



Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan VFW community



MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 1

President Trump Addresses the 119th VFW National Convention



President Trump honors World War II veteran Allan Q. Jones at the 119th VFW National Convention. Jones who is a 94-years-old and past Chief of Staff for the national organization has been a member of the VFW for more than 70 years and was invited to the White House.

President Trump received a warm welcome from several thousand Veteran of Foreign Wars members at the VFW 119th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. "Stick with us," President Trump told his audience. The energetic crowd cheered throughout President Trump's speech. President Trump announced that, "we don't apologize for America anymore. We stand up for America. We stand up for the patriots that defend America. And we stand up for our national anthem." President Trump said he hoped to create another branch of the military to focus on space called the Space Force. "A lot of important things are going to be taking place in space," he said.

President Trump said that he would sign the congressional bill that would approve a \$716 billion defense policy that would raise military pay by 2.6 percent, the largest pay hike in nine years.

We're ordering 147 new F-35 Lightning fighters, 239 Apache and Black Hawk helicopters, 19 major naval vessels, nearly 8,000 Humvees, adding nearly 30,000 new soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines stated the President

President Trump went on to inform his audience that the White House established a VA Hotline, and every VA medical center now offers same-day emergency mental healthcare.

Tele-health and walk-in clinics are greatly expanding so our veterans can get anywhere at any time. In addition, processing veteran disability claims is quicker than ever before and the VA has implemented the Decision Ready Claims process where claims can be completed in under two weeks.

President Trump thanked those in the audience who served our country in uniform, defended our nation in battle, protected our great American flag, and congratulated the VFW's incoming leadership, B.J. Lawrence and Sandy Kreebull.

Camp Trotter Veterans Training Seminar Held June 23, 2018 Was a Big Success



Commander Patterson welcomes newly elected Department officers and appointees to Training Seminar.

Training Seminar photos on Pg. 17

The training was concerned with the development of particular skills to a desired level that would help us in making our Districts and Posts the best they can be. Training is the tool that can bring members into a position where they can do their job correctly, effectively, and conscientiously. Training is the act of increasing the knowledge and skills of our members to do the particular job they were elected and appointed to do.

44 words once said are worth repeating . . .

"There are often changes in elected or appointed officers at the Post, District, and Department; it is necessary that these new officers be mentored and receive the necessary training so that they can succeed. Don't just throw someone new into a position without help," stated Past District 6 and Past Post Commander 423 Horace Frazier.

VFW Elects Vincent 'B.J.' Lawrence as New National Commander

*"There's an energy in this organization
that's just chomping at the bit to be released"*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 25, 2018) — Vincent "B.J." Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M., was elected today as the new national commander of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from all five branches of the armed forces.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986 and earned his eligibility by serving in South Korea, where an armistice, or cease-fire agreement, has existed since July 27, 1953, and where war could erupt at a moment's notice. He joined VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, and immediately began moving the organization forward into the new millennium. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected commander at every level of the organization. His theme for the year and challenge to the \$102 million nonprofit organization is to "Make It Happen."

He said "everything the VFW wants costs money, but everything the VFW wants is for someone else." Through donations and corporate partnerships, the organization has provided more than \$10 million in financial grants to help almost 9,000 veteran and military families through tough times since 2004. It has awarded almost \$5 million in educational grants since 2014 to help more than 1,100 veterans and military service members to complete their degrees, and its youth patriotic scholarship competition, which drew some 133,000 middle and high school entries this year, awarded \$3 million to local, state and national winners. The VFW national organization also testified before Congress more than three dozen times this year to improve quality of life programs and healthcare for veterans, service members and their families, and VFW's nationwide cadre of trained and accredited service officers helped more than 500,000 veterans to recoup \$7.7 billion in disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2017.

Aiding VFW's corporate relationships is its VFW Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) charity that earlier this month was awarded a coveted four-star rating by Charity Navigator, which sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.

For all the organization already does for others every day, Lawrence now wants the 1.2 million-member VFW to "Make It Happen" even more in every community across the nation and world. "There's an energy in this organization that's just chomping at the bit to be released," he said in his acceptance speech today at the Kansas City Convention Center. "It comes from a younger generation who wants to get their hands dirty out in their communities, and it comes from an older generation who knows that the way we did things in the past no longer works, but whose experience and knowledge remains valuable."

The new VFW national commander is also putting a new focus on supporting the 6,400 existing VFW Posts, on creating new Posts, and on recruiting and retention of new members, as well as remaining focused nationally on ending sequestration, fixing the VA, and recovering missing and unaccounted-for service members from all wars.



Vincent T. "B.J." Lawrence newly elected commander-in-chief delivers his acceptance speech at the 119 VFW National Convention in Kansas City, MO.

**MOV MAILING CLARIFICATION:
A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV
IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS.**

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State Commander Phil Patterson



Phil Patterson
State Commander

Greetings Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone for electing me as the State Commander for the Dept of Michigan 2018-2019. The support and encouragement I have received over the last two years as I moved through the chairs has been incredible. I have been very thankful for the outstanding mentors that have guided and taught me, and I will continue to seek your guidance as the needs may arise.

The Department has held 2 training seminars so far, one at Camp Trotter on June 23 and one at the CPL Richard W. Menge Post 6756 in Centerline for the 4th and 5th Districts. We have others planned for the Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands September 28 and 29, 2018, and at the Fred E. Richards Post 3055 in St. Louis on October 27, 2018. There will also be one at Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo on January 25 and 26, 2019. Everyone is invited and encouraged

to attend any of these training sessions. You don't have to be an officer. All you need to be is willing to learn. There is a lot of information presented that is helpful in running a post so please take some time and attend one or all of them.

The VFW National Convention was held in Kansas City, MO from July 21–25, 2018. I would like to give a BIG thank you to everyone who showed up to represent our great state. We had 35 Posts represented, 49 delegates and our total voting strength was 234. Great job Michigan. I would also like to thank everyone who could not be there but got online and live-streamed the convention. Also, while we were there, Gary Gamble from District 4 was presented All American honors as a District Commander. Great job was done by Gary and all members from the 4th District.

I hope that everyone who attended the National Home for Children had a great time. It was nice to visit with all the comrades and brother and sisters. We did it again this year Michigan, we all did it, we kept the Oak Bucket where it belongs right here in our great state. I would like to thank all the Post, District and Department donations from all of Michigan's VFW and Auxiliary members. I would also like to thank the Marine Riders for their donation. We raised \$52,448.72. You all rock !!!! Please continue doing what you do for our National Home for Children. Overall between Michigan and Ohio we raised over \$100,000.00 for the Home.

This year we had two events for the VFW "Night at the Races" held at the Owosso speedway. We teamed up with the Auxiliary and conducted membership drives for both events. I would like to personally thank everyone who showed up to help with these events. I would also like to thank PSC Lloyd Putman II from Post 9455 in Owosso for providing the colors. This is a new event that we are trying, sometimes comrades we have got to think outside the box and try things that we have not done before.

We currently have some of the Department raffle tickets left, please consider buying one and supporting our Department fundraiser this year.

Membership, as we have all been told over and over, is the lifeblood of our great organization and well it is. Myself and all my line officers are going to do everything we can to give you all the proper tools necessary to become 100% in your Posts and Districts. In doing this, Michigan will reach the 100% mark for the first time since 2003. To all the posts out there, if you would like a list of Department at Large Members, relocated members or Prior members please get with myself or our Membership Director and Dept. Jr. Vice Commander Scott Gloger. We would be more than happy to assist you. We have over

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on Pg. 17

State Sr. Vice Commander Mike Fineis



Mike Fineis
State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

Over the years, I've heard hundreds of times that "membership is the life blood of the VFW". This is true in part, for to maintain life we also need air to breath. The fresher the air, the healthier we are. Just ask the people who worked around asbestos.

We as an organization need to remove the foul air in our post. We need to remove the negative elements that send members out the back door. They do not want to listen to the member at the end of the bar who has all the answers but does little to help. They do not want to be around a commander and/or quartermaster who act like a dictator. Correct these issues in your post and membership will grow. Members want to enjoy each other and have fun. Remember, please and thank you goes a long way to creating a positive atmosphere.

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers. I ask that you take a professional approach and read what your duties and responsibilities are for the coming year. Order from national supply the "Podium Edition of the - Congressional Charter - By-Laws -Manual of Procedure - Ritual". The more knowledge you have, the better off your post will be. Also, attend the Department and District schools of instruction.

District Commanders your district receives funds from Department twice a year. Use these funds to send your officers to fall conference, midwinter, state convention and VTS training. Purchase "2019 Podium Editions" for your posts to ensure each post is updated.... then ask them to read it!!!

For the outgoing officers, be there to guide and advise, not to lead. To many times posts make the mistake of "we've always done it that way". This concept stifles eagerness and innovation. The Iraq and Afghanistan vets are "High Tech" and full of energy and ideas. Allow them to flourish and bring their knowledge into your post. This is what we as an organization must do to grow and survive.

Congratulations to the newly elected District Sr. Vice Commanders. Please be aware by holding your office you are expected to attend Fall Conference, Mid-Winter and State Convention. You should also attend VTS schools of instruction. If you fail to attend these functions you will not have the knowledge to go thru the chairs and be successful. At all state functions, there will be a meeting of all Sr. Vice Commanders.

We will come together and continue the process of building the team that will lead our Department in one year. We will share thoughts, ideas, and "what if we did it this way." All may attend. **Report, Report, Report.** Maintain your nonprofit status and keep the IRS at bay.

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

(ISSN 1067-0661) is published quarterly,

January/February/March, April/May/June,

July/August/September, and October/November/December,

at American Publishing, 5606 Bramble Ct., Greendale, WI 53129

by the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars at

924 N. Washington Avenue, 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 \$4.00.

Postmaster: Send address changes to

National VFW, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

Meet your State Commander 2018 - 2019



Commander Patterson and his line officers and appointees take the Oath of Office.

Commander Phil Patterson is married and has four beautiful children and two grandchildren. Commander Patterson's wife is Lynn Patterson, his daughters are Bailey (22), Madelyn (18), Emma (9), and his son is Luke (4). He has two grandchildren, Kaiden (3) and Ivy (1).

Commander Patterson joined the Michigan Army National Guard in 1987; served Operation Desert Storm 1990-91 and Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2004-05 where he served as the Shop Foreman and Platoon Sergeant. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant (E-8) where he served as the Maintenance Supervisor for the 46th MP Command MACOM and in 2010. He retired at that rank.

Commander Patterson is a Life Member of VFW Post 6695 located in Plymouth, Michigan. As a Post Commander, in 2010-2011, his Post achieved Captain of the All-State Team and All-American Post Commander honors and he was a National Outstanding Community Service Award Winner 2010 – 2011. Commander Patterson also had the honor of holding these other positions: Post Adjutant 2011-2012. At the District Level: District Jr. Vice 2010 – 2011, District Commander 2011 – 2012, District Quartermaster 2012 – 2013, District Chief of Staff 2012 – 2013, Department Level: Department Legislative Director 2011-2012 and 2015-2016, Dept. Jr. Vice Commander 2013/Nov 2013, National Level: Served on the Iraq/Afghanistan Committee 2010-2011, Served as Vice Chairman of the Iraq/Afghanistan Committee 2011-2012, Department Junior Vice Commander 2016-2017, Department Senior Vice Commander 2017-2018 and your Department Commander 2018-2019.

Anyone who knows Commander Patterson knows that he is a hard worker and strives to make himself and those around him better. He always put the organization above his personal desires by doing what is best for the organization, fully believing in the VFW and its service to Veterans and their families.

His philosophy has always been one of "Team building, Teamwork and Communication." In doing this, Commander Patterson has established strong personal and working relationships with our comrades in all Districts. He makes it a point to "listen and learn" from all parties in achieving the VFW goals.

Commander Patterson's goal "is to encourage as many Veterans to join our great organization and to take on leadership roles. This is so we as an organization can continue to grow and have not only the experience of those who preceded us in the chairs, but bring new ideas that can help us prosper in many avenues in the VFW. We need to continue to help those Veterans and families in need." More pictures on Pg. 15

District 9 Commander Shane Houghton



Shane Houghton
District 9 Commander

Comrades,

Thanks for your vote of confidence in me by voting me in as your commander. I will do my best not to let you down. I ask all Posts to get their hospital and activity reports in by the 10th of each month. Take credit for what you do. We can be number one in reporting again this year. It's that time of year again for post inspections. If you have not been contacted yet, you soon will be. I would ask that you perform a self-audit first so that you are better prepared for when the inspector arrives. Create a special file or tabbed binder with your evidence so that inspection can be completed in a timely manner. Quarterly audits are due by the end of the following month. Please let me know if there is an issue with this deadline. Maybe

I can help. I would strongly urge each post quartermaster be as transparent as possible by presenting your trustees with all the documents they need to do their job: receipt book, Checkbook, bank statements, invoices, deposit slips, monthly reports, monthly ledgers. If you have a canteen and gambling, they will need all of those documents also. Trustees, your job is one of the most important in the VFW. You may be the quartermaster's best friend but during the audit you need to set that friendship aside (friendship is friendship and business is business; do not mix the two.)

Treat the audit as if it was your own money. Insist on access to all the documents you need to do this very important job. If you have a question, ask!!! the quartermaster. Report your findings in the next post meeting.

Judge Advocate Kevin Conklin



Kevin Conklin
Judge Advocate

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers and directors. I look forward to working with you and having a great year. Another congrats goes out to all those who dug deep to reach 100% in membership. That is a huge achievement and should be the top goal for each post to reach each and every year. Membership in our organization is the life blood of our great organization. I am just returning from the National Convention held in Kansas City, MO. Your Department was well represented in the City of Fountains. I was very proud to see the awards that our members received. District 4 Commander Gary Gamble received the All American District Commander Award and District 5 Sr Vice Eddie Dandridge received the National Community Service Post Award for Post 1794,

Mount Clemons. Congrats once again!

There are many changes this year to the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. I am happy to report that proposed changes to the rituals were defeated. The National By-Law study group hired an expert to give guidance in wording for our By-Laws and Procedures. This was done to conform to Robert's Rules. Many of these suggestions were adopted and passed on the Convention floor.

One significant change will be in Sec 216. The posts shall elect the Commander, Sr, Jr, QM, Chaplain, and three Trustees. The Posts will have the OPTION to elect or appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of The Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws. My suggestion to each Post is to start updating your By-Laws now to include these changes. There are Post By-Law templates available on line. Please send your updated By-Laws to Department for review per Sec 202 of Manual of Procedure. These same changes also affect Sec. 416 and 516.

Posts will now be able to own property jointly with another congressionally chartered veterans organization, Sec. 709. If you are not sure please contact the Department for clarification before entering into a binding agreement with another organization.

I would also like to recognize Ray Lopez and Andy Conklin for also attending the National By-Law and Resolutions Committee meeting. The meeting was a very long with many discussions.

As always, please feel free to contact me for clarifications.

District 4 Commander Robert Caldwell



Robert Caldwell
District 4 Commander

Hello Comrades,

This is my first article as your District 4 Commander for 2018-2019, and I am excited about the year to come.

District 4 has been very busy. By the time you receive this issue, a joint Veterans Training Seminar (VTS) training class with District 5 was held on July 14th at the Cpl Richard Menge VFW Post #6756 in Center Line. I want to thank all the District 4 members who were able to attend. A total of 46 VFW members were there along with some new Commanders and Quartermasters. Several other Past Department and District Commanders and the State Jr. Vice and State Judge Advocate also attended.

