

# Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

***“No one does more for Veterans”***

*October 2018 GENERAL ORDERS*

Happy 243rd Birthday to the United States Navy

## ***SPECIAL NOTICES <> SPECIAL NOTICES***

***Congratulations to the following Posts for having attained 100%+ in Membership for 2018-2019:***

- >Charlevoix Post 1153, Charlevoix > 114.28% > Commander Raymond Browe
- >Lt. Harold J. Payette Post 565, Battle Creek > 104.70% > Commander Tim VanWormer
- >High-White-Milford Post 9914, Highland > 104.57% > Commander Vincent Oltesvig
- >Burger-Wiedbrauk Post 8135, Barton City > 102.77% > Commander James Burger
- >Grass Lake Post 10194, Grass Lake > 102.63% > Commander Dan Todd
- >Marion Blue Mountain Post 6015, Marion > 102.56% > Commander Larry Bell
- >Paul W. Hornaday/Giles-Everingham Post 1407, Ferndale > 102.29% > Commander Miguel Gonzales
- >Thornapple Valley Post 8260, Nashville > 102.08% Commander Ronald Felder
- >Tip of The Thumb Post 2236, Pigeon >101.33% Commander Dick Hernauer
- >West Branch Post 3775, West Branch > 100.76% Commander Michael Thorne
- >Douglas-Saugatuck Post 1573, Saugatuck >100.00% Commander William Hebert
- >McKinley-Wilson-Hall Post 2532, Paw Paw > 100.00% Commander James Alden
- >Marlette Post 4837, > Marlette > 100.00% Commander John Massoglia
- >Moroz-Pietrowski Post 9973, > Dearborn Heights >100.00% Commander Irvin Fox

### ***District Standings***

- >District 11 >90.24% Commander Terry Inosencio
- >District 10 >89.57% Commander Don Callaway
- >District 8 >89.12% Commander Vern Blauwkamp
- >District 13 >89.01% Commander Rick Plater
- >District 14 >88.71% Commander Dan Verville
- >District 12 >88.49% Commander Billy Stancroff
- >District 6 >88.07% Commander Bill Lietaert
- >District 5 >87.41% Commander Norm Mauldin
- >District 7 >87.28% Commander Bill Kushmaul
- >District 9 >86.93% Commander Shane Houghton
- >District 4 >85.57% Commander Bob Caldwell
- >District 15 >84.57% Commander Butch Paavola

***Who will take over the top spot next month???????***

***Special Offer:*** Recently, the Department office has received books called ***“The Liberation of Kuwait” Honoring the Veterans of Desert Storm.*** We have some books left over from Fall

Conference so if you would like one please let Department know. I would like these books to be offered to all Desert Storm Veterans first.

**Membership Drawing:** Any Post that obtains 100% by Mid-Winter Conference that was not 100% by Fall Conference will be put into a drawing for \$200.00.

**Commanders Challenge:** Commander-in-Chief B. J. Lawrence has laid down a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of October 2018! From October 1 through October 31, the Post in each membership division that shows the highest percentage of membership increase will receive an award of \$500 to be deposited directly into their Post fund to be used as needed for the Post. In addition, each Department with a winning Post will receive a matching \$500 to be deposited into the Department fund to be used as needed by the Department. If a Department has more than one winning Post, they can receive this award multiple times! Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on September 30 and October 31.

**VFW Foundation Community Support Grant:** The VFW Foundation Community Support Grant is open. Qualified Posts and/or Auxiliaries may receive grants of up to \$1,000 to support local nonprofits or important outreach projects in their communities. New to the grant this year, an applicant may be eligible to receive up to \$500 in additional funding by organizing a community service project that involves a local branch or affiliate of a VFW national corporate supporter (e.g. Burger King, Sport Clips, Walgreens, Humana, Ace Hardware, etc.). To view application guidelines or to apply for the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant, please visit [www.vfw.org/grants](http://www.vfw.org/grants). For questions, contact **Jason Couch, Grants Coordinator, at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) or (816) 968-1174.**

**Displaying Military Service Symbols:** Military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and then Coast Guard.

For military flags, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP238>.

**Veterans in the Classroom Month in November:** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." **Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness" week, as designated by Congress.**

Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store

<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation>.

