

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

April/May/June 2014

Volume 81 Number 4



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Spring has come and gone. The time of renewal will be complete for us when our new state officers are elected, appointed and installed. All the new Post, Council and District leadership will be in charge after the installation of the new State Commander and hopes for the coming year are riding high. If we all give our best effort, we will be successful at every level of our Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Retention, reinstating and recruiting new membership continues to be a concern for all of us. We are requesting that membership teams be formed at all Posts, Councils and Districts. Once these are formed they must be actively recruiting every day possible. Membership Director Past State Commander John Harrow, Jr. and his team of state recruiters are ready, willing and able to assist you in your recruiting efforts. Comrades, programs have been cut, directorships have been combined, and comrades are doing double duty to save Department assets as our membership has fallen off. If we are to continue the programs, we must increase our membership. With those thoughts in mind, we are going to have a training session on Sunday, June 8th, just after this year's State Convention. All Post, Ladies Auxiliaries and Men's auxiliaries are invited to attend this training. After this class you will be a "Certified National Recruiter". The instructor for this class will be Comrade Rick Butler from the VFW National Recruiting

Harry "Les" Croyle

Senior Vice Commander



Office. After you return to your respective Posts, Councils and Districts, you will have the opportunity to train others in the fine art of retaining, reinstating and recruiting new members. All we need now is to have you send your willingness to attend this class on June 8, 2014. Please include your name, address, phone number, email, Post number and District number to: Department Headquarters, 924 N. Washington, Lansing, MI 48906-5136, Attn: VFW Recruiting Class of 2014-15

On a personal note, I am looking forward to serving as your Department Commander 2014-2015. With your continued support, hard work and dedication, we will be successful in making the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars the best it can be. Thank you for all you have done, thank you for what you do today and most of all, thank you for what you will do to ensure the future of Veterans of Foreign Wars – the greatest veteran's organization ever. If you truly want to succeed in any endeavor, you must fully commit to it. I'm there, will you join me? God bless and I hope to see you at this year's Convention at the Holiday Inn, 5353 Gateway Center, Flint, MI 48507.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades and sisters, it has been a busy couple of months. I have enjoyed traveling the state visiting Districts and Posts, as well as meeting all the members. I enjoyed my time spent in Washington, DC; I was able to visit our National Memorials and truly was moved by the time spent there.

The VOD in Washington, DC is a truly special program; we meet some neat and interesting young men and women who truly understand what the word patriotism stands for. The time I spent on Capitol Hill watching the National Commander-in-Chief testify before the Veterans Committee was an interesting process to see how the system works; my only regret is that I did not get a chance to meet our legislators.

Paul McIvor

Junior Vice Commander



I hope that everyone is working hard to help us obtain our goal of 100% membership. Membership is the lifeblood of our Posts; without members, our voice in Lansing and Washington will not be heard. When this paper is printed we will be at our State Convention electing our new administration. My hope is that everyone will meet all the candidates, ask the important questions, and vote for the one that will lead us during this next administrative year.

STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

There has been much discussion concerning the topic of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). Some of the dialogue has generated controversy and misinformation. I'd like to take this opportunity to set the record straight and clear up any misconceptions.

First though, a little background on the agency. Governor Rick Snyder signed Executive Order 2013-2, which created the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. This agency is within the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Prior to the creation of the MVAA, veterans' services were spread across several other state agencies and often received less than adequate support, both operationally and financially. The agency brought the separate groups together under one roof and offered clear lines of communication and a more organized structure.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency service officers are accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs and provide assistance to veterans and their eligible family members in the same manner as the other service organizations like the VFW, DAV and The American Legion. The MVAA also oversees the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and the state veterans' homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette.

The MVAA was tasked with providing oversight to the various veterans' service organizations that receive state funding in order to provide services to Michigan's veterans population of over 650,000. It was while in this capacity that the rumors and negative publicity regarding the MVAA's impact on the Michigan Veterans Coalition began.

Admittedly, the relationship got off to a rocky start. There was much language in the original contract that was unacceptable to the coalition members and some of the contract stipulations actually conflicted with our Bylaws. Negotiations became contentious at times, but we were able to work out our differences after several meetings and were able to

hammer out a contract we could live with. Since that time officials with the MVAA have proven to be both flexible and approachable. They understand we have a common goal: gaining any and all benefits Michigan's veterans may be entitled to receive.

Another issue that has sparked contentious debate was a state directed audit of both the MVAA and the Michigan Veterans Coalition. The audit had some inaccuracies and the MVAA took some unfair hits. All parties have taken steps to correct any program deficiencies.

Finally, I would like to address constituent communications to their legislative representatives. It is vitally important we interact and correspond with our legislators in matters critical to our interests. It is equally important we communicate with respect and accuracy when expressing our concerns. Lately some legislators have been receiving mostly negative calls and letters concerning the MVAA and the Michigan Veterans Coalition. This has cast our organizations in a very negative light and threatens to have an adverse impact on our ability to receive additional funding. Should you have questions or concerns I would be glad to discuss them with you prior to any contact you may wish to have with your senator or representative. Our contact information is as follows:

VFW Service Office
477 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1215
Detroit, MI 48226-2588
Ph: 313/964-6510
Fax: 313/964-6545
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov
Our hours of operation are
Monday through Friday
From 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



ALL-STATE

Greetings, comrades. I'm sure by the time this issue is published, the 2013-14 program will be over. To those who rose to the Commander's challenge – congratulations. I realize it was very difficult to obtain the 100% plus 4 members. Getting the 125 points was easy, by simply doing and reporting what you're supposed to do as a Post.

Attention to all incoming Commanders: your program year has already started.

The 2014-15 All-State Program runs from May 1st to April 30th. Be sure to look at this year's program. I'm sure Director Gubin has made some changes.

Again, I want to applaud this year's All-State Posts. For those who did not make it this year, make up your mind now and achieve All-State in 2015. Thank you for supporting me as your Director this year. It was an honor to work with all of you.

There's no way to calculate fully the true cost of freedom.



COMING SOON!

Soon, you may receive a personalized VFW calculator in the mail. When you do, please consider making a donation to the VFW to help keep the programs available for our veterans, service members and their families when they are in need.

We can't do it without your support!

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



Michigan Overseas Veteran 2014-2015 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
April/May/June	April 1	October/November/December	November 1
July/August/September	August 1	January/February/March	February 1

Please Remember!

1. Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
2. **Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.**
3. Do not write on back of pictures. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. Try to limit number of people in photo to five or six, at most.
4. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
5. We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
6. **Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.**
7. **Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.**
8. DISTRICT COMMANDERS – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
9. **MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:**

MOV Editor Matt David, editormov@yahoo.com	Auxiliary Editor Diane Ward, legalblaze@aol.com
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SUCCESS STORY

Quite often our success stories highlight the role our service officers play in the claims process. This is not surprising as the service officer is the one who normally conducts the interview, determines the issues or conditions that should be filed with the VA and manages the collection of information. The service officer also decides what forms to complete and what evidence is needed to ensure a successful outcome for the claim. The service officer is also the person who will review the rating and determine if the VA made the right decision and if a challenge to the decision should be initiated. As a result of their role another group of employees is often overlooked – our claims consultants.

Our claim consultants are more often than not the first person a veteran will have contact with, whether over the phone or in person. She will immediately assess the level of assistance the client will need and then refer the person to the appropriate service officer. Quite often our claims consultant will be able to resolve the issue, thus allowing the service officer to handle more pressing matters. On occasion a claims consultant will “go the extra mile” and provide superior customer service above the norm. The following story provides such an example.

One of our claims consultants received a request for assistance for a catastrophically disabled veteran. The normal procedure would have been to assign the case to one of our service officers. When the consultant saw the veteran resided near her home, she decided to take personal responsibility for the claim.

Because the veteran was too disabled to travel, she made multiple visits to the veteran's residence. She patiently explained the process involved to file a claim for benefits, as well as the documents and forms needed to comply with VA requirements. The veteran was an Air Force retiree with multiple DD214s and numerous personnel documents. Our claims consultant brought back the documents and completed VA forms and teamed with a service officer to package the claim under the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) process. As a result of her persistent efforts, the veteran was service connected for several conditions and was awarded compensation payments totaling over \$4,000 monthly.

