

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.  
FALL 21

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN



Congratulations to all of our VOD/PP/TOY award winners. Thank you to all who assisted with the program this year. Many will never know how much this program impacts the youth of our community. Upon reviewing the comments left the Fall Conference Training seemed to be a huge success. Thank you to the directors, instructors, and the staff for trying something a little different. I look forward to joint training and new classes in the future.

We have incorporated the VFW Michigan Charities Foundation which is a 501c(3) and had our first committee meeting. The Bylaws have been approved and are available for all to see. I am very excited to continue working to find corporate donors to support our programs and organization in various ways. If you have any connections to corporate donors please let us know. Our post homes and membership may be on a slight decline but there are many eligible veterans living in Michigan that we have not reached. We need to continue working on ways to encourage them to join the veterans organization that truly does more for veterans. Please dig down deep and don't be afraid to talk to veterans when you are out and about. YOU are our best recruiters! I want to make sure this organization is around for the future Veterans of Foreign Wars. Share our programs with your community by bragging about what your post is doing. Utilize your

websites and social media platforms. Again, if you need assistance setting them up please let us know. We are here to help you.

We need each post to sign up five (5) people for Action Corp!! Then go into the Dashboard and record that you did it. It's that simple folks. It is so important that our members at paying attention to the legislative efforts and bills being discussed. Action Corp will also send out calls for action. These are very simple response letters to your legislators. We need to have our voices heard and this is how we get it done. Please sign up, educate yourself, and respond when called upon.

I am begging you to start a Facebook page by December 31 2020. If you need assistance even after this date please let us know. Posts that are wanting consideration for All American must have this done. As many of you have noticed we have been sending out a Newsletter to keep you informed even more. We are looking for updated emails for our membership. When you have a post meeting please get everyone's email and send it to Department to receive updated information directly. This is to ensure each member is up to date on issues concerning the VFW and Department of Michigan. Your emails will not be shared outside of our organization.

Thank you to all of the supportive phone calls and emails over the last few months. I am excited to have a strong finish to this year and continuing to serve you. We have great leadership coming up the chairs and I am confident that we are on the right track. Please support them as you have supported me.

God Bless You and Thank You For Your Service!

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## DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, JOHN GRIFFITH

It was great to see so many of you at the recently concluded Fall Conference. It was a fantastic conference, made possible by the joint training sessions organized by the Department Staffs of both

the VFW and the Auxiliary. Many wonderful reviews and comments were received concerning the joint training sessions, as a result of which there will be additional joint training sessions at future conferences and conventions as we look toward the new year.

The Big 10 Conference, held in Rapid City, SD, just concluded. It was a great conference and well attended by representatives of both the Department and

Auxiliary of Michigan. Liaisons were renewed and new ones established with Comrades and VFW Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers from our neighboring states.

As I write this article for the MOV, I am sure that we all are looking forward to the holiday season which will hopefully afford many of us to enjoy the company of friends and relatives. Please stay safe so that you will all be able to attend our Mid-Winter Conference in January. I am looking forward to hearing the VOD and Patriot Pen entries during our banquet.

Again, as your Senior-Vice Commander, I wish to remind you all that I am here to work for you and if I can be of any assistance to you, your Post, or District I am but a phone call away.

(734) 735-2175



## DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, RAY LOPEZ

I hope you are all in good health and enjoying the Holiday season. As we approach our halfway point of this administrative year, we should be well on our path forward towards our goals.

I would like to congratulate all the Voice of Democracy/ Patriot Pen/Teacher Of The Year winners as well as the Posts that participated in this great program. I would also like to congratulate the Posts that have already reached 100% membership. As we

all know, recruiting new members, and retaining our current membership is key to our future in our great organization. For the Posts that are struggling with the reporting process, please contact your District Commander or Dept. Directors for assistance and training.

As we continue moving forward, let us build on our successes and learn from our failures. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year while in my travels in our great Department.

If I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to reach out.

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



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DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, DEREK BLUMKE

On 15 August 2021, the U.S. Flag was lowered from the American embassy in Kabul. The Flag, along with the remaining embassy staff, was evacuated to Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA). Over the following days and weeks, the world witnessed in horror as the unplanned withdrawal unfolded in the country where our Nation had shed the blood of America's very best for 20 years.

Afghan souls, along with their last remaining hope for survival, crashed to the Earth after plummeting from the side of a U.S. Air Force C-17. On 26 August 2021, more than 180 people were killed in the bombing at HKIA airport outside of Kabul. 11 Marines, a soldier and a Navy Corpsman were among those killed. They died on a mission to save the lives of our fellow Americans and our allies.

The response from the veteran community was that of shock. As an Afghanistan War veteran, I received call after call from our Vietnam veteran Comrades. They all said the same thing: "How are you doing?". They didn't try to explain, analyze or make any sense of it. Instead, they spoke two words that brought me and a generation of veterans to tears: "I understand."

Mark Twain once said "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes". To that end, I will never understand the experience of the Vietnam veteran. The Vietnam veteran understands the experience of the Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, and in the shadow of Saigon, a generational divide evaporated.

The VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America struggled to process what was witnessed in those days and weeks, and in the lost decades, lives and trillions invested. We struggled to understand our emotions. Were we angry, sad, enraged? When we could not articulate these feelings, the State Headquarters of these organizations came together to host panel discussions on the withdrawal, the end of 20 years of war in Afghanistan, parallels with Vietnam and the needs of these veterans and their families today, and in the future.

Posts across the state have gone on to host similar panels under the title "Voices of Veterans". Along the way, we learned that while the initial goal had been to educate the public, the people who attended these functions have primarily been veterans and their families. We've learned that we need to hold these conversations because our Comrades and their families need to talk. We need to talk about the trauma; about the pain, the love of our Comrades and the loss; about the pride and honor; and about accountability.

If your post is interested in hosting one of these events, or an event focused on veteran suicides, toxic exposures, or the needs of veterans who might not be currently represented, please email [pr@vfwmi.vet](mailto:pr@vfwmi.vet). We would be proud to assist your post in hosting a similar event in your community.

The ground war in Afghanistan is officially over, but that does not bring us closure. Closure comes from introspection, so as to ensure our Nation's history no longer rhymes.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

One of the blessings of being your Chaplain has also been the close relationship with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Sentinels in Washington D.C. Therefore am humbled to share that on Sept. 14th, 2021, special honors were rendered at Arlington by dedicated VFW Dept. of MI Comrades and VFW Dept. of MI Auxiliary members.

First, a wreath was laid with permission and on behalf of the VFW Dept. of MI Auxiliary as Past State Commander Mike Fineis. Then, a custom made hardwood plaque was presented to Sentinel SSG Alex Deal in commemoration of a century of Sentinel service. It was inscribed:

**"FOR THE TUS SENTINELS  
IN HUMBLE APPRECIATION  
FROM VFW AUX DEPT OF MI,  
COMRADE IRENE HOSKING, &  
VFW POSTS & AUXS 2406 & 6464"**

SSG Deal was elated to learn about Comrade Irene Hosking and receive this gesture.

Happily, we all have gifts to give, and these

can vary from time and effort to money, etc. As 1 Corinthians 12:20-25 (ESV) states, "As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another."

Last, will also share that was pleased to recently receive a courtesy invitation to an American Legion Chaplains' breakout session. The VFW Dept. of MI has undertaken such training for over 40 years so this was a blessing to see that another major Veterans Service Organization has seen value in this important endeavor, especially when spiritual injury, PTS, and despair are prevalent. Applying best practices are important in any business and am hopeful that others will reap positive rewards the VFW elected Chaplains have reaped for years from such classes. Positive results gain momentum and often yield more blessings to others. As Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." With that thought, hope to see you at the Mid-Winter Conference.

May God bless you.







## DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, GARRETT DICKEY

G r e e t i n g s  
Comrades,

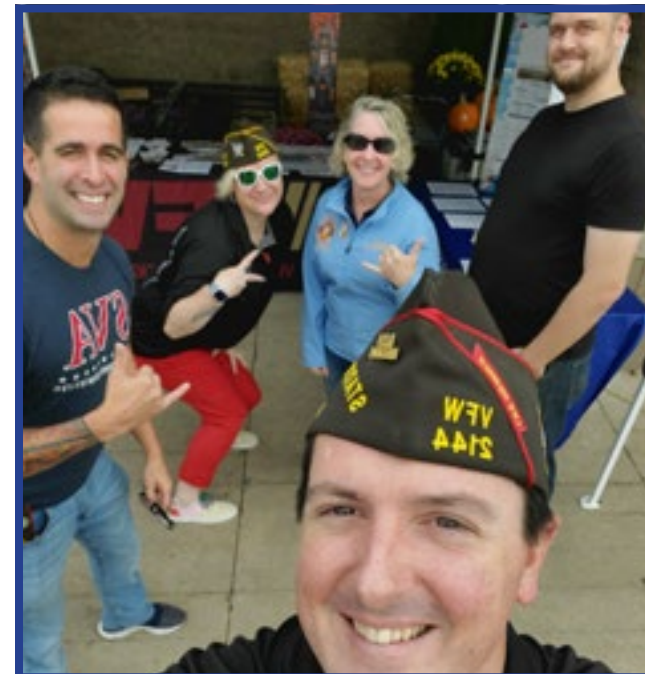
I hope everyone is settling into the fall season well. The mornings are getting chillier and the days

are growing shorter. With this change in the season we will begin to see more traffic within our posts. Be sure we are reaching out to our members to make sure they feel needed and important. Encourage all members new and old to attend your meetings and events. Meet with your members outside of the post, create a morning coffee group and support a local business.