**Conduct a Veterans Day Program on November 11:** Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: <https://www.vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday->

**Speeches.** Click here for Veterans Day merchandise  
<http://www.vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday>.

**POW/MIA Flag -- Official Displays Days:** Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2019 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, September 20, 2019 (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP237>.

**Post Commanders:** VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of Sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the way applications for membership will be handled. Applications for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application card of a person who is eligible for membership.

Sections 219 and 704 of the Manual of Procedure outline the various things for which the Post Relief Fund can be used. A few years ago, the phrase, "To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs," was added to this section. This allows the Post to use the relief funds for the Voice of Democracy program or other Americanism programs that are educational. This does not include Post building projects, hall remodeling, color guard uniforms or any other expenditure that does not follow these guidelines.

**All Districts/Posts:** All Districts/Posts Commanders wishing to have the State Commander or designee attend a function are requested to forward their request to the State Adjutant for review of calendar of events.

**All Posts:** Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2018-2019 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teachers' Awards, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

***Dates to Remember:***

8 Oct > Columbus Day  
13 Oct > Navy Birthday  
31 Oct > Halloween  
6 Nov > Election Day  
10 Nov > Marine Corps Birthday  
11 Nov > Veterans Day  
22 Nov > Thanksgiving Day

***Directory Changes: Everyone is asked to review their information in the 2018-19 directory to make sure that all information is correct. If there is a discrepancy, please notify the State Adjutant office for correction.***

***Audits:*** The 3rd Quarter Audits are due as of October 31st, there are still many Posts who have not submitted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ones to date. If you have not turned in your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter audit, please do so. You may fax it in at 517-485-6432 or mail it to Dept. of Michigan VFW 924 N. Washington Lansing, MI 48906.

***POPPIES:*** Many posts have ordered their Poppies, to them a big “Thank you” for getting them ordered and done. For those who have not, please do so now that way we know you will receive them in a timely manner.

***Bonding:*** Each Post should have submitted their Bonds in August because once September rolled around and the QM didn't renew their bond, then that means they have expired, and the Bonding Company is no longer reliable if something has happened. I can't stress enough the importance of getting these things taken care of and on time. As the QM, you agreed to maintain all books records and monies of the position. If anyone needs help, call Dept. QM Patterson at 517-485-9456. I always hear of people needing help, but we get very few calls or emails asking for help.

Let's all get out and help the Commander reach his goal of 100%. We are having an Excellent year to date; let's keep it going.

Following information was forwarded from National Headquarters from Randy K. Law, Manager, Communications & Public Affairs:

We're pleased to officially announce the VFW will launch a new look on November 6! The new look will be spearheaded by the deployment of a new, modern and simplified VFW logo designed to better convey who we are as an organization and allow us to stand out in an increasingly competitive media market. In short, this new logo will strengthen the VFW brand, reaffirming our position as America's greatest veterans service organization and allow us to better connect with new audiences.

***See the historical evolution of the VFW logo.***

For clarification, the Cross of Malta will always remain the official seal of the VFW. We are not leaving the Cross behind, but rather elevating the importance of the Cross by limiting its usage to instances in which it can be fully reproduced, and instances which require formal representation of our brand. The Cross represents the highest ideals of the organization and should be afforded a degree of reverence when it is displayed.

We understand many of you have expended resources over the years to obtain merchandise and material displaying the current VFW logo. We are sensitive to this, and therefore, it is acceptable should you choose to exhaust your current inventory of VFW-branded print materials and continue to use VFW-branded merchandise until it is time to reorder or until the year January 1, 2021.

Please note:

1. All future orders of VFW-branded collateral will display the new logo. The VFW Store will begin expanding merchandise offerings which display the new logo while limiting options displaying the Cross of Malta, however, all offerings in this year's Store catalog which display the Cross will be honored.
2. For those of you using the Website Solution Program platform, the logo update will occur automatically on November 6.

**Exciting times are ahead for our great organization, and we truly appreciate your every effort to implement the new logo on, but not before November 6.**

Please feel free to direct any questions to [communications@vfw.org](mailto:communications@vfw.org).

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### ***COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT***

Once again, my Special Project this year is Cancer. Please make sure all your donations go through Department so that you may receive the proper credit.

BY COMMAND OF:

*Phil Patterson*

Phil Patterson  
Commander