Unfortunately, the veteran succumbed to his illnesses soon after he received word of the claim's outcome. Realizing she had been handed a whole new set of circumstances our claims consultant immediately set out to secure benefits for the veteran's surviving spouse. She continued to make several visits to the widow's home and assisted her in filling out the forms that needed to be submitted to the VA so she could receive survivor benefits through the VA.

The widow was awarded the veteran's month of death check, burial benefits and monthly DIC benefits in the amount of \$1,233. We also filed for accrued benefits, which she will receive retroactively back to December 2012, approximately in the amount of over \$25,000!

As of this writing, the widow refers to the claims consultant as “her heavenly angel”. The claims consultant has gained a wonderful friendship through all of this!

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

For all you newly elected officers, a big THANK YOU for contributing your time and talent as an officer or chairman at your Post and/or District level. Now elections are over and it's time to think about what we are going to do to better “our organization”.

Many times the reason members are hesitant to fill an officer or committee chair is usually because they feel overwhelmed with the thought of the time and resources they will need to commit, and the flak they have seen others get that were in office before them. If you didn't feel up to making a commitment at any level, please support those that did with a positive attitude. Help them do it right and legal, adhere to the VFW National and Department Bylaws, attend meetings, pay attention to what's going on and please give constructive input! I hope we all realize that to continue to excel at what we are supposed to be doing – Veterans Serving Veterans – we also must pass down important information to our fellow officers and the membership. Don't hesitate to ask a past officer or call your District or the Department if you need help. Then use it...and pass it down!

New officers need to get all the election reports, rosters and proper forms in to the District and Department ASAP. As of January 1, 2014 a new form for change of address has been put out by the IRS, Form 8822-B for every entity having tax-exempt status or EIN. This was due March 1, 2014 or 60 days after any change!! It can be filled out and printed right off the IRS website! Ain't it dandy the way Big Brother watches over us;

Andy Conklin
State Judge Advocate

always there to help! Keep your Post or Districts up to date and make sure you are in compliance with all local, state and federal laws and regulations.

Post and District Bylaws should be reviewed annually by your Bylaws committee. Templates are available from the Department Adjutant. Once again, please feel free to contact Department Headquarters if we can be of any assistance to you in regards to these and other matters.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars tries very hard to fully support its leaders at all levels by putting out the needed information to stay informed and in compliance with them and our various monitoring agencies, but more importantly to put out the information to guide us toward success! Much information can be researched in minutes on the National site, www.vfw.org. Take the time to familiarize yourself with it. If you can't find what you need, call or e-mail Department. We currently are working on a new Department website that will be user-friendly and contain a wealth of information for all of us and will be of tremendous service to us at every level.

The ultimate measure of a leader is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand in times of challenge and controversy!

Military Order of the Cootie

"Doing BIG Things for Veterans"

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

The Grand Commander wanted to close the year by thanking all of you who participated in supporting the Grand this year. He also wanted to thank all of our fellow Cooties for their hard work and accomplishments throughout the year. Without you, the Grand of Michigan would disappear.

The VFW was very helpful in supporting the Grand of Michigan with its projects, but we can't stop now, we must continue supporting our programs. Our VFW National Home trip to Sandusky, Ohio will have taken place by the time this goes to press. Please continue to support our Grand by sending a donation to our Grand Quartermaster Ernie Pauline.

When sending your contributions, please 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 Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050 or Phone: 810-735-7920.

Michigan Nitpickers for 2013-2014

The Grand of Michigan fundraiser is moving along very nicely with the help of PGC Bob Routhier, Jr. 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, the Grand Commander would like to thank all of the Lousy Cooties out there who helped to make this a good year for the Grand. Thanks to the officers and chairmen for their commitments.

He also would like to thank the Grand President Patricia Thorsby and all the Ladies of the MOCA for their help and support. Without it, I don't believe we would have done as well as we have.

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Sherwood Pea
District 10 Commander



It has been an honor serving as the Commander of District 10, Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Your confidence and trust in me to serve in this capacity again is greatly appreciated. To all the members of the 10th District, thank you for all you did to make this organization better this year. Your Posts strive forward and made a difference in your communities and the lives of veterans.

To the officers, program chairmen of the Posts and the Districts, your commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated. Please tell your wives, significant other and families I said thank you for sharing you with us. They sacrifice a lot for us to participate in this organization.

The District has had its ups and downs this year; through it all we should be a stronger District in the future, but there is still work to be done.

Sr. Vice Commander Bob Wilson of the 10th District has been at my side through it all and he is ready to assume the responsibilities of our District. He is to be commended for his commitment and

the preparation he has shown as he gets ready to lead our District.

To the 10th District President Linda Perreault, it has been an honor serving the 10th District with you this year. To all the District Ladies Auxiliary members, thank you for all you do for our Post. Kathy Kirby, thank you for all your help with the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program this year. Bonnie Pray, thank you for your help with the District Cancer Baskets and Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Program. Lori Etue-Carl, thanks for your help with the District Hospitality Room at State Convention.

State Commander Devereaux and State President Marilyn Malick, thank you for your service to our organization this year. "Job Well Done".

In closing, here are some thoughts to ponder: 1. Post consolidation: it's a viable option to strengthen and extend the longevity of two or more Posts. 2. What have you done to recruit a New and/or Reinstated member this year?

"Semper Fi"



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Colon Laney
District 11 Commander



Comrades of District 11, this will be the last letter to you this year. I hope that when you read this we will be 100% in membership.

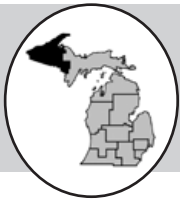
You've done a good job this year on everything you have done. I know that things are getting harder to do than before; some of us want to slow down, but we care too much about veterans

and the things Congress and people do. We, as veterans, have to show people that we care for this great country and they should think and respect the things we stand for. I think it's time we start thinking of our people and the country that we love. You have showed me you care and that's why I can say I'm proud to be your Commander this year.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Joe Finch
District 15 Commander



Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year

One of the finest events that I've witnessed and played a part in took place at the Department Mid-Winter Convention in Kalamazoo. The banquet for our state VOD, PP and Teacher of the year winners was nothing less than superb. Way to go, young patriots and way to do it right, Jim Galen and Stephanie Krueger.

Our own District 15 Spring Convention Banquet in April showcases the super talent within our District. Bill and Sunny Cole are responsible for this as they coordinate these valued programs throughout the year. Many, many thanks!

Day of Challenges

The annual Day of Challenges was held on February 22, 2014. As you would have it, the U.P. was in a winter storm siege preventing some teams from making the day at Michigan Tech. I was socked in, as well. However, there was good competition and lots of energy. Thanks again, Butch Paavola, for your solid effort.

CCVA

The Copper Country Veterans Association of Houghton and Keweenaw counties conducted 57 graveside

ceremonies in the spring and summer months of 2013. The association consists of veterans from all the services, and they are members from all the VSOs in Copper Country. Numerous burials are being scheduled for this coming spring. The association is a proud and determined group of vets who perform these functions with integrity and the deepest respect for these heroes and their families. Bill Cole does a stellar job in coordinating all efforts.

Moving Wall

As mentioned in our previous article, the moving wall is coming to Calumet in July 2014. A written request will be arriving at just about every veteran's organization in the U.P. We're asking for your units to provide a Color Guard for the opening ceremony. We would like to see a strong showing here, so stand by for this.

Elections

I need all Commanders to provide maximum emphasis in your Post election process. Ensure that you view all guidelines, conduct your elections and submit your reports timely to District and Department. I know, I know, preaching to the choir.

Here's wishing you all the best!

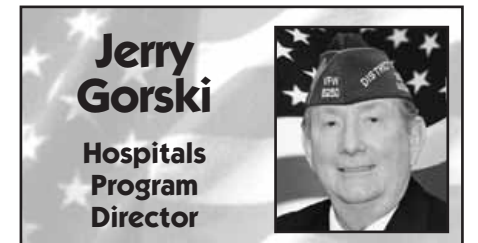
HOSPITAL PPROGRAM

This will be my Final Article as your Hospital Program Director. I want to thank State Commander Ron Devereaux for this assignment.