As far as new member recruiting goes, we are doing a great job. 423 new/reinstated members, last year just 188. This year we are at 86.60%, last year 85.3%. We sit in 3rd place in the Big 10 just .2% behind Wisconsin, and 10th place in National just .14% behind Kansas. Our biggest room for improvement is RETENTION. Vern emphasized this last year and I will emphasize it again. We need 4747 members to renew this year to make 100%. We NEED to reach out to these members. Some belong to our Posts and others are Members-At-Large. Right now we have 1177 Unpaid/Expiring Members-At-Large under the age of 50. Within those members are future Commanders, Trustees, etc. Commander

Conklin and I have created a template you can use to send to these comrades to encourage renewal & Post transfers.

Let's keep it up. We finished the 1st Quarter strong, but now is not the time to let up. We need 4 STRONG quarters. Since it's football season, I'm going to borrow a quote from Vince Lombardi. "The only place SUCCESS comes before WORK, is in the dictionary."



## BIG 10 DELEGATE, NORM MAULDIN

We sincerely hope this finds everyone doing well, and in good spirits. I want to thank everyone for their support during the election. I am here

to do your will and support our candidates from the Great State and Department of Michigan.

During each National Convention the positions that are up for election are rotated amongst the different Conferences, The Big 10, Western, Eastern States and Southern conferences and the rotation is in that order. Also, IAW the Big Ten's By-Laws (Sec 701) The conference Shall endorse their candidate for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the National Convention one (1) year prior to the National Convention that he is to be elected to that office. This provision shall be effective beginning in year 2006.

This year the Conferences conducted the following elections-

### VFW Big 10 Conference

- National Quartermaster General, Debra Anderson

### Eastern States Conference

- Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Duane Sarmiento (was elected last year and assumes the duties this year)  
- Judge Advocate General, Ronald Rusakiewicz

### VFW Southern Conference

- National Chaplain, Harold Sayles  
- they will select their candidate for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief for 2022-2023, in November.

### VFW Western Conference

- Surgeon General, Dennis Guthrie

At the National conference we (The Big 10) elected the Quartermaster General Debra Anderson as our candidate, who ran unopposed, and has been the QM General

since 2016. She told us she wanted to bring on a person to train as a relief, as she is looking forward to retiring after over 6 years. She has worked diligently for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and when she leaves, she will be sorely missed.

As you read this, we have already had the Big 10 Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota from 15-17 Oct 2021. This was just after our Fall Conference for the Dept. of Mi, and the articles were due to the MOV before the start of the Big 10 Conference. During this time the officers of the Big-10 Conference will be elected, to include Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Chaplain.

There will be heavy campaigning amongst the candidates who are jockeying for selection for the Big Tens candidate for Junior Vice Commander-in Chief. As was stated when I ran for this position, I support Michigan's candidate Jerry Gorski for this position, and will assist him in his campaign.

## NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR

## JAMES HUBBARD

Dear Comrades, Sisters and Brothers

It was Great to See so many at Fall Conference, Thank you for the new Joint Program Sessions, I know I learnt more about the many programs we offer that not only benefit our members but our community also, I hope you were able to attend and receive a greater understanding especially working together with our counterparts so we are able to accomplish even more for our Veterans & their families... Job Well Done by Everyone.

This year we have a Joint Fundraiser to benefit Our VFW National Home, YES, I said Joint with our Auxiliary. Our Goal is that EVERY Post, Auxiliary, District &

Member has the opportunity to take part by doing something... each Month, Quarter or just a one-time Fundraiser to support this important need for our National Home for Children. Supporting our Veterans & their Families at the National Home is our responsibility so Let's Step Up and do our Share! Have you gave any thought to asking your boss about making a donation to the National Home??? Or even a business you shop at or deal with Business's are welcome to donate and help our Veterans also, You don't know if you don't Ask!

The Holiday's are fast approaching The Cooties Christmas Party we are hoping

will take place, Due to Covid-19 all events are subject to changes just like this year's MI. Day's but we will over-come and move forward and be stronger in the end.

Remember to go online and look for the VFW National Home Santa Shop Gift Suggestions list, as well as sign up for Amazon Smile there is a wish list also, If you shop at Kroger's Go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/group#79329> for the VFW National Home there is no cost to you and the National Home benefits from your shopping at Kroger's & at Amazon Smile.

Have a Very Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year





Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers!

The Cedar Point Trip for the children and families of the V.F.W. National Home for Children went as scheduled. This is a co-sponsored event between Michigan Cooties/Auxiliary and Ohio V.F.W./Auxiliary/Dad's Club of the Sandusky Post. Everyone had a great time!



### Tomb Trek 2021

The Annual Cootie "Trek to the Tomb" is November 5-7 at Arlington National Cemetery. Cooties from around the world attend this event, presenting over 250 wreaths at the Argonne Cross. The Supreme Commander and Auxiliary President present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This is a very somber and respectful event, honoring our fallen Comrades.



### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, JERRY GORSKI

I just returned from the VFW National Council of Administration Workshop and National Council Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. It was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14 & 15, 2021. It was a very productive 2 days. The National Council voted on a Disciplinary Issue, Approved the Budget for 2021-2022, Approved the Appointments of Assistant Adjutant General Dan West and the Future Appointment of an Assistant Quartermaster General. Quartermaster General Debra Anderson wants to retire and wants to have her replacement trained to take over.

Also, at the National Council Workshop were two important items that I want to bring to your attention.

First was the Scrubbing of over 1.2 million Members under the age of 76 Years. Yes, under the age of 76 years. The company used was NexusLexus. The results, about 9,000 members removed from our Membership Roles.

The Second item was Article 9 – Discipline. There are ten changes made. One of which is using Electronic Disciplinary Hearings. Another is Appeals conducted in a Hybrid Format, which is Virtual and In-person. You can find this information on the VFW National Website under Member/Post Resources then Document Depository. You will find under "Guide to Disciplinary Actions" on the left side of the screen. Click on that, you will see on the right side of the screen, (1) Disciplinary Action Forms 9/24/2021, (2) Article IX – Major Incorporated Changes 9/2/2021 and (3) Article IX – Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Please read them.

Administrative Operations is engaged in

17 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, two of which are pending disciplinary hearings, 2 administrative actions 4 membership eligibility challenges.

As of September 24, 2021, there are 5,948 Active Chartered Posts. On May 28, 2021, we had 6,003 Active Chartered Posts. We lost 55 Posts since then.

The VFW currently supports 98 Bills and opposed 1 Bill pending before the 117th Congress. Please sign up for the Action Corps Weekly at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) to keep updated.

Now, I would like to talk about membership, one of my favorite topics. As of Monday, October 11, 2021, Michigan is in 10th Place in the Nation at 86.63%. We need 4,736 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members to Reach 100% by June 30, 2022. National is at 82.96%. National needs 176,459 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members to Reach 100% or 1,035,741 Members by June 30, 2022. Michigan is in 3rd Place in the Big Ten Conference. Minnesota is in 1st place at 86.90% and Wisconsin in 2nd at 86.61%. WE CAN BE 1ST PLACE in the Big Ten Conference by June 30, 2022.

Thank you again for Electing Me as your National Council of Administration Member representing YOU and the Department of Michigan for 2019 through 2023.

Thank you again Michigan for Endorsing me for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief 2023-2024 representing Michigan.

I appreciate every Post and Auxiliary supporting me with my campaign. It is Expensive!

If you would like to donate to my campaign, please send your donations to

Su-jen Mauldin

214 Endwell

Novi, MI 48377

Thank You and God Bless You.

### Cootie Christmas 2021

December 3-4 is upon us quickly. If you wish to contribute your time and help out or just attend the event, just come on down. For more information contact Cootie Christmas Chairman, Nate Powell at [grandsrmdrmi@gmail.com](mailto:grandsrmdrmi@gmail.com). The events start at about 1pm on Friday (Veteran/home visit) and 10am on Saturday. For donations, make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC (not the National Home). Also don't forget to earmark for Cootie Christmas.

