW.org) 218-829-6393 [f](#) [Brainerd VFW](#)

**HELPING VETERANS AND THE COMMUNITY**

Crow Wing County Fair August 2, 2023, 10 am on KLTF Radio.

## **Ron Specker:**

Mike Williams, U.S. Navy Corpsman aboard the U.S.S. Hancock, an attack aircraft carrier. In the Gulf of Tonkin 1972-73, Vietnam. Sergeant at Arms at the Brainerd VFW and Honor Guard/Color Guard member.

Mark Persons, an Army sergeant, served on a small airbase in southern Vietnam 1968-69. He did high-tech electronic work to keep airplanes flying. Now Webmaster at the Brainerd VFW.

**Mark Persons:** Brainerd Honor Guard/Color Guard opened the fair on Tuesday at 5:15 pm to the applause of the crowd. Music on the Mills Free stage followed. Videos on [BrainerdVFW.org](http://BrainerdVFW.org)

**Mike Williams:** Honor Guard vs Color Guard

**Mark Persons:** 0.69 inches of rain yesterday. Only 0.5 inches total in the month of July. MN Climatological Network.

Wednesday is Senior Citizen Day.

**Mark Persons:** Our nation's defense touches all of us and it is not just a three-day holiday. Memorial Day ceremonies were held at the veteran cemetery at Camp Ripley on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Ceremonies were held the next day in Brainerd.

Here are the facts: 116,000 American servicemen died in WWI.

440,000 American servicemen and women died in WWII defending freedom globally against the totalitarian powers of Germany and Japan. Get this, Germany and Japan were going to divide the U.S. at the Mississippi River.

Korea 36,000 died.

Vietnam 58,000 died. I knew three.

War on Terror 4500 and counting.

Some 1.3 million died serving America in the defense of freedom over the years.

Taps Across America on Memorial Day May 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm

**Mike Williams:** Serving in the military is for the young. A Vietnam veteran from Brainerd wanted to sign up for the Gulf War. He was turned down because he was over 40!

**Mark Persons:** Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Brainerd Elks are a very patriotic organization helping veterans.

Freedom Festival at the Brainerd VFW on June 17, 2023.

4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Brainerd. We were freed from foreign rule starting in 1776.

**Ron Specker:** Camp Ripley Open House Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 am

**Mark Persons:** I attended the Oshkosh AirVenture last week. They reported 677,000 attendees. There were two air accidents while I was there and I didn't see them happen. For perspective, the Minnesota State Fair is 322 acres. At Oshkosh it is 1500 acres. That is more than four times the size. A WWII trainer aircraft crashed into Lake Winnibago, about eight miles away killing two. A small helicopter and a gyrocopter collided mid-air, killing two and injuring two.

The FAA is doing investigations. Airspace at any airport is tightly controlled. They will find someone wasn't where he or she should have been at the moment of the mid-air collision.

10:30 am today: The Great Northern Model T Club & the Old Homestead Power Tractor Club Parade through the fairgrounds.

Gordy Loman doing sports.

[BrainerdVFW.org](http://BrainerdVFW.org)