I thoroughly enjoyed being your Hospital Program Director this year. I have met and trained many Hospital Chairmen, Post Commanders and Post Members at the Department Conferences and also at the District Meetings throughout Michigan, as I campaigned for Department Junior Vice Commander 2014-2015. I have also helped and trained many Hospital Chairmen over the telephone. Yes, Hospital Chairmen received training over the telephone by both the Hospital Chairman and me, using both our telephones and our computers online at the same time.

The Electronic Hospital Reporting continues to increase every month. I want to thank those Hospital Chairmen who switched from paper reporting to electronic reporting. Once the Hospital Chairman understands and follows my step-by-step training guide, they find out how easy it is to complete a Hospital Report electronically instead of filling out a paper hospital report and mailing it or faxing it to Department of Michigan VFW Headquarters in Lansing.

I am writing my Instructions again for Electronic Hospital Reporting. These instructions are "not" on the Department Website. So, please give these instructions to your Post Hospital Chairman, in case he/she does not read this article.



Instructions for

Electronic Hospital Reporting

1. Log on your computer to www.vfwmi.org
2. Click your mouse on "Reporting" box located in the upper right corner of home page.
3. Click on the underline "Hospital Report".
4. Your Login Name is: "Your Post Number". Your Password is: "Pass13" (the P is capitalized and there is no space between Pass and 13)
5. Click on "Enter Hospital Reporting".
6. Click on "Begin" at the bottom of "Hospital report consists of:" page. You will be doing one or more of the five listed categories listed. Take your time, so you don't make a mistake or get an error message.
7. This page is your "Hospital Visits 101" page. You will be entering your Hospital Visits/Patient Visits. If you go to the "same" location (hospital, nursing home, etc.), then ADD your Workers, Hours, Cash, Patients Contacted and Total Miles. It is not necessary to enter multiple entries if you are going to the same location.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM, continued from page 3

- a. Click in the “Description” box and enter the location where you did your hospital or patient visit first.
 - b. Look for your “tab” key, which is located next to the letter “Q” on your keyboard. Tab “twice” and you will see your cursor go into the “No. Workers” box, where the black (0) will turn blue. Enter your “Number of Workers”, then “tab” to the “No. Hours” box, where the black (0) turns blue. Enter the Number of Hours. Do the same routine until you “complete” the “Total Miles”. After you enter the “Total Miles”, you will click on the “ADD” box in the upper right corner “or” hit the “ENTER” button on your keyboard. You will see the information that you entered on the “right” side of the screen. **If you do not see your information on the right side, then you did not follow the instructions correctly and will receive an error message.** Re-enter your information again on “Hospital Visits 102” and hit ADD or hit the ENTER button. Your information should move over to the right side of the screen.
 - c. If you have a 2nd Hospital Visit/Patient Visit, you will enter on “Hospital Visit 102, Hospital Visit 103 and so forth. Follow the previous instructions.
 - d. When you have completed ALL your Hospital Visits/Patient Visits, you click on “Next Report” at the “bottom” of the left side of the Hospital Visit page.
8. This is your “Blood Donation” page.
- a. You will either enter the number of “Blood Donations – Pints” in the box to the left of the “ADD” box, then either click the “ADD” box or hit the “Enter” key on your keyboard and your information will move over to the right side OR you will “skip” the pint blood donations and do nothing. Do not put a (0) zero in the box,; leave it blank.
 - b. You will do the same procedure for “Blood Donations – Double Reds” or you will “skip” the double red blood donations and do nothing. Do not put a (0) zero in the box;
- leave it blank.
- c. Remember, if you enter any blood donations, you must hit the “ADD” box or hit your “Enter” button on your keyboard. You will see your information move over to the right side.
 - d. Click “Next Report”.
9. This is your “Hospital Equipment” page.
- a. **Remember, you must enter “one” hospital equipment item at a time.** Enter your quantity inside the empty box first, then click on the “ADD” box or hit your “Enter” key on your keyboard. Each hospital equipment item and quantity will then move over to the right side of the page. Make sure each entry moved over to the right side before going to the next item. Do not put a (0) in the quantity box; leave it blank.
 - b. At the bottom of the page, you will see “399 Rented Value/Quantity”. This line is for a Hospital Equipment item or items that are not listed on the Hospital Equipment page. You must enter the “total dollars” and enter a “Qty” of (1) one for the hospital item/items that are not listed. You will then hit the “ADD” box or hit the “Enter” key on your keyboard. You will then see “399”, “Rented” and “1” on the right side.
 - c. Click “Next Report” at the bottom of the left side of your screen.
10. This is the “Donations” page.
- a. **Remember, you must enter “one” donation item at a time.**
 - b. You will enter “each” item listed, “one at a time” with the “quantity”, then click the “ADD” box or hit your “Enter” key on your keyboard. You will see each item moved over to the right side with your quantity. If you make a mistake, use your “back arrow” key at the top left side of your screen to go back. Do not put a (0) zero in any box.
 - c. At the bottom of the “Donations” page, you will see “499 New Clothing”. This is for items that you may have picked up at Salvation Army or blankets or lap robes that

- someone made. Enter the “dollar” value of the item/items that are not listed on this page in the box “below” the “\$” sign and click on the “ADD” box or hit the “Enter” key on your keyboard. You will see your entry as “499” “Clothing” “1” on the right side.
 - d. After everything is entered, then click on “Submit Report” on the right side at the bottom of everything that you have entered.
 - e. If you forgot something on any page, use your “back arrow” key at the top right side of your screen to get to the page to either add or delete an item. Follow the instructions again until you get to the last page, which is your “Donations” page, then click “Submit Report” on the right side at the bottom of your entries.
11. This is your “Order Information” page. It lists your Name, Email Address and Post Information. You will have to correct this information later.
- a. You will see “Month Ending” with “1-January” with a down arrow. You “must” click on the down arrow and “select” the month for which you are reporting. Too many Comrades are not selecting the “month” that they are reporting. Therefore it “defaults” to “1-January” and your report has to be deleted and you must start all over again. Use the back arrow at the top left side of your screen to go back to your “Order Information” page and “select” the correct month, then click “ Submit Report” on the “LEFT” side of your screen. **Do Not Click on “Submit Report” on the “Right” Side of the Screen. You Will Not Get to the Next Screen. You Must Click on “Submit Report” on the Left Side of the Screen!!!!**
12. This next screen lists the following information: Post Information, Month Ending, Post Number, District Number and everything that you entered. You must make sure that you entered the “correct” month and entered “everything” on the four prior screens (Hospital Visits, Blood Donations, Hospital Equipment,

- Donations) correctly. If you have to make a correction, use your “back arrow” key at the top left side of your screen.
- a. At the bottom left side of the screen, you will see the words “**If all items are correct, click Submit Report.**” Make sure all items are correct! Do not hurry and submit a bad report!
 - b. Hit “Submit Report” at the bottom of the page.
13. This is your “Report Confirmation – Order Submitted” page.
- a. Print this page using the “Print This Page” box at the top left side and save it for your files.
 - b. Click on the “Log Out” box either at the top or the bottom of the page.
- Congratulations! You have completed your hospital report.
14. The LAST THING you need to do is sign in again and go to “Edit Post Information”. **You only have to do this one time or every time there is a “New” Hospital Chairman**, because I need to know who to contact if there is a question on your Hospital Report. I need to know the Hospital Chairman’s Name, Hospital Chairman’s Phone Number and the Hospital Chairman’s Email Address. **Once you’ve updated your Post Information, you hit “Submit”.**
- I hope this Training Guide will help you do your Monthly Hospital Reports “easily” and “electronically”.
- The “paper” Hospital Report Form 2013-2014 is on the Department Website under “Reports & Forms/Department Printable Forms/Hospital Report Form” and also under “Programs/Hospital/Hospital Report Form”.
- There are still a few Posts that are still using an “old” hospital report form. Please, please throw this “old” Hospital Report Form away and start using the “current” Hospital Report Form 2013-2014 that is on the Department Website. Thank You!
- I hope to continue to work for you and with you “again”, as your next Department Junior Vice Commander 2014-2015.
- Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who continue to guard the Gates of Freedom for us!
- Jerry Gorski**
Hospital Program Director

STATE SURGEON

This will be my final article as your State Surgeon. I want to thank each and every one of you, Comrades, for electing me your State Surgeon 2013-2014. I thoroughly enjoyed being your State Surgeon and also your appointed Hospital Program and Gold Star Mothers’ Director. I met a lot of Comrades as I traveled throughout the State of Michigan conducting Hospital Reporting Training Sessions and also campaigning as a Candidate for Department Junior Vice Commander 2014-2015. I thank you for your hospitality, your friendship and your support. I hope to continue working for you again, as your Department Junior Vice Commander 2014-2015.