Send donations to:

Shane Houghton / 616-527-9397

343 High St. Ionia, MI. 48846

[shoughton1951@hotmail.com](mailto:shoughton1951@hotmail.com)



### Cootie School

In this section we will discuss some basic Cootie Lore and info. Here is just a few "Cootie Terms" for all of the readers out there. A Nit = new Cootie. A Scratch = meeting. A Pup Tent = a Post. The Pup Tent Seam Squirrel = Post Commander. The Grand = Department level and Supreme = National level. PGC = Past Grand Commander. More to follow, stay tuned, or just ask a Cootie. Look for a Cootie Bug on their shirt collar, close by the seams. Always try to touch the bug, it's for a good cause!

Always remember membership. The life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW or Cooties. Sign up a new V.F.W. member today!

L.O.T.C.S.,

PGC Eric Bell

Grand Adjutant

**For Cootie Christmas  
Banquet Forms,  
see page 14 or  
contact Nate Powell  
[grandsrmdrmi@gmail.com](mailto:grandsrmdrmi@gmail.com)  
(734) 678-2444**



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

BOB LUTZ

Hello Comrades, I know that a lot of this report is a repeat from my last report but evidently people didn't read it last time because very few Comrades have adhered to the new reporting system.

There are numerous changes in the way we will be reporting! The on-line reporting is by far the best and starting May 1, 2022 it will be the only way that will be accepted. As of now the following changes are being implemented!

- #1-NO "OLD" FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED
- #2-NO "HOMEMADE" FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED
- #3-NO "ALTERED" FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED
- #4-FORMS MUST BE MAILED TO THE DIRECTOR DIRECTLY, DO NOT SEND TO DEPT.
- #5-FAXES WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED
- #6-IF YOU MUST HANDWRITE A REPORT, Make sure that it is legible and on a report form taken from the department website. This type of a report will be ending on May 1, 2022.

If you mail your report, it must be postmarked by the 10th of the month to get credit. If the 10th lands on a weekend or holiday, the date will be the immediate day following.

And I repeat, that reporting on the computer is by far the best way and will be the only way beginning in May 2022. I suggest you start doing it now. It is easier than you think.

I would like to remind everyone that it is your responsibility to keep records and proof of your reports in case of an IRS audit.

BOB LUTZ  
24448 LAMBRECT  
EASTPOINTE, MI 48021  
activity@vfwmi.org | (586) 924-4591

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR

EDDIE DANDRIDGE

The Department Of Michigan just concluded it's Fall Conference on 03 October 2021 in Harbor Springs at Boyne Highlands Resort. National Commander-In-Chief Fritz Mihelcic was State Commander Kevin Conklin's National Representative this year. The VFW/VFWA Scholarship Team gave a joint training session on 01 October 2021 morning & afternoon. I shall say here & now, our Commander & his staff coming up with Department Directors Joint Training at Fall Conference seem to be good training for VFW & VFW Auxiliary members.

By the time you get this article our Post & District will have completed their judging, I just want to remind All (Elected) District Adjutant's, All (Elected) Post Adjutant's you are the only ones responsible for entering all judging result information onto the All-American Eligible Dashboard.

The Voice of Democracy, Patroit's Pen Manual & Brochure will give you details on how to report your VOD/PP/Buddy Poppy & VSM donations.

Teacher Of The Year is a separate program & no credit is given for All-American.

The winner will get acknowledgement & award at the Conference Award Banquet.

District Commanders, District VOD Chairman's, District Adjutant's, Post Commanders, Post VOD Chairman's, Post Adjutant's & All members who volunteered to help make this a successful competition, thank you "All" for stepping up to help our young leaders of the future.

The great news was announced at Fall Conference that this year's Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo is a GO!

I know we all are looking forward to getting together again after not being able to meet last year for good reasons.

The Voice of Democracy, Patroit's Pen & Teacher of The Year Programs are to award outstanding students, leaders of the future.

Our wonderful Teacher, who help to provide the power of education to todays youth, & giving them the possibility for a better future.

Yes! Voice of Democracy & Patroit's Pen Scholarship Program is all about the children.

AUXILIARY VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT

NANCY VREDEVELD

November is National Family Caregivers Month and in the month of May we celebrate Military Caregiver Month. Both recognize and honor more than 5 million veteran and military caregivers in the US. The VA has a Caregiver Hotline 855-260-3274 – this line is answered by licensed professionals who can connect you with VA Services or a Caregiver Support Group. You will also find information about the VA Caregiver Support Program online at [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)

The holidays can be very difficult for some veterans and/or their families. The Veterans Crisis Line is there to connect veterans, their family, or friends with qualified caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential hotline. The toll-free number is 800-273-8255 and then press 1, there is also online chat at [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net) or you can text to 838255.

This is also a great time of year to contribute time and/or money to programs and organizations who help our homeless veterans and family caregivers of veterans. Look into options in your area that best work with your Veterans & Family Support Program. Remember to report everything you do. Review your Guide Sheets for your goals for this year.

Did you get your nominations in for your veteran you would like to see featured on Facebook in the month of November? The deadline to get those nominations in is October 15th. We will feature a different veteran each day of the month on the Department page.

AUX PRES.

STEPHANIE KRUEGER

It is time to gear up to get things accomplished for the next phase of our year. We have accomplished many things and have more to work on.

We donated a large sum of money to the National Home for Children, nearly \$65,000 in money as well as cleaning supplies valued at more than \$14,000. The real news is that we made a difference in the lives of those children living at the National Home.

We have been making donations to the Camp Trotter funds to support this jewel now and once we are able to open it back up to campers.

This is the time of year we work on the Scholarship Programs known as Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy. Winners will be selected and sent to the District and Department levels. I hope that we will be able to hold the Banquet at Kalamazoo in January.

Our Veterans gave so much to this country and we need to remember their sacrifice and make our gratitude seen in our actions – visiting the VA Hospitals and Nursing Homes, making donations of money and items to those residing there.

November is the month to remember our veterans in ceremonies, on November 11th. In addition we are taking time to honor special veterans on every single day of the month of November.

Our National President Jean Hamil visited our state in September. I want to thank all who attended and a special thank you to the Department VFW Reps who spoke so eloquently at those events. You touched her heart and the hearts of all who heard you praise for this Michigan VFW Auxiliary throughout our state.

Take time during the upcoming holidays to show your gratitude for this great country by doing a kindness to just one person. We will all be better for it.

Thanks to all for what you do for veterans.



Thank you to Annabelle Furgason and Beth Plont for the wonderful job that you did in the hospitality room during the VFW Department of Michigan Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands, September 30th, October 1st, and 2nd, 2021.

None of us left hungry.  
- Nate Powell, Post 423



**AUX. SR. PRES. / DIANA WARD**

What an exciting year we are having. It was so good to see everyone at Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children and at Camp Trotter. The fellowship and camaraderie was wonderful. Unfortunately, Ohio outdid us with total monetary donations at Michigan Day but the Auxiliary blew them out of the water with our cleaning supplies challenge. Thank you everyone – Posts and Auxiliaries for the generous donations you made for the National Home. We had some first-time visitors at Camp Trotter and they were able to see the wonderful treasure we have here on Bills Lake. Hopefully we will be able to open camp this year.

Fall Conference was an exciting weekend with a new format of joint trainings with the Post for all the programs. This provided us with training to learn our programs as well as seeing how our programs compliment the VFW program goals. We are hopeful that this will empower us to better serve our veterans and their families. Surveys were available at Fall Conference for the members to give us feedback on the format for the training. We really would like your feedback on whether you liked it, didn't like it and/or suggestions you might have for what you think would have made it better. If you didn't turn in your survey sheet at Fall Conference, please send them to the Department office. If you didn't get a survey sheet or lost it, just send a little note with your thoughts please. This will provide us with your valued opinion as we prepare for next year.

It's hard to believe the year is halfway over. As your Auxiliaries are working hard to follow and complete the National programs, remember if you have questions, please reach out to your Department Chairmen and the Line Officers – we are all here to help you and assist you in any way. You all do so much wonderful work, be sure that you get it all reported. Be your own cheerleaders! The reporting system allows us to show all the incredible work the Auxiliaries are doing for our veterans, but it is also the way that we can make decisions for the Auxiliary and District Achievement programs which in turn allows our Department President Stephanie to be entered into the Circle of Excellence. Tell your story of service.

January will be an exciting month. I look forward to representing Michigan at the National Senior Vice President's weekend training in Kansas City. What an amazing opportunity this will be for me in learning the programs for next year, bonding with the officers from the other Departments and gaining knowledge to assist me in leading our Department during the 2022-23 year. MidWinter Conference will be a wonderful time to honor the students that submitted their speeches for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs as well as honoring the Teacher of the Year recipients. The month will end with the National MidYear Conference in Florida.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve our Department and our veterans.