We celebrated Michigan Day at our National Home on August 5th and our annual picnic was held on August 18th at the Bova VFW Post 9885 in Westland. Family Day will be celebrated on August 23rd at Camp Trotter. Our first District meeting will be held September 9, 2018, at Trenton VFW Post 1888. I cannot stress enough how important it is that membership is the foundation of which this organization is built on. We have all year to become 100 percent, but let us put our best foot forward and start now, the sooner the better instead of scrambling around at the 11th hour. I want to thank you in advance for the hard work and dedication you will be doing. Please be sure to advertise your events on the Post and District Web page, District 4 Facebook and e-mails, so members can attend the events.

I want to thank everyone for having confidence in me leading District 4 this year as your Commander. I believe this is not a one-man show, but a team effort in making District 4 successful. We have our team in place right now!!! There is nothing we cannot accomplish together!

God Bless our State, District 4, Post Officers and members who make up this hard fighting District (Bob Caldwell geminic9055@sbcglobal.net 248-508-0232)!

Aux. District 9 President Mary Houghton



Hi to all the brothers and sisters of our auxiliaries.

I would like to thank district nine for voting for me for president. I look forward to meeting with you as I continue post inspections and visits or running into my brothers and sisters in public. I would like to ensure you that I will do my very best for the mighty ninth. I have already started post visits and inspections and everyone has been very helpful and supportive. I really enjoy meeting with you all and look forward to continuing the post visits. Let's not forget how important reporting is. Please take credit for what we have worked so hard to do. We should be so proud of our work and want everyone to know

what we do. As you know, we cannot continue to support our veterans without ensuring our auxiliaries future by continuing to push for membership. Tell all your friends and family how important our work is. So as my journey continues as your district nine president, I want to thank you all for your support and to our veterans for paying the price to ensure that we can live in the land of the free and home of the brave. I want to also thank my husband and family for their continued support. Please feel free to call on me if there is anything I can do to help.

"No One Does More For Veterans"

State Jr. Vice Commander Scott Gloger



Scott Gloger
State Jr. Vice Commander

Hello Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

Here we are with a new year in front of us. Let's hit it running!! First, thank you for all your support that was received for the position of Junior Vice commander of the Department of Michigan. The only promise is that I will try to do the best to my ability. As we all know you cannot please everyone all the time.

Now let's get to the brass tacks. We as a team need to get the boots on the ground and start recruiting new and reinstated members. Do not wait til the last minute.

As a Post, County Council and a District there is no reason you cannot get your Reports, Audits, 990 taken care of on time. If you have a problem please, use the chain of command to get a hold of someone for assistance. If the problem is taken care of it will stop phone calls asking where, or what is the problem. Remember if you do what is needed it keeps the red flags down and there will be a lot fewer issues in the post, district, department, and the National Organization.

We had an informative National Convention. It seems you always learn something new. It might be small, but useful, if not now in the near future.

Thank you to all who attended Michigan day at National Home for Children. We had a good turnout. We had great day. Michigan did it again by keeping the money bucket!!

Let's have a great year and do not forget also a fun year. Never forget we are here to work hard for all Veterans.

One last note, thank you everyone who sent prayers and thoughts to our family during our daughter's illness and passing. She is in a better place.

Yours in comradeship.

District 5 Commander Norman Mauldin



Norman Mauldin
District 5 Commander

Greetings from the 5th District.

I'd like to start by congratulating our All State Posts and especially Jim Hubbard, Post 334, for making Captain of the All State Team. It truly is a team effort and all of you should be very proud of the work you do. I want to thank all the Posts for their hard work and dedication. It's because of you the District made All State District and Oakland County Council made All State County Council. I would also like to congratulate our newly elected District Jr. Vice Commander Eddie Dandridge for receiving the District 5 Commander of the Year Award.

Membership is the life blood of our organization. "BRAVO ZULU" to our top recruiters St. Clair Shores Post 1146 and Royal Oak Post 1669 who were "TIED" for 1st Place with 24 new members; Waterford Post 1008 was in 2nd Place with 23 new members; and Disco Post 4659 was in 3rd Place with 19 new members. Keep up the outstanding work. YOU MADE US VERY PROUD!

A special "thank you" to Posts 582 Ortonville and 1407 Madison Heights for having me take part in the Memorial Day Parades and Programs. It was my honor and privilege. I also want to thank George Navarrette, Diane Stanley, and Cheryl Alberts for making the Hospitality Room a smashing success at convention.

For those who didn't know, it is our **75th Anniversary** and our theme is "Serving Those Who Served." I know with your help, this will be a great year and a tribute to all those who came before us. We are now in full swing as we hit the deck plates running, starting with the Bell Ringing at Post 7573 in New Baltimore to preparing for the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year.

I strongly encourage every member to attend VTS training whenever possible. There is always something new to learn."

To keep up with events going on in the 5th, please view our Facebook group page, "VFW Dept. of MI DISTRICT 5" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166457760425373>. The District Calendar is posted there to review or you can download and print it. Updates are made regularly so make sure you keep checking back. Upcoming events are:

2018

26 Aug	5th District Picnic, Oxbow Post 4156 at 11:00 AM
7-9 Sep	The Oakland/Macomb County Youth Campout
21 Sep	POW/MIA Recognition Day Services at Resurrection and Oakland Hills Memorial
24 Sep	Service Officer Training, Warren Post 9021 at 7:30 PM
27-29 Sep	Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands
06 Oct	Headstone cleaning, Great Lakes National Cemetery at 9:00 AM
07 Oct	Gold Star Mother's Banquet, Old Settlers Post 4659 at 1:00 PM
31 Oct	VOD/PP/TOY inputs are due to the posts
04 Nov	10th Annual Veterans Day Parade www.detroitveteransdayparade.org
11 Nov	Great Lakes National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony at 11:00 AM
15 Nov	VOD/PP/TOY submissions due to the district
04 Dec	Macomb County Council Christmas Party, New Baltimore Post 7573 at 7:00PM
07 Dec	Pearl Harbor Day
09 Dec	District 5 Meeting, Holly Post 5587 and Pearl Harbor Day Services
15 Dec	Resurrection and Great Lakes National Cemeteries Wreaths Across America, 9:00 AM

—DISTRICT 5, continued on Pg. 18

Adjutant/Quartermaster Lynn Patterson



Lynn Patterson
State Adj./Quartermaster

We have sent out the bond applications to all Post Quartermasters and I hope that you have all returned them or sent a copy of the post bond into Dept. Section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. This is a very important document for your post. It will be needed at your post inspection. Post inspections should be completed before Fall Conference. When going thru the post inspection and it asks you the date of the last filing for the 990, please show the inspector the paper of when the last time you filed was. Because of the dates that you file and the dates of the inspection it won't always be the one that is coming due. We need to see that

you are filing and you are current up to the last due date of the 990 filing.

Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**

Please look at your post By-Laws and see when the last time they were reviewed. If it has been more than 10 years look into revising them. There is no longer a Men's Aux and the word Ladies has been taken out of the Auxiliaries name. There is a template that you are able to use on National's website under forms and Templates. Or you can contact me and I will be happy to email it to you. National website is www.vfw.org and the Dept. website is www.vfwmi.org. These are both great tools to help you throughout your year.

The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of By-Law Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

Can't wait to see you at Fall Conference (Boyne Highlands September 27- 29th 2018)!

MOV Editor/Historian Nathaniel Powell



Nate Powell
MOV Editor/Historian

Greetings Comrades,

Let me introduce myself. I am Nathaniel Powell who goes by "Nate." Called "Nat," rhymes with "hat," most of my life. One day, two years ago, I told everyone that I wanted to be called "Nate" instead. Those of you familiar with the "Old Testament" of the Bible, know that changing ones name is not a rare event.

I served 20 years on active duty in the United States Air Force. My assignments included electronic systems maintenance officer Detachment 6 (Det 6) 1st Combat Evaluation Group (ICEVG) Radar Bomb Scoring (RBS) Division, Bayshore, MI; Operation Location (OL) 22, Combat Skyspot Controller, 1st Combat Evaluation Group (CEG), Plieku, Viet Nam; OL 21 Combat Skyspot Controller, 1st CEG, Bien Hoa, Viet Nam; 711th Aircraft Control and Warning (ACW) Squadron, Cape Lisburne, AK and the 754th Aircraft Control and Warning (ACW) Squadron, Port Austin, MI; electronics radar communications systems officer, 29th Air Defense Command (ADC), Luke AFB, Litchfield Park, AZ; Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) combat crew Minuteman missile launch officer, 67th Missile Squadron, 44th Operations Group, Ellsworth AFB, SD; squadron operations officer, 7391st Munitions Support Squadron (MUNSS), Balikisir AB, Turkey, and electronic systems staff officer, Headquarters United States Air Force Europe (HQUAFE), Ramstein AFB, Germany.

I was honored when Commander Patterson appointed me to serve as the Michigan Overseas Veteran Editor and Historian (MOV Editor/Historian) for the Department Of Michigan VFW. Positions previously held by two separate individuals are now, once again, combined into one. Honored in every sense of the word is the best way I can describe how I felt when Commander Patterson appointed me to this position. I am excited about filling the responsibilities of this position and I will give it my all to do the best job I can. I know my responsibility will be easier because I am surrounded by men and women from many different backgrounds who are thinking constantly about how we can help each other to be the best we can be. Like the commander, I believe in "Team building, Teamwork and Communication" as we strive to carry out our mission: to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military and our communities; and to advocate on behalf of all veterans.

I look forward to working with each of you. Remember the MOV output is only as good as the input we receive. Please submit your articles in a timely manner to be "All We Can Be." Email contact: mov@vfwmi.org and/or movpowell@gmail.com



District 10 Commander Don Callaway



Don Callaway
District 10 Commander

Greetings Comrades;

It is an honor to be serving as District 10 Commander again this year, thank you for your confidence and support. Hopefully we can improve in the areas where we fell short last year. Membership is the key if we can retain the members we have and keep their dues up to date it will go a long way towards our goal of 100%. We all know that new members, especially younger ones are hard to come by, but just take a look at what is happening at the department level, many of our department officers are younger veterans with young families and full time jobs, yet they still manage to find the time to help fulfill our mission of veterans helping veterans, it can be done.

Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers, at every level and thank you to all of our past officers who for one reason or another have elected to take a break for a while. To all of our past officers, do not forget our new officers will be looking to you for guidance and the well of knowledge you have is one of our greatest assets.

It was nice to be invited to so many post functions last year, I try to make as many as possible but impossible to do all of them. Please let me know as far in advance as possible if your post is hosting an event, and let other posts in your area know also.

In closing, please get all of the items on the checklist completed in a timely manner, audits, quartermaster bond, election reports, inspections, incorporation papers and 990s. A lot of time was spent last year that could have been spent on membership and other areas of concern like post closing or consolidation.

National VFW Programs Committee

Submitted by Jerry Gorski, Committee Chairman



Jerry Gorski
Committee Chairman

Comrades, Sisters & Brothers,

I was so honored to represent the Department of Michigan again. On June 25, 2018, I received a letter from Lynn W. Rolf, III, Director, VFW Programs informing me that I have been selected as a "Judge" for this year's VFW National Convention "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest to be held on Monday, July 23, 2018 in Kansas City, Missouri. I judged "Category 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)".

Below are ALL the Categories and the Winners in each category.

God Bless You. Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who continue to guard the Gates of Freedom.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES 2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION "BUDDY" POPPY DISPLAY WINNERS

CATEGORY 1 (Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign)

First Place	VFW Auxiliary to the James G. Lee Post No. 1685 Anchorage, Alaska
Second Place	VFW Auxiliary to the John Carnie-James Wiseman Post No. 3280 Clovis, New Mexico
Third Place	Hometown Murray Post No. 9773 and its VFW Auxiliary Hometown, Illinois
Honorable Mention	General Dwight D. Eisenhower Post No 3279 and its VFW Auxiliary Abilene, Kansas
Directors Award	Hershel "Woody" William Post No. 7048 Fairmont, West Virginia

CATEGORY 2 (Memorial or Inspirational Displays)

First Place	Wichita Memorial Post No. 3115 and its VFW Auxiliary Wichita, Kansas
Second Place	VFW Auxiliary to the Ernest K. Gerhardt Post No. 5923 Camdenton, Missouri
Third Place	VFW Auxiliary to the Sensing Brothers Post No. 4641 Dixon, Tennessee
Honorable Mention	Gandy Brown post No. 4588 and its VFW Auxiliary Bossier City, Louisiana

CATEGORY 3 (Artistic or decorative Use of Poppies)

First Place	Simi Valley Post No 10049 and its VFW Auxiliary Simi Valley, California
Second Place	Cheyenne Mountain Post 3917 and its VFW Auxiliary Security, Colorado
Third Place	VFW Auxiliary to the Francis Cannon Post No. 7589 Manassas, Virginia
Honorable Mention	VFW Auxiliary to the Fort Butler Post No. 826 Kirkwood, West Virginia



Chloe Jackson, little Miss Poppy, whose family resides in the Kansas House, meets, greets, and presents awards to the winners as she accepts donations for the "poppy drive" on Michigan Day at National Home.



State Chaplain Jennifer Smith



Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

It was a blessing to speak with so many of you at the past Department Convention. We come from varied backgrounds and perspectives – different faith groups, political beliefs, and ideologies. Still, as members of the VFW and/or its Auxiliary, we are united by a great and worthy cause -- care and concern for veterans, current servicemembers, the fallen, Missing in Action and Prisoners of War, and the families of all. These selfless objectives are indeed precious in a too often selfish world.

In spring, when attending a local veteran's group social, a Comrade asked me, "VFW, huh?" I responded that I was a member and mentioned our organizational programs. He replied that he thought about joining, but did not want to saying, "Why? They just sit around and drink all day. Had a bad experience..." I explained that some Posts serve alcohol and some do not, just as some people drink and some do not. Additionally, sincere welcomes are the organizational goal [and more often than not the norm] for veterans and their families of all ages, races, wars, and conflicts. Those eligible today and tomorrow for membership in our Posts or Auxiliary may be our next dynamic and ethical leaders.

Every Post and every person is different and while people may or may not drink, there is much more to the VFW. What brings us together is the commitment to our nation and all Comrades. We do so at all levels of the organization, as does our dedicated Auxiliary. Whether hosting a job fair, advocating for veterans with the VA or at the legislature, sending care packages overseas, donating funds to youth programs, helping Camp Trotter, serving a meal, lending an ear.... It goes on and on. The conversation ended with me inviting him, and later his friend, to join the VFW and Auxiliary and they are giving the matter further thought.

That Comrade's question might be one you are also asking yourself. Why do we belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars? What does the VFW stand for? Are we giving back (as we are able)? These are personal questions for each of us to consider. With my response to that veteran, I reminded myself of the true importance of providing care to others within the veteran community and was/am pleased to be a member of an organization that prizes the same.

As 1 Peter 4:10 states, we each have something that we can contribute, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." The Bible's Old and New Testaments and the Hebrew Tanakh include many other verses that show the significance of service unto others. If from another faith group/belief system, the value of giving is equally clear. Therefore, I contend that this VFW family of service, as different and unique as we are individually and as Posts, we are indeed representative of the highest American ideals. With that in mind, please continue to give as you can and you will make a positive difference in the lives of others.

May God bless you.

Community Service Bruce Bridson



Bruce Bridson
Community Service

Hello fellow Comrades, Auxiliary Brothers, and Sisters,

My name is Bruce Bridson and I am the Community Service Director for the Department of Michigan. Thank you Commander Phil Patterson for this appointment.