All About Allergies

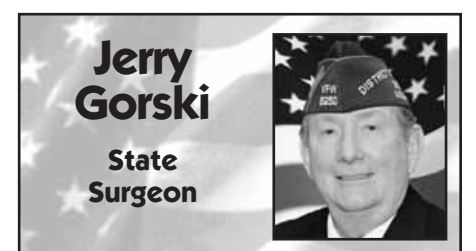
I read this article in a magazine written

by Mark L. Fuerst, a Brooklyn-based health and fitness writer and wanted to share this with you. If you are one of the 40 million Americans with seasonal allergies, you know all too well that springtime means higher pollen counts. I am one of those 40 million Americans. Each spring, I am allergic to something in the air, especially when I am cutting the grass or just working outside, around the yard. I have to take an antihistamine (LORATADINE) prescribed by my VA Doctor to stop my runny nose and watery eyes. It is compared to the active ingredient of CLARITIN. It works for me. Seasonal allergies such as hay fever are the most common type of allergy, which is an overreaction of your immune system to a foreign substance (allergen). This can

result in coughing, sneezing, itchy eyes, a runny nose, a scratchy throat and more. In severe cases of skin, food, latex, insect or eye allergies, it can lead to rashes, hives, lower blood pressure, difficulty breathing, asthma attacks and even death.

Knowing exactly what you are allergic to can help lessen or prevent exposure and treat reactions. Allergy skin testing, considered the most sensitive method, provides rapid results. The most common test involves pricking the skin with an extract of a specific allergen, then observing the skin’s reaction. Blood tests can provide similar information.

Treatment. The best treatment for allergies is to avoid the offending allergens. If you are allergic to a specific food like peanuts, remove them from your diet (be careful for the food to be



hidden in other foods). That’s not so easy when you are allergic to ragweed pollen in the air, but various over-the-counter or prescription medications can relieve the common symptoms.

Antihistamines. These medications counter the effects of histamines, the substance that makes your eyes water, nose itch and causes you to sneeze. Newer antihistamines do not cause the sleepiness brought on by older versions.

STATE SURGEON, continued on page 5

STATE SURGEON, continued from page 4

Nasal steroids. These anti-inflammatory sprays help decrease swelling and mucus production. They work alone or in combination with antihistamines, and are relatively free of side effects.

Cromolyn sodium. This nasal spray also helps stop hay fever, perhaps by blocking the release of histamine and other symptom-producing chemicals. It has few side effects.

Decongestants. Available in capsule and spray form, these drugs may reduce swelling and sinus discomfort. They are intended for short-term use, and are usually used along with antihistamines. Be aware that long-term use of decongestant sprays can make your symptoms worse.

Allergy shots. Also known as immunotherapy, these might help if you don't get relief with antihistamines

or nasal steroids. They alter the body's immune response and help prevent allergic reactions. They are the only form of treatment that induces long-lasting protection. But these treatments are limited because of potential allergic reactions, which can be severe.

Allergy myths and misconceptions. Common myths and misconceptions about allergies persist due to false information in the media and online. Dr. David Stukus, an allergist at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, outlines some of the greatest myths.

"I'm allergic to artificial dyes." There is no scientific evidence supporting a link between exposure to artificial coloring and allergies.

"I cannot have vaccines due to an egg allergy." Egg embryos are used to

grow viruses for vaccines such as the flu, yellow fever and rabies shots. But it's safe to get a flu shot, which can help prevent serious illness.

"At-home blood tests reveal all you are allergic to." These tests might reveal sensitivity to, for example, milk, but that doesn't mean you are necessarily allergic to it.

"I'm allergic to cats and dogs but can have a hypoallergenic breed." There is no such thing as a truly hypoallergenic cat or dog. It's not the fur you may be allergic to, but the allergens released in saliva and glands.

"I'm allergic to shellfish and cannot have iodine imaging." Some physicians have linked a reaction to iodine dye used in imaging tests to a shellfish allergy, but iodine cannot be an allergen since it is

found in the human body.

"I can't have bread because I'm allergic to gluten." Many people claim to have a gluten allergy. You may have gluten intolerance, but it's extremely rare to have a true allergy to wheat-based foods.

If you think you may have an allergy, Stukus recommends that you see a board-certified allergist for proper evaluation, testing, diagnosis and treatment.

I want to thank you again for electing me, your State Surgeon and also for reading my articles. I tried to make them interesting and relevant. I hope to work for you again, as your Department Junior Vice Commander 2014-2015. I hope to see you at the Department Convention in Flint.

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

GOLD STAR MOTHERS DIRECTOR

Jerry Gorski

This will be my final article as your Gold Star Mothers' Director. I am honored to have been given this assignment this year by State Commander Ron Devereaux.

Please continue to support our Gold Star Mothers who visit our veterans who are patients at the VA Hospitals throughout Michigan. Our Gold Star Mothers put on many events for our veterans and it is through your donations that they are able to continue to visit and put on these events for them.

If you or your Post would like to make a donation (and it can be whatever you can afford), please make out your check to Department of Michigan VFW, earmark it Gold Star Mothers, and send

it to Department of Michigan VFW, 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906.

If your Post is going for All-State this year, your Post will earn one point for every \$25 donated, up to a maximum of four points or \$100. ALL your donations go directly to our Michigan Gold Star Mothers.

If you know of a Gold Star Mother who has questions or is interested in joining the Gold Star Mothers Chapter in Michigan, please contact our Gold Star Mothers President Carol Johnson at 517-712-4574.

God Bless our Gold Star Mothers and all they do for our Veterans at the VA Hospitals.

AN OPEN LETTER TO VFW BACHELOR POSTS

*By Cindy Peto, Chief of Staff/Extension,
Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary*

In the twelve years since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, 2,333,972 American military personnel have been deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan or both, as of August 30, 2011. The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary hasn't even begun to provide the much needed support that these veterans and their families so justly deserve.

There are over 723,000 veterans in Michigan that are in need of assistance and support. The Michigan Ladies Auxiliary stands ready and prepared to assist our Posts in their service to provide aid to these heroes.

Last year our 198 auxiliaries in Michigan provided the following in service to our veterans and their families:

Veterans and Family Support – 87,498 volunteer hours at a value of \$489,711

Legislative – 5,324 volunteer hours at a value of \$7,119

Scholarships – 5,140 volunteer hours at a value of \$55,010

Hospital – 58,223 volunteer hours at a value of \$250,209

Americanism – 26,518 volunteer hours at a value of \$80,099

This is just a synopsis of the value of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In total for the 2012-13 administrative year, including all the programs, the ladies volunteered 206,449 hours at an estimated value of over \$1 million. The VFW Posts in Michigan

provided 300,814 in volunteer hours at a value of over \$2.6 million. These numbers clearly state the value of having a Ladies Auxiliary and the Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary hopes that your Post will give serious and careful consideration to instituting a Ladies Auxiliary.

Those eligible for membership to the Ladies Auxiliary are wives, widows, mothers, foster and stepmothers (who have performed the duties of a parent), grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, foster and step-daughters (who attained that status prior to age sixteen and for whom the duties of a parent were performed), sisters, half-sisters, foster and stepsisters (who attained that status prior to age sixteen), or persons who were or are eligible for membership to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

All it takes to start a new Ladies Auxiliary is a 2/3 majority vote by the Post membership and a minimum of 20 enthusiastic women who have never been a member or wish to reinstate their membership.

The Ladies Auxiliary is 100 years strong and is in need of many more hands to do the valuable work so that we may continue to provide Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes.

For more information, please contact me at ccpeto@yahoo.com or the Department Ladies Auxiliary Office at 517-487-3715.

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The following are the proposed amendments to the Department Bylaws to be printed in the April, May and June *MOV* and presented to the Delegates of the 95th Department Convention in June 2014. These amendments have been reviewed by the Department Commander and Department Bylaws and Resolution Committee and are proposed as follows:

Amendment M-1: Amend Article II by adding the word, "COMPOSITION" to the heading.