**CONDUCTRESS / DEBBIE SHEETZ**

I live in Warren but belong to Fraser Auxiliary Post #6691. I have been a member for 20 years. I am very excited to be working with all the other officers in the department as well as all our members to help our Veterans and their families across the state.

As the Conductress my duties consist of helping with roll call and escorting our guests into the meetings.

I also oversee getting our flags (2 American Flags, the POW MIA Flag, our Department Auxiliary Flag, as well as the Color bearer Flags) to our conferences and convention. I must make sure they are in the right place at the right time, and I must steam the wrinkles out to make sure they look their best for our meetings. I place them in their proper locations for the meetings unless it is state convention. At the convention our Patriotic Instructor, Banner Bearer and Flag Bearers place the flags during our ritual.

My plan for the year is to soak up as much knowledge from all the mentors in the line, as well as past Department Presidents so that moving forward I can be the best officer that I can be for this great department office.

If anyone needs me to assist with their auxiliary or have any questions regarding this position, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

**AUX. CHIEF OF STAFF / GLORIA DOBBIE**

The Extension Chairmanship is included in the Chief of Staff Program. We are looking forward to welcoming many new auxiliaries to our Michigan family this year. Beginning the process are Nashville #8260, Cindy Peto, Organizer, and Post #4113 St. John's, with Jan Passmore, as the Organizer. One Post is in District 8 and the other in District 9. We have the opportunity to invite Unaffiliated Posts to learn of the advantages an Auxiliary could bring to their Veterans and their Communities. Every member should be looking for signs as they visit Posts in their area for the possibility of a new Auxiliary.

Please have a list of Unaffiliated Posts with you at all times. You never know when you might need one. If you see a member from a Post where a new Auxiliary would be possible and welcomed, approach the Commander and assure him that the Department provides knowledgeable members to serve as organizers. The Post requirements would be to recommend to their members, their own families, and eligible friends to be part of the Organization. Once the Post has voted to institute an Auxiliary, the Department will assign the Organizers. And provide help to the Organizers if needed. We want to ensure that every Auxiliary instituted is ready to be an asset to their Post, Veterans and their families along with those throughout the community.

**AUXILIARY MENTORING CHAIR / JUDY BROWN**

There are no greater mentors or leaders in this world than those who have served to keep us free. This past month, it was an honor to have the Michigan's VFW Commander, Kevin Conklin and Auxiliary President Stephanie Krueger come to the Hillman V.J. Day Celebration and present 30 beautiful Quilts of Valor to such warriors. Not one of these veterans felt that they deserved this honor, not one! They presented one beautiful family with 3 quilts all having served on a battlefield to preserve the freedom that we enjoy today, the quilt this family is holding in this picture went to the son who because of an accident did not serve, his choice if he could have served would have been the Marine Corp. I gave this quilt to this family because they are true patriots; they would have had their dad who served in the Air Force, two brother's one army the other Navy & if it could have been their 3rd brother the Marine Corp.



Pictured above : Stosick Family, Ben, (Air Force), Brett (Navy) and John (Army) both still active, and Deb Stosick (Blue Star Mom)



Pictured Pictured above: Stephanie Krueger, Recipient Chuck Lisowe and Kevin Conklin.

A quote from Congressman Jack Bergman "Whether you saved the world from fascism in World War II, stamped out the spread of communism in Korea and Vietnam, cracked down with lethal force on radical terrorism, or served our Nation in any capacity while wearing a uniform – you made a difference.

By virtue of your service, you defended the freedoms of good men and women around the world and have made a positive difference. Always remember that."

If you need someone to talk to, don't hesitate to dial 1-800-273-8255, and then press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line.

**OUTREACH / CHRISTINE LEBRUN**

Auxiliary Community Outreach is in its second year as an Auxiliary Program. It has often been confused with the old Community Service program that once existed, however, it is not like that program. This program was developed for the Auxiliary Community to "Outreach" into the community and partner with another community organization. This program encompasses projects that are NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs. The focus of this program is the donation of a Auxiliary member(s) time, rather than not in-kind or monetary donations. It's about service with other organizations in our communities and offers us opportunities to engage individuals in our community, starting conversation about who we are and what we do, and; not only improving our communities, but our membership as well.

**AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN / JANE DADY**

If you are experiencing boredom or are bothered by the holidays, be alert!

Sometimes the moments we least have it together, are the moments God is doing more than we could ever imagine.

Think about your Blessings. Not the material kind.

Something like enjoying a simple freedom, something you might overlook. A baby's smile, the sound of rain, the perfect cup of coffee, the crackle from burning logs in a fireplace.

May you come to wake from your boredom and be aware of the excitement of everyday revelations of God's love for you.

May you become aware of the joy of all your many blessings and know you are never alone, as God is always with you.

The gifts of Peace, Joy and Merry Christmas Blessings I pray for all!

**AUXILIARY AMERICANISM CHAIR / BRENDA HILDERBRANDT**

Americanism seeks to promote respect for the American Flag and foster allegiance to the United States and its customs and institutions. We can work together to promote the values of the United States, and to show respect to our Nations Flag. We can do this by providing Flag Education in our schools and showing Flag Etiquette at Parades. We can Promote Patriotism by flying our Flag on America's Patriotic Days. Those are what we all do every day as members of the Auxiliary, but did you know that some of the most Patriotic things you can do to show your American Pride: Standing for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, Voting in Elections: actively participating in the democratic process is an integral part of being an American, Serving on a jury: It might not be the most fun you can have while being patriotic, but it is a good way to serve your country.

Staying informed on the news by keeping

up-to-date on current events is a way to better your community and country, Paying taxes: although it is probably the least favorite thing that Americans do every year, it is still patriotic, and last but not least is Joining the military: Polls show that serving your country is just about as patriotic as you can get! So, thank a Veteran for their service! Remember and honor our Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (P.O.W/M.I.A.) for they paid for our freedom along with all our Veterans. Any way you choose to show your patriotism, do it proudly! Don't forget to look for a VFW Post that has an active Auxiliary in your area. Then consider having your eligible family members join us and learn all our Auxiliary Traditions. We know that gaining new members and mentoring them will secure future leaders within our Auxiliaries.

Feel free to contact me at  
mrshildy@gmail.com

**AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS / ROSE SCRANT**

Thank you, Eddie Dandridge, my VFW counterpart for making our Fall Conference Training a success as we worked together for an awesome joint training on Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. We loved hearing the ways you promoted the programs and the great ideas for recognizing the winners.

All our scholarship programs are well under way.

**Voice of Democracy (VOD)** Audio-Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9th-12th. Theme "America: Where do we go from here?" Applications due to local Post October 31, 2021.

**Patriot's Pen (PP)** Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 6th-8th. Theme "How can I be a good American?" Applications due to local Post October 31, 2021.

**Continuing Education Scholarship** is open to an Auxiliary member, 18 years or older

(who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, or children with a financial need. One applicant will be chosen in each of the four Conferences, each receiving \$1,000. Applications must be submitted by February 15, 2022 to National Headquarters:

Programs Awards Administrator  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

**Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest** is open to all students in grades 9th-12th. Artwork must be submitted to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2022.

**Resources:** VFW Website, [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education); VFW Auxiliary Website [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships); Department Website [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org).  
[probie08@icloud.com](mailto:probie08@icloud.com)

**AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP**

Do you know the steps for someone to join this elite organization? Do you know how to find the documents your friends and other family members need to join?

When we ask someone to join, one thing we hear all the time is, "I don't have any paperwork about my family member." Or, the person doesn't know if they are eligible to join. I want to make sure you have the resources at your fingertips to help these people by answering their questions and helping them locate the correct paperwork.

Eligibility Requirements for the VFW Auxiliary Membership: Members must be citizens of the United States or a United States National, and at least 16 years old. Those eligible are:

Spouse | Widow | Parents | Siblings  
Grandparents | Children | Grandchildren

Half, adopted and step are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren.

Eligible for membership in the VFW are those that have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant.

If someone is interested in joining and not sure where to join, have them contact a local VFW or call the Department VFW Auxiliary.

Information on a Veteran's Service Record can be obtained by contacting :

- National Archives Administration  
Phone: 1-866-272-6272  
[www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans)
- Recently separated veterans may be able to find their records through the Joint Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense eBenefits Portal
- National Personnel Records Center  
1-314-801-0800  
1 Archives Drive, St Louis, MO 63138
- County Clerk's Office
- State or County Veterans Agencies
- National Cemetery locations

Once you gather all the proper paperwork, please make sure you have the most recent membership application, fill it out entirely and make sure it's legible. It is also important that you make sure the birth date is on the application as it will not be processed without it.

Being a member of this elite organization establishes a few things:

- Honoring a veteran within your family.
- Wanting to assist and care for our country's veterans.
- Joining a service-oriented organization devoted to our country's heroes and their families.

Membership is where we grow our numbers. Awards are offered to Auxiliaries and members for recruiting new members each year.





## POST REPORTS



### POST 334 - LAKE ORION

VFW Post 334 donated two flags to the Veterans's Ministry at the LakePoint Community Church in Oxford. Included was a 5'x8' Tough Tex heavyweight polyester U.S. Flag and a doubled sided nylon POW-MIA outdoor flag with hardware to display.

Picture taken by Larry Stockoski-VFW Post 334.

Presenting the flags Chuck Haskin -VFW Post 334 to Bob Ten Bosh - LakePoint Community Church Veteran's Ministry and VFW Post 334 Member.



### POST 582 - ORTONVILLE

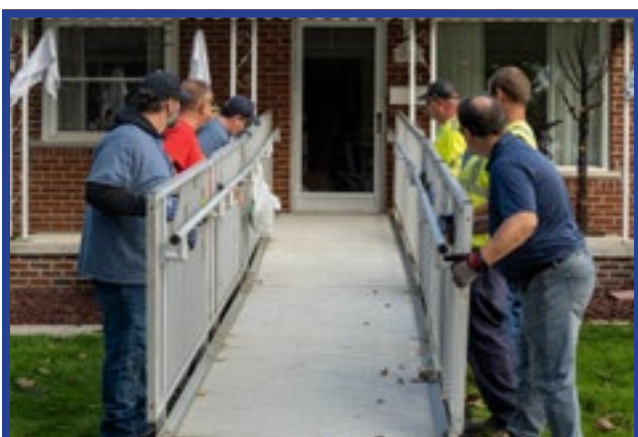
Post 582 Commander Dennis Hoffman rendering a hand salute after lowering flag to half staff while taps were played. Post members Carl Jeffrey and Ron Allen selling raffle tickets for Post fund raiser. Sept. fest vfw food tent and post trustee Steve Jurewich and girl scouts from troop 76460 earning community service badges. Post 582 honor guard presented the colors at hero's night football game at Ortonville in front CMDR. Dennis Hoffman back row John Wudarcki, Steve Jurewich, Craig Whitaker, Carl Jeffrey, and Cliff Filhart



### POST 1136 - WYANDOTTE

The City of Wyandotte Post 1136 is honored to share with the Department of Michigan that we were able to assist new post member Jonny Elliot, with a reclaimed wheelchair ramp and new wheel chair. Comrade Elliot served with the United States Marine Corps 62' to 66' during the initial wave into Vietnam. After his military service, Jonny went to work for Ford Motor company where he retired from. His wife, Elma, reached out to the Wyandotte VFW about a month ago. "I remember driving by, I just thought they might be able to help." I went and met with Jonny and Elma, we discussed all the benefits of joining the VFW and what we could do to assist Jonny moving forward. Our current Jr. Vice Commander, Charlie Crosby, works for DTE and is a part of the DTE Energy VETS Group, Disabled Team. He made a couple

phone calls and within hours the ball was rolling on helping the Elliot's and ease their troubles with attending Jonny's physical therapy appointments. The DTE Energy VETS Group, Disabled Team, is made up of veterans that now work for DTE Energy. They search out projects where they can assist disabled veterans and make their lives more comfortable, they continue to serve by serving veterans. The DTE group took care of everything after the introduction with the Elliot's. Gary Tanner, DTE, rescued a ramp from a temporary building that was being moved. DTE took care of the permit cost for the City of Lincoln Park and the engineering drawing required by the city. On Tuesday, October 12, 2021, the ramp was installed at Comrade Jonny Elliot's house by the DTE Energy VETS Group, Disabled Team.



### POST 2233 - DETROIT



The POW / MIA National Recognition Day is observed across the nation each 3rd Friday in September.

Many Americans take the time to remember those who were Prisoners of War (POW) AND THOSE

Missing In Action (MIA) as well as, their families. This event was sponsored by the James Europe Post 2233 VFW and its Auxiliary. Commander Marshall Hawkins, Sr. Vice Commander, Robert Charley.





POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



Commander Stacey Roberts & Quartermaster Jessica Wright meet at the Capitol to discuss veteran issues



The Post purchased materials and the members replaced an old deck for a local veteran in need

POST 3946 - ROCKFORD

In late June, volunteers from Post 3946 and West Michigan Flag Pole set a flag pole for Bishop Hills Elder Care Community. In early August, Post 3946 members performed the VFW Flag Dedication Ceremony at the non-profit senior living community and raised a new American flag on the pole.

Under bright blue skies, Bishop Hills residents and staff gathered to witness Post Commander Larry Herrington and Post Quartermaster and Adjutant Richard Ringsma lead the ceremony. Post members Robert Burnett and Ken Blossom raised the flag. As the new flag fluttered overhead, Blossom led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and Ringsma offered a prayer asking God's blessing on the National Colors and on those who serve.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Rachael Kooiman, Director of Life Enrichment at Bishop Hills, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Post members for their support stating "We are absolutely delighted to receive this a new American flag from the Rockford VFW. It means a great deal to our residents, especially to those who are veterans, to have an American flag flying over their home. Thank you so much."



POST 8872 - PORT SANILAC

On August 5th Sue Scott, a Charter member and current board member of the National League of POW-MIA Families, was able to come up. The post hosted a lunch for her with six members attending. It gave Sue an opportunity to see this important symbol to the League of Families prominently displayed in a public setting and thank the Post for it's efforts as well as Jeanee Harper the proprietor their help. She was also able to see the Certificate of Appreciation the Post presented to the Bluewater for their posting the POW MIA Flag in their establishment.



POST 6056 - SPRINGPORT

Adams-Rockey Post 6056 and VFW Auxiliary 6056 celebrated their 75th Anniversary on 23 October 2021. The Post was mustered on 28 February 1946 and has served the Springport and surrounding Community for 75 years. The Post is one of only two that are located in Jackson County. The other Post is located in Grass Lake but they do not have a Post Home like Springport. The original Post consisted of house that was purchased in 1946 at the current location. The current Post was built and moved into in 1999 and the old Post was torn down. Darin Vickers was honored and presented with a certificate of appreciation for providing the VFW Post 6056 Honor Guard Ritual team with uniforms and jackets.







## DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



### DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - SUE-JEN MAULDIN



Greetings to the Fighting 5th,

What a great start this year. Norman and I attended the National Convention in Kansas City. It was

a very busy schedule and unfortunately, we didn't have time for site seeing but we did get our fill of BBQ. The Woodward Dream Cruise Membership table did not prove as fruitful as we had hoped but we had a good time and met a lot of people. We'll try again next year. A big "THANK YOU" to Burger King on Woodward Avenue for supporting us.

Thank you to Post 1370 for hosting the District 5 Picnic this year. For those who were not in attendance, you missed a good time!!! We took a few day off to visit Washington D.C. with friends. We laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and presented the "Old Guard" Sentinels with a gift. It was very humbling.

Fall Conference this year was very different than most of us are used to. The training was conducted jointly with the Auxiliary. It was interesting and I learned more about what the Auxiliary does than I knew before. We had

our normal CofA business meeting Saturday.

Service Office - The Service Officers have recovered \$33 million this year. Through his hard work and diligence, Service Office Director Joe Greene was able to secure all 10 grants for the Service Office so they can continue to operate at their current levels. Appeals are being done virtually. If you need help with your claims ask! Karen Greene is at Fraser Post 6691 on the 2nd Friday of the month. You can make an appointment to see her at the Detroit Regional Office (313) 964-6510.

Camp Trotter - Can host up to 88 Campers. A "Wishlist" of items needed is posted on the Camp Trotter Facebook page. Four (4) new members were elected to the Council: Tom Webber, Richard Rought, Barbara Locke, and Orville Beauchamp.

Activity Report - The only Activity Reports that will be accepted are those done online. No handwritten, faxed, etc. reports will be accepted. If you have any questions or problems, contact the Activity Chairman Bob Lutz.

National Home - The Michigan House has \$118,936.01 and is currently empty. There are 18 homes open with 11 applications standing

by for processing.

VFW Charities of Michigan - New VFW 501(c)3 Foundation. Two (2) Board Members (Stacey Roberts and Jessica Wright) were elected to the board.

Buddy Poppies - Buddy Poppies need to be ordered by December 31st to get them in time for Buddy Poppy Days. Poppies can be distributed at any time of the year. Click on the link to get the Buddy Poppy Form: (<https://vfwmi.org/uploads/Documents/21-22BuddyPoppyOrderForm.pdf>)

I want to thank all of you for cooperating with the District Inspectors. I know it is difficult at times however it helps us identify areas of concern before they become a problem.

Congratulate to our District Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers-of-the-Year winners. I want to "thank" George Navarrette Jr. and Gloria Dobbie for the outstanding work you've done and continue to do for our VOD, PP, and ToY programs.

On behalf of the District Officers, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

### DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - REINOLD E. YAHNKA



We had a great Fall Conference unlike no other before it. The training was set up in 45-minute sessions and included both VFW and Auxiliary

combined training. The training was very informative for everyone, and I am looking forward to future conferences in this format.

District 6 and District 6 Commander Reinold E. Yahnka and Quartermaster William Lietaert were recognized for making 100 percent in Membership and making All-State after the April deadline. Congratulations to Fowlerville Post 6464 for being the first Post in the District to make 100% in membership. District 6 is doing great in Membership and leading the way in the Department. Posts need to go to public events and set up Membership and Buddy Poppy tables. Concentrate on membership and call those annual members to see if they are interested in a life membership or maybe they can pay their dues early to help the Post make 100 percent in membership. For assistance, Garrett Dickey, Department Membership Director at [membership@vfwmi.vet](mailto:membership@vfwmi.vet)

Please get a Facebook page set up for your Post if you do not have one. Great way to get the word out on upcoming events and happenings around your Post. For assistance, Ben Light, Department Media Director at [media@vfwmi.vet](mailto:media@vfwmi.vet)

Activity and Hospital reporting should be reported by the 10th of every month. Report everything that you are doing. Read the VFW Action Corp at you monthly meeting and get credit for POW/MIA, Americanism, Legislative and more, it's that simple. There is on Post that has done no reporting yet this year. Five Posts have not reported any Youth activity projects or hours. Five Post have reported no Drug or Safety. This is easy to get credit for. You can order drug and safety information free of charge from the Michigan State Police and then put the fliers out on a table at your Post and report it every month. We have two Post that have reported no Legislative. Comrades, I have sent all of this information by email to every Post Commander and Quartermaster so there is no excuse for not reporting the above. If there is a member of a Post that would like to be added to my email list, you can send me an email advising to add you to the emails and I will add you.

Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Kalamazoo 28 & 29 January 2022. Contact Radisson Plaza Hotel at (269)-343-3333 for hotel reservations. VOD/PP/TOY Banquet to be held on 29 January. Tickets are available at \$40.00 a person. All seats are reserved, and no tickets sold at the door. Contact Pat Patterson for tickets.

Buddy Poppy, make sure you get your Buddy Poppy's ordered before the end of the year. Minimum of 500 should be ordered by each Post.

Saturday, April 23, 2021

Monroe VFW City of Monroe Post 1138  
400 Jones Ave, Monroe 48161  
11:00 am - Memorial Service  
12:00 pm - Lunch  
1:00 pm - Meeting and Elections  
Installation of District Officers after

It is an Honor to be your District 6 Commander and I am here to serve you and help you in any way I can. So please feel free to contact me at any time so that we can keep the "Super 6th District" on top by keeping "Veterans Moving Forward" through "growth".

[district6@vfwmi.vet](mailto:district6@vfwmi.vet)

@VFWAUXMI & @VFWMI  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK





### DISTRICT 8 - MIKE MARTIN

Fall Conference 2021 is in the books, and it was a great one. The new training format for Friday was excellent. I especially liked pairing with the

Auxiliary. If you weren't there plan on going next year. Training is so important. Things change, rules change, etc. and it's important to stay up on them. The other big benefit of the conferences, at least for me, is that I get to see some great people who I don't see very often. Now, on to Mid-Winter in January.

I would like to congratulate Post 3030 Otsego on becoming an All-American Post. Commander Mike Russell and his team are doing a fantastic job over there. Congratulations to all the Posts that achieved All-American status. Great job.

Also, congratulations are due to District 8 Quartermaster Barry Wickman for being elected Secretary Treasurer of the National Home Committee. We deserved Barry and I'm sure you'll do a great job.

In the Great 8 we are starting to gear up for the holiday season. We always have

a Christmas party for the children at the National Home each year. Santa Claus (actually three of them) visit the children in their homes with gifts especially chosen for them. It's a great time for the children. The Posts of the Great 8 support this effort financially and for that I thank you all. Garry Goff, District 8 Adjutant, has headed up this effort for year and is totally dedicated to it. Great job Goofy!

I know that several Posts in the 8th District are planning on distributing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets during the holiday season. My home Post 2144 in Holland does every year, and it makes our day to see the happiness the baskets bring to a family who may be struggling. I am one of those Christmas fanatics who starts to think about putting up my tree right after Labor Day so it's a great time for me.

To my posts, if you are having an event and would like me to attend just give me a call. You all know I'll hit the road to visit a post whenever I can.

Take care and this keep doing what we do best—take care of each other!



### DISTRICT 14 - DEAN MAKI

First of all I want to express my appreciation to Commander Conklin and his administration for

a fantastic POW WOW at Boyne Highlands. The training was valuable and interesting. I am looking forward to another great convention at the Mid Winter in Kalamazoo. I also want to thank those posts in the District for submitting their audits on time, and reporting for hospital & activities. For those of you who have not reported; please do so as soon as possible. It's very easy to do. If you need help, call me. Our next District meeting will be held on November 7th at Post 5670 in Gwinn. The Commander or his designated representative must attend this meeting. Also I would ask, that you Post Commanders, poll your posts for anyone interested in becoming a District officer. It is past due for some new blood and new ideas. Elections will be held at the Spring Convention in April. I hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.



## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT REPORTS



### DISTRICT 5

#### DON MCNICHOL

Boy, where did the summer go? So far it has been a busy time with official visits and a parade. I would like to thank all the auxiliaries for their cleaning supplies and donations for the VFW National Home. We beat Ohio in that competition by almost 2-fold. Awesome job!

Please remember to get your dues paid ASAP. Think of different ways to get members

to switch from annual to lifetime membership. This makes it easier on your treasurer, and you can reach 100% much sooner. As always recruit, recruit, recruit!

Department has zoom training sessions on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Info is on the Department website; these training sessions are good for all.

Next District Meeting will be December 12, 2021, at Post 1008 Waterford. I would like to see as many members as possible there, as Department President Stephanie Krueger will be attending. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and A Merry Christmas.

"Till they all come home"

### DISTRICT 9

#### SHIRLEY WILBERT

Taking a different approach in this article. I am going to share some exciting things that are happening in the 9th District.

Post #671 Dewitt: They were given a stone soldier and stone markers. They plan to have a memorial service at their post soon. They have a great relationship with community members and are always looking for eligible VFW Post and Auxiliary new members. If you live in the vicinity, check them out.

Post #9455 Owosso: Maybe you were passing by an observing their members have

gone to the local Hillcrest Cemetery to clean and scrub up markers and cut back shrubbery on the grave markers of Veterans. The community has always supported this post and the actions of the hardworking members that are civic minded.

Post #4461 Lake Odessa: The VFW Post and Auxiliary members have worked hard to revamp a Chapel at a Veteran's Memorial site on Jordan lake Rd. in the rural community of Lake Odessa where patriotism reigns supreme with the locals. They are making plans for

an open house when their project is fully completed. They would be honored for you and your family members to become a part of their tight knit family of Veterans taking care of Veterans and their families.

Anyone looking to show their patriotism through continued service to country who has the eligibility to join any of the Posts or Auxiliaries in the 9th District of Michigan are encouraged to check us out. You won't be sorry. We will welcome you with open arms and a listening ear.

### DISTRICT 10

#### ROBERTA REED

I have been enjoying my Official Visits at the Auxiliaries within our District. I have a few more to go, but it's so nice to be among our members and see how each of the Auxiliaries work so hard for our veterans. Small or large, it is amazing to see how each Auxiliary supports and honors our veterans. Our membership is crucial for us to continue all of our projects and follow the National programs. We currently are in 8th place within the Department of Michigan. We have 1508 of 1829 paid putting us at 82.45%! We just need to get another 321 members paid.

Reach out to your members and see if they need help paying their dues – last year was rough on everyone. This is one way we can utilize our Relief Fund by paying the dues for those members in need.

Our next District Meeting will be on November 6, 2021 at VFW Post 8465 in Lapeer. Department President Stephanie Krueger will be making her official visit to our District so please make sure we have a good turn out for her. Auxiliary Presidents should be attending each District meeting; however, if you can't be there, please make sure you send

a representative to the meeting. National has passed a resolution that each Auxiliary must have District meeting representation.

Our VOD/Patriot's Pen Banquet will be in January – more information will be coming on the date and location. Department MidWinter Conference will also be at the end of January 2022. It will be my honor to accompany our District winners. The Auxiliaries are working hard on the programs and make sure to report all that you are doing.



## ★ ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT INFORMATION ★

### DONATIONS TO DEPARTMENT

When sending donation checks to the State HQ, Camp Trotter donations must be on a separate check made out to Camp Trotter. With the exception of VMS donations, all other donations can be included on the same check and made out to the Department of Michigan VFW. Those donations include Cancer, Commander's Special Project (Membership Initiative), Day of Challenges, Gold Star Mothers, National Cemeteries, National Home, Mental Health (PTSD) and Scouting. All VMS donations should go directly to National HQ. Do not send donations for any other programs. At this time we are no longer taking donations for Blue Star Mothers. National Home life memberships need to be mailed directly to the National Home. Any donations that a Post makes to a specific Scout Troop should be sent directly to the Troop. To get Scouting credit for those donations send a photocopy of the check(s) to the Department.

We are in the process of modifying the donations page of the Department website. Since it is a project that our website developer has to do we are not adding anymore donations onto the website until this is complete as we don't want to lose any while the page is being changed. Please be patient as these changes are being made. As soon as the changes are complete, your Post donations will be added to the donation page.

### QUARTERMASTER BOND

The current Quartermaster bond expired August 31, 2021. If an outside insurance company bonds the Quartermaster, the Department must have a copy of that bond information showing the amount that is being bonded and the expiration date. This needs to be provided to the Department every year. There is a separate application and rate schedule for bonding Post employees (Bingo Chairman, Bar Manager, etc.). Any Post requiring that information needs to contact Amanda Lipocky at the Department office by email

amanda@vfwmi.vet / or by phone at 517-485-9456

### DEPARTMENT OFFICER REQUESTS

Any Post or District wanting to have the State Commander or a designee attend a function needs to complete a Request for Department Officer form located on the Department website at the bottom of the Forms section of the Resources tab.

The request can be emailed to Amanda Lipocky at the Department office at [amanda@vfwmi.vet](mailto:amanda@vfwmi.vet)

### POST CHANGES

Post 701 has changed their November meeting date from November 10th to November 8th.

Post 3087 consolidated with Post 3720. The Post will now be Hammerberg Memorial Post 3720 in Swartz Creek. Meeting times are the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Post 3941 has changed their November meeting date from November 10th to November 17th.

Post 6950 has changed their November meeting date from the 15th to the 8th and their December meeting from the 20th to the 13th.

## ★ ★ NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ★ ★

### VETERANS LEGACY MEMORIAL EXPANDS

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs expanded the Veterans Legacy Memorial site October 2021 to include individual pages for nearly 500,000 Veterans interred in 93 state, territorial and tribal Veterans cemeteries.

These pages join the nearly four million VLM pages already on the site memorializing Veterans interred in VA's 155 national cemeteries.

VLM offers family and friends a way to share lasting memories of a Veteran by uploading written tributes, photos, biographies, documents, and other information to Veterans' pages.

"VLM offers families a meaningful way to pay tribute to our Veterans," said Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matthew Quinn. "Because of the expansion of VLM to VA grant-funded State, Territorial and Tribal Veterans cemeteries, many families — including my own — will have the opportunity to memorialize their Veterans online."

The 93 cemeteries which will have their Veterans added to VLM are all recipients of VA grants through the National Cemetery

Administration's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program. These cemeteries also use the same software program NCA uses to schedule and record interments in VA national cemeteries, which provides the foundation for each Veteran's page in VLM.

"Memorializing our nation's Veterans and providing their families with a way to honor and remember their service is important to every state and territory," said National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs president Thomas Palladino. "NASDVA is excited to see the National Cemetery Administration's sustained efforts

to grow VLM and tell the stories of the men and women who served, and our members will continue to utilize and promote it in our state and tribal territories."

More than 22,000 submissions have been made to Veteran's profile pages in VLM since the site launched in 2019. All content submitted to VLM is reviewed by NCA moderators before being posted to a Veteran's page to ensure it conforms to the VLM User Policy.

For more information contact NCA's Chief of Digital Services at [James.LaPaglia@va.gov](mailto:James.LaPaglia@va.gov)

\*Article from the VFW Action Corp Weekly



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



**PRESS 1**  
**800-273-8255**



CONGRESS IS LEAVING VETERANS BEHIND

Congress is voting now on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. There are two critical amendments that NEED to stay!

GWOT Memorial Location Act

With the recent end to the conflict in Afghanistan and the 20th commemoration of the attacks on 9/11, NOW is the time to formally honor the more than 2.7 million men and women who served in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Washington bureaucrats are prohibiting a GWOT Memorial on the National Mall. The VFW strongly believes that our veterans, their families, and survivors have more than earned their right to have a place to commemorate alongside the other memorials of previous generations. Congress is failing the post-9/11 veterans who fought to defend our freedom and way of life.

Major Richard Star Act

Scores of disabled combat veterans are being DENIED full access to their hard-earned benefits. Over 48,000 medically retired veterans, most of whom are Purple Heart recipients, are forbidden from receiving full retirement pay, a benefit for which they sacrificed their health and military careers. The VFW firmly believes that DOD retirement pay, and VA disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits, earned for different reasons. Congress has failed to acknowledge this inequity and needs to fix this injustice now.

The VFW demands that Congress pass both the GWOT Memorial Location Act and the Major Richard Star Act as amendments to the NDAA for 2022.

TAKE ACTION!

Congress is voting on these amendments NOW, so you must contact your members TODAY! Tell them to keep the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act and the Major Richard Star Act as amendments in the NDAA for 2022. Now is the time to honor GWOT veterans and provide Purple Heart recipients the benefits they earned and deserve!



VETERAN THEMED TRUCK UNVEILED

Northland Area Federal Credit Union recently unveiled a vehicle wrap designed to honor and promote U.S. Veterans. Northland originated on Wurtsmith Air Force Base in 1957.

The Credit Union’s pickup truck which is used primarily for branch deliveries and support at credit union and Veteran events, has been wrapped with a design similar to those seen on the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk “Flying tiger” aircraft which served heavily in WWII. The graphic was designed in-house by Northland’s Marketing Department. Decal Freakz out of Gaylord printed and wrapped the graphics on the vehicle. The graphics on the truck showcase key elements of the credit union’s philosophy in conjunction with Veteran elements - designed to give honor to men and women who serve or have served in the United States armed forces.

“Our desire is for this design to continually remind the public and younger generations what our Veterans have sacrificed for this country” said Pete Dzuris, Northlands CEO and President. There is even a graphic paying tribute to the last B-52 bomber to fly out of Wurtsmith AFB before its closure. The Old Crow Express nose art is replicated on the roof of the truck. “This bomber flew 54 missions during the gulf war and is a hero among aircraft” said Dzuris. Northland sells Old Crow Express T-shirts and hats at Veteran and other events with 100% profit going towards Veteran organizations. Family Enterprise of Alpena was a partner in producing the clothing line.



MICHIGAN BOY SCOUTS HONOR LOCAL VOLUNTEER

The Boy Scouts of America’s Michigan Crossroads Council honored local volunteer Dane Bezemek of Davisburg with the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor the regional organization can bestow, on July 29.

The Silver Beaver is intended to recognize Scouts of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service within a council. Candidates for the award must be nominated by fellow volunteers and each council only has a limited allotment they can award each year.

While Bezemek volunteers with troops in the Holly area, fellow scouts said he distinguished himself through giving leadership across Oakland County.

“Dane has been a Scouter for 34 years,” Council Development Director Denver Laabs said during the ceremony. “His many positions have included Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, chartered organization representative, unit commissioner and assistant district commissioner.”

According to Laabs, Bezemek is a lifetime member of the National Eagle Scout Association and also holds the District Award of Merit, Commissioner Key award and the Community Service Award.

Bezemek presently serves as chartered organization representative for three units in the Holly area, Troop 43G, Troop 43B and Pack 43, all of which partner with his Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5587. Bezemek also serves with other Scouters as a member

of the Commissioner Corps for Oakland County’s Pontiac-Manito District.

“Dane has provided incredible service to our scouts and to our country being a member of the military, a COR and active commissioner, and helping to lead or monthly roundtable meeting,” said District Commissioner Lonny Johnson.

Laabs and Johnson were present at the Lafayette Grande Banquet Hall in Pontiac to present the award along with Council Vice Chair of Program John Savage, District Chairwoman Jennifer Sanker and District Executive Brandon Kathman.

“Scouting doesn’t go forward without quality volunteers to provide program for the youth,” Johnson said. “That’s my humble opinion; the BSA cannot provide program to youth without the wonderful work and effort from our volunteers.”

- originally published in the Tri-County Times ([www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com))







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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

1. Company Name/Publication Title

MICHIGAN VFW  
MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

2. Publication Number

9348

3. Filing Date

11/02/2021

4. Issue Frequency

4X YEARLY IN JUL/AUG/SEPT, OCT/NOV/DEC,  
JAN/FEB/MAR, & APR/MAY/JUN

5. No. Issues Published Annually

FOUR

6. Annual Subscription

FREE TO VFW MEMBERS

7. Complete Mailing Address of Publication

924 N WASHINGTON AVE,  
LANSING MI 48906-5136  
Contact - STACEY ROBERTS (616) 902-5877

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or  
General Business Office of Publisher

924 N WASHINGTON AVE,  
LANSING MI 48906-5136

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of  
Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor

Publisher - STAFFORD PRINTING  
1005 E FAIRPLAINS, GREENVILLE MI 48838  
Editor - STACEY ROBERTS  
7901 BACKUS, GREENVILLE MI 48838

10. Owner - VFW DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

924 N WASHINGTON AVE,  
LANSING MI 48906-5136

13. Company Name/Publication Title

MICHIGAN VFW  
MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below

05/10/2021

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

SEE CHART TO RIGHT

16. If total circulation includes electronic copies,  
report that circulation

NONE

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be  
printed in the 11/30/2021 issue of this publication.

18. Signature of Editor

Stacey Roberts

93RD GRAND OF MICHIGAN MOC  
VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN  
COOTIE CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 4TH 2021

Every year, the Grand of Michigan hosts and sponsors the “Cootie Christmas Party” for the children of the VFW National Home for Children. Your donations are necessary for this program to work and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Make your donation checks payable to: **MOC Grand of Michigan** and send to **Grand of Michigan Quartermaster Shane Houghton, 343 High Street, Ionia, Michigan 48906.** Earmark your check(s) **Cootie Christmas Party.** Your donations are greatly appreciated.

The host hotel is Quality Suites, 901 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917. For reservations, call (517) 886-0600 and/or email: [qualitysuites@haymanco.com](mailto:qualitysuites@haymanco.com). Room rates are \$100 per night plus tax. Be sure to say that you are part of the **Military Order of the Cootie.**

Banquet coordinator is Jeanne Beck. Text her at (586) 909-0091 and/or email: [jeannebeck1@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannebeck1@yahoo.com) with questions. Tickets for the Saturday night December 4th banquet are \$42 per person. For reservations, make check(s) payable to **Grand of MI MOCA** and mail to **Grand of Michigan Treasurer Kathy Kirby, 2330 Bingham Road, Clio, Michigan 48420.** Her cell phone number is (810) 577-7350 if you have questions. Please use the included reservation form and send your check(s) as soon as possible. Tickets for the banquet will not be mailed. Confirm that ticket(s) has been purchased will be by email if an email address is included with check (S) for the banquet. – **THANK YOU AND DON'T DELAY.**

Grand Sr Vice Commander Nathaniel L. Powell is the MOC Chairperson and can be reached by email at [grandsrcmdrmi@gmail.com](mailto:grandsrcmdrmi@gmail.com) or phone (734) 678-2444.

Cut along perforated line and mail bottom portion with your check.

Banquet Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check(s) payable to Grand of MI MOCA. Mail check and banquet reservations to: Kathy Kirby, 2330 Bingham Rd., Clio, MI 48420.

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (net press run)		1077	1102
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		0	0
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies Included on PS Form 3541 (1) 3541	14	12
	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541 (2)	293	299
	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail) (3)	44	46
	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means) (4)	35	36
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		386	393
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		386	393
g. Copies not Distributed		30	30
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		416	423
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		0.00 %	0.00 %
16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below			<input type="checkbox"/>
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies)		0.00 %	0.00 %



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Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



**Honoring the fallen**

**3.3 million**

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

**\$334,500**  
Amount raised through the VFW  
"Buddy"® Poppy program for needy  
veterans last year.



**\$334,500**



*Inspiring patriotism in young people*

29,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2020–21 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

84,000+

04,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2020-21 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

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Fellows (student veterans) who have  
n, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

on+

- Members and their family members
- Community Assistance Program (MAP) events

lion \_\_\_\_\_

ps, monetary awards and other tributes annually to middle and through two major patriotic essay

When posting to social media use  
**#VFWPOSTPRIDE**

## ★ CAMPAIGNS ★

## REINOLD YAHNKA

Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Jr. Vice Commander  
2022-2023







**DESIGNER / EDITOR,  
STACEY ROBERTS**

Happy Holidays!  
I want to emphasis  
the importance of  
**deadline for articles.**  
When articles are late,  
it pushes back the print  
date and makes other's articles obsolete  
as you will see in the issue. Please get your  
articles in on time for the most relevant news.

**Next deadline = DECEMBER 15**

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be rejected or returned for revision. **We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.**

**Printing & Distribution:**  
Stafford Printing

**Send articles for consideration to:**  
MOV@VFWMI.ORG  
7901 Backus Road - Greenville, MI 48838

The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

TAPS FORM

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for your TAPS report.

Send completed form to:  
VFW of Michigan  
924 N Washington - Lansing, MI 48906  
or Amanda@vfwmi.org

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

Branch of Service :  
ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY  
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :  
WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM  
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN  
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES



# ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

LISTED BY POST NUMBER / LAST NAME / FIRST NAME / AGE / SERVICE / WAR

<b>345 Redford</b> Bruno, Joseph N. 100 Army/WWII Ferrill, William	<b>4461 Lake Odessa</b> Beach, Parke 97 Army/WWII Brown, Gilbert 72 Enz, Ronald 82 Navy Nielsen, John 75 Marines/Vietnam Raffler, Elwyn 89 Army/Korea
<b>796 Port Huron</b> Burtch, William D. 70 Navy/Vietnam Cox, Lawrence D. 77 Army/Vietnam Evans, Richard S. 93 Army/WWII Garvey, Martin L. 75 Army/Vietnam	<b>5114 St. Ignace</b> Bunker, Louis 87 Army/Korea
<b>2144 Holland</b> Boerman, Merle 78 Navy Pyle, Reynold 100 Army/WWII Ramirez, Luis 98 Army/WWII Renkema, Marvin 75 Army/Vietnam Scoon, David 89 Army/Korea/Vietnam	<b>6248 Decatur</b> Binns Robert 77 Army/Vietnam Yordy, Charles 72 Vietnam
<b>2356 Hillman</b> Hayward, Donald 85 Army/Korea	<b>6756 Center Line</b> Bonkowski, Terry 73 Navy/Vietnam
<b>3033 Mt. Pleasant</b> Shaver, Ronald D. 94 Army/WWII	<b>6965 Ubly</b> Mixer, Jerome 87 Army/Korea
<b>3055 St. Louis</b> Greening , Carl D. 87 Army/Korea Lott, Michael A. 77 Vietnam	<b>7542 Birch Run</b> Adams, James E. 74 Marines/Vietnam
<b>3314 Arcadia</b> Lubahn, Clarence W. 91 Army/Korea	<b>7573 New Baltimore</b> Staffhorst , Herman F. Jr. 91 Army/Korea
<b>3724 Standish</b> Adams, Michael C. 92 Army/Korea	<b>7956 Augusta</b> Keglovitz, Donald E. 91 Army/Korea
<b>4054 Marcellus</b> Keenum, Michael 72 Air Force/Vietnam	<b>8236 Flint</b> Hartfield, Turner S. 98 Army/WWII Willis, Roosevelt 99 Army/WWII Wright, Lewis 73 Army/Vietnam
<b>4073 Marshall</b> Waters, James 93 Army Air Corps/WWII	<b>8846 Muskegon</b> Anderson, LaVerne 97 Army/WWII Stafford, Thomas 94 Navy/WWII/Korea
<b>4090 Portland</b> Skinner, Donald C. 77 Army/Vietnam	<b>9021 Warren</b> Yaschen, John 88 Army/Korea
<b>4093 Carleton</b> Capps, William 85 Air Force/Vietnam Headley, Gregory 73 Air Force/Vietnam Myers, Raymond 91 Army/Korea	<b>9363 Flat Rock</b> Cutting, Arthur L. 74 Marines/Vietnam
<b>4422 Taylor</b> Adkins, William D. 96 Army/WWII McParland, John 94 Navy/WWII	<b>9809 Saginaw</b> Wenzel, Charles F. 92 Army/Korea

**NEVER FORGET**

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN NEWSLETTER

(ISSN 1067-0661) is published quarterly; June/July/August, September/October/November, December/January/February, March/April/May at Stafford Publishing, 1005 E Fairplains St, Greenville, MI 48838 by the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars at 924 N. Washington Ave., Lansing (Ingham), MI 48906.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LANSING, MI AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Members receive this publication as part of their dues. Subscriptions for non-members is \$4.

Next Article Deadline : 12/15/21  
Send to : MOV@VFWMI.ORG

Postmaster - Please send address changes to  
MOV Editor Stacey Roberts  
7901 Backus Rd, Greenville, MI 48838