Since 1899, we've fought to preserve the values that make America great because we know how important community service is to America.

Reaching out into our communities is vital to our organization. Developing relationships with community leaders, media, school faculty and local civic groups can greatly assist each post in achieving the VFW mission. Join us in this mission by getting involved in your community and honoring America's veterans.

Each post is expected to engage in and report Community Service projects. The Department of Michigan website has all the resources to get the recognition you so rightly deserve when you participate in and do community service projects,

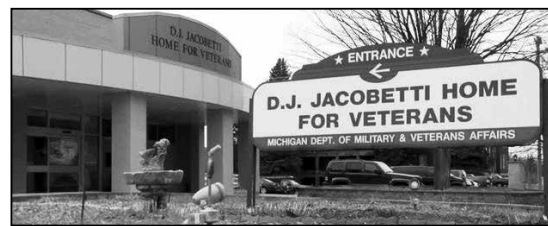
A great way to make new members feel welcome is to nominate them for an award. Department will recognize a "New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year." A new member for the purpose of this award is any VFW member in good standing who has been a member of the VFW for less than two years. A VFW member who has been a member of your Post for less than two years, but has been a member of the VFW for two years or more, is not eligible for this award. Each Post is asked to nominate at least one new VFW member for this award. The nomination form can be found on the Department website under Community Service tab found under the programs tab.

Please fill out the reports and submit those to me by mail at Bruce Bridson 2014 Richter Street, St. Helen, MI. 48656 or email 84cutty@gmail.com any report received between May 29th, 2018 and April 30th, 2019 will be recognized for the All State Program as well.



**NO ONE
DOES
MORE FOR
VETERANS**

D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans Michigan Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs



Here is a check presented by our VAVS representative Stephen Olson to D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. It is from Post 334 in the amount of \$7,500.00 for a bladder scanner.

Dignified service and quality care in a homelike environment full of activity is what the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans offers to former service members. Located in the beautiful city of Marquette near the shores of Lake Superior, the Jacobetti Home provides top-notch medical and nursing care, an activities program that is second to none, domiciliary care for homeless veterans and an after-care program for those recovering from the effects of substance abuse.

The Jacobetti Home has an extensive professional staff of physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians and recreational therapy aides, all working to make veterans' stays pleasant.

Also available are an in-house pharmacy, rehabilitation therapy, pastoral care and specialty clinics, such as dental and vision care,. In addition, members have countless opportunities to participate in spiritual, social, recreational and educational activities, both on-site and in the surrounding communities, on a daily basis [<https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/D-J-Jacobetti-Home-for-Veterans#2>]

National Home for Children

Submitted by Jim Hubbard, Department Director

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you to all who signed up and were willing to help with Michigan Day at National Home for Children.

We need to encourage everyone who is thinking about getting a life membership to National Home to do it soon. As of December 31, the membership will be going up by \$10.00. Membership will be \$50.00, and will include the pin.

Take time and check the National Home's website to see what they are in need of in material donations. All Post and Auxiliaries can always help with these needed donations.

A special thank you to all who stepped up to help at the last minute do to the fact that Kathy and I were not able to be there.

I was glad to hear about all the monies that was raised.

Hope to see everyone at Fall Conference.

—See page 13 for pictures from Michigan Day at the National Home for Children.

State Inspector William "Butch" Ogden



William "Butch" Ogden
State Inspector

Comrades,

A new year has begun. Inspections are being done please have all materials that the inspector needs to do the inspection: the last 990, the last audit, your by-laws and incorporation papers.

Audits are due by the end of the month following the end of the quarter, make sure that the 3 trustees sign the audit and the post commander signs the audit. Also make sure that you have the amount of the bond and who holds the bond on the audit form.

For all the newly elected officers and chairman congratulations. Please try to attend a VTS when one is available .

Please follow the chain of command when addressing issues (Post-District -Department then National.

Hope to see you at the National Home August 5th or at Fall Conference.

Let's have a great year for our Department Commander Phil Patterson

Yours in comradeship.





State Surgeon Don Martincale



Don Martincale
State Surgeon

Comrades,

I want to let you know how proud I am after being elected to the office of Surgeon this past Department Convention. I will strive to serve the Department of Michigan and, its members anyway that I can. I take this position and Hospital Director very seriously and I do hope we can attain 100% this year in hospital reporting. You are doing the visiting and loaning of equipment, and you just need to get it reported. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me so I can get you reported. I want to inform you as to one aspect of hospital reporting that many posts are missing each month, loaned equipment. You can report one worker, one hour, and one patient for each piece of equipment each month. I have been correcting the

reports that come in and don't report the items correctly. Please enter your post number and district. I can't enter it if I don't know where to put it. Reporting your hospital work is much easier than reporting your activity reports. So, please appoint a Hospital Chairman that will actually report what you do each month. You don't have to visit a veteran to claim a hospital visit, or donate to a VA Hospital, it can be your hometown hospital or nursing home that you are donating to or visiting someone there. You can reach me at the following: Don Martindale, 28836 Armanda, Warren, MI 48088, 586 771-2881, hospital@vfwmi.org, or dmarti5500@hotmail.com. I don't care how you get your report to me, just get it to me. I look forward to working with you this year and I will do all I can to make this year a successful one for our Commander Phil Patterson.

Assistant State Service Officer Sean Kelly

VA MISSION ACT of 2018: A Brief Overview

A June 4, 2018 report from the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) has confirmed many Veteran complaints regarding the VA's Veterans Choice Program. The GAO's findings show that despite billions of dollars spent to address access to healthcare problems experienced by many veterans who do not live close to VA facilities, veterans still must wait up to 70 days to get an appointment with a non-VA provider. The report contributed this shortcoming to bad reporting data and VA employees intentionally altering appointment records to misrepresent actual wait times for care.

In June, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Network Act, or VA Mission Act of 2018. This new legislation has some interesting features that Congress feels will resolve access to care concerns and ultimately streamline the VA's interaction with private care providers.

The first section of the law re-affirms the intent of the original Choice Care program; it "requires access to community care if VA does not offer the care or services the veteran requires, VA does not operate a full-service medical facility in the state a veteran resides, the veteran was eligible for care in the community under the 40-mile rule in the Veterans Choice Program..."

As a Veterans Service Officer, most complaints I receive from veterans regarding choice care are regarding the lack of communication between the VA and private medical providers. The VA Mission Act requires the VA to enter into contracts with established health care networks and assume responsibility for scheduling appointments for hospital care, medical services, and extended care services.

Further, it mandates that a veteran shall not pay more for using non-VA care than the veteran would pay for similar services at the VA. The entire bill takes into account the VA's shortcomings in reporting; it specifies and mandates comprehensive reporting to congress on access to and quality of care provided by the VA and its new community based health partners.

Finally, Section 152 of the law includes language establishing "Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Innovation for Care and Payment." This program is inspired by successful reforms of Medicare and Medicaid through their Innovation Center. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, "The Innovation Center allows the Medicare and Medicaid programs to test models that improve care, lower costs, and better align payment systems to support patient-centered practices. The Innovation Center carefully evaluates innovative reform efforts widely used in the private sector, and is unique in its ability to develop provider-proposed approaches and quickly adjust models in response to feedback from clinicians and patients."

As this is new legislation, it remains to be seen exactly how the VA is going to implement these changes. Some Veterans groups are vocal in their concerns that this law is the harbinger of privatization while others see the VA Mission Act as a well needed step towards a more efficient and integrated Veterans' health system.

Congratulations to the following Departments for Achieving 100%:

Oregon, Mississippi, Hawaii, Idaho, Delaware, Utah, Georgia, Pacific Areas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Arkansas, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Alabama, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Florida, West Virginia, Arizona, Texas, New Jersey.

Another Success Story!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan Service Office has long enjoyed many close partnerships with our county counterparts. Quite often the county service office is the first point of contact a veteran will have when seeking benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The county service officer will interview a veteran to determine what type of benefits the veteran – or eligible family member – may be entitled. Then comes the filling out of forms and collecting of evidence. Finally, the claimant is asked what service organization he or she would prefer for representation. Quite often the answer is the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In this case our veteran filed a claim for a mental health disorder in 2009. A year later the VA granted the claim, but significantly less than what was expected considering the serious nature of the symptoms. As a result, the veteran filed a Notice of Disagreement (NOD).

After filing the NOD, the veteran also submitted a claim for TDIU – Total Disability Individual Unemployability. This type of benefit is for those veterans who are not rated at 100 percent disabled, yet the severity of their service connected disabilities prevent them from working. The veteran had been marginally employed at best since leaving service. Most of his jobs were part-time and temporary. The veteran provided what we considered adequate proof of unemployability. This included a psychiatric assessment as well as a finding from Social Security awarding him disability benefits. The VA denied him TDIU and confirmed and continued his disability evaluation at 30 percent.

District 7 President Jason Manke writes . . .

The VFW and its Auxiliary has always been a part of my life. From a young age, I was taught patriotism, honor, service and a great love for our country and its veterans. As a small child, I can remember going to the Ladies Auxiliary meetings with my Mother. As I grew older working Bingo at the Post Home every Wednesday night, and bartending with my Father for hall rentals. As my Father became more active on the District and Department levels I assisted him with the VFW Department Cancer Booth, and met my wife Sara who is a Life Member of the Auxiliary. Between my Father and Wife, I was always helping somewhere. When the VFW created the Men's Auxiliary I was a Charter member in Athens and served 3 terms as President. When the VFW Auxiliary allowed males to join and my Men's Auxiliary disbanded I became a Life Member of the new VFW Auxiliary in 2015. In 2016-17 I was asked to be a Department Color Bearer and in 2017-2018 I was the Department Banner Bearer and my Auxiliaries first male President. This year I have the distinct honor of serving as District 7's first male President. I am looking forward to seeing what my future holds in this organization. (Picture on page 24)



Cootie Corner: *TIDINGS*

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison



Military Order of the Cootie "Vets for Vets"



Dan Kramer
Past Supreme Commander

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

On June 2nd, 2018, Patrick Henderson and Ivy Schaffer were elected as Grand Commander and Grand President for the 2018-2019 Year. Also elected were Grand Sr. Vice/Sr. Vice President Bill Austin/JoAnn Beachnau; Grand Jr. Vice/Jr. Vice President Eddie Dandridge/Rosalyn Dandridge; Grand Quartermaster/MOCA Treasurer: PGC Ernest Paulin/Sharon Paulin; Grand Adjutant/Secretary; PGC Robert E. Wilson/Kathy Kirby. The installing officer was Past Supreme Commander C. Maurice Theriac.

The MOC would like to congratulate the new State VFW Department Officers. We look forward to working with you on both your programs and ours.

84rd Tomb Trek 2018 Arlington National Cemetery

The 83rd Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 03-04 November 2018. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier or on our web site LOTCS.org

Speaking of web sites, you can now download information about the Grand of Michigan from either the Department's web page vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocgrandofmichigan.com

90th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2018

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 1st, 2018. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members both VFW and Cooties to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids. If you have ever attended one of these parties the kids have a great time.

Please, when sending your contribution make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forwarded to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster 710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050 Phone: (810)-735-7920.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2018-20019

The Grand of Michigan fundraiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to PGC Bob Routhier Jr., P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420.

In closing, remember membership. The life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cooties Auxiliaries'. Sign a new member up today!

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

—See MOC ELECTIONS on Pg. 8

VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 90th Grand of Michigan MOC

December 1, 2018

Every year, the Grand of Michigan is the host and sponsor of the "Cootie Christmas party" for the children of the VFW National Home. Your donations are necessary for this program to work and ***WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

Make your checks payable to: **MOC Grand of Michigan**
Send to: Earnest A. Paulin, Grand of Michigan Quartermaster
710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-0950
Earmark your checks as "Cootie Christmas"



The host hotel is Quality Suites Hotel
901 Commerce Drive off West Saginaw Street in Lansing, MI 48917.
CALL (517) 886-0600 or 1-800-456-6431 for *Reservations*.
Room rates are \$92.00/night. Be sure to say it is for the Military Order of the Cootie!

For *banquet reservations* contact Sharon Paulin
719 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-0950
\$42 per person - Make check payable to: MOCA-Grand of MI.
DON'T DELAY. William "Bill" Austin is the MOC Chairman.

Hospital Visit will be November 30th meeting at 12:30pm in the hotel lobby.

Please see PGC Eric Bell for additional information.

Grand of Michigan MOC/MOCA website: www.mocgrandofmichigan.com

—MOC ELECTIONS from Pg. 7

MOC 2018-2019 Elections



Commander Kramer addressing the VFW and Auxiliary members at the National Convention.



Cootie Supreme Commander Dan Kramer presents VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman with new headgear.



Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman tries on new Cootie headgear for size.



NATIONAL CEMETERY REPORT

Steven Eernisse, Director

Is your Post or District looking for a project for the year?

Perhaps you should consider Fort Custer National Cemetery

What does the cemetery need?

1. The cemetery always needs flags for the Avenue of flags. The Fort Custer National Cemetery Veterans Advisory Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the flags and the flagpoles. Each and every day of the year, 150 American flags are flown. It really is awe inspiring to drive into the cemetery entrance. Any worn or damaged flags are quickly replaced. The Veteran's Advisory Committee uses donations to keep a ready supply of flags.

2. Honor Guards provide ceremonies upon request for veterans who have died and are being laid to rest. There are five separate fully voluntary honor guards, Monday through Friday. Veterans are always needed and welcome.

3. Benches – Your Post or District can donate a bench to allow friends and families to "sit for a moment or two" and reflect on the serene atmosphere of the Cemetery. Benches cost between \$700.00 to \$800.00 each. (This could be a good community service project)

Feel free to support your Michigan National Cemeteries. Your time or time can make a big difference whether it is Fort Custer National Cemetery or Great Lakes National Cemetery. [Holly, Oakland County, MI] Please contact me if you have questions or concerns: Steven Eernisse, 269-720-6499, sreernisse@gmail.com.



From the Auxiliary State Department



Auxiliary President Sandy Medo

How time flies. It seems like it was just yesterday that I was elected Guard. Where did the time go? I have had a wonderful five years of meeting our members and learning a lot.

Now it is time to get to work. My theme is "United We Stand." I chose this theme because I truly believe that we need to get back to the basics of serving our Veterans and their families. Isn't that why we joined this great organization? Next time you see a Veteran shake his hand and say thank you for serving.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work in membership. As of this writing (early August) we are in the top 5 states in membership. Thank you, Nicole, for your hard work inputting the dues.

Has everyone sent for their Bonds and done their 990's? It's that time of year again. If you need help, please just call the Department office and either Cindy or Nicole will be more than happy to help you.

You can find the Roster on the Department web site. You have to login, go to Members Only, and you will find it.

We have a busy couple of months coming up. Camp Trotter Day was August 25th. Hope everyone was able to attend and had a good time. Fall Conference is September 28th thru September 30th. We will be having lots of training, so I hope everyone can attend.

October 19th to the 21st is the Big Ten Conference.

October 27th thru the 30th is the National Presidents visit. The schedule for her visit will be on the department web site.

I talked to National and they are finally starting to send out the membership cards. They should be caught up in the next two weeks. Hopefully some of you have already received your cards.

I want to thank my secretary, Cindy Peto, for all her hard work in keeping me on track. Sometimes that's a hard job. The office staff, Cindy and Nicole, work very hard to help things run smoothly. So, when you call the office and have a problem please do not yell at them. They will try and help you solve the problem. If you feel the need to yell at someone call me. Finally, let's try a little harder to get along with each other. Think before you speak. Words can be hurtful. Remember we are here for our Veterans and their families.

Buddy Poppy and VFW National Home for Children Chairman Kathy Hubbard



Good Afternoon Members,

I am so excited to have Buddy Poppy and VFW National Home combined as one chairmanship. Being the Department Chairman this year really excites me, being they both are special to me and my family. I sincerely believe it is every auxiliary member's responsibility to promote our VFW National Home and Buddy Poppies and what each of them do to benefit our veterans and their families in a time of need.

Your support of the National Home gives struggling military and veteran families hope at a time when they need it most. Be sure to go to their website and check out all the information available.

This year I encourage every District & Auxiliary in Michigan to take part in this Department's National Home Fundraiser, "Make A Change for Our National Home", no matter how large or how small in numbers your Auxiliary may be, YOU can Make a difference and you don't even have to leave your easy chair... Many love to exercise and then some of us struggle in distance walking, let's walk the green area of the campus, every 16 cents you donate, you just walked one foot of the 1.33 mile walk... Each of our district presidents will be receiving a canister to collect funds at your district meetings, and this can also be done at your auxiliary monthly meetings. Then we will see who can walk the farthest... be sure to read your bulletins for more information on this fundraiser. Oh, by the way invite your Post members to help you make the walk..... it can't hurt only raise more funds?

At Our National Home MI. Days was August 4th. We had fun and great activities. If you have never been there before, take time to attend and extend an open invitations to your hometown Community Leaders. Also, invite your families, car pool, etc. Come One Come All. As I am out in our communities, it amazes me how many people living here in Michigan have never heard about our National Home. This is no secret. We need to share everything about this beautiful Village, along with the many things there to help our military and veterans in need. If you attended, there were many things to take advantage for everyone. Auxiliary Banner and American Flag along with your **Buddy Poppy entry** were brought. The theme was something you could use on your membership tables, programs and projects. **Your creativity for "Awareness to Buddy Poppies" was appreciated and admired.**

Labor Day is fast approaching, if your Auxiliary participates in your home town parade, be sure to promote our Buddy Poppy along with our VFW National Home. If you hand out items along the parade route wrap a pencil with a Buddy Poppy or a Buddy Poppy enclosed inside the Story of the VFW Buddy Poppy or The History of the Buddy Poppy Brochure and then please report how many poppies and pamphlets you passed out.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

Legislative Chairman Evelyn Avery

The Legislative chairmanship is an important responsibility in supporting our Veterans. Legislative chairmen need to encourage all members of the VFW and it's Auxiliary to consider it our obligation to make our voices heard in support of our veterans. We are all advocates for our veterans....” Standing United” we must “BELIEVE....We Can Do It!” for our Veterans by being informed Veteran’s Advocate.

One of the easiest ways to be a veteran’s advocate is by joining the VFW Action Corps –www.vfw.org – VFW in D.C. – Grassroots Advocacy – Action Corps, Sign Up Now. The VFW Action Corps is FREE and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans’ communities. All you need is an email address . . . the more people who sign up the better, so don’t restrict it to one person per household. VFW Action Corps members receive: VFW Action Corps members receive: Current issues, pending legislation, good news and POW/MIA recoveries are just some of the things that will be shared with you.

- Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.

- Regular VFW “Action Alerts” telling you how you can get involved when our nation’s veterans, service members, and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill. By simply hitting “Take Action” on the Alert email you receive, you can immediately send emails to your elected representatives (the system does all of that for you) and help make a critical difference on current legislation. Join the VFW Action Corps!

Use the information provided for the VFW Auxiliary like: “I Vote in Honor of a Veteran” stickers–the pattern is available for the stickers on-line at the Department site: www.auxiliarymi.org – Make them at a meeting and pass out at community functions you attend. Also available is “The Guide to Contacting Your Legislators” (you can find this on the Dept. website under Legislative Chairmanship). Plan how you will contact your Legislator and be prepared.

When you visit your congressional representatives, please stress the **VFW Priority Goals for 2018**. These are the issues we will be fighting for in the 115th Congress. These goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. www.vfw.org/actioncorps in their entirety. They include: ***Budget** - To fully fund VA and DOD programs and services. ***Work Force Development and Accountability** - To attract and maintain a quality workforce ***Health Care** - To ensure that veterans receive timely access to high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric care at no added cost to veterans. ***Compensation and Benefits** - To ensure veterans and their dependents have timely access to earned benefits ***Education, Employment and Transition Assistance** - To ensure veterans have an opportunity to obtain meaningful employment after leaving military service ***Defense/Homeland Security** - To fully support U.S. troops and their mission to fight the war on terrorism and protect our nation’s citizens and interests around the world, Congress, DOD and the Department of Homeland Security ***Military Quality of Life** - To maintain a quality and comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all volunteer force.

Veterans and Family Support Chairman Jane Dady



America has the best military in the world. It trains their soldiers; tells them when to eat, when to sleep and when to exercise. When their tour of duty has ended, one day they are a soldier, then next day a civilian. They do not know how to suddenly stop being a soldier. They think their training is worthless, no one now needs a machine gunner, infantry man or tank crew member.

There are homeless veterans from previous wars with visible scars, missing limbs and PTSD. But a growing number of the veteran homeless today are from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

These veterans face an unseen problem not seen in previous wars. These veterans have served multiple tours of duty. They have had road side bombs, concussions and head trauma. These injuries go unseen and unnoticed. Their scars wreak psychological havoc.

These injuries lead to drug abuse, mental illness and suicide. Female veterans are becoming homeless faster than men due to break ups caused by prolonged and multiple deployments. The VA reaches about 20% of those in need.

If you are a veteran in need or at risk, call the VA crisis line at 1-800-273-8255-Press 1. The VFW National Home offers a HELP Line at 1-800-273-4200. Look for a Stand-Down in your area. Contact a homeless shelter in your community. The VA has access for housing and other needs and resources.

Veterans and their families can call 1-877-424-3838 to access VA services.

At VA.gov/homeless website, they have a map of the U.S. that shows the states and counties that have eliminated homeless veterans as of May 24, 2018. If you click on that picture, then scroll down to Michigan, it shows only one county in Michigan-Kent County-ending Veteran Homeless.

We need to work harder to end homelessness for all veterans.

Every member can help them. Sponsor a Stand-Down. Contact a homeless shelter in your area and ask them what they need. Donate clothes, your time, non-perishable food, clothing, personal care items or money. Give them a Resource Rack card. Connect them to a Service Officer. Let them know about the VFW’s resources and programs.

Help our Veterans with a hand up-not just a hand out.

God Bless America

District 6 President Kris Griffith

Greetings from the Super Sixth! For those that don’t know me, I am Kris Griffith and I am your District 6 President for the 2018-2019 year. I joined the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars under the eligibility of my husband, John Griffith, a Viet Nam Veteran. I live in Carleton and am a life member of the Carleton Post 4093 Auxiliary, having served as President for 3 years and currently on my 7th year as Secretary. I am looking forward to being your District President this year and to meeting and working with all of our auxiliaries. I am also looking forward to working with District 6 Commander Bill Lietaert and his team, I am sure together we will have a successful year!

Congratulations to Past District President Cheryl Moorhead for earning her District Achievement Award. This achievement is not only a testament to Cheryl’s leadership and hard work, but also to the hard work of the auxiliaries within our District which aided Cheryl in earning this recognition. I would like to recognize District 6 Membership Chairman, Peggy Ogden, for achieving 100% + 1 for our district! Many thanks to all of our District 6 Auxiliaries, and their hard work in Membership, for helping our District achieve this!! Congratulations also to Christine Mills, Aux. 4093, for the Best Overall Promotion of the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Teacher Education Award and to Kim Koberstein, Aux. 9656, for the Best Overall Veterans and Family Support Program. Keep up the great work!!

There are a few important dates coming up within the next couple of months, so break out your calendars. Our first District meeting is August 11th at the Monroe VFW Post 1158, lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with our meeting and school of instruction following at 1:00 p.m. Our 90th Annual Fall Conference will be held at Boyne Highlands on September 26-30, 2018, lodging information is available on the Department Aux. website (vfwauxmi.org). By the end of the second week of August, each auxiliary President should have received an inspection notice from me, as I will be starting them Aug. 2. If you have not received one, please call me. I am looking forward to visiting your auxiliaries, reacquainting with old friends and meeting new ones! I would encourage each auxiliary to have at least a couple members who are on our district Facebook page, as this is one format being actively used to keep us informed on upcoming events, suspense dates and local VFW & Auxiliary activities and achievements throughout our district.

Hope to see you all at our district meeting and Fall Conference!

Auxiliary Historian and Media Relations Chairman Deb Hanes

My name is Deb Hanes.

Since you are reading this Article in the MOV, it is very likely that you are a veteran or someone who loves a veteran. If you are related to a veteran, you may be eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary.

The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation’s oldest veterans’ service organizations and our members are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat. We have more than 475,000 members nationwide who volunteer millions of hours and fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans, military service personnel, and their families. Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation’s youth.

Michigan has over 22,000 Auxiliary members working to improve the lives of America’s uncommon heroes. You can find out about an Auxiliary near you by going to www.vfwauxmi.org.

District 12 President Diana Herrick

District 12 held a planning meeting on July 28, 2018. At this meeting, a discussion was held regarding our goals and aspirations for the coming year. It was decided that we needed to get back to basics, caring for our veterans! This includes volunteering at our local veterans’ homes, preparing meals for our home-bound members, provide transportation and visiting our fellow members confined to nursing homes and hospitals.

Encouraging our members to reach out to those in need, educating our community on the goals and services provided by the VFW and Auxiliary are needed. Our strength is in Unity. For over 100 years, we faithfully served the Veterans in Michigan. So, they know that their service and sacrifice are greatly appreciated and that they are cared for! This is a fragile time for our veterans. It must be every member’s goal to give with your heart, strength and spirit! “United We Stand!”

District 5 President Nancy Gaglio

Hello,

My name is Nancy Gaglio and I have been elected President of the VFW Auxiliary for District 5, Michigan. My home Post is Walter F. Bruce #1146, St. Clair Shores, where I have been an active member for 27 years.

Since my Installation at our District meeting in May, I participated in one Memorial Day service and two parades, and I participated in The Bell Ringing at Post 7573, New Baltimore on the 4th of July.

I am looking forward to working with the Auxiliaries in District 5 to do as much as possible for our Veterans and their families.



Auxiliary, continued from Pg. 9



Scholarships Chairman Marian Belaire

Greetings to all VFW and Auxiliary members,

My name is Marian Belaire and I am the VFW Auxiliary Department of Michigan's Scholarship Chairman. And the good news is that Mr. Sherwood Pea is my VFW counterpart. I am so looking forward to working with Sherwood as we help guide students, not only in fostering patriotism, but also earning money for college. To me, the most exciting part of this chairmanship is working with the young people of today, knowing that they are our future!! By now, you all probably have your plans set and are ready to hit the floor running as the students head back to school. Just in case you don't have all the information on the essays, I will go over them now in order of their deadline dates. Please keep in mind that the students DO NOT have to be related to any VFW or Auxiliary member. These contests are open to all students who attend public or private schools as well as home schooled children.

The Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest. The Theme: "Why My Vote Matters." Open to all high school students, grades 9 – 12. Entries must be to post by October 31, 2018. First place Grand Prize is \$30,000.00. Each of the 54 students who goes to Washington, DC, will get a cash prize.

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. The Theme: "Why I Honor the American Flag."

Open to all grade school students, grade 6- 8. Entries must be posted by October 31, 2018. First place Grand Prize is \$5,000.00. There are cash prizes awarded to all 54 students who go to Washington, DC.

Continuing Education Scholarship. Open to any Auxiliary member, age 18 years or older (who has been a member for at least 1 year) or their spouse or children who have financial need. The application must be submitted to National Headquarters by Feb. 15, 2019. Address: Administration of Programs, VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, Mo. 64111. Or email it to info@vfwauxiliary.org. One Grand Prize of \$1,000.00 to be given in each of the four conferences.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. The theme is Patriotic. Open to all students in high school grades 9-12. Artwork must be submitted to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2019. First place Grand Prize is \$15,000.00. This year for the first time, National is awarding cash prizes to the top eight places. While that is a wonderful start, National would like to increase the awards to encompass all participants each year. I hope you would consider making a donation . . . of any amount to help with this worthy goal. Send your donations to National for the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund. The address: VFW Auxiliary Headquarters, Attend: Patriotic Art Fund, 406 W 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

If you have any questions or need help with the scholarship applications, please feel free to contact me or you can also go online VFW Website, www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education. The VFW Auxiliary website is www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships. [Marian Belaire mbelairemvf@yahoo.com]

VFW and Auxiliary Members Passionate About Bringing Attention to Former Prisoners of War and Those Missing



September 21st is POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is a day that honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. You see the black-and-white POW/MIA flag everywhere, flying in front of VA hospitals, post offices and other federal, state and local government buildings, homes and businesses. You see it on bumper stickers, motorcycles and car flags, it truly is an icon of American culture representing military service personnel missing and unaccounted for in overseas wars. The flag was created in 1971 and nearly

a decade later it became the only flag, other than the Stars and Strips to fly over the White House, after it was first displayed there on POW/MIA Recognition Day. In 1989 the flag was installed in the Capitol Rotunda. It also has the distinction, historians and flag experts believe, of being the only non-national flag that any federal government anywhere in the world has mandated to be flown regularly. That began with a 1990 law to recognize the POW/MIA flag and designate the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. In 1998, Section 1082 of the Defense Authorization Act—codified as Title 36, Section 902 of the U.S. Code—mandated that the POW/MIA flag be flown over the Capitol, the White House, the Korean and Viet-nam Veterans Memorials, the offices of the secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, of the Selective Service System, and on the grounds or in the lobbies of every major military installation, every post office and all VA Medical Centers and national cemeteries on six days: POW/MIA Recognition Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

VFW and Auxiliary members are passionate about bringing attention to former Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by holding ceremonies to both educate and honor these special veterans. One way to honor these veterans and educate youth and the community is by having a Missing Man Table Ceremony. This provides a visual demonstration of the significance of POW/MIA Recognition Day. I encourage you all to plan a special event this POW/MIA Recognition day or ANY day to remember those Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action. You can find a sample of the ceremony wording and table setup at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources

BIG TEN CONFERENCE REPORT

Jerry Gorski, Vice Chairman



I want to first congratulate our new State Commander Phil Patterson, new Line Officers, new Staff Members, new Directors, new District Commanders, new County Council Commanders, new Post Commanders, New Post Chairmen and everyone else that was either elected or appointed for 2018-2019. I wish each of you the Very Best and Successful 2018-2019.

At this year's State Convention held on June 7-9, 2018 at the Holiday Inn in Flint, Michigan, our National Representative was Past Commander-in-Chief William Thien from Indiana. He did a Great Job motivating our Membership throughout the convention. He also installed our New State Commander Phil Patterson, New Line Officers, New Staff Officers, New District Commanders and newly Appointed Chairmen for 2018-2019. Thank you Chief!

I also want to congratulate State Commander Matt David, our Council of Administration and Matt's Team for a Successful 2017-2018 year. Matt, now you can sit back and enjoy yourself as a Past State Commander. You earned it!

A lot of awards were given out this year. There were a lot of All-State Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters this year. Jim Hubbard from Post 334 Lake Orion was the Captain of the All-State Team this year. Congratulations to ALL of You! I hope to see "more" All-State Post Commanders & All-State Quartermasters at next year's State Convention.

I just returned from Camp Trotter for Children in Newago, Michigan. It was held on June 22-24, 2018. I went to the Golf Outing on June 22nd and the VTS (Veteran Training Seminar) training on June 23rd. It was both a Great Golf Outing and a Great VTS Training Session. Unfortunately, there were less than 40 Total VFW Members including (2) District Commanders, Shane Houghton from District 9 and Billy Stancroft from District 12, State Officers and State Directors attending the VTS this year. This was down from more than 50 Total VFW Members attending last year. I hope next year, there will be more VFW Members and more District Commanders attending. A lot of time went into the preparation and training Directors as well as our Line Officers who attended this year's VTS session. I want to thank our Training Director Ray Lopez, State Adjutant/Quartermaster Lynn Patterson, State Line Officers and every one of our State Program Directors who came up and trained everyone this year.

I would like to now talk about MEMBERSHIP. "Our Life Blood of our Great Organization." First, Congratulations to District 4 Commander Gary Gamble and the entire District 4 membership for being in 1st Place with Achieving 101.05% with 4,676 members, as of June 28, 2018. It took a lot of hard work on everyone's part in District 4 to achieve 101.05%. Second, Congratulations go out to District 5 Commander Mike Olesiak and the entire District 5 membership for being in 2nd Place with Achieving 100.16% with 6,228 members. It also took a lot of hard work on everyone's part in District 5 to achieve 100.16%. District 8 is in 3rd Place at 97.26% with 3,382 members. Our Department is at 96.79% with 41,386 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members. Michigan is in 41st Place out of 53 Departments. WE need EVERYONE's help throughout Michigan to increase our Membership in 2018-2019. Thank You!

Lastly, I announced at the State Convention that I am a Candidate for National Council of Administration for 2019-2023. This October 2018 at the Big Ten Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, I will be elected the "Chairman of the Big Ten Conference for 2018-2019". My term as Chairman will end October 2019 at the Big Ten Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. I hope you will endorse me, support me and vote for me at next year's State Convention in Flint, Michigan. I promise to "continue" Serving You, Representing You and Protecting You and the Department of Michigan as your next National Council of Administration Member. Thank You!

Oh yes, by the time you read my article, The Big Ten Conference will have already met in October 2018 at the VFW National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. Our own State Chaplain Jennifer Smith is a Candidate for National Chaplain. I wish Jennifer the Very Best. I know Jennifer will do an Outstanding Job as our next National Chaplain representing Michigan.

Again, Congratulations to Each and Every Elected & Appointed Post, Council, District, Department Officers and Department Directors for 2018-2019. Each one of you at every level have a tremendous amount of responsibility. I wish each one of you the Very Best and Successful 2018-2019.

I look forward to continuing serving you, representing you and the Department of Michigan throughout 2018-2019 and into the future.

God Bless You. Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who continue to guard the Gates of Freedom.

Refer to the three "R's" in regards to membership: (1) Renew, (2) Recruit, and (3) Retain. [National Council of Administration Past State Commander Harry Croyle]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Fall Conference
Boyne Highlands
September 27-29, 2018



Big Ten Conference 2017 Awards



Congratulations



Golfing for a Cause!

Golfers and spectators alike all enjoy the game of golf, especially, when golfing for a cause . . . supporting Camp Trotter for Children and the VFW National Home.



Michigan Day at the National Home for Children



—BIG TEN CONFERENCE AWARDS, continued from Pg. 11



Many District, Post, and members receive recognition for their outstanding achievements.



Marquette Veteran Named 2018 U.P. Veteran of the Year!



Photo courtesy: U.P. Veteran of the Year Committee; Charles Hawes

MARQUETTE, Mich. (WLUC) – The Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year Committee has selected Charles Hawes of Marquette to be the 2018 U.P. Veteran of the Year. The Marquette County Veterans Alliance nominated him to receive this award.

Hawes served as an E-5 second class petty officer in the U.S. Navy. During his time in the military, Hawes was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with Fleet Marine Force Combat Operations Insignia; and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Devise.

Among his civilian citations, Hawes was awarded the Marquette County Veteran of the Year 2017.

Hawes is a life member of VFW Post 6 and DAV Chapter 22. He is also a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 380, where he serves on the executive committee, and American Legion Post 44, Marquette.

A founding member of the Marquette County Veterans Alliance, Hawes is active VFW district 14 as its chaplain and currently serves VFW Post 6 as junior vice commander. He has served VFW Post 6, Marquette as its commander. The Post depends on Hawes for his leadership to help organize its annual Christmas Party and is a fundraiser for the Poppy Program, according to a press release.

Hawes supports American Legion Post 44, Marquette, by calling bingo and organizing the game at the Marquette County Fair. He volunteers for the D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans' breakfasts sponsored by the post, and also participates in Memorial Day ceremonies and Flag Day activities.

Hawes also assists with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 380, annual dinner dance and its annual picnic for D.J. Jacobetti residents.

DAV Chapter 22 depends on Hawes to aid with its annual membership; drive at the Marquette County Fair and be a positive mentor for the younger members. He is also top fundraiser for the DAV's Forget-Me-Not Program.

In addition, Hawes puts in hundreds of hours annually at St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteering his time and energy toward assisting the community and its needs.

Jim Provost, chairman of the Marquette County Veterans Alliance, summed up Hawes's dedication to veterans in one paragraph: "Charlie is a very dedicated and responsible advocate for our veterans, and he can be called upon at a moment's notice to help with any project or fundraising activity. He expresses his ideas when he feels they positively affect the lives of veterans and always puts them first. As a family-first veteran, he gets a great deal of support from his family and often has them helping him at events. He is a gentle and positive personality and a friend to many."

Hawes has two grown children; Kimberly of Negaunee and Bradley of Gwinn.

Hawes will be honored as the 'U.P. Veteran of the Year' on Veteran's Day at the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba. The ceremony will take place at about 11 a.m. Aug. 16 in front of the grandstand building. Gov. Rick Snyder, state Sen. Tom Casperson and state representatives from around the U.P. are expected to honor Hawes. All veterans with proper I.D. will get into the fair free on this day.

Wixom VFW Post 2269 Proud of One of Their Own

"On behalf of everyone at the Wixom VFW Post #2269, we are so very proud to announce that our very own, Pamala Young, received Applebee's of Commerce Hometown Hero award on Thursday, July 19th. Pamala is someone that has and will step forward, she will help Veterans whenever and however she possibly can. Along with a plaque, Pamala received a gift card for \$500.00.

Well done Pam... Well done!!



Pictured (L-R): Stacey Lince, District Manager; Hope Jones, General Manager; Bill Engot, Company President; Pamala Young, and Jennifer Sleeper, Area Manager.

Commander Phil Patterson, his line officers, and appointees take the Oath of Office



Lead by Example
Successful Leaders Choose to Lead

GRAF-O'HARA POST 423 REPORT

ANN ARBOR, MI • Doug Brinker, Commander

First of its Kind "First Responders Picnic"

Greetings Comrades from Post 423 Graf-O'Hara of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Our Post is continuing the momentum we set last year to improve our Post for not just the Comrades we serve, but all those who visit. I want to say how much of an honor it is to serve as the Commander this year. I have been a member of the post for five years. As a Survivor of two suicide attempts, I am here by the grace of God and strength to continue along my road of recovery. My tremendous mentors such as Horace Frazier, John Kinzinger, our Past Immediate Department Commander Matt David and some of those who left us too soon, have allowed me to learn so much about the VFW and how we can work together to serve all who wore the uniform and bore the injuries for Freedom.

Recently, we had a first of its kind First Responders Picnic complete with special Dogtags to honor those who put on the uniform to protect and serve us. Those attendees were very appreciative of this event. By the print of the MOV, we will have had our Eagle Scout work on a special landscape project beautifying our fire pit area with donated landscape pavers. We plan to continuously improve our Post so we can serve for many years to come. We look forward to hosting District 6 Meeting at our Post Dec 8th. I personally am excited how my contributions will help District 6 make an impact for the Department VFW this year.

Finally, I am honored to be the Commander home to our Immediate Past Department Commander Matt David. Our post is stronger from his contributions and we are fortunate to say we had a Department Commander come from Graf-O'hara Post 423. I look forward to learning, growing and meeting so many more of my fellow Comrades for this year and many years to follow.

Honored to Serve, Serving to Honor

Doug Brinker, Disabled OIF 04 Michigan Army National Guard



VFW State Convention Golf Scramble 2018 Winners



Roscoe's Team brings home the winning trophy for the second year in a row with a par of 66. As one golfer moaned, "Roscoe's team sets the bar pretty high. Watch out Roscoe, everyone's goal next year is "by your lead, sir."



This team had better go back to the driving range and putting green for just a little more practice if they plan to stand in the winner's circle next year.



Come out and support the races!
You missed a great opportunity on August 4th. Make it your goal to attend the next one. It is a great recruiting venue for the VFW.

**WE
SUPPORT
OUR
VETERANS**



—STATE COMMANDER, continued from Pg. 2

13,000 members on these lists combined; keep in mind not all of them are unpaid, but the ones that are we need to get them back into a Post and let them know they are not forgotten.

I am not going to give you percentages at this time because at this point they are very misleading, but I am going to tell you what all of you have accomplished in the first 60 days of this new membership year: you have signed up 78 new members, 16 reinstated members and 547 continuous members. Comrades that is awesome! Please keep up the great job that all of you are doing. Let's continue to work hard on membership all year. That way come April and May, we are not scrambling for those last few members because we will already have them and we can just keep pressing forward with our mission.

As I have found out already, being your State Commander comes with a lot of tough and unpopular decisions to be made. I want all of you to know that any decisions that I have made and will be making are not taken lightly. You all have placed your trust and confidence in me and I am going to do what I believe is best for our great organization. I have always said I have an open-door policy, but I would like everyone to please use their chain of command. Please don't go straight to Department or National without going to your Post or District Commanders first. If the issue cannot be handled there, by all means, call Department and let us assist you.

As many of you know, I will be running for National Counsel of Administration for the Department of Michigan 2019-2023 at the end of my term as your State Commander. Although I will not be out actively campaigning, I am asking for your support. My first and only responsibility is to take care of the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and all its members, after all that is what you elected me to do.

TEAMBUILDING~TEAMWORK~COMMUNICATION

I hope next year, there will be more VFW members and more District Commanders attending [Veterans Training Seminar], stated Jerry Gorski, Vice Chairman Big Ten Conference and Chairman National VFW Programs Committee.

WHERE IS THE HOMELESS VET?

*From Revolution, and Civil War, more than 200 years they've served;
They raised our Flag in many lands, their loyalty never swerved;
They are broken now, with futures dim, this is not what they deserved;
Where are the homeless vets?*

*We walk right by him, but not a one can see;
She has two children, but nowhere can they be;
They stretch out for a hand up "in the land of the brave and the free";
Where are the homeless vets?*

*Many have come back with that deadly orange agent;
No pomp, no parade, no welcome home, there was no hero's pageant;
Their names are not carved on a stark slit trench of granite;
Where are the homeless vets?*

*My father was Canadian; I was born there too.
He fought for the King then, and me the Red White and Blue.
And others came from everywhere to protect all of you;
Where are the homeless vets?*

*God gave me my right arm, my left arm, my legs;
He taught me the Commandments, I learned every reg;
Some parts of me are gone now Lord, why do I have to beg?
Here are the homeless vets.*

*When they were needed, from everywhere, they answered every call;
Now they sleep in alleys, in doorways, under bridges, behind the mall;
Can we truly say we keep them in our hearts America, can we all?
There are the homeless vets!*

*If you take the time to listen, it's a gut-wrenching story;
About the pain and guilt and heartache, but none speak of the glory;
And many of them are here and there 'cause they don't fit in a category.
These are the homeless vets.*

*But Father God has heard their plea;
When they reached out to Him on bended knee;
And gave them caring folks, as we;
There are no more homeless vets. [Anonymous]*

—Camp Trotter Veterans Training Seminar photos from Pg. 1



Nothing goes off successfully without detailed planning. Cmdr. Patterson (l.), Chief of Staff Ray Lopez (c.), and Sr. Vice Cmdr Mike Fineis (r.) confer to make sure they have all the bases covered for a successful day of training.



The day begins with the posting of the colors by the VFW Post 4249 Color Guard. On the left is Cliff Hole, US Air Force, Vietnam. On the right is Larry Reid, US Navy, Vietnam. Other members of the Color Guard included: Larry Norburg, US Army Vietnam, Jim Ferguson, USMC, Vietnam, Dan Boutell US Navy, Vietnam, Paul Wright, US Army Vietnam, Jerry Weinman, US Navy, Vietnam, Dick Knowles, US Air Force Vietnam, and Jim Oneill Auxiliary, Father, US Navy.



There is no free lunch. Adjutant/Quartermaster Patterson ensures all the bills are paid for the weekend and the training agenda items are covered.



Butch Ogden and his grandsons, Bradley Ogden and Nick and Matt Reason, prepared Camp Trotter for the Training Seminar. Many Trainees stayed overnight. Butch and Sr. Vice Cmdr. Mike Fineis made sure that we were all well fed for breakfast and lunch. No one learns well on an empty stomach.

(See more candid shots on page 18 and 19).

—Camp Trotter Veterans Training Seminar photos from Pg. 17



Refer to the three “R’s” in regards to membership: (1) Renew, (2) Recruit, and (3) Retain. (National Council of Administration Past State Commander Harry Croyle)

—DISTRICT 5, continued from Pg. 4

25 Dec | MERRY CHRISTMAS
31 Dec | Poppy Orders Due, and Happy New Year

Our scheduled meetings are as follows:

09 Dec | Holly Post 5587, 10:00 AM Pearl Harbor Observance/Stated Meeting at 1:00 PM

2019

17 Feb | Eastpointe Post 6782, 10:00 AM training/Stated Meeting at 1:00 PM

05 May | Waterford Post 1008, 10:00 AM memorial services/Stated Meeting at 1:00 PM

In closing, congratulations to Scott Gloger on your election to Department of Michigan Junior Vice Commander.

HOUGH-PONTIUS POST 3701 REPORT

LAKEVIEW, MI • Stacey Roberts, Commander

On July 28th, Lakeview Hough-Pontius Post 3701 held their 1st Annual Golf Outing at Glenkerry Golf Course in Greenville, Michigan. The event was a great success with 60 players, 11 volunteers and fantastic weather. The outing was held to raise awareness of the Post’s revival, foster comradery amongst members and the public and to raise funds. The funds raised will be used for a new floor at the Post, “Voice of Democracy” and “Patriots Pen” scholarships and to assist local veterans and their families in time of need.

The Post received help from sponsors such as Aggressive Tooling, Sandyland Farms, Village Inn of Pierson, Ice Mountain, Tinney Chevrolet, 18 hole sponsors and over 30 donated items for raffle from local businesses and members. Raffle items included a Savage Axis .243 rifle, Patriotic golf bag, handmade corn hole set, multiple rounds of golf and so much more. The support from sponsors was incredibly humbling and made an incredible impact on the overall earnings.

The Post added a lot of fun activities to the outing to include an eagle chipping game, a golf ball cannon shoot, win a car with a hole-in-one, 50/50 drawings, military themed mulligans, skins game, prizes for longest drive, longest putt, closest second shot, lowest score and highest score. The winners, team Kruizenga, walked away with custom plaque, two 18 hole rounds at Glenkerry and a box of balls each.

The cost of the event was \$240 per team of four and included the 18 hole round, cart fee, dinner, one drink and heavy appetizers after for each player. One team (Marcus and Carolyn Hansen, Bob and Marilyn McDougal) created a sign and played in honor of their uncle, Charles Towne, who served in World War II and whose remains have never been found. This was such a wonderful tribute and the Commander, Stacey Roberts, hopes that next year more teams will play in honor of someone that served and decorate their carts as well.

The 2nd Annual VFW 3701 Golf Outing is already being planned for 2019 with a tentative date of July 13th. Be sure to mark you calendars! If you participated in the event on Saturday, please visit the VFW 3701 Facebook page and share your photos and thoughts about the event. www.facebook.com/vfw3701

Special shout out to the Post Judge Advocate Trent Doren and Post Member Tim Unger, for helping the Commander organize this successful outing and THANK YOU to all those that attended the event and to those that made it possible. (vfwpost3701@gmail.com)



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS



—STATE COMMANDER, continued from Pg. 2

13,000 members on these lists combined; keep in mind not all of them are unpaid, but the ones that are we need to get them back into a Post and let them know they are not forgotten.

I am not going to give you percentages at this time because at this point they are very misleading, but I am going to tell you what all of you have accomplished in the first 60 days of this new membership year: you have signed up 78 new members, 16 reinstated members and 547 continuous members. Comrades that is awesome! Please keep up the great job that all of you are doing. Let's continue to work hard on membership all year. That way come April and May, we are not scrambling for those last few members because we will already have them and we can just keep pressing forward with our mission.

As I have found out already, being your State Commander comes with a lot of tough and unpopular decisions to be made. I want all of you to know that any decisions that I have made and will be making are not taken lightly. You all have placed your trust and confidence in me and I am going to do what I believe is best for our great organization. I have always said I have an open-door policy, but I would like everyone to please use their chain of command. Please don't go straight to Department or National without going to your Post or District Commanders first. If the issue cannot be handled there, by all means, call Department and let us assist you.

As many of you know, I will be running for National Counsel of Administration for the Department of Michigan 2019-2023 at the end of my term as your State Commander. Although I will not be out actively campaigning, I am asking for your support. My first and only responsibility is to take care of the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and all its members, after all that is what you elected me to do.

TEAMBUILDING~TEAMWORK~COMMUNICATION

'Uniting to Combat Hunger' Campaign Raises More Than 50,000 Meals for Kansas City Residents

Veterans, supporters and the community came together to help feed thousands in Kansas City area.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 23, 2018) – The "Uniting to Combat Hunger" campaign – a collaboration between The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Humana Inc. (NYSE: HUM), Harvesters–The Community Food Network and After the Harvest – has surpassed its goal of raising 50,000 meals for local individuals in need. The announcement was made during the Joint Opening Session of the 119th VFW National Convention held at the Bartle Hall Kansas City Convention Center.

The "Uniting to Combat Hunger" campaign was established to raise awareness and fight food insecurity in the Greater Kansas City area. Defined as the lack of access to enough nutritionally adequate foods to live an active, healthy life, food insecurity contributes to poor health, lower productivity and higher medical costs. This societal issue impacts one in eight Americans and 14 percent of the Kansas City community.

Several community-wide initiatives contributed to the campaign's success, including a volunteer day on June 6 when dozens of employees from the VFW and Humana picked a variety of fresh produce from a local Kansas City farm, which was ultimately distributed to area families in need. Area residents also got involved by donating non-perishable items to the 60 barrels located throughout the city, including VFW Posts, Humana neighborhood locations, Partners in Primary Care Centers, Harley-Davidson, Lockton Affinity and Hy-Vee store locations. The month-long campaign culminates at the end of the 119th VFW National Convention on July 25, with convention-goers bringing canned goods that will be donated to area food pantries.

"With food insecurity affecting one in four veterans, the VFW couldn't sit idly by," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "The VFW is honored to be part of this important initiative, but with so many veterans and families struggling to put food on the table, we won't let our efforts stop here. We look forward to continuing to find ways to combat food insecurity in the future."

"Humana is proud to have reached this ambitious goal and provide food to the Kansas City residents who are in need," said Jeremy Gaskill, Central Region President for Humana. "No one should be food insecure – especially not the service men and women who sacrificed so much for our country. We will continue to combat this societal issue as part of our Bold Goal initiative, which is to improve the health of communities across the country – including Kansas City – by 20 percent by 2020."

"After the Harvest is proud to have been a part of this initiative, helping to shine a light on the plight of struggling, food insecure veterans in our country," said Lisa Ousley, After the Harvest Executive Director. "We'll continue our commitment to providing nutritious, fresh fruits and vegetables that might otherwise go to waste to those in need and seeking food access equity and healthy outcomes for all."

"Harvesters is very appreciative of our relationship with the VFW, Humana and After the Harvest in fighting hunger among our veteran population," said Valerie Nicholson-Watson, president and CEO of Harvesters–The Community Food Network. "This relationship ties well into our mission of feeding hungry people today and working to end hunger tomorrow."

The community can still get involved by making donations online or at local food banks. For more information about the "Uniting to Combat Hunger" campaign, visit www.vfw.org/unitingtocombathunger.



Attendees of the 119th VFW National Convention volunteer their time packaging food in support of the 'Uniting to Combat Hunger' campaign.

Kevin Conklin

Candidate for

Department of Michigan
Jr. Vice Commander

2019-2020



*Veterans of Foreign Wars
2019-2020*

Phil Patterson

Candidate for

Department of Michigan
National Council of Administration

2019-2023



*Supported and Endorsed by
Post 6695
and his Wife and Family*

IT IS THE VETERAN

(A poem for Independence Day)

(Author: Unknown)

It is the Veteran, not the
preacher, who has given us
freedom of religion.

It is the Veteran, not the
reporter, who has given us
freedom of the press.

It is the Veteran, not the
poet, who has given us
freedom of speech.

It is the Veteran, not the
campus organizer, who has
who has given us freedom
to assemble.

It is the Veteran, not the
lawyer, who has given us
the right to a fair trial.

It is the Veteran, not the
politician, who has given us
the right to vote.

It is the Veteran, who
salutes the Flag,
It is the Veteran, who serves
under the Flag,

To be buried by the Flag,
So the protester can burn
the Flag.

SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT
YOUR BACK.

WE PROVE IT.

PROOF BY THE NUMBERS:

\$3.7 billion: The amount in VA benefits that we helped to recover for veterans just last year.
\$4.5 million: Total dollars in emergency grants awarded to military families in times of crisis.
1,656,634: Service members and family members hosted at VFW events just in the last 16 months.
28: The number of times we have testified before Congress on vital veterans' issues.
7 million: Number of free connections home we've provided for deployed service members.
1899-2013: The years during which we have been at the forefront in the battle FOR VETERANS.



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.
www.vfw.org



APPLY NOW FOR VFW & SVA 2019 LEGISLATIVE FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship allows up to 10 student veterans to address issues directly with Congress

WASHINGTON (July 16, 2018) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and Student Veterans of America are seeking student veteran candidates to participate in their 2019 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship program. The fellowship, now in its fourth year, will bring up to 10 selected student veterans to Washington to meet face-to-face with their congressional members next spring in conjunction with VFW's National Legislative Conference.

Student veterans interested in applying must complete an application package that includes an essay proposal on one of four specific legislative issues. The proposal should include a discussion of why the issue is important to the veteran community, and how the fellowship candidate plans to address the issue through federal policy solutions and community-based advocacy. Selected fellows will then be flown to Washington to ensure the veterans' voice is delivered to Capitol Hill alongside 500 fellow veteran advocates as part of the 2019 VFW Legislative Conference on March 3-7. "The VFW has its fingerprints on every significant quality of life program created for veterans and the military for more than a century," said VFW National Commander Keith Harman. "This fellowship will help shape the next generation of veterans who will advocate for our future here in the nation's capital. This program is a great partnership with Student Veterans of America and VFW is honored to help our young veterans learn more about how Washington works and how they can continue to be a strong voice for the military and veteran community."

"On the heels of Forever GI Bill, we're excited to continue our partnership with the VFW to provide student veterans with the chance to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill," said SVA President and CEO Jared Lyon. "This program empowers student veterans serving as chapter members to propose and advocate for future policies that support military families and veterans. We look forward to welcoming our 2019 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows to our nation's capital."

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship opportunities are open to currently enrolled student veterans at colleges and universities with active SVA chapters. Visit www.studentveterans.org/chapter/directory for find a chapter. Candidates must also be VFW members. Visit www.vfw.org/eligibility for more information on membership. For the application essay proposal, applicants must select one of the following veterans' issues to write about:

- Student veteran success on campus and beyond
- Improving veteran's health care and benefits
- Transition from military to civilian life
- Challenges for service members and military families

All applications must be submitted by close of business on Oct. 12. Selected fellows will be notified before Nov. 22 with a formal announcement of the fellowship at the SVA National Conference in Orlando in January. For complete details about the fellowship and to apply, visit www.vfw.org/community/student-veterans-of-america/student-fellowship.

Past fellows have earned academic credit for their experience, found internships, accepted additional academic opportunities, and even landed jobs as a result of their fellowship experience. Additionally, a member of the 2017 class became the first fellow to have their research integrated into legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is another example of the strong collaboration between VFW and SVA that resulted from a memorandum of understanding signed by the two organizations at the SVA National Conference in January 2013.

Jerry Gorski

Candidate for

Department of Michigan
National Council of Administration
2019-2023



*Veterans of Foreign Wars
2019-2023*

**WE
SUPPORT
OUR
VETERANS**

Reverse Culture Shock: Tips for Veterans

By Tahj Mayes

Reverse culture shock—or difficulty adjusting back to civilian life—is something every veteran experiences. It is different than the culture shock of deployment, but it can feel like the rug is pulled out from under your feet.

The rigidity of military life provides an important part of daily life: routine and expectations.

Even with the unknowns of deployment, military life contains a set of clear expectations, and leaving those behind can cause confusion and unsettled feelings that are hard to pinpoint.

Tips for Coping with Reverse Culture Shock

Take Care of You

We talk about this a lot and with good reason. We all—military and otherwise—need to care for our mental health.

Self care is important and so is getting help for dealing with trauma, even if it doesn't seem to bother you at first. Stress affects us in many ways, and unfortunately, we often don't pay attention to the signs our bodies or minds give us when things are getting stressful.

Self care is both a kind of self-therapy and a preventative tactic for maintaining overall health.

Connect with Friends and Family

I hope that you have friends and family who are understanding, kind, and able to give you attention. Some of us are lucky in this respect; others aren't so lucky. If you don't have family, aren't close with family, or have family that are facing challenges on their own and are therefore unable to support you, find support.

Friends can be incredibly supportive. It's helpful to have friends away from military life and also, to have friends who understand what you've been through.

Connect with Other Veterans

There are lots of reasons that this isn't as easy as it sounds for veterans or military persons returning home after deployment. Thankfully, social media and technology provides us more accessible ways to do this, but on the flip side, it makes breaking ties with negative people more difficult, too.

Connecting with others who relate to the struggles of deployment and of reverse culture shock is important. This might mean hitting up your local VFW headquarters or befriending others online. It doesn't have to be someone you served with. Don't be afraid to make new connections. Old friends where once new connections.

Explore

You have traveled and now you are "home." Sort of. Coming home (or to a new city that is now suddenly home) after life-changing events makes it even more clear that you have changed. Your perspective changed. Your emotions and your mind has faced difficulties. You aren't the same.

So, what now?

Explore your new locale and your new life with as much curiosity as you can muster. Even if you are back in your hometown, explore. Do something you haven't ever done. Or travel to a nearby city. Try a new hobby.

Find something new to do.

Your mind, your body, your heart need newness.

The New Normal

You're no longer on active duty so you have all the possibilities in front of you. This can be exciting or frightening or both.

Establish your new normal. Establish a routine—if that is working out or weekly coffee with a mentor—do something that is healthy and nurturing on the regular. It doesn't have to be big or spectacular.

Give Yourself a Break

If anyone tells you that integrating back into civilian life is easy or that reverse culture shock is no big deal, move on. It is not easy for most veterans and it is a big deal to most people. Don't expect you to be the exception. Just remind yourself that you can deal—not that you shouldn't have anything to deal with.

Go Forward

Even the phrase "Welcome *back* to civilian life," is a misnomer. The word *back* makes it seem like you are returning to a state you once were in. You may be returning to a place or to a job or to a certain way of life, but you are different, now. Life is different, now. Technology, politics, families—all these things change perpetually.

I don't even like to say that someone is going back to school. If you are completing something you once started or if you are trying something new, you are *moving forward*.

Scout of the Year

Some of our earliest ties to the community involve youth groups and perhaps none are stronger or more lasting than the relationship between the VFW and America's scouting organizations. In fact, our partnership with the Boy Scouts of America dates back to 1915 when VFW Post 2100 helped to establish Troop 1 in Everett, Washington.

Our Scout of the Year program provides members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country with the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to \$5,000.

This year's winners are featured on Page 24. Read about who they are, why they were chosen and who they were sponsored by.

God Bless America

From Your State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers and directors. I look forward to working with you and having a great year. Another congrats goes out to all those who dug deep to reach 100% in membership. That is a huge achievement and should be the top goal for each post to reach each and every year. Membership in our organization is the life blood of our great organization. I am just returning from the National Convention held in Kansas City, MO. Your Department was well represented in the City of Fountains. I was very proud to see the awards that our members received. District 4 Commander Gary Gamble received the All American District Commander Award and District 5 Sr Vice Eddie Dandrige received the National Community Service Post Award for Post 1794, Mount Clemons. Congrats once again!

There are many changes this year to the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. I am happy to report that proposed changes to the rituals were defeated. The National By-Law study group hired an expert to give guidance in wording for our By-Laws and Procedures. This was done to conform to Robert's Rules. Many of these suggestions were adopted and passed on the Convention floor.

One significant change will be in Sec 216, the posts shall elect the Commander, Sr, Jr, QM, Chaplain, and three Trustees. The Posts will have the OPTION to elect or appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of The Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws. My suggestion to each Post is to start updating your By-Laws now to include these changes. There are Post By-Law templates available on line. Please send your updated By-Laws to Department for review per Sec 202 of Manual of Procedure. These same changes also affect Sec. 416 and 516.

Posts will now be able to own property jointly with another congressionally chartered veterans organization, Sec. 709. If you are not sure please contact the Department for clarification before entering into a binding agreement with another organization.

I would also like to recognize Ray Lopez and Andy Conklin for also attending the National By-Law and Resolutions Committee meeting. The meeting was a very long with many discussions.

As always, please feel free to contact me for clarifications.

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR POST INSPECTION . . .

We have sent out the bond applications to all Post Quartermasters and I hope that you have all returned them or sent a copy of the post bond into Dept. Section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. This is a very important document for your post. It will be needed at your post inspection. Post inspections should be completed before Fall Conference. When going thru the post inspection and it asks you the date of the last filing for the 990, please show the inspector the paper of when the last time you filed it. Because of the dates that you file and the dates of the inspection, it won't always be the one that is coming due. We need to see that you are filing and you are current up to the last due date of the 990 filing.

Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.

Please look at your post By-Laws and see when the last time they were reviewed. If it has been more than 10 years look into revising them. There is no longer a Men's Aux and the word Ladies has been taken out of the Auxiliaries name. There is a template that you are able to use on National's website under forms and Templates. Or you can contact me and I will be happy to email it to you. National website is www.vfw.org and the Dept. website is www.vfwmi.org. These are both great tools to help you throughout your year.

The distribution of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of By-Law Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

Can't wait to see you at Fall Conference (Boyne Highlands September 27- 29th 2018)!

ADVOCATING FOR OTHERS
VA MISSION ACT of 2018: A Brief Overview
Sean Kelly, Assistant State Service Officer

A June 4, 2018 report from the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) has confirmed many Veteran complaints regarding the VA's Veterans Choice Program. The GAO's findings show that despite billions of dollars spent to address access to healthcare problems experienced by many veterans who do not live close to VA facilities, veterans still must wait up to 70 days to get an appointment with a non-VA provider. The report contributed this shortcoming to bad reporting data and VA employees intentionally altering appointment records to misrepresent actual wait times for care.

In June, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Network Act, or VA Mission Act of 2018. This new legislation has some interesting features that Congress feels will resolve access to care concerns and ultimately streamline the VA's interaction with private care providers.

The first section of the law re-affirms the intent of the original Choice Care program; it "requires access to community care if VA does not offer the care or services the veteran

—Advocating for Others, continued on Pg. 22

2017-2018
All-American District Commander

rcd	Dept	Dist.	Rank	Div	First	Last	email
1	Alabama	2	8	5	David	LaPoint	dlapoint2010@yahoo.com
2	Alabama	7	1	4	James	Rathburn	cw5rathburn@yahoo.com
3	Arizona	4	3	3	Ashley	Combs	ltdarin@yahoo.com
4	Arizona	7	2	3	Clarence	Larson	shorty.larson@gmail.com
5	California	3	4	1	Daniel	Moon	hawk@thunderstaffing.com
6	Colorado	1	21	4	Gary	Williamson	bowmaxwillie@outlook.com
7	Delaware	2	24	5	John	Morrow	vfwpost475qm@gmail.com
8	Delaware	4	16	3	Robert	Trapp	roberttrapp565@msn.com
9	Europe	1	3	1	Dennis	Walton	dbpdd@yahoo.com
10	Europe	3	2	1	Nay	Smith	nrrsmith@gmail.com
11	Florida	1	13	3	Kevin	Hice	shice1@cox.net
12	Florida	6	2	2	Robert	Hernandez	nookie06@att.net
13	Florida	18	9	3	Kurt	Schuh	KBSchuh@yahoo.com
14	Florida	21	12	2	Stanley	Budke	stanb1946@yahoo.com
15	Georgia	1	4	3	Kevin	Hammond	doughboyrepair@netzero.net
16	Georgia	2	6	4	Richard	Hack	retired.n.georgia@gmail.com
17	Georgia	3	1	2	Earl	Lewis	ebLewis1@hotmail.com
18	Georgia	4	13	4	Jimmy	Willis	jim.willis105@countryfinancial.com
19	Georgia	5	18	3	John	Skinner	jskinner@numail.org
20	Georgia	7	25	3	Kenneth	Stanis	kwstanis@tds.net
21	Idaho	4	5	6	Gordon	Petrie	gwpetrie@Reagan.com
22	Idaho	5	12	4	Nathan	Suekel	nwsuekel@aol.com
23	Idaho	7	6	6	Ralph	Woolsey	dwoolz52@gmail.com
24	Illinois	14	18	2	John	Barrett	happy2baliv@yahoo.com
25	Iowa	5	7	4	Stuart	Juarez	stuartjuarez@mchsi.com
26	Kansas	1	14	2	Larry	Albright	larryalb2001@yahoo.com
27	Kentucky	14	3	5	Bruce	Ashley	stormfighter1991@yahoo.com
28	Louisiana	2	21	3	Gerald	Dugas	snakeeyes3121@yahoo.com
29	Maryland	1	11	4	Tiffany	Daniel	ts1808@aol.com
30	Massachusetts	7	19	4	John	Chadwick	district7@vfwma.org
31	Massachusetts	15	17	4	Douglas	Wood	em1ss606@aol.com
32	Massachusetts	18	25	4	Stephen	Torosian	smtoro4@yahoo.com
33	Michigan	4	9	2	Garold	Gamble	ggamble354@sbcglobal.net
34	Mississippi	2	21	5	Laura	Franklin	laurasf91669@yahoo.com
35	Mississippi	4	25	6	Jonathan	Kufel	jgkufel@gmail.com
36	Mississippi	5	17	6	Thomas	Rollins	tcrollinsjr@me.com
37	Mississippi	8	19	6	Marjorie	Wesley	bwesley49@ymail.com
38	Missouri	6	5	3	Micheal	Fisk	adjdist6@mo.vfwwebmail.com
39	Nebraska	7	13	5	Jerome	Halladay	halladay3397@gmail.com
40	Nebraska	9	16	4	Dionne	Gorji	dionnegorji@gmail.com
41	Nebraska	10	6	2	Chris	Beaty	texastwo1@cox.net
42	Nebraska	11	14	5	Kenneth	Yount	Kenneth_R_Yount@yahoo.com
43	Nevada	5	14	4	Donna	Barnett	vfwmac@yahoo.com
44	North Carolina	1	9	6	Carl	Reiber	carlynreiber@yahoo.com
45	North Carolina	7	18	4	Gary	Szafarski	gms0440@aol.com
46	North Carolina	8	6	3	Edward	Beard	cdrdist8@vfwnc.com
47	North Carolina	9	18	5	Thomas	Wasileski	docskivnv@earthlink.net
48	North Carolina	11	23	5	Russell	Chambers	rchambers4@triad.rr.com
49	North Carolina	12	20	6	James	Fox	jrickfox@yahoo.com
50	North Carolina	13	8	4	Jack	Campbell	jackvfw2423@gmail.com
51	Oklahoma	13	11	6	Mike	Castillo	castillom72@aol.com
52	Oregon	2	2	6	James	Allenbrand	allenbrand97215@msn.com
53	Oregon	9	7	6	Paul	Gargis	plgargis@aol.com
54	Oregon	10	7	5	Floyd	Leach	askingsuperdad@yahoo.com
55	Oregon	13	22	5	Michael	Beyerlin	mlbbuzz@msn.com
56	Oregon	14	11	5	Johnathon	Mullins	johnathon.mullins83@gmail.com
57	Oregon	15	9	4	Donald	Reed	lovfw12140@gmail.com
58	Oregon	16	10	5	Roger	Pack	dalep@upwardaccess.com
59	Oregon	12	1	6	James	Horton	arlovan17@gmail.com
60	Pacific Areas	3	7	2	Patrick	Higgins	conhig@hotmail.com
61	Pacific Areas	5	15	4	Kenneth	Stein	ken7777@me.com
62	Pacific Areas	6	10	6	Shawn	Watson	shawn.c.watson@gmail.com
63	Rhode Island	3	25	5	Robert	Mason	nkmason@cox.net
64	South Carolina	1	11	2	Edwin	Tufts	tuftse@gmail.com
65	South Dakota	1	19	3	Colin	Reisner	crize84@hotmail.com
66	Tennessee	6	22	3	Darrell	Birk	dbirk@flex.com
67	Texas	1	10	2	Don	Graber	dgraberjr@att.net
68	Texas	3	20	4	Lennie	Page	lennie.page4962@gmail.com
69	Texas	6	10	3	Hector	Villarreal	hvilarrreal12@att.net
70	Texas	9	2	4	Richard	Herman	hermanrichie@hotmail.com
71	Texas	13	5	4	Andrew	Camplen	afc2324@gmail.com
72	Texas	14	8	2	Lora	Land	loraland@hotmail.com
73	Texas	17	3	2	Phillip	DuBois	pjdlmt@yahoo.com
74	Texas	18	5	5	Loren	Pogue	l.pogueusmc@att.net
75	Texas	20	5	1	Jose	Duran	j-bduran@att.net
76	Texas	24	2	5	Marvin	Lockhart	locntx@yahoo.com
77	Vermont	2	10	4	Kevin	Maloney	kevinmaloney157@gmail.com
78	Vermont	3	3	4	Jeffrey	Young	mvas13@yahoo.com
79	Washington	3	5	2	Ben	Cummins	m1garand1@gmail.com
80	Washington	4	17	5	Theodore	Streete	sgtmajted@outlook.com



FROM POST 328 IN SOUTHFIELD

Local Events

A listing of current events in and around the metro Detroit Area for and about Veterans, as of publishing dates for August/September.

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number 1-800-273-8255, available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential. Or text HELP to 838255

Special Notice: *If you are a veteran in need of housing or are homeless contact the VA Homeless Veterans Hotline at 1-877-424-3838.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

“Weekly Detroit RUCK” Every Sunday Team Red/White/Blue, and 22 Until None, are hosting a RUCK starting at 10AM at Bobcat Bonnie’s, 1800 Michigan, Detroit. Ends back at Bobcat Bonnie’s around noon, about 4 to 6 mile RUCK. Bring any weight or none! For more info email Mike at Team RWB.

“Get Your VA ID Card” For those vets not receiving medical benefits from the VA but would like the new ID Card for discounts at stores & shops, etc., visit the official source here.

“Pre-Approval Form for Burial at a National Cemetery” You can submit a form to the VA for pre-approval to be burial at a National Cemetery. Note: Understand they are 11 months behind in processing. The Form 40-1007 is here.

WEEKLY EVENTS!

“VA Vet Centers” The Vet Center is a Veterans Health Administration community based mental health programs. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide counseling, outreach and referral services to eligible combat veterans and assist them readjusting back into the community. The Services we provide include: Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Marital and Family Counseling, Bereavement Counseling, and additional services as needed. For more information regarding eligibility, locations or any additional services provided, please contact Kenaan Lumpkin, Veteran Outreach Program Specialist, at office 313-576-1522, or my Work Cell (Regular Business Hours) 313-608-6758.

“Fallen & Wounded Soldier Fund” Established in 2006, the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund (FWSF) is a Livonia, Mich.-based nonprofit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to helping those veterans (and their families) in Michigan who return from the Iran and Afghanistan campaigns and find themselves in need of financial support and assistance related to a variety of areas, from medical expenses to housing costs. FWSF members are a diverse collection of concerned people from Michigan’s business and private sectors. For more information, please visit www.fwsf.org.

The **Buddy-to-Buddy Program** is a peer-to-peer program that provides outreach, support, and connection to resources for Michigan service members and veterans. The program places Volunteer Veterans at MIARNG armories to offer resource linkage to current service members as well as in the community to help any veteran in need. Volunteers are trained to help veterans find resources for a variety of concerns, including finances, benefits, education, emotional challenges, substance abuse, legal, medical, and employment. This service is completely free and confidential. The program is part of Military Support Programs and Networks (M-SPAN), a set of programs developed by the University of Michigan serving service members, veterans, and their families. For more information on volunteering or getting assistance from the program, visit www.buddytobuddy.org, call 1-888-82- BUDDY (28339), or email buddytobuddyvvp@umich.edu. Find B2B on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BuddytoBuddyProgram.

“Home Front Strong” Home Front Strong is the sister program to Buddy-to-Buddy, and is designed just for spouses or partners of Post-9/11 service members and veterans. During an 8-week group, Home Front Strong helps participants build positive coping strategies and connect with other military and veteran families. The group includes a free meal and a program for available online through a secure website. For more information, email Rebecca Couch at rligon@umich.edu or call (734) 998-2206

“Drug Rehab Info” Many veterans wrestle with stress from deployments to combat zones. The stressful military life coupled with injuries and illnesses puts them at an increased risk for substance use disorders. A growing number of veterans turn to drugs/alcohol to cope with the pressure of societal reintegration after the military. However, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers treatment plans to support veterans as they recover from substance use disorders. DrugRehab.com exists to educate visitors about drug addiction, recovery, co-occurring disorders and other addiction-related topics by providing the latest information on trends, treatment options and support services for patients and their families. See website (<https://www.drugrehab.com/addiction/veterans/>) for more info.

“Project Healing Waters” The John Dingell VA Hospital is teaming up with Project Healing Waters to teach veterans the art of Fly Fishing in room B1290 from 10AM to Noon. This event will be held Wednesdays on the dates noted above. For more information you can contact Kelly Cousion at the VA at 313-576-1217, visit their website at Project Healing Waters, or see attached flyer.

“Assistance for jobless Veterans” Are you a veteran and need a job? The State of Michigan’s Talent Investment Agency, Veterans’ Employment Services has a Veterans Career Advisor located right here in Southfield at the Lawrence Technological University campus, Oakland County Michigan Works! Southfield, 21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 116. His office is there to provide veterans with barriers to employment veterans employment assistance. For further veterans employment information feel free to contact Fred Pittman directly at 248-796-4569 or email him at pittmanf@michigan.gov

“Old Warrior Camp” Do you know a returning vet that needs some time to unwind and relax? In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan there is a camp where fishing, hunting, riding, etc., are all available for free. For more information go to <http://www.oldwarriorcamp.com> or email thebulldogblevins@yahoo.com.

“Free Veteran Legal Clinic (Update)” Are you having issues with the VA? Need some legal help with all the VA paperwork? The University of Detroit-Mercy offers free legal services for veterans as part of their Project Salute, which is now in its 5th year of helping veterans. For more information contact U of D-M at 888-836-5294 or visit their website at <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/index.php/projectsalute>. Also see attached flyer for more information.

“Veterans History Project” The Southfield Veterans’ Commission is currently working with the Library of Congress and the Southfield Public Library gathering interviews for the American History Series. We are asking all veterans to share their stories with everyone across

the country. Currently interviews are being done every Wednesday afternoon at the Southfield Library. The veteran also receives a copy of the interview for their own family record on DVD. **You do not need to be a Southfield resident to participate in this program. Veterans wishing to be interviewed need to contact us to schedule a date and time at the above phone number or email address so that the necessary paperwork can get started.** You will need to sign a release form for the Library of Congress, the Southfield Public Library, complete a bio form, etc. As of June 2010 196 vets have been interviewed. More information on the Veterans History Project can be found at www.loc.gov/vets.

“Veterans Aid & Assistance Program (Updated)” Are you taking care of a veteran? Have a veteran in a nursing home? Have the spouse of a veteran in a nursing home or taking care of at home? A little known program of the VA might be able to help. VA Program S-38 might be able to supply to you up to \$20,000 a year toward the care of a veteran or spouse, or widow of a veteran. Naturally there are qualifications to meet, more than can be covered here. Details on this program and assistance on how to apply can be found at www.veteranaid.org/index.php.

“Military One Source” Military OneSource is a Department of Defense (DoD) program and is a resource for service members (Active, Guard, Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve) and their families throughout their military careers. Military OneSource provides no cost support to the military community in the form of counseling, financial planners, tutoring, parenting resources, deployment cycle support, peer to peer support and much more. Our call centers are staffed 24/7/365 and are answered live every time. These are great resources for you to be aware of when working with currently serving military members (veterans still serving) and their families. We also have Wounded Warrior Resource Specialists that can assist veterans from any era struggling with navigating the VA health care or claims system. They just call our regular number 800-342-9647 and to speak to the Wounded Warrior Specialist. Veterans can also contact the Wounded Warrior Programs for non-medical issues such as child care arrangements, transportation needs, legal issues, respite care, caregiver support and more.. More information can be found at www.militaryonesource.mil.

“Veteran Homeowner Assistance” Are you a disabled or a low income veteran and having problems cutting the weeds in your backyard, fixing a leaking sink, need a wheelchair ramp installed, etc. The Oakland County chapter of the Rebuilding Together program may be able to help. Their volunteers will come to your house, cut your weeds, fix that leak, build you a wheelchair ramp at no charge. For more information go to <http://rebuildingtogether-oaklandcounty.org/contact-us/homeowner-app?view=form>, or call 248-432-6551.

“Social Security Benefits for Wounded Veterans” If you are a disabled veteran, and receiving benefits from the VA, you may still be entitled to extra benefits from the Social Security Administration. For more information check with the Social Security Administration local office or goto: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors/>.

“Social Security Benefits for Vets prior to 1967” In many cases veterans that served prior to 1967 did not get full credit for their service with the Social Security Administration. If you are retiring be sure to take a copy of your DD-214 to the SSA office. If you are retired take a copy of your discharge papers to the SSA to get your earning record corrected. This might mean more per month for you.

“Free Tuition for Returning Vets” Western Michigan University’s trustees have initiated a Returning Veterans Tuition Assistance Program designed to help recently discharged veterans with the cost of college. The program waives tuition for the first semester on campus. The current cost for a semester of tuition for a typical full time student is \$3,088. Eligible veterans must begin school at Western Michigan University within six months of discharge from active duty for purposes other than training. Contact Western Michigan University for more information.

“Combat Veterans Program (Update)” The John D. Dingell VA Medical Center has a team of providers who specialize in the assessment and treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The mission of the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) is to provide comprehensive, individualized, and state-of-the art treatment for veterans who have been impacted by traumatic events that occurred during military service. The program provides assessment for PTSD, education, group and individual therapy, and assistance with connecting to other needed services. If you believe you or your family member would benefit from these services, please contact the PCT at 313-576-1000, extension 65770. You may also contact the PCT Coordinator, Christina Hall, LMSW, directly at 313-576-4962.

“Information for all Vets” If you have been searching the web for information on a particular item concerning vets, look no further! I received the attached from the Student Vet Association at the U of M, author unknown! Think you will find it most useful.

—Advocating for Others, continued from Pg. 21


requires, VA does not operate a full-service medical facility in the state a veteran resides, the veteran was eligible for care in the community under the 40-mile rule in the Veterans Choice Program...”

As a Veterans Service Officer, most complaints I receive from veterans regarding choice care are regarding the lack of communication between the VA and private medical providers. The VA Mission Act requires the VA to enter into contracts with established health care networks and assume responsibility for scheduling appointments for hospital care, medical services, and extended care services.

Further, it mandates that a veteran shall not pay more for using non-VA care than the veteran would pay for similar services at the VA. The entire bill takes into account the VA’s shortcomings in reporting; it specifies and mandates comprehensive reporting to congress on access to and quality of care provided by the VA and its new community based health partners.

Finally, Section 152 of the law includes language establishing “Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Innovation for Care and Payment.” This program is inspired by successful reforms of Medicare and Medicaid through their Innovation Center. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, “The Innovation Center allows the Medicare and Medicaid programs to test models that improve care, lower costs, and better align payment systems to support patient-centered practices. The Innovation Center carefully evaluates innovative reform efforts widely used in the private sector, and is unique in its ability to develop provider-proposed approaches and quickly adjust models in response to feedback from clinicians and patients.”

As this is new legislation, it remains to be seen exactly how the VA is going to implement these changes. Some Veterans groups are vocal in their concerns that this law is the harbinger of privatization while others see the VA Mission Act as a well needed step towards a more efficient and integrated Veterans’ health system.



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Mike Fineis, Sr. Vice Commander
Scott Gloger, Jr. Vice Commander
Nate Powell, *MOV* Editor
Linda Gloger, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 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 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 in the letter column and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

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(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):

USA USA USN

USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):

WWI WWII Korea

Vietnam Gulf Other

Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY



Listed in Order of Post | Location | Last Name | First Name | Age | Service/War

345 REDFORD

CARLSON PAUL W. 69 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

DUBY JOHN E. 92 MARINES/WWII

NAGEL PAUL R. 65 ARMY/VIETNAM

423 ANN ARBOR

FLETCHER ROBERT 85 ARMY/KOREA

KIRTON PAUL 77 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

ROESER WALDOMAR 83 ARMY/VIETNAM

607 ROGERS CITY

FILIPIAK FRANK A. 95 ARMY/WWII

IDALSKI CLARENCE J. 92 NAVY/WWII

796 PORT HURON

FLITTON DANIEL J. 55 ARMY/AFGHANISTAN

PIPER GARY G. 71 NAVY/VIETNAM

1146 St. CLAIR SHORES

NAGY JACK 89 ARMY/WWII

1519 NORTHVILLE

DRAPER JOHN 93 MARINES/WWII

TYRANSKI ROBERT 86 KOREA

2053 WHITE CLOUD

RICHARDSON ELLROY 95 NAVY/WWII

2144 HOLLAND

DUNWIDDIE LLOYD E. 87 ARMY/KOREA

GOGOLIN JOHN 88 ARMY/KOREA

HOUP T VERNE MARINES/VIETNAM

KIRKLIN MELVIN 84 AIR FORCE

KLINGE ROGER 82 NAVY/KOREA

WABEKE DAVID 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

2292 EDMORE

PLESKO STEVE D. 93 NAVY/WWII

2780 TRAVERSE CITY

RIFFENBURG LeROY W. 92 NAVY/WWII

3023 GRAND RAPIDS

BARKER PHILLIP A. 90 NAVY/WWII

BOSGRAAF RALPH 92 WWII

BROERSMA ROBERT 84 ARMY/KOREA

DUFFY JOSEPH 68 VIETNAM

MILLERTHOMAS E. 86 NAVY/KOREA

MURPHY RAYMOND K. 90 NAVY/WWII

MYRICK WESLEY 93 WWII

SIDOR RICHARD 89 WWII

SMITH HARRISON L. 73 VIETNAM

SPRING ROBERT D. 81 ARMY/KOREA

STRONG LEWIS D. 100 NAVY/WWII

WERONKO HARRY 92 NAVY/WWII

3165 NEGAUNEE

BERGH CARL L. 85 NAVY/KOREA

KANGAS DALE P. 72 NAVY/AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

3293 GRAND LEDGE

CODY HAROLD H. 95 ARMY/WWII

STEWART GEORGE V. 91 ARMY/WWII

3676 SAULT STE MARIE

ALPHONSE RONALD L. 84 NAVY/KOREA

BELANGER WILSON T. 90 NAVY/WWII

CLEMENT PAUL W. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM

SHASKI JOHN A. JR. 72 NAVY/VIETNAM

3925 ERIE

KENNEDY EUGENE H. 95 AIR FORCE/WWII

LaVOY ROBERT C. 100 ARMY/WWII

SIMPSON EDWARD W. 92 NAVY/WWII

4005 CORUNNA

DASEN ROLLIN V. 77 AIR FORCE/KOREA

FOWLER ELWYN R. 83 ARMY/KOREA

MARCELLUS SPENCER WALLACE 86 ARMY/KOREA

4090 PORTLAND

BENSCHOTER JAMES O. 85 ARMY/GERMANY

FEDEWA LESLIE A. 94 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

4162 HAMTRAMCK

KOPITZ LEONARD 67 ARMY

4164 CARO

BENDER DAVID L. 78 NAVY/KOREA

GATES HAROLD L. 93 NAVY/WWII

4461 LAKE ODESSA

BARBOUR WALLACE 86 ARMY/KOREA

JOHNSON GEORGE 88 ARMY/KOREA

KENNEY JOSEPH 89 ARMY/KOREA

MILLER GLEN 88 ARMY/KOREA

RAFFLER ARNOLD 77 ARMY

STRIMBACK WILLIAM 83 ARMY/KOREA

5602 Six LAKES

KEELER ROBERT L. ARMY/WWII

KENNETH KIRK 71 VIETNAM

MARSTON EDD L. 95 MARINES/WWII

5666 FLUSHING

FATE ROBERT 90 ARMY/KOREA

St. JOHN E. LEE 87 ARMY/KOREA

5670 GWINN

FROBERG GERALD A. 87 ARMY/KOREA

SALVATE ROBERT 82 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

5977 MILAN

MACPHERSON DAVID 62 ARMY/KOREA

6695 PLYMOUTH

DIXON WALLACE G. 74 VIETNAM

ELLIOTT WILLIAM 95 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII

ROSS CHARLES 88 COAST GUARD/WWII

RYTLEWSKI RICHARD 65 NAVY/VIETNAM

SATTLER FREDERICK H. JR. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

SAWYER ARTHUR M. 69 NAVY/VIETNAM

WATSON SAMUEL 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

WILLIAMS BRUNO 97 MARINES/WWII

6754 SPRUCE

BUSHEY DONALD 85 ARMY

6782 EASTPOINTE

BOLEY RAYMOND 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

7805 ITHACA

PETERS DONALD L. 97 ARMY/WWII

TEEGARDIN CHARLES E. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

8236 FLINT

JACKSON WARREN 95 ARMY/WWII

8872 PORT SANILAC

COOK WESLEY 93 ARMY/WWII

9021 WARREN

ADAMSE JOHN T. 79 ARMY/KOREA/VIETNAM

ANDERSON MICHAEL P. 65 NAVY/VIETNAM

BIDOCZKA WALTER M. 65 ARMY/VIETNAM

BONGIOVANNI CHARLES J. 92 NAVY/WWII

BOOTZ THOMAS 79 ARMY/KOREA

CHAFFIN WILLARD 91 ARMY/WWII

CICCI JOSEPH A. 88 ARMY/KOREA

FAZIO FRANK J. 91 ARMY/WWII

9021 WARREN-CONTINUED

GREEN JAMES L. 91 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII

GROVEREMMET 88 ARMY/WWII

HANEKOW WALTER J. 89 ARMY/WWII

HARMS CHARLES E. 89 ARMY/WWII

HOWARD MILTON W. 95 ARMY/WWII

IDOLSKI HARRY L. JR. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

JACKIMOWICZ EDWARD T. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM

JOLY ROBERT M. 78 NAVY/KOREA

JURINIC STEPHEN G. 90 ARMY/WWII

LAMANNA VINCENZO 87 ARMY/WWII

LAPAJENKO NIKOLA JR. 88 ARMY/KOREA

VIETNAM LECHMAN DONALD C. 85 ARMY/KOREA

LLOYD GARY 64 ARMY/VIETNAM

MADEIRA ROBERT J. 95 ARMY/WWII

MAKS ROBERT F. 88 MARINES/WWII

MARKOVICH LUKE E. 90 ARMY/WWII

MCQUEEN ROBERT P. 63 ARMY/VIETNAM

MERLINO MIKE 89 NAVY/WWII

MILEWSKI EDWARD 95 NAVY/WWII

MILLS WARREN D. 96 NAVY/WWII

NAZAR ROBERT A. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

NICHOLSON ROBERT T. 81 AIR FORCE/KOREA

ORR DONALD E. 69 ARMY/GERMANY

PAPANDREA SAM P. 91 NAVY/WWII

PROCHT ROBERT W. 95 NAVY/WWII

PRYBYLA GEORGE 92 AIR FORCE/WWII

RZESZOTARSKI THADDEUS 90 ARMY/WWII

SHIRILLA JOHN E. 91 ARMY/WWII

SMITH HERBERT G. 95 ARMY/WWII

STACK RICHARD J. 90 ARMY/WWII/KOREA

STRZELECKI RICHARD J. 84 ARMY/KOREA

SULLA GEORGE J. 89 NAVY/WWII

THIELMAN ROY 96 NAVY/WWII

TITUS WALTER A. 63 NAVY/VIETNAM

TOMASZEWSKI RONALD W. 74 ARMY/VIETNAM

VAERTEN BRUCE P. 93 ARMY/WWII

VICKOVIC LOUIS L. 91 ARMY/WWII

WALKOWSKI RAYMOND 91 ARMY/WWII

WEISS KENNETH R. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

WILLIAMS MILTON R. 75 ARMY/VIETNAM

ZAWACKI ALFRED J. 86 ARMY/WWII

9388 MUSKEGON

HENDRICKS CUBIE 85 ARMY/KOREA

9489 ATLANTA

CADY GORDON 69 ARMY/VIETNAM

9656 LAMBERTVILLE

HAMILTON PRICE J. 92 NAVY/WWII

STONE NORMAN R. 81 ARMY/GERMANY

ULRICH JAMES E. 74 NAVY/VIETNAM

10884 MAYVILLE

ROBINSON DONALD J. 84 ARMY/KOREA

15023 LANSING

ORR EDWARD 94 COAST GUARD/WWII



Barbara Locke receives “Outstanding Support of Veterans” award for outstanding service from State Commander Matt David. Barbara was also recently honored by the Women in Combat to Honor, Empower, Encourage, Restore, and Revive Women of the Military (WINE), an organization created by a need to assist forgotten female veterans. Two thousand female veterans were nominated to receive the award. Barbara was one of 11 chosen to receive one. She received the Women of Excellent award for her outstanding service and many hours dedicated to helping her fellow veterans.



Girl Scout of the Year Samantha Brand and family

Michigan Keeps the Bucket



Every year there is a “competition” between Ohio and Michigan as to which Department can raise the most money for the VFW National Home. The highest donor takes home the Wooden Bucket for the year. This year was record setting!! Ohio donated \$48,000 on Saturday. Michigan donated \$52,000 on Sunday! Michigan VFW gets to take home the Wooden Bucket, but the big winners are the residents of the National Home!! \$100,000 donated in two days!!!



Making history in the VFW Auxiliary Department of State are Presidents Manke and Burchard. These two men are the first male District Presidents of the VFW Auxiliary Department of Michigan. On the left is Auxiliary District 7 President Jason Manke; on the right is Auxiliary District 4 President Jon Burchard.



Ann Arbor Eagle Receives Top Scout Award



Ann Arbor Eagle Receives Top Scout Award from VFW Post 423 and the Department of State from Post Commander Doug Brinker and State. From left to right, Past State Commander Matt David, Post 423 Commander Doug Brinker, Eagle Scout Larry Eiden, Scouting Director Larry Thayer, and Past National Commander-in-Chief Bill Thien.

—Scout of the Year, continued from Pg.20 Photos not available.

This year’s first-place winner, William L.P. Johnson, was sponsored by VFW Post 12124 in Meridian, Miss. He was selected for his activism in scouting activities, dedication to community service and a strong work ethic.

From time spent volunteering and tutoring, to creating “Little Free Libraries” throughout the community and building wheelchair ramps for those in need, William’s dedication and activism within the Boy Scouts organization truly set him apart from other applicants. As the first-place recipient, William will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship.

Carsen R. Easley, sponsored by VFW Post 12022 in Marion, Ky., was selected as the second-place winner for his notable community service work and for his impressive work within the Boy Scouts.

During his time as a Boy Scout, Carsen has spent hundreds of hours volunteering on projects ranging from flag retirement ceremonies to cemetery cleanup and restoration projects. Carsen will receive a \$3,000 college scholarship.

Sponsored by VFW Post 1831 in De Soto, Mo., Justin C. Fitzpatrick was selected as the third-place winner for his reputation as a leader and giving back to the community through scouting.

Projects like Justin’s “Stations of the Cross,” which offers members of his community a place to pause and reflect, clearly demonstrates his hard work and passion for helping others. Justin will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.



VFW Post 583 members perform a flag and flag pole dedication ceremony at the Oakland County Fair 4-H Riding Club arena. From left to right, VFW Post 583 members, Ron Allen, Carl Jeffrey, and Dennis Hoffman with two of the riding club members.



VFW Post 583 Commander Dennis Hoffman with Eagle Scout, Joey Tomei, and his parents at Joey’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor, June 30, 2018.