Amendment M-2: Amend Article V-County Councils, Section 1 by changing the word "for" to "form" at the end of line three.

Amendment M-3: Amend Article VII-Department, Section 3. (A) by inserting "Day of Challenges" after the word "Convention" and before the word "Hospital".

Amend Section C by deleting section "C" in its entirety and insert "Each

Committee Chairman shall make a report of its activities at all regularly scheduled meetings of the Council of Administration."

Amendment M-4: Amend Article XIV- Conventions –

Section 1 – by replacing the fourth word in the second paragraph as follows: "may" with "shall"

Section 2 – by deleting Section 2 in its entirety and replace with "It shall be the responsibility of the Department Commander, Quartermaster and Adjutant in conjunction with the Convention Committee to obtain, review and prepare the appropriate material for the Council of Administration's selection and/or approval of the Convention sites, including making any changes or alterations to existing sites."

Respectfully submitted by
Butch Ogden
Department Adjutant



**SUPPORT
OUR
TROOPS**

DISTRICT 8, VFW POST 5855 RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION



PORTAGE, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 26, 2013 – Through its Community Impact Grants Program, The Home Depot® Foundation has awarded \$3,000 to VFW 5855. The donation will be used to Support Facility refurbishments for disabled Veterans.

“To better to serve our disabled Veterans we needed to refurbish existing men’s and women’s lavatories to meet ADA compliance” said Jimmy Bunnell, Post Commander. “We were delighted to receive a \$3,000 gift card from The Home Depot Foundation – our volunteers were so happy to get the supplies they needed!”

The Home Depot Foundation’s Community Impact Grants Program supports the work that local nonprofit veteran organizations are doing to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

“The Home Depot Foundation is

committed to ensuring that every veteran has a safe place to call home,” said Kelly Caffarelli, President of The Home Depot Foundation. “We are proud to work with VFW 5855 in our efforts to give back to those men and women who have so bravely served our country.”

About The District 8 VFW 5855 Portage Post

The Veterans of Foreign Wars traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. District 8, Post 5855, can trace its history back to the early 1960s when activated by 74 Post veterans with a clear vision to: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for their sacrifices they

and their loved ones have made on behalf of their great country.

Through our Post 5855 volunteers, and the Home Depot Foundation grant this will allow us to provide greater accessibility and safety to our disabled veterans when refurbishment of our Community Center is complete.

About The Home Depot Foundation

The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to improving the homes of U.S. military veterans through financial and volunteer resources to help nonprofit organizations. The Foundation has committed \$80 million to these efforts over five years.

Through Team Depot, the company’s associate-led volunteer program, thousands of Home Depot associates volunteer their time and talents to positively transform neighborhoods and perform basic repairs and modifications to homes and facilities

servicing veterans with critical housing needs.

Since its formation in 2002, The Home Depot Foundation has granted more than \$340 million to nonprofit organizations improving homes and lives in local communities. To learn more and see our associates in action, visit www.homedepotfoundation.org

For inquiries about donations from The Home Depot Foundation, go to hd_foundation@homedepot.com

Jimmy Bunnell, Post Commander
VFW 5855
269-323-9088
portagevfw.org

Catherine Woodling, Public Relations
The Home Depot
770-384-2304
Catherine_Woodling@homedepot.com

WALLEYES FOR WARRIORS

4th Annual Walleyes for Warriors Veterans Charity Benefit Announces – Charter Boat Captains Needed



Bay City – The 4th Annual Walleyes for Warriors Veterans Charity Benefit is scheduled for June 14-15, 2014 in Bay City, Michigan. This benefit provides returning veterans an opportunity to fish on the Saginaw Bay at no charge. It’s our way of saying “thank you” and

“welcome home” to those who have sacrificed for our country.

“It feels so good it hurts – it makes a guy emotional,” said Cianek, 96, who was the oldest World War II veteran fishing at the Walleyes for Warriors event. “It’s always fun when you go with your buddies.”

Walleyes for Warriors is actively seeking volunteer boat captains for this charity event. Volunteer boat captains must be willing to donate their boat, gas, personal time and fishing expertise to veterans participating in the charity event.

Interested boat captains may register by

visiting www.walleyesforwarriors.com

Proceeds from the Walleyes for Warriors events are donated to Operation Injured Soldier that supports veterans’ programs across the region.

Veterans interested in participating in this year’s event will find the 2014 Veterans Registration form on the website in early April.

To learn more about Walleyes for Warriors, please contact Event Coordinator Nels Larsen at 989-928-4368.

Walleyes for Warriors is an annual fishing event supported by Operation

Injured Soldiers (OIS). OIS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operated by volunteers that stand by our injured veterans. We believe that our injured vets have suffered very traumatic injuries while serving our country, some physical and some hidden deep inside. We offer our vets a chance to do the things that they thought was no longer possible after their injuries, such as hunting, fishing, and sporting events. With specialized hunting equipment, we can send amputees in the fields for hunts, with donated fishing boats and captains, we can also take them fishing.

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Marilyn Malick

leading our wonderful Auxiliaries as they assisted the veterans and families in their

What a privilege and honor it has been to serve as the Department President of the great state of Michigan!! I have absolutely loved the time that I have spent

hometowns. Thank you for giving me that honor and having the faith in me to be your leader.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful group of ladies that you have elected or have been appointed as my line officers. We have a great group of ladies who are in line to lead this great state or are assisting us along the way. They have supported me, and have given their time and talent to support the Auxiliaries in the state. Candy, Deb, Jan, Jan, Gloria, Bonnie,

Sandy, and Cindy – thank you for all that you have done this year to assist our Auxiliaries and provide them with the tools and support that they have needed.

I would also like to thank all of my amazing chairmen. You have taken the National programs and have added a little of Michigan to them and have promoted them in a fantastic manner. You made it easy for our local Auxiliaries to work the programs and reach our Golden Goals.

I would like to show my gratitude

to my District Presidents, as well. You have led your Districts not only at meetings, but by your counsel and your example. Your Auxiliaries are proud of you and so am I.

I would especially like to thank all of the local Auxiliaries who have worked toward our Golden Goals in this 100th Year Anniversary of the LAVFW. You have been out there working for our veterans with our youth and alongside your communities. Thank you for “Banding Together for Veterans!”

God Bless Our Troops

DEPARTMENT YOUTH CHAIRMAN



Nicole Koutz

Established in 1914, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars uses the motto, "Honor the dead by helping the living." We serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

The members of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary are committed to serving veterans and their families, promoting pride in America, teaching young people about the cost of freedom and serving the community. To meet these goals the organization's members throughout the United States, Germany, Guam and Panama conduct the following programs: Americanism, Cancer Aid & Research, Hospital, Legislative, Scholarships, Veterans and Family Support and Youth Activities.

Other reasons to join the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America:

1. To honor the service of a family member.
2. To promote patriotism within your community to all citizens, young

and old.

3. To participate in programs that brings family and community members together for worthwhile projects.
4. To stress that Veterans and their entitlements be a number one priority for legislators.
5. To be the voice of those Veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can all live in a democracy.

Membership is open to and VFW Ladies Auxiliary Members are: Wives, Widows, Mothers, Foster and Stepmothers (who have performed the duties of a parent), Grandmothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, Foster and Stepdaughters (who attained that status prior to the age of sixteen and for whom the duties of parent were performed), Sisters, Half-sisters, Foster and Stepsisters (who attained that status prior to the age of sixteen) – of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Does this sound like something you're interested in? If you think this is the perfect way for you to make a difference, you can contact any VFW Post and they will help you with the proper paperwork or you can call the Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary in Lansing at 517-487-3715 or visit our web page at www.lavfwmi.org. We need you to continue to make a difference for all Veterans!

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN



Stephanie Krueger

We are so fortunate to belong to an organization that recognizes the need to provide opportunities for our young people to apply for, and earn, scholarship money for their educational pursuits. Please share the following information with the youth in your communities.

The National Veterans of Foreign Wars offers two youth scholarship possibilities and they are fully supported by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The first is open to all high school aged students in grades 9-12 to write an essay, followed by recording it on a standard tape or CD. This essay must be between 3-5 minutes in oration. The 2014-2015 Voice of Democracy Theme is: "Why Veterans Are Important to Our Nation's History and Future". This entry is turned into a VFW Post for judging by midnight, November 1, 2014. The 1st Place winner in the Department of Michigan will earn a \$6,000.00 Scholarship and may lead to being the winner of the National

Veterans of Foreign Wars First Place Award of \$30,000.00.

The second Scholarship is the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. This scholarship is open to students that are in 6th-8th grade. The 2014-2015 Theme is: "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans". This original essay needs to be between 300-400 typewritten words. Every word counts. Deadline for entry into this program is also midnight November 1, 2014 with submission to a VFW Post. The 1st Place winner in Michigan will receive \$1,000.00 and the National 1st Place winner will be awarded \$5,000.00.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars also offers chances to achieve scholarship money. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship is open to students in grades 9-12. Entries should be submitted on paper or canvas. Sorry no digital art is accepted! All entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique, along with creativity. Deadline for entry to VFW Auxiliary is March 31, 2015. The 1st Place winner in Michigan will be awarded \$1,100.00. The National winner will receive a \$10,000 Scholarship.

All information on these scholarships is available at www.vfwmi.org or www.lavfwmi.org under programs.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Francine Herzog



Greetings from the Super 6th District,

All 16 auxiliaries in the 6th District have been busy all year supporting our Veterans and their families in many ways.

We have held fundraisers to raise money to donate to programs such as Veterans & Family Support, Camp Trotter which is a camp for children here in Michigan, Cancer Aid & Research, Legislative to let our congressmen know we want them to vote for bills that support our Veterans, Americanism, Youth, Hospital and

several others. It is especially inspiring to visit at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. The out-patient services also do so much to help Veterans.

Membership is vital to the Ladies Auxiliary, as well as the VFW, so we must continue to try to recruit new ladies so we can continue to support our Veterans.

Memorial Day has come and gone with our Auxiliaries and Posts holding services and remembering those Veterans who have gone on before us.

My tenure as President of the Super 6th is coming to an end. Thanks for the great memories. Let's continue to Band Together for Veterans.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Jackie Spens



The year is about to end. I would like to thank all of my chairmen for a job well done. We had a good year. Everyone did the best they could to contribute

to our Lucky Thirteenth District. We had a raffle and did well on it. Thank you to all who sold or bought tickets to make it a successful fundraiser.

Thank you to all of the Auxiliaries that invited me to their events. I rode on the float in the Cherry Festival Parade. Thank you Traverse City for your hospitality, I had a lot of fun. The Nautical Festival in Rogers City was another parade that I participated in. I had a nice time there,

too. The Hillman Post and Auxiliary hosted the Hillman VJ Day Parade. This is the only parade in Michigan that remembers VJ Day. Nice job, Hillman. I also attended the Fourth of July Parade in Onaway and had a very good time. Parades assist the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary in honoring our veterans and letting the communities know that we exist. Thanks to all the Auxiliaries that went to these events and participated in them along with me.

Our Auxiliaries have worked hard for our veterans this year. We try to help them in their Post home and outside of the Post. They need our help more now than ever, with all the things that are happening in this world. Let's continue to "Band Together for Veterans."

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

What is the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Legislative Program?

Carrie Turner

Each year the VFW identifies "Priority Goals" – goals regarding veterans and military personnel which they wish to promote and attain –

- Budgetary Support for the VA System
- VA Health Care
- VA Compensation & Benefits
- Transition Assistance
- Education & Employment
- Defense/Homeland Security
- Military Quality of Life
- Prisoners of War/Missing in Action

Detailed information on these goals and much more can be viewed on www.vfw.org – VFW in DC – National Legislative Service – Priority Goals. The VFW has a very dedicated staff providing this information to all patriotic citizens who would support the goals. We can learn about the issues that are important to veterans and active duty military personnel and use that information to make sure those issues are known and acted upon by our government. Phone calls, letters, emails and direct contact with our elected officials and our votes are all ways to share our views with them. If you do not know who your National Representatives and Senators are, find them at www.vfw.org – VFW in DC – Action Corps – Get to Know Your Elected Officials.

Another part of the Legislative Program is encouraging people to vote. We need to make our voices heard in local, state and national elections. We all have time now to really learn about the candidates and where they stand in regards to veterans, our military and our constitutional rights – then use this information when we vote. We can all plan now to encourage our friends and family to vote and offer rides to the polls if needed.

We will always need to protect veterans' benefits as some small thanks for their protection of our freedom, they deserve everything that has been promised to them. Using the information provided through the Legislative Program, we can achieve all these things for our veterans and active duty military personnel.

SECRETARY OF STATE RUTH JOHNSON ANNOUNCES MAY 1 DEBUT OF NEW DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR VETERANS

New licenses will carry special "Veteran" designation for honorably discharged vets

As a proud U.S. Air Force veteran, Lloyd Bigham will be getting the new driver's license that identifies him as a veteran. He says it's for the same reason he has a veteran's license plate on his car that reads "9THAF" for Ninth Air Force.

"I'm just proud to be an American and to have had the privilege of serving my country," Bigham said.

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson says her department's new driver's licenses for veterans, marked with the word VETERAN in bold red on the front, will help those who served their country get the benefits and discounts they have earned and deserve.

"We are indebted to these courageous men and women," said Johnson. "I hope every store clerk, every bank teller who sees these licenses will take a moment to thank that veteran for their service and sacrifice."

Michigan Veterans Affairs Director Jeff Barnes also supports the new veteran's designation.

"This is one more way Michigan can honor our state's veterans and make their day-to-day lives a little easier," Barnes said. "I look forward to being able to display the veterans' designation on my license after May 1."

Veterans can sign up for the new driver's licenses and state ID cards at their

local Secretary of State branch. If they are renewing their license, they'll only have to pay the normal renewal fee. If it isn't time for them to renew, they can order a duplicate driver's license or state ID.

Bob VanFleet, Commander of American Legion Post 24 in Waterford and a Vietnam-era veteran, says he's getting one of the new licenses. Plenty of his fellow Legion members, from World War II vets to Gulf War vets, are interested too.

VanFleet, who served in the U.S. Air Force and the National Guard, says the reason is simple: "I think all veterans should stand up and be proud."

When asked if he's going to get the new driver's license, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Steve Striggow of Holly, a member of American Legion Post 149, said "You bet I will! I'm a veteran and I'm damn proud of it."

Dick Rossell wants one of the new licenses, too.

He said for 40 years, he never really talked about his military service. But times and attitudes changed. Today he's even got a veteran's license plate on his battered old Jeep outside.

"A lot of us had mixed feelings," said the U.S. Army veteran. "I never did talk about it much, but it was always important to me."

VET FAQs

1. What is the veteran designation? The veteran designation gives veterans an easy way to prove their veteran status to receive discounts from businesses. It also allows the Secretary of State's Office to partner with the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency, and veteran service organizations to provide referral information so veterans better know what resources and services are available to them. The word "Veteran" will be printed in red on the front of the card.

2. Who is eligible to have a veteran designation on their license or ID card? Military veterans who served in any branch of the U.S. armed forces and have an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge may have a veteran designation printed on their Michigan driver's license or state identification card.

Qualifying services include the U.S. Air Force, Air Force National Guard, Army, Army National Guard, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy, as well as their Reserve components.

Individuals who actively serve in the National Guard or Reserves at the time of application may qualify for the designation if they have a DD214 with an honorable or under honorable conditions discharge.

3. What documentation is required

to obtain the veteran designation? Veterans must provide acceptable documentation to receive the designation. Any submitted form must indicate the character of discharge. Acceptable forms include:

- DD214 (or correction DD215), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, any copy except Copy 1
- Form NGB FM 22 or 23, Report of Separation and Record of Service, which must indicate honorable or general discharge
- Forms WD AGO, such as WD AGO 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge
- GSA 6954, Certificate of Military Service
- NAVPERS 553, Extract of Notice of Separation from U.S. Naval Service

Secretary of State offices will accept other documents issued prior to 1950 if they indicate an honorable or general discharge. Photocopies of official documents are acceptable. Veteran documentation will not be retained by the Secretary of State and will be destroyed if provided by mail.

Documentation needs to be presented only upon the initial request for a driver's license or ID card with the designation. Subsequent licenses and ID cards will

CONTINUED FROM BOTTOM LEFT

have the designation unless you request that it be removed.

4. How can I obtain a copy of my DD214? For copies of your military discharge papers, write to: National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138. Or you can request a copy from the National Archives online, or from Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency online or by phone at 1-800-MICHVET.

5. Is there a cost for obtaining the veteran designation? If you are renewing your license or ID card, or applying for one for your first Michigan driver's license or ID, you will pay only the normal driver's license or ID card fee.

Otherwise, the standard fee for a duplicate or corrected license or ID card will apply.

6. How do I add the veteran designation to my driver's license or ID card? The designation may be added by visiting any Secretary of State office and providing the required documentation.

If the designation is added when you apply for your first Michigan driver's license or ID card, or at the time you're renewing, you will only pay the normal renewal fee. Otherwise, the standard fee for a corrected license or ID card will apply.

If you are renewing your license or ID card by mail, you must include the required documentation and the completed veteran designation application along with your renewal form so the designation is included on your new card. Please note the documentation submitted will not be returned to you. Copies are accepted.

If you want to add the veteran designation outside of your renewal period and do not want to visit a Secretary of State office, send in the completed Veteran Designation Application form, the required documentation and the applicable fee.

Current renewal and correction fees for standard licenses and state IDs are listed at http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1627_14648-75447--,00.html, and for enhanced licenses and state IDs at

http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1627_8669_9040-213056--,00.html

Mail your completed application, veteran documentation and applicable fee to: Michigan Department of State Renewal By Mail Unit, Lansing, MI 48918.

The veteran designation cannot be requested when a driver's license or ID card is renewed online.

7. Am I required to obtain the designation? No. The designation is optional.

8. Will my veteran status be shared with other organizations? Besides providing veterans with an easy way to prove their veteran status to receive discounts at retailers, the designation also allows the Secretary of State's Office to partner with the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency and veteran service organizations across the state to provide referral information so veterans better know what resources and services are available to them.

9. Can my spouse and dependents have the veteran designation? No.

10. Do I qualify for veteran designation if I am on active duty? No, unless you are Active Reserve and possess a DD214.

11. How can I have the designation removed? The designation can be removed at no charge at any time by visiting an office or requesting the removal by mailing to Michigan Department of State, Renewal By Mail Unit, Lansing MI, 48918, or faxing your request to 517-322-6822.

12. What if I already have a veteran designation from another state? You will be required to provide your service documentation, such as a DD214, to have the designation put on your Michigan driver's license or ID card.

13. Does the veteran designation qualify me to receive veteran benefits? No, he veteran designation is not legal proof of veteran status and does not qualify you for receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency, or other state and federal agencies.

NATIONAL HOME GETS A NEW PHONE SYSTEM

Phone Fund attracts \$257,732 in support

After more than 20 years of faithful service to National Home families, our campus-wide phone system far exceeded its useful life and had to be replaced. Landline phones are absolutely essential to life here, as cell phone coverage is highly unreliable in our rural area. But this major, full-system replacement came with a major price tag, well outside our existing budget.

We weren't sure such an ambitious goal was possible. But friends like you made it happen! And we are happy to report that the new phone system is now installed and operational. Not only will this upgrade allow us to continue to provide our families with the security of reliable phone and internet service in their homes, it also will serve as the backbone for our entire campus communications network.

In fact, the new system is much more than just phones. It is a complex computer network, using a phone as the interface instead of a PC. Our system manages over 130 phone lines, as well as Internet access for the homes and offices on our campus.

With today's advanced technology, we have every reason to believe the new system you helped us build will provide safe and reliable communications capability for many years to come. So, please accept our gratitude for this extremely valuable improvement in our campus life.



CONTINUED TOP RIGHT

LIVING AT THE NATIONAL HOME

Families who need a fresh start can live in the safe and peaceful environment of the VFW National Home for Children campus community for up to four years and benefit from numerous community supports, including professional case management services, on-site licensed child care, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities. Recognizing that the effects of war can last for generations, the National Home's campus community is open to families of active-duty military personnel, veterans and descendants of members of

the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Residents must be committed to making changes in their lives, and each family who lives at the National Home is assigned a case manager to help them set and work towards family goals. To remain at the National Home, families are expected to demonstrate consistent progress toward those goals. We work in partnership with the whole family to help them reach their full potential.

For specific questions about applying to live at the National Home, please call our Helpline at 800-313-4200 or email help@vfwnationalhome.org

VFW NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE HERE TO HELP

The VFW National Home Helpline at 800-313-4200 is a free service for the military, veterans and their families who are facing challenges in the areas of housing, disability, benefits, and more.

The Helpline is staffed by caring professionals weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. Staff are able to assist callers nationwide with connecting to resources in their own community, with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Service Officers nationwide, and provide information and application to the Home's on-campus housing program.

Callers and their needs vary in scope. Recent callers included:

- a disabled veteran who needed enough food to tide him over until his

BE HEARD • BE HELPED

800-313-4200

THE NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE

For our Nation's Military and Veteran Families.

help@vfwnationalhome.org

first benefit payment from Veterans Affairs arrived

- a Vietnam veteran needing treatment for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms
- a recent veteran whose family, including three children, were at risk of becoming homeless

Helpline staff were able to get these issues resolved within hours.

Whether it is providing information about local resources or assisting with admittance to the Home's on-campus program, the Helpline staff are here to help!

Every Hero Needs a Hero

The VFW knows that when many of our defenders return from battle they'll still have to fight. Fight for quality medical care. Fight for fair and timely benefits. Fight to ensure their spouses and children will be cared for, always.



Thankfully, they're never alone. They have VFW service officers on their side.

Please support the National Veterans Service. Your generosity helps so many veterans right here in our state.

You never know when you—or your closest comrades—might need a hero on your side.

Helping
our
Heroes



MAKE A LASTING GIFT



The VFW has been providing services to and for veterans for over 100 years. The original members who envisioned what this organization would be, and worked to build it, are long gone but their legacy remains.

You too have contributed to the legacy of the VFW during your lifetime. Consider continuing that legacy after you are gone. A simple way to do that is to include the VFW in your estate plans. For more information on how to make simple, smart gifts that benefit both the VFW and your family, contact our Planned Giving Office at 816-968-1119, by email at plannedgiving@vfw.org, or go to our website at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

When No One Else Listens, VFW Will.



VFW Veterans Service helps veterans, service members and their families get the justice they deserve! With your support of the 2013 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign we can:

- Ensure veterans receive their hard-earned entitlements, including troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Work for quality, timely and accessible VA healthcare.
- Reach out to veterans and their families through our nationwide network of service officers.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Your gift to the 2013 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign supports your Department's Veterans Service Program!



VFW IS THE FIRST VSO TO JOIN WITH TV'S 'HIRING AMERICA'

Season two set to kick off this week

The VFW is proud to announce it has partnered with the highly successful, syndicated television show *Hiring America* as it enters its second season. The show currently airs on the global Pentagon Channel, as well as in more than 35 local markets – a number expected to grow exponentially with the launch of its second season.

Hosted by TV correspondent, Gigi Stone, *Hiring America* provides valuable resources and information for new and seasoned veterans moving from the service into the workforce, or seeking to build their careers. It's the first-ever national television program dedicated to job seeking advice and career direction for returning U.S. military veterans.

VFW's support for the show comes as major cuts to defense spending and plans for military downsizing will force thousands of career veterans to transition back into civilian life, and an uncertain workforce, perhaps sooner than anticipated.

"Hiring America is a great resource to our veterans and for generations, we have strived to meet the needs and represent the best interests of veterans and their families," said VFW Adjutant General John Hamilton. "Our involvement in being an official partner in Hiring

America is a new dimension, new vista in demonstrating that support."

The show is the brainchild of entrepreneur Bill Deutch who also serves as executive producer. He has committed the last five years of his life to bringing the show's concept from a dream to reality. "I can't think of any more worthwhile endeavor than supporting and helping the men and women of our military," he said.

Beginning this weekend, the second season will run nationwide for 13 consecutive weeks. Building on the momentum and successful format of its first season, *Hiring America* will again consist of 30-minute programs that cover a wide spectrum of guests. It will feature experts in the field of career counseling and guidance, and veterans and military personnel with real world experience and success stories on making the transition.

"At the end of the day, if we help make the transition easier for just one veteran – make it possible for him or her to succeed in civilian life – Hiring America will have done its job," Deutch lamented.

The season two premiere opens at Ground Zero in New York and features FDNY Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano, a former Vietnam Veteran who has transitioned his military experience into becoming a leader in civilian life.

VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS

'Our nation is still at war'

March 05, 2014 – During today's testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees, the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) expressed the organization's deep concern over America's disregard for veterans.

"What concerns the VFW and patriots everywhere is that America has forgotten that OUR NATION IS STILL AT WAR," explained William A. Thien, commander-in-chief of the VFW. "We have 38,000 men and women stationed inside Afghanistan fighting to ensure the country doesn't become a terrorist training ground again. We have another 30,000 stationed in South Korea helping to preserve a 61-year-old ceasefire that is looking more and more tenuous. We have tens of thousands more service members stationed abroad helping to bring peace and stability, and humanitarian assistance when and where it's needed."

Thien went on to address the war now being waged on American soil as well, reminding lawmakers of the ongoing veterans' fight to retain their promised benefits and Quality of Life programs. He noted the passage of the recent COLA penalty, an initiative that VFW was adamantly against since its introduction late last year. "Some believe the cost of war ends when the last troops leave Afghanistan. We know this is not true,

and that is why we need a fully funded state-of-the-art VA health care system, benefits programs and cemetery system."

He pledged that the more than 1.9 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries will fight to preserve the safety and security of America and the viability of its All-Volunteer Military. He also vowed to fight attempts to force veterans, service members and their families to shoulder an unfair share of the nation's debt, and promised to continue the fight for adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as for advance appropriations for its programs.

Thien explained to Congress that the VFW's mission is to ensure that a nation that creates veterans fulfills its sacred duty to care for them when they return home. "The VFW exists to serve veterans, and that includes representing them in Washington where the voice of one veteran is often overlooked and the voice of servicemen and women is prohibited.

"Everything the VFW wants costs money, but everything the VFW wants is for someone else—someone from every city and town in every congressional district, and in every state and territory who swore an oath of allegiance to protect and defend our great country and its Constitution," Thien stated.

The testimony caps the 2014 Legislative Conference during which more than 500 VFW members and leaders convened in

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Washington to meet with their elected officials to discuss veterans issues and the VFW's expectations.

Other noteworthy events from the conference include:

Rep. Joe Wilson (S.C.) receiving the VFW Congressional Award in recognition of his outstanding service to our nation and for his support and dedication to service members, veterans and their families.

The VFW hosted dinner at the National Press Club for 60 Wounded Warriors and caregivers from Walter Reed National

Military Medical Center along with their families.

The VFW named Madison Haley from Mount Pulaski, Ill., the first-place winner of the annual Voice of Democracy scholarship competition and winner of a \$30,000 scholarship. Madison's patriotic-themed essay received the highest marks out of 40,000 participating high school students.

Alexis Canen from Glendive, Mont., was named the first-place winner of VFW's Patriot's Pen competition, winning her a \$5,000 award.

VFW SHARES CONCERNS WITH PRESIDENT
VFW Commander-in-Chief Bill Thien met with President Obama to discuss veterans' issues

April 07, 2014, WASHINGTON

– The National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. met with President Obama in the Oval Office this afternoon and expressed the VFW's sympathy and support to the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting victims and their families.

"The president shares our concern that more has to be done to help prevent similar tragedies from occurring elsewhere," said William A. Thien, who leads more than 1.9 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries. "The president also understands the great challenges of dealing with individuals whose emotional problems and/or post-traumatic stress can range from invisible to debilitating," he said.

"This is a national problem with no blanket solution," said Thien, a Vietnam veteran from Georgetown, Ind. "That means we as a nation have to continue to increase our education and outreach efforts and anti-stigma messaging, and to have the care available when and where needed for those folks who want to be helped."

Other topics addressed were the proper care of military veterans, service members and their loved ones, as well as the looming threat of sequestration on the Defense Department and its potential impact on the Department of Veterans Affairs, should Congress allow the sequester to continue in 2016. The VFW National Commander reiterated his organization's great relationship with the VA, and that the VFW supports all efforts to reduce the claims backlog.

Thien also praised the great military



President Barack Obama meets with Veterans of Foreign Wars leadership, Commander-in-Chief William Thien and Robert E. Wallace, left, Executive Director Washington Office, in the Oval Office, April 7, 2014. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

family support work of first lady Michelle Obama and second lady Dr. Jill Biden. "Our military is fully aware and sincerely appreciative of their outspoken support of military families," he said. "Likewise, the VFW will continue to do whatever we can to support those who have singularly borne the brunt of more than a dozen years of war."

The final topic was America's Full Accounting Mission and the VFW's support of Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's reorganization of the accounting community tasked to accomplish it.

"As Secretary Hagel recently said, 'You take care of the people who gave their lives to this country and you take care of their families,' " echoed Thien. "Any effort that helps to recover, identify and return more missing service personnel to their loved ones is a positive initiative, and the VFW looks forward to continuing to work with him and his team to make this happen."



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VFW Supportive of POW/MIA Mission Reorganization

Pentagon Announces Realigning Of Accounting Mission

March 31, 2014 – The nation's largest and oldest major combat organization is supportive of a Pentagon announcement to realign the organizations charged with locating and identifying tens of thousands of American troops who have yet to return home from their wars.

“What's most important about this initiative is that the Full Accounting Mission continues, and we appreciate Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's personal involvement to reshape a multi-organizational structure that shares unity of purpose into one that also shares unity of command,” said William A. Thien, a Vietnam veteran and national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Over the next 18 months, a Pentagon team will examine the requirements necessary to merge policy guidance, archival research and analysis, and worldwide field investigations

and recovery operations into one organization. Those tasks are currently performed by the Defense POW/MIA Office, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and portions of the Air Force Life Science Equipment Laboratory. Also being realigned is the scientific element of the mission, which moves JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory under the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, which already encompasses the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory. Included in the new look will be a centralized budget, a consolidated case management system, and expanded public-private partnerships.

“Any effort that helps to recover, identify and return more missing service personnel to their loved ones is a positive initiative,” said Thien, “and the VFW looks forward to continuing to work with the secretary and his team to make this happen.”

Three Teachers Selected for National Awards by the VFW

Money Given to Award-Winning Teachers and Their Respective Schools

March 24, 2014 – Each year for the past 15 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) has recognized three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients are selected from entries submitted by local VFW Posts in the U.S. and overseas. The entries detail a local teacher's act of promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in the classroom.

There are three categories of competition: elementary school (K-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12). During the competition more than \$272,000 in awards were presented to more than 1,400 teachers at various levels in the VFW.

Shirley Harmon Helton, a fifth-grade teacher at Fairlawn Elementary School in Fort Pierce, Florida, was named

the winner at the elementary school level. At the middle school level, Jeff Gephart, a seventh- and eighth-grade history teacher at Holloman Middle School on Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico was named the winner. Tom Clark, a history teacher at Lake Central High School in St. John, Indiana was selected at the high school level.

Each teacher receives a \$1,000 award for their professional development and another \$1,000 for their school. In addition, all three teachers receive an all-expense-paid trip to St. Louis, Missouri, where the awards will be presented during the 2014 VFW National Convention, July 19-23.

Kevin Jones, director of VFW Programs, commented, “Next to parents, teachers hold the key to raising up young civic-minded patriots who will perpetuate the values that have made this nation great.”



Pictured, L-R: Teachers of the Year Shirley Harmon Helton, Jeff Gephart and Tom Clark.



Veterans Groups Urge Congress to Strengthen VA Budget

Authors of Annual 'Independent Budget' Look to Congress to Correct Funding Deficiencies

March 04, 2014 – Four of the nation's leading veterans service organizations — AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. — are expressing their concerns with the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, which proposes \$68.4 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The groups, who coauthor of *The Independent Budget (IB)*, a comprehensive budget and policy document, now look to Congress to correct the funding deficiencies and to reconsider the recommendations outlined in the *IB* — which calls for \$72.9 billion to sufficiently meet veterans' health care and benefits needs.

Of great concern to the veterans groups is the serious underfunding of VA construction accounts. The President's budget for construction is approximately \$2.75 billion less than what the *IB* recommends.

“While we appreciate the increