

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

— FALL/WINTER 23



Irene Hosking, at the age of 105, who served as a First Lieutenant in the Army during WWII, is still attending Department of Michigan functions



Jim Proteau, Linda Filipczak, Dale Avery, and John Griffith pictured with a check for cancer research to the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, presented at Fall Conference



Commander Ray Lopez, Adjutant General Dan West, Sr Vice Commander Kimberly Napoleon, and Jr Vice Commander Reinold Yahnka at Fall Conference

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Brian Mohlman, Commander of The American Legion, speaks during the VFW C of A Meeting at Fall Conference



3rd Circuit Court Judge Deborah Thomas speaking during the joint opening meeting at Fall Conference



Adjutant General Dan West speaking during the Department C of A Meeting at Fall Conference

A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, RAY LOPEZ

Comrades, I couldn't have asked for a better time at Fall Conference this past September. It was wonderful seeing fellow VFW and Auxiliary Members from all over the state. Seeing you all truly rejuvenated my spirit as Commander and reinforced my vigor for veteran and family advocacy. Many questions and comments were made on ways the Department can better assist Districts and Posts. Thank you for your feedback. I hear you, and we are working on refining our support to best fit your needs to be successful in supporting your communities. The fall season is upon us, and we are not slowing down! Many of you will be out and about in your communities, hosting events and drives during the upcoming holiday season. I'm excited to hear about your experiences, as I know you will represent the VFW well. Thank you for all you do; you truly change lives every day. I want to wish you all a Happy Veterans Day. I hope you gather and celebrate your shared service to our nation. Community is part of who we are within the VFW, and celebrating each other binds us closer together. I look forward to highlighting our youth at the Mid-Winter Conference after all their hard work for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs. We will be in Kalamazoo again this year, and I hope to see many of you there. Information about Mid-Winter is online at vfwmi.org; make sure to reserve your hotel rooms! Also, please remember that as the holidays approach, the needs within our communities become more evident. I encourage you all to continue serving others and make the holiday season special in your areas of Michigan. I'm so proud of all of you, and I pray you enjoy the festivities coming up.

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DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, KIMBERLY NAPOLEON

Greetings Comrades! This is my favorite season of the year. I can taste the spice of sweet potato pie and pumpkin spice everything. The feeling of cooler temperatures is among us after a long, hot summer. The fall season serves as my season to remember how beautiful it is to let things go to make room for the many beautiful blessings that are ahead. We are able to enjoy the beautiful, pleasant palates of the oranges, reds, and browns as the colors change. We are fresh off a successful Fall Conference, where we were filled with basic yet informative training sessions to help ensure a successful reporting year. There are so many of you who take the time to serve others in our communities and who deeply care about their communities. Please be sure to take credit and report what you do in the name of VFW as we continue our organizational mission of "Still Serving." I had the pleasure of serving as the Department Representative for District 5's Gold Star Mother's Banquet, and it was a humbling experience. We cannot repeat or replace the void these mothers feel, but as I stated to the

attendees, "we can surely support their causes by donating generously to their programs of work as a sign of support and gratitude that they know their loved ones did not pay the ultimate sacrifice in vain." This is also an exciting time of the year for one of our premier beloved programs, The Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen Essay and Scholarship Programs. I am excited and looking forward to hearing future leaders essays. Well wishes to the Posts and Districts participating. In addition, it is always exciting to hear the biography of the selected Teacher of the Year who's chosen as the one charged with keeping patriotism in our classrooms. Moving quickly from fall, we are now into the full holiday season. Let us remember to check on our brothers, sisters, Comrades, and others. As the holiday season approaches, I'd like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and let us remember to give thanks, if for nothing else than the fact that, as Veterans of Foreign Wars, we are still here and have the unique opportunity of simply being able to carry out Commander Lopez's mission to "serve those that have served." Happy Holidays from my family to yours, and may God continue to shower his blessings upon us all.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, REINOLD YAHNKA



Greetings Comrades, I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits as we move through this year.

As we look forward to the Mid-Winter Conference on January 26 and 27, 2024, at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, I am hoping that everyone will make the effort to be there for the training and support of our youth at the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year Banquet. By the time this comes out, you should have your All-American Dashboard updated with your VMS donation, Buddy Poppy purchase, VOD, PP, and TOY, and two recruiting events updated so that they are all green on the dashboard. As long as you are reporting community service monthly, you will meet the dashboard requirement for community service. Once you have those done, you can concentrate on the CIC Duane Sarmiento and meet the challenge of 102 percent in membership this year. So, keep up the great job that you are doing at every level so that we can continue the trend for a third year in a row and make Commander Lopez an All-American State Commander along with our State Quartermaster

Barry Walter. The key to success is communication, so make sure you are disseminating information that you receive from those above you. Make sure it gets to all of the members. Technology makes that easy, so take advantage of it. For those who do not use technology, you may want to consider learning to use it. Technology is here to stay and is advancing every day. If you need assistance in using technology, please reach out to me at (517) 745-3705. Comrades, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Junior Vice Commander. Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of any assistance.



BIG 10 DELEGATE, NORM MAULDIN

Greetings Comrades, by the time you receive this, we will already be into the holiday season. Su-jen and I would like to wish everyone of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May the blessings of our Lord be with you during this time of year. I wish I could have been at the Fall Conference to put out the information from the National Convention; however, I was sick and did not want to pass it on

to anyone. Unfortunately, our candidate, James Johns, from Wisconsin, whom we supported for the National Judge Advocate position, lost. The new Judge Advocate General is J. Douglas Whitaker from Nebraska, whom I have no doubt will do a good job for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. One thing we may want to revisit at the Council of Administration is the budget. It only allows for reimbursing the Big Ten Delegate one day at National Convention. We had a situation that should have resulted in a re-vote. Unfortunately, had that been the case, I would not have been present

to represent you due to the current policy. The Big Ten Conference was held October 20-22 in Itasca, Illinois. I am looking forward to representing you at the conference. Adam Wallace of Wisconsin was elected as Vice Chair of the Conference. I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to have served you in this capacity as the Big Ten Delegate for the last 3 years; it has been my honor and pleasure. Remember, at the upcoming Department Convention we will be voting for the Big Ten Delegate for 2024-2026.



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, BARRY WALTER

The last several months have been filled with challenges and largely success in dealing with them. The recent Fall Conference was well attended, with many first-time attendees. We had a very successful training day on Saturday, conducted by most of our Department program chairmen under the guidance of Programs Director Joe Tebor. We are working on the agenda for our Mid-Winter Conference, with plans for additional training in some of the areas that generated the most interest at Fall Conference. Our goal is to address those areas of training of most interest to the members attending. One of the issues of great concern to our members at Fall Conference was the addition by National of the new style tin tab Buddy Poppy. This new item is now available from the VFW Store by order through Department Headquarters, along with the continued availability of the legacy or traditional Buddy Poppy. There are

separate forms for each. Post officers ordering Buddy Poppies must ensure they are using the correct order form and that your Post payment in full is sent to Department with your order. The decision by National to go with the new style of Buddy Poppy was based primarily on two factors. The number of traditional suppliers of the legacy Poppy was severely reduced coming out of COVID, making supply unpredictable. Those suppliers willing to continue to assemble the legacy Poppy significantly increased their cost to the VFW. These two factors, supply reliability and product cost, led the VFW to seek an alternate product. We trust that you will give the new Buddy Poppy a chance and give us honest feedback on the response in your community. Post inspections are well underway. District Inspectors have a very important function in reporting on the well-being of the Posts in our Department. Proper Post bonding, timely quarterly audit reports, timely reporting to the State of Michigan on the status of your Corporation and timely filing of current-year IRS 990 forms, along with

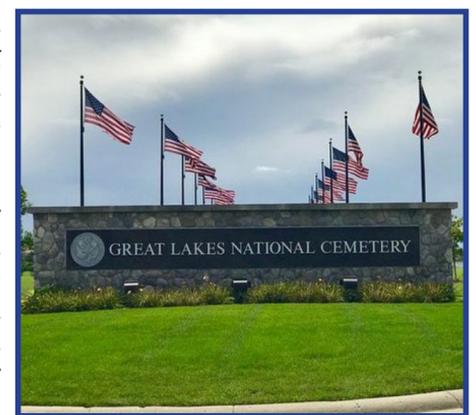
the Inspector's evaluation of how your Post conducts your Post business and meetings, are the stuff of an Inspection. If concerns are identified, Inspection reports will be returned for corrective action. Department Headquarters staff has been working hard on improving our public messaging through updates and reorganization of our Department website and social media outlets. We encourage all members to visit the Department website and explore the content. There is a lot of information contained about our VFW Programs and non-VFW resources. Our Department's Facebook and Instagram pages report daily activities within our Department; visit them often and keep current on what is happening. If your Post needs help with your Post webpage or social media, please contact us. We would be pleased to assist you. Comrades, if you have any questions or suggestions about the communications from Department, please contact us. Our goal is to keep you informed to the best of our ability, and we are working hard to do that.

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

Great Lakes National Cemetery Update: For Fiscal Year 2023 for the Great Lakes National Cemetery, the following occurred: There were 4,488 internments from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, bringing the total internments since opening in 2005 to 61,898. The Director is Andre Logan, the new Assistant Director is Richard Munoz, and the new Administrative Officer is Russel Sayles. The cortege lanes have been expanded from 3 lanes to 5 lanes, and

DANE BEZEMEK, DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

all roads are currently being resurfaced. Construction is currently happening on four more in-ground cremation sections, an additional columbarium, a committal shelter, and three more in-ground casket sections. Phase Two is scheduled to be completed by October 2024, with Phase Three to be started shortly after. Upcoming events at the Cemetery include Veterans Day on November 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. and Wreaths Across America on December 16, 2023.



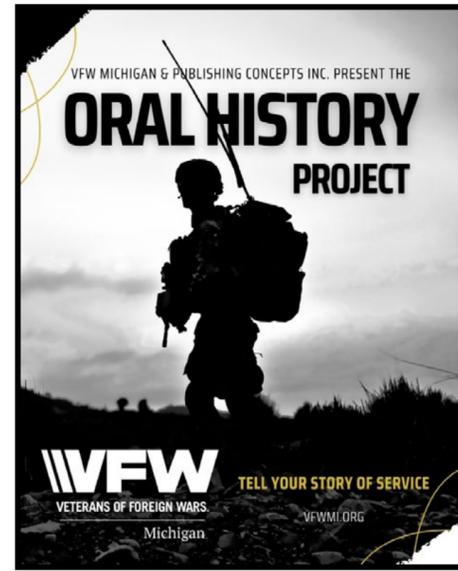
Veterans Crisis Line
 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

PUBLISHING CONCEPTS INC (PCI) PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Comrades of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan: State Commander Ray Lopez is pleased to announce that the Department of Michigan has entered into a contract with a trusted partner, Publishing Concepts Inc. (PCI), to contact our members for the purpose of documenting the unique stories of your military service, first in an oral form by telephone interview, and then compiling those stories into a special publication displaying the richness of the history of Michigan's veterans of all eras, branches and theaters. PCI will be contacting our members by post card beginning this month. Your response is purely voluntary. Your response to the post card solicitation from PCI will do two things. First, verification of your primary contact information: address, telephone number and email address to allow our Department and National to update this information. As you may know,

we at Department have been doing this kind of solicitation through your Posts for several months and found a significant percentage of records that needed to be updated. Second, provide you the opportunity to participate in an oral history project by agreeing to a telephone interview about your military service. This is a unique opportunity for you to share your story of military service to our country with a professional editor. You may supplement your story with pictures. Ultimately your story, with those of thousands of our fellow Michigan veterans, will be compiled into a book which will be made available to you. Your military service is unique to you. Through your service you made lifelong friends, shared experiences that made you who you are today. Your story is worth sharing with your family, friends and community. I hope that you will decide to participate in this oral history project even if

you do not decide to purchase the final book. By sharing your memory of experiences now you will ensure that the rich diverse history of our VFW members will be preserved to be treasured by future generations. Thank you for your participation!



THE IONIA CIVIL WAR FLAG RESTORATION PROJECT

In the summer of 1862 the 21st Infantry Regiment of Michigan was raised from the citizens of Ionia County and the surrounding communities. In September 1862 the 21st Infantry Regiment went to war with 2,423 citizen soldiers and several battle flags. One of those flags was paid for by the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the regiment's soldiers. The Regiment fought under that flag throughout the war in Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina loosing 377 men to combat and disease with many more returning home to their families forever scarred by wounds and the hardships of war. On July 4, 1865 the 21st Infantry Regiment returned the Flag to the "ladies of Ionia County" and it has remained in the custody of Ionia County on display for over 160 years. It is the only known remaining Civil War battle flag in private or municipal custody in Michigan. Two hundred and forty other Civil War battle flags are in State Museum custody and are displayed publicly infrequently. To retain the flag in the stewardship of Ionia County, where it is currently on public display

in the Ionia County Courthouse, it must undergo professional restoration and be prepared for proper protective display. Otherwise, the State of Michigan History Museum wants the Flag turned over to them for proper conservatorship. The estimated cost for proper restoration is \$50,000.00. A committee of concerned and dedicated veterans in Ionia County has been formed to raise the required funds. The VFW Department Council of Administration authorized at the Fall Conference the Ionia Committee to solicit support for the Flag restoration and preservation from the Posts and members of the Department. Post funds for this Memorial Project may be properly donated from the Post Relief Fund and reported as a donation under Americanism on the Post Activity Report on the website. Donations should be made payable to the "Committee for the Preservation of Michigan's 21st Inf Civil War Flag" or to VFW Post 12082 and earmarked for "Civil War Flag".

Donations should be mailed to:

VFW Post 12082
1131 E Tuttle Rd
Ionia, MI 48846

The Committee has also established a Go Fund Me page to receive your individual or Post donations:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/f4g3u-save-our-flag>

For further information on the Flag or the restoration project you may contact:

Shane Houghton
343 High St, Ionia, MI 48846
Shoughton1951@hotmail.com



MENTAL HEALTH/VMS DIRECTOR, DOUG BRINKER



Comrades and Sisters of Mighty Michigan, it was a tremendous State Fall Conference in Flint. For those who couldn't attend, you missed some remarkable information, from all the awesome trainings to the fellowship in the hospitality rooms. I want to thank State Commander Ray Lopez personally and publicly for my appointments. We are committed to helping educate and eradicate veteran suicides. If you were not in the reporting training, please note the importance of reporting your activities for mental health and VMS to myself so that I can report to national monthly about the great events your Posts are hosting in your communities.

When reporting mental health, remember to provide me with plenty of details pertaining to the event, including pictures, community impact, the other organizations involved, and members participating. Anything you can do to promote mental health and veterans and military support programs is key to helping make a lasting impact for all

involved. At the mental health/VMS table, we distributed nearly 1,500 pounds of resources, leaving the table empty when it came to teardown. That is overwhelming to me because it means you care about educating yourselves and the community about our awesome programs. If your post wants the mental health/VMS programs presented, you must go through Department for my assignment to count. I cannot and will not drive all over if your Post doesn't go through the proper procedures to request it, unless you'd like to provide an honorarium for my travels. I will, however, take a call 24/7 365 if you or another member, including Auxiliary, feel unsafe and need someone to reach out to who will take all the time needed to guarantee your safety. I want to thank those Posts in advance who will invite the programs in and help bring awareness to the membership and community around mental health and VMS. Please direct all VMS money donations through the dashboard and do not send them to Department. Remember, you must donate a minimum of \$100 to be eligible for All-American honors. In terms of the new crisis line 988,

most are still, after over a year since launching it, unaware of this short 3-digit number. When in crisis, dial 988 and press 1 if you are a veteran. I will have more unique materials at Mid-Winter Conference. I have restocked gunlocks as well. If your Post would like a case for mental health All-State credit, please contact me. Finally, I would like to close with a quote that I found profound; it resonated with me and might have some meaning for you. "No matter what you're going through, there's light at the end of the tunnel." - Demi Lovato. When we face uncertainty, it does challenge our very inner core, and sometimes if you don't reach out to ask for help, it takes you down to your knees. In August of 1999, it did exactly that because I failed myself by not asking for help, and it nearly cost me my life. Department of Michigan Veterans and Auxiliary, you matter always, and never ever underestimate your purpose! Go discover it and be awesome!

Doug Brinker
517-499-0926
douglas.brinker14@gmail.com

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR, BOB LUTZ

Comrades, can anybody tell me where the summer went? I hope that everybody is in good health and spirits. As I talk to post Commanders about not sending in the monthly reports, I receive answers from "I'm not going for a white hat" to "the Post doesn't do anything." I would like to remind everybody that in the National Manual of Procedure, Section 218, duties and obligations of the Commander paragraph, "I assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded," it is each and every post Commander's duty to make sure that their Post is properly sending in their reports. The reports are very important in a few ways. One

of them is (as told to me by an IRS agent) that they look at our reports, and Posts that have not submitted any or very few reports are more likely to be audited. Now the most important reason: when you send in the Post's reports, they come to me to evaluate and approve them. After I approve them, they go directly to VFW National, and at the end of the year, National has to turn in all these reports with hours and monetary value to the government, and then the government approves or disapproves of our non-profit status. If we ever lose our non-profit status, we will be in big trouble! Believe it or not, there are many people in the government

who believe the VFW is nothing more than "veterans sitting in a bar telling war stories". Our reports prove them wrong, and that's why reporting is so important! The Commander does not have to do the reporting themselves and can appoint someone else to do the reports, but remember, it is still the Commander's responsibility that the reporting is done! District Commanders, it is your responsibility to make sure the reports are being done, and don't hesitate to have me attend a District Meeting to go through the reporting process. Just contact the Department.





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

78 Romulus Kemp, William F. 92 Air Force/Korea	Wolf, Terrence R. 75 Army/Vietnam	1855 Dowagiac Zablocki, Phillip 75 Army/Vietnam
116 Bad Axe Goretski, Edward 87 Army	1071 Coleman Leppek, Paul M. 81 Navy/Vietnam	2144 Holland Perkins, Lester T. 74 Army Vredeveld, Richard B. 73 Air Force/Vietnam
345 Redford Lindlbauer, Carl E. 75 Army/Vietnam Perez, Jose R. Jr. 79 Army/Vietnam	1075 Harrison Kepler, Robert P. 73 Air Force/Vietnam	2272 Durand Bunce, Thomas A. 81 Air Force/Vietnam
423 Ann Arbor Hellner, David E. 89 Army Horsch, Michael L. 73 Army/Vietnam Mason, Robert M. 92 Marines/Korea	1136 Wyandotte Beauchamp, David L. 73 Marines/Vietnam Filipiak, Gerald J. 90 Korea Wisher, Leonard A. 90 Army/Korea/Vietnam	2284 Edwardsburg Overmyer, Robert 80 Navy/Vietnam Sill, John 90 Air Force/Korea/Vietnam
446 Muskegon Brentana, James R. 90 Army/Korea Caswell, Raymond D. 99 Army/WWII Dowd, Lawrence F. 90 Marines/Korea Pavlovic, George 97 Army/WWII	1137 Watervliet Babcock, Dean H. 75 Army/Vietnam Bryan, James R. 90 Navy/Korea Kronebetter, Clarence W. 98 Army/WWII Nigro, Donald 91 Army/Korea	2292 Edmore Sana, Jerry 92 Army/Germany
582 Ortonville Radachy, George M. 83 Army/Korea Wudarcki, John M. 91 Army/Korea	1138 Monroe Bussell, Ulus F. 91 Army/Korea Carmack, Beverly G. 73 Navy/Vietnam Giarmo, Vincent J. Jr. 77 Marines/Vietnam Olson, Ward F. 94 Navy/Korea Peplinski, Richard D. 95 Navy/WWII	2356 Hillman Hurd, Darrell C. 74 Army
607 Rogers City Heath, Bernard C. 96 Army/Korea Vogelheim, Charles A. 71 Army/Vietnam	1146 St. Clair Shores Brodreson, Robert H. 90 Army/Korea Huard, Dennis J. 79 Army/Vietnam Koss, Gregory D. 76 Marines/Vietnam Piccirilli, Gino 96 Army/WWII	2406 Charlotte Burns, Terrence P. 81 Air Force Coy, Byron J. 73 Marines/Vietnam Hale, Darryl 76 Army/Vietnam Klei, William L. 78 Army/Vietnam Komejan, Wayne D. 76 Army/Vietnam
671 Dewitt Lewis, Danny L. 74 Marines/Vietnam Van Vleet, Gary A. 90 Navy/Korea	1355 Sturgis Bargo, Jack L. 90 Marines/Korea	2496 Alpena Bey, Louis E. 97 Army/WWII Epley, Nolan Jr. 89 Army Friedrich, Kenneth E. 94 Army/Korea Reynolds, Curtis E. 78 Navy/Vietnam
701 Lansing Onstad, Martin 94 Coast Guard/Navy/Korea	1519 Northville Breed, John P. 88 Army/Korea Cousino, Robert 96 Army/WWII	2532 Paw Paw Johnson, Melvin 77 Navy/Vietnam
796 Port Huron Ludington, Bruce L. 94 Army/Korea Ragle, Thomas A. 75 Air Force/Vietnam Weston, David E. 73 Army/Vietnam Zaremba, Billy M. 72 Army/Vietnam	1527 Kalamazoo Casper, Raymond E. 89 Army/Korea Courtney, Donald J. 76 Army/Vietnam Wallace, Francis E. 86 Army/Korea	2725 Frankenmuth Dowe, Marvin H. 90 Navy/Korea
827 Kalamazoo Lawrence, Daniel 75 Vietnam	1566 Saginaw Fletcher, Benjamin M. 87 Navy Van-Y, Larry E. 69 Marines/Vietnam	2780 Traverse City D'Alstra, Ronald L. 76 Army/Vietnam
1008 Waterford Hall, Donald E. 89 Marines/Korea Hennison, David L. 74 Marines/Vietnam Pullis, Michael G. 73 Army/Vietnam Shepley, Kenneth J. 92 Korea	1669 Royal Oak Cauley, Frank J. 90 Army/Korea	2964 Reed City Jarzabkowski, Daniel C. 77 Marines/Vietnam
		2998 Escanaba Rian, Kenneth J. 91 Air Force/Korea Way, John T. 97 Army/WWII/Korea

3023 Grand Rapids Larm, Bertil K. 94 Army/Germany Wessely, John D. 75 Marines/Vietnam	4012 Northville Hannon, John M. 74 Army/Vietnam	5855 Portage Shearer, Steven A. 73 Army/Vietnam
3030 Otsego Herrington, Daniel K. 81 Army/Vietnam	4054 Marcellus Reynolds, James E. 89 Army/Korea Tapper, Terrence W. 74 Army/Vietnam	6015 Marion Puff, Kenneth E. 76 Army/Vietnam
3165 Negaunee Haupt, William R. 75 Navy/Vietnam	4087 Davison Bindig, Ronald W. 75 Army/Vietnam Worvie, Dale E. 74 Army/Vietnam	6017 Pentwater Cisler, Fred G. 76 Army/Vietnam
3243 Fenton Heffner, Gerald S. 79 Air Force/Vietnam Scholl, Archie L. 74 Vietnam Van Goethem, Michael G. 77 Army/Vietnam	4126 Mio Bickford, Allan D. 75 Army/Vietnam	6248 Decatur Parish, Alfred L. 92 Marines/Korea
3256 Montague Schultz, Marlett 93 Army/Korea	4139 Lapeer Seames, Michael L. 72 Army/Vietnam	6252 Comstock Briggs, Garry A. 74 Army/Vietnam
3293 Grand Ledge Briggs, R. Graydon 88 Army/Korea Domine, James E. 82 Navy/Vietnam	4249 Newaygo Vanderhaag, George A. 79 Vietnam	6464 Fowlerville Brady, Michael 73 Army/Vietnam Davis, Delmar 85 Navy/WWII Knickerbocker, Patrick 83 Army/WWII Wygant, Robert L. 91 Army/Korea
3323 Westland Lombardi, Domenick A. 74 Army/Vietnam	4357 Brighton Clark, William A. 88 Korea	6579 New Lothrop Henige, Kenneth E. 89 Army/Korea
3623 Cheboygan Spray, Robert D. 88 Army/Korea Zalac, Joe 99 Marines/WWII	4461 Lake Odessa Scofield, Charles L. 73 Army/Vietnam	6695 Plymouth Malec, Henry 97 Army/WWII
3644 Cass City Twork, Martin H. 82 Army/Korea	4573 Ishpeming Skauge, Stuart A. 73 Army/Vietnam	6950 Kawkawlin Pake, James A. 94 Air Force/Korea
3673 Bessemer Bonovetz, John E. Jr. 74 Air Force/Vietnam Mukavitz, William J. 90 Army	4624 Hubbell Fontaine, Gerald F. 71 Navy	6965 Ubyl Mac Alpine, Robert 81 Army/Vietnam
3701 Lakeview Baxter, Christopher 53 Army Beach, Mark E. 93 Air Force/Korea	4642 Linden Elder, Robert 79 Navy/Vietnam O'Brien, Bernard 54 Air Force	7302 Hemlock Leddy, Michael C. 89 Marines/Korea
3720 Swartz Creek Aldridge, Curtis N. Jr. 67 Army/Germany Axtell, Lonnie H. 76 Army/Vietnam Goggins, Edward A. 76 Air Force/Vietnam	4646 Lyons Crandall, Theodore L. 74 Army/Vietnam	7309 Mason Hughes, Marlin L. 75 Army/Vietnam
3727 Potterville Motcheck, David O. 76 Navy/Vietnam	4659 Shelby Township Adams, George 78 Army/Vietnam Bentz, William 90 Army/Germany Douglas, Thomas 83 Navy Kenyon, Gerald 73 Army/Vietnam Peyerck, Sylvester 85 Army/Korea Robertson, Donald V. 94 Army/Korea Walker, James 86 Navy/Lebanon	7542 Birch Run Hornak, Tony J. 76 Army/Vietnam
3775 West Branch Zettel, Ronald J. 76 Army/Vietnam	4803 Felch Anderson, Vernon T. 84 Army/Korea	8236 Flint Murphy, Charles Jr. 80 Army/Vietnam Sharp, James Jr. 90 Marines/Korea/Vietnam
3900 Calumet Winquist, Paul D. 92 Army/Korea	5319 Athens Pontoni, Raymond J. 92 Army/Korea	9363 Flat Rock Drexel, Ray 83 Army/Vietnam Germain, Ronald 65 Army Stahr, Arnold 90 Army/Vietnam
3941 Livonia Brocher, Ernest G. 93 Korea	5600 Ontonagon Szaroletta, Joseph M. 92 Army/Korea	9809 Saginaw Niethammer, Gary 79 Army/Vietnam Schneider, Edward 76 Marines/Vietnam
4005 Corunna Caverson, Michael A. 73 Army/Vietnam	5738 Clare Emerson, Andrew C. 38 Army/Iraq	9931 Bridgeport Floyd, Anthony T. 55 Army/Persian Gulf
		10704 Cassopolis Feagles, Leonard J. 78 Army/Vietnam Short, Robert 88 Air Force/Korea

★ ★ ★ ★ POST REPORTS ★ ★ ★ ★

POST 582 - ORTONVILLE



VFW Post members from left Amber Morris, Carl Jeffrey, Dennis Hoffman, Mark Stahl, Ron Allen, and Cliff Filhart getting ready to lead the Ortonville homecoming parade.



Post 582 presenting the colors at hero's night football game at Brandon H.S.



VFW Post 582 commander Dennis Hoffman and Quartermaster Robert Huggins at Ortonville's farmers market with membership drive table.

POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



Post members donated backpacks filled with supplies to Lakeview's PTO Back to School kick off.



Lakeview Fire Department poses for a photo following the Post's recent Honors Banquet. Chief Pat Carr (center) was awarded Fire Fighter of the Year.



We are now hosting Bingo the first Wednesday of every month at 6 pm! We have a had a great turn out so far.

COOTIE CORNER - ERIC BELL

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers!

The Grand of Michigan continues to be busier than a bee! At the Supreme Cootie Convention in Tempe, AZ this year, Michigan's very own Cootie, Eric Bell, was elected to the low office of Supreme Junior Vice Commander. Eric will be only the 5th Michigander to hold such position, since the Grand of Michigan was chartered in 1926. The last Michigan Cootie to hold the high office of Supreme Commander, was Donald Nettler (1992-1993). Donald was the only Michigan Cootie to also hold offices of Grand Commander (1983-1984) and Department of Michigan Commander (1996-1997). Give a big BOOO to Cootie Bell!



Left- Grand Chaplain Hazel White, Grand Commander Horace Frazier Jr. and Grand President Cathy Vargo in one of our two Cootie Wagons for the Romeo Peach Festival Parade on Labor Day.

Below- Grand President Cathy Vargo and Past Grand Commander Nate Powell leading our contingent in the parade.



Cootie School: Lousy is great! 😊



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, SARA MANKE

It is hard to imagine we are already halfway through the 2023-2024 year. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season surrounded by friends, family, and love. I want to congratulate you all for all the amazing work you have been doing for our veterans and their families. You have been busy promoting our national programs, teaching our youth about patriotism, and finally being able to get back into our VA hospitals and homes to host bingo, horse races, and parties. Our Mid-Winter Conference

is fast approaching; please check for all the information on housing, agenda, and banquet tickets on our website. This is my favorite time of year when we can honor and encourage our youth, as well as recognize some amazing teachers. I hope you are considering attending, as we will also have some amazing trainings and reports on our programs from my wonderful chairmen. I have been enjoying my time traveling throughout this great state. I have made it to 5 out of our 12 Districts so far and have a busy schedule coming up to visit the rest of the Districts and our VA hospitals and homes. My special project this year is having our Auxiliaries plant trees in honor

of a veteran who committed suicide or just to spread suicide awareness. I have been in awe of how many of you have participated so far, but remember, you have till the end of May to do so. I would like to thank our VFW Department Headquarters for allowing us to plant the first tree on their property. I will end with this: Always be kind. If you see someone falling behind, walk beside them. If someone is being ignored, find a way to include them. If someone has been knocked down, lift them up. Always remind people of their worth. Be who you needed when you were going through hard times. Just one small act of kindness could mean the world to someone.



AUXILIARY SR. VICE PRESIDENT, JANE DADY

Want to feel better? An act of kindness, or giving, is another way of "paying it forward". This one simple act of kindness can lower stress and make you happy. The benefits will snowball into overall health improvements and extended lifetimes. (Yes, someone did a study.) By paying it forward, you help and inspire others to also give what they can to assist and lift the spirits of others.

These positive actions contribute to the betterment of the world. Good karma, or positive energy, will come back to us. Paying it forward comes in many forms. It doesn't have to cost anything. Hold a door open for someone else. Help someone struggling with a heavy bag. Give someone a compliment. Offer a ride to someone. Wave someone ahead of you in traffic. Let someone go ahead of you in a line. Donate your homegrown veggies to a food pantry. At a buy one, get one sale, give the freebies to a pantry or shelter. Know the name of your mail carrier or neighbor. Say "hi" and

let them know they are not anonymous. If you go to a laundromat, leave extra quarters on the machines. When you are grocery shopping, leave extra coupons on the shelves. Paying it forward can help improve our world little by little. You can turn someone's day around and inspire them to do the same for someone else. You quite possibly helped them when they desperately needed it the most. And while you are at it, tell yourself something positive—you deserve some kindness too! Because of you, it will be an amazing day!

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

DENISE ARNOLD

The Post level Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, and Patriots Pen judging should be completed and the winners sent to the District Chairman. The District winners should be sent to the Department Chairman by December 15. Remember, all

VOD and PP entries must have the student bio, school release, and a wallet-sized photo. If you plan on attending Mid-Winter Conference, make sure you get your hotel reservations now. Banquet tickets need to be purchased in advance; none will be sold

at the door. Start promoting the 2D and 3D Patriotic Art, which is due to the Post level for judging by March 31, 2024. I wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.



AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN, JASON MANKE

Thoughts from your VFW Auxiliary Chaplain: Leadership-As it is very hard to swim while holding a large rock, it's difficult to serve at your very best when you have added drama. Therefore, may we always endeavor to support our elected leaders rather than merely complain, especially the

individuals that strive to serve others first, and be willing to be respectfully to their ideas. I would also like to share two biblical quotes.

1 Peter 4:10 states: "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." We each have something that we can contribute, so we must always have an open mind as we go through life.

James 1:12 states: "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." May God always bless you and keep you safe.



DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - JERRY BESEAU

Hello Comrades, congratulations to Troy Post 4659 for achieving 115% membership by Fall Conference. Our focus is on membership. We truly need to keep our eyes on the numbers. Our membership is what gives our leaders in Kansas City an even stronger voice in Washington, D.C. Everyone in your Post is and can be a recruiter for the VFW. Remember, you can use your relief fund to pay membership dues for those with hardships. Our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year Programs are progressing nicely. By the time you read this, we will be forwarding our District winners to the Department of Michigan. Our 5th District VOD/PP/TOY Banquet will be on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Post 7573, New Baltimore. Forms for the ad book and banquet tickets can be found on the District website, vfwmidist5.org. The Oakland and Macomb County

Council Camp Out was a hit. The camp-out is held every year on the weekend after Labor Day. It is not limited to Scout Troops; it is open to any group of ten children ages 7-17. The District Picnic and Gold Star Mothers 50th Anniversary Banquet was a huge success. Thank you to everyone in attendance. A special "thank you" to Fraser Post 6691 for hosting the events and the Auxiliary for the outstanding food at the banquet. Fall Conference in Flint was an enjoyable time of camaraderie, and a lot of information was disseminated. VTS provided a lot of good information for first-timers and old-timers alike. Come out to Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo and join in the festivities. Commanders, I'm sure there are Service Officers, Chaplains, new members, firefighters, EMTs, and law enforcement officers who have gone above and beyond to help our Posts, veterans, and the community. Be sure to honor these Comrades for their dedication. Part of our job as leaders is to ensure our hard

chargers are recognized. If you have any questions, need forms, or need assistance, contact us; we are here to assist you. There were two POW-MIA Recognition Programs conducted in the 5th District. One at Oakland Hills Memorial Cemetery in Oakland County, and the other at Resurrection Cemetery in Macomb County. There was a great showing by all hands from the Fighting 5th. Our next District Meetings will be held at Waterford Post 1008. The morning session will be at 10:00 a.m., with the business session starting at 1:00 p.m. Macomb County Council Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Clair Shores Post 1146, and Oakland County Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Royal Oak Post 1669. Here is wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER MICHAEL WHITTUM

Greetings Comrades! Well, my first meeting as District 6 Commander has passed, and I think it went well. Thanks to Comrade Matt David, who was the Department Representative. Thanks to Department Jr Vice Commander Reinold Yahnka and Department Inspector Bob Williams for VTS on Audits and Inspections. We need to get our Audits done. I can't stress enough how important it is to get them turned in by the due date. This has nothing to do with All-State hats, which I hear in conversations. This is a violation of By-laws and can result in a suspension. Posts can be shut

down and doors locked if you have a building. This is a Bylaws violation, so take it seriously. I don't want to see any Post shut down, enough said. I spent time this summer at Recruiting Events in Fowlerville Vet Fest and saw how the Post operates. I was impressed with the orders at the tables. Thanks to Butch Ogden and George Wygant for letting me observe and help. My home Post 6056 and Grass Lake 10194 set up at Jackson County Fair. We combined again at the fairgrounds on September 9, 2023, for a Ruck March for Suicide Prevention. We picked up a few new members, and there was also a great car show. Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year are now ongoing. October 31st was the deadline for contestants from the

Posts to the Districts. There is a lot of talent out there in our youth, and we need to help them take advantage of the opportunities for higher education. I have only been with the VFW since 7/12/2018 because, when I came home in 1971 as a Vietnam veteran, we came back to an ungrateful nation, so I wanted nothing to do with any veterans organizations. Now, I am a Legacy Life Member of the VFW. I am very proud to be with members of the VFW who help veterans and their families and their communities. Thanks to all the brother and sister members who are hard at work to better the lives of veterans and their families.





DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER - ROBIN BAILEY

Well, it has been a busy six months into the year, and we are motoring on. To date, District 8 membership is at 84.52%. Just a reminder that if you have any officers that are annual members, please make sure that their membership is paid up before the end of the year. Also, Commanders, please make sure that

your Post audits are turned in on time, as well as program and hospital reports. Seven Posts have not put in one or both of the reports this month. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Mid-Winter Conference with your Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners. It is important that we support these students throughout this process, as it does have a lasting effect on them as well as the VFW. Remember that even though the holiday season is

fast approaching (family, gatherings, etc.), our regular Post work (audits, membership drives, etc.) still needs to be done. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. Lastly, our next District meetings are: November 4, 2023 at Nashville; February 3, 2024 at Charlotte; and May 4, 2024 at Wayland. They begin at 10:00 with VTS, with lunch following, and then meeting at 12:30.



DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER - RICKY YOUNG

Greetings to maintain their nonprofit status. So, once again to my Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers of the 10th District. By the time you read this, the holidays will be upon us. Post Inspections are off to a good start. With that being said, if you have someone who is willing to step up and take a position, we need to remember to get them trained ASAP. One way to do this is through mentoring; another is through VTS. But the best training comes from a combination of both. Please don't forget to utilize the decades of knowledge from those who came before. I know you are all working hard for our veterans and their families. While many of you are reporting, we can do better. Community service isn't looking terrible, but there are some Posts that have not yet reported. Hospital is just over half reported, and the donations page has lots of zeros. These are the three items that are mandatory for the VFW

to maintain their nonprofit status. So, once again to my Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers of the 10th District. By the time you read this, the holidays will be upon us. Post Inspections are off to a good start. With that being said, if you have someone who is willing to step up and take a position, we need to remember to get them trained ASAP. One way to do this is through mentoring; another is through VTS. But the best training comes from a combination of both. Please don't forget to utilize the decades of knowledge from those who came before. I know you are all working hard for our veterans and their families. While many of you are reporting, we can do better. Community service isn't looking terrible, but there are some Posts that have not yet reported. Hospital is just over half reported, and the donations page has lots of zeros. These are the three items that are mandatory for the VFW

scheduled as shown below. Please bring a list of your Post and Auxiliary events to the Planning Meeting so we can all help spread the word. Also, just a reminder that the quarterly District Meetings include VTS 10:00-11:15, followed by lunch. The regular meeting begins after lunch.

District VOD/PP/TOY Banquet - January 14th (note the date has changed) Curtis Wolverton VFW Post 3243 1148 N. Leroy St. Fenton, MI 48430 (810) 629-3700

District Meeting - February 11th Lawrence W. Smith VFW Post 4139 128 Daley Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446 (810)664-9222

District Meeting - May 4th (note the date has changed) Lawrence W. Smith VFW Post 4139 128 Daley Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446 (810)664-9222

"DISTRICT 9 HELPS ONE OF THEIR OWN"

BILL ALMY, PAST DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER

On May 23, 2023, veterans from Fowler Post (3733), Ovid Post (8964), and Portland Post (4090) joined forces and constructed an aluminum handicap ramp at the home of Past State Commander Richard Lehner. The ramp was disassembled at a home in Ovid by Leonard Huyck and Aaron McClung. It was then transported to Richard and Rosemary Lehner's home in Parrington. On the morning of May 23, around 8:30 a.m., the volunteers got started. The weather was near perfect, with a slight breeze and plenty of fellowship with all the volunteers. The crew worked as a team, each contributing where needed

while maintaining the correct ramp slope and assembly process. The supports, handrails, and platforms came together rather smoothly, and the ramp was ready for inspection around noon. Richard is a Past District Commander (1991-1992), a Past State Commander (1995-1996), a Past Post Commander, and has held a variety of appointed positions in his VFW career. His passion, dedication, and loyalty are apparent to all who know him. Past State Commander Richard Lehner has struggled for several years with the chronic effects of exposure to Agent Orange. The ramp will be a great benefit for Richard to enter and exit his

home and will give him the freedom and ease to access his outer buildings. Richard and his wife, Rosemary, were very appreciative of all who helped with the construction project. As a thank you, Ricard and Rosemary treated the volunteers to a very nice lunch at a local restaurant in Perrinton. Thank you to Rosemary for your caregiver love and support for Richard. As always, Richard, we wish you and Rosemary the best. Volunteers included Mike Fox, Bill Almy, Jim Simon, Butch Warner, Leonard Huyck, Aaron McClung, Gary Gross, Emil DeSander, and Barry Walter.



AUXILIARY DISTRICT REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 - SHIRLEY CALDWELL

Hi, Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters! It is great to have October back in Michigan again, as the leaves are changing colors. District 4 Auxiliary Posts have been busy this past September. A couple Posts have had spaghetti dinners, steak dinners, and at least three Posts have had ceremonies for 9/11 and POW/MIA's. A Quartermania fundraiser and a Family Feud were

also held. Different Auxiliaries have planted a tree, and others are working on the planting of a tree in memory of our suicide veterans. Our upcoming events by the Auxiliary are as follows: November 4th, Plymouth VFW Post #6695 Meat Raffle; November 15th, Harris Kehrer VFW Post #3323 Chili Cook Off; November 18th, Lyskawa VFW Post

#7546 Meat Raffle; and December 4th is the District 4 Joint Memorial, which will be held at Wyandotte VFW Post #1136 starting at 2:00 p.m. Everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! God bless our veterans and military, and God bless America!

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT - DELLA PETAJA

Hi again from the U.P. of Michigan. We are very busy here; all Auxiliaries have activities going on. Our Auxiliary in Covington is having a Pasty sale and a Deer Hunters Dance within the next 2 months. South Range VFW is having

a Pasty sale and a Pancake Breakfast. Calumet just completed their Hotdog fundraiser and is having a Pancake Breakfast, with the profits earmarked for cancer. The weather is holding out, as we always expect snow and are happy when

it does not happen. I have finished my visits to the Auxiliaries in my district. I always find it so enlightening to see how some get so much done. They are all working to help our veterans, and I am proud to be a part of this organization.



EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.®



Your New VFW Calendars

Our Gift to You!

Your 2024 Special Edition VFW Calendars are a gift from the VFW in thanks for your dedication to your fellow veterans. Please send a gift in support of VFW programs that benefit veterans in your Department.



USPS ANNUAL STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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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		
a. Total Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15g) + Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
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d. Percent Paid (both Print & Electronic Copies)	0 %	0 %

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the 11/01/2023 issue of this publication.

18. Signature of Editor

Alyssa Lawrence

Mid-Winter



MICHIGAN WILL HOST THE VFW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

The Department of Michigan will welcome the VFW Commander-in-Chief, Duane Sarmiento, as our guest at 2024 Mid-Winter Conference, to be held in Kalamazoo, January 25-28. Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento, a native of New Jersey, is a US Navy veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the 124th National Convention in Phoenix, AZ in July 2023. Please join us in Kalamazoo to welcome the Commander-in-Chief to Michigan.

VFW AGENDA

Thursday, January 25, 2024		
6:30pm-10:00pm	Hospitality Room	TBA
Friday, January 26, 2024		
8:00am-4:00pm	Registration (Closed for lunch 12pm-1:30pm)	Kalamazoo 1
8:00am-4:00pm	Program Display Tables (Pick up pre-purchased banquet tickets @ Aux Registration)	Kalamazoo 1
9:00am	Service Committee Meeting Chairman, Mat David	Prairies
9:30am	Budget & Finance Com. Meeting Chairman, Paul McIvor	Prairies
10:00am	State Leg. Priorities Update Chairman, Jack Devine	Prairies
10:30am	Nat. VFW Leg. Priorities Update Nat. Leg. Com. Member, Kevin Hensley	Prairies
11:00am-12:00pm	Post Service Officer Training Director, Sidney Love	Prairies
11:30am-12:00pm	District Sr. Vice Commanders District Jr. Vice Commanders	Fields Oaks
12:00pm-1:00pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00pm-1:15pm	Hosp. Activity Reporting Update Chairman, Ben Light	Stone Theatre

VFW AUXILIARY AGENDA

Thursday, January 25, 2024		
2:00pm-4:00pm	Department Line Officers Meeting	
4:00pm-6:00pm	Pre-Council of Administration Meeting	
6:30pm-10:pm	VFW Hospitality Room	
Friday, January 26, 2024		
8:00am-4:00pm	Registration (Closed for lunch 12:pm-1:30pm)	Great Lakes
8:00am-4:00pm	Hosp. Booth/Silver Dollar Table Buddy Poppy Contest	Great Lakes
9:00am-12:00pm	C of A Meeting	Glens
12:00pm-1:30pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:30pm-5:00pm	Understanding Del./Voting Proc Taxes/For Use Taxes/Sales Tax Reporting/MALTA/Online Academy/Bookkeeping	Glens
3:30pm-5:30pm	2024-2024 Dept. Chairman Mtg. with Dept. Sr. Vice Pres., Jane Dady	TBA
6:00pm	Dist. Pres. Night on the Town	TBA
6:00pm-10:00pm	VFW Hospitality Room	TBA
Saturday, January 27, 2024		
8:00am-10:00am	Registration	Great Lakes

Friday, January 26, 2024 CONTD.

1:15pm-1:30pm	Comm. Service Reporting Update Chairman, Joe Tebor	Stone Theatre
1:30pm-1:45pm	Activity Evaluation Update Chairman, Bob Lutz	Stone Theatre
1:45pm	Membership Chairman, Garrett Dickey	Stone Theatre
	All-State/All-American Pro. Chairman, Michael Martin, Garrett Dickey	Stone Theatre
	Membership Pro. Comments State Commander Lopez Commander-in-Chief	Stone Theatre
3:00pm	BREAK	
3:15pm-3:45pm	Department Website Use John Gubin, Ben Light, Sarah Daniels	Stone Theatre
3:45-4:30pm	Social Media Use Ben Light, Sarah Daniels	Stone Theatre
4:30pm	Soc. Media/User Workshop/Prob Solv.	Stone Theatre
6:00pm-11:00pm	Hospitality Room	TBA

Saturday, January 27, 2024

ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 10:00AM

8:00am-10:00am	Registration	Kalamazoo 1
8:00am-12:30pm	Program Display Tables	Kalamazoo 1
8:00am-9:00am	C of A Breakfast	Meadows
9:15am	C of A Meeting	Prairies
1:00pm-2:00pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
2:15pm-3:00pm	VFW Aux. VOD/PP Reception	Glens
4:00pm-5:00pm	VOD/PP Stdnts, Dist. Cmdr./Pres Head table meet for line up	Kalamazoo 2
5:00pm	VOD/PP Banquet (Tickets must have been purchased in advance)	Arcadia Ballroom

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Safe Travels Home

Dress Code for all training sessions is the Commander's black polo & khakis or grey slacks. Council of Administration members will be in C of A uniform (navy jacket and grey slacks) for C of A meeting

Dress Code for VOD/PP Dinner is business/formal attire

Saturday, January 27, 2024 CONTD.

8:00-12:30pm	Hosp. Booth/Silver Dollar Table Buddy Poppy will be judged at 9:30am	Great Lakes
9:00am-10:30am	Pro. Chairman Year End Wrap Up Training/Buddy Poppy Awards	Glens
10:30am-12:00pm	Election Training Installation Dues Increase Audit from Training	Glens
12:00pm-2:00pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
12:30pm-1:30pm	Dist. Jr. Vice Pres. Meeting w/ Dept. Jr. Vice Pres. Debbie Scheetz	TBA
12:30pm-1:00pm	2023-2024 Dept. Chairman Meeting w/ Sara Manke	TBA
2:15pm-3:00pm	Auxiliary VOD/PP Reception	Glens
4:00pm-5:00pm	VOD/PP Stdnts & Head Table	Fields Room
5:00pm	Banquet/Escort of Head Table and Students	Arcadia Ballroom

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Safe Travels Home

TIMES AND MEETING LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE -
REVISIONS WILL BE POSTED ON DEPARTMENT WEBSITE
AT WWW.VFWAUXMI.ORG



**Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
45th Mid – Winter Conference
Wednesday January 24, 2024 – Sunday January 28, 2024**

**Make Your Reservation by January 4, 2024
To Make Reservations Call
Radisson Plaza Hotel
100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007
Phone 269-343-3333**

- **Cutoff date is January 4, 2024 or until block fills, whichever occurs first.**
- **Please make your reservations as soon as you receive this information.**

To reserve your room, please call 269-343-3333 Reservation must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

When calling to make your reservation to receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a Department of Michigan VFW Mid-Winter Conference Attendee.

A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.

Rates are subject to 6% State Tax And 5% Occupancy Tax

**Room rates: Standard Rooms: \$119.00
Suites: \$169.00**

Group: Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Mid -Winter Conference

Wednesday January 24, 2024 – Sunday 28, January 2024



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VFW AND AUXILIARY
45TH MID WINTER CONFERENCE AD BOOK

RATES:

FULL PAGE: \$115.00

1/2 PAGE: \$85.00

1/4 PAGE: \$60.00

PATRON: \$10.00 (NAME AND POST OR AUXILIARY NUMBER ONLY)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW (NO CASH)

MAIL TO:

Department of Michigan VFW
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

Ads can be emailed to Jan Passmore at bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS JANUARY 5, 2024

MESSAGE: (PLEASE PRINT)



V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES
45th MID – WINTER CONFERENCE
Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo Michigan

BANQUET TICKETS
JANUARY 27, 2024

Price \$52.00 per person /All seats are reserved
No tickets sold at the door

DEADLINE DATE FOR ORDERING TICKETS IS JANUARY 19, 2024
All tickets ordered after Deadline of January 19,2024 will be at the Rate of \$60.00
BANQUET TICKET ORDERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUDING NO
SHOWS UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY STATE COMMANDER FOR REFUND

ALL TICKETS will be available for pick up at the Conference
Banquet starts at 5:00 PM

ONLINE TICKET ORDERING IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE
VFWMI.ORG, CLICK ON THE NEWS TAB AND THEN
THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE PAGE.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DIST # _____ POST # _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS _____

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW
(NO CASH)

MAIL TO DEPT OF MICHIGAN VFW
924 N WASHINGTON AVENUE
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906



**DESIGNER / EDITOR
ALYSSA LAWRENCE**

Hello All! My Favorite season has now come and (almost) gone as we are getting into winter quickly in Michigan. I also recently got married so you will start seeing my new last name McElfresh in upcoming articles! I would also encourage anyone who would like to submit an article for the MOV to please do so, the next deadline is below. I hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season!

Next deadline = February 15, 2024

Send articles for consideration to:
MOV@VFWMI.VET

The mission of this paper is to provide 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.*

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

CONTACT INFO UPDATE FORM

Members, please print the form to be filled out.
Return information is listed below.

Name: _____

Member number: _____ Post number: _____

Email address: _____

Address (if changed in last two years): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Are you currently on active duty? YES _____

Please complete and return to:
VFW Headquarters
924 N Washington
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Or email to: adjutant@vfwmi.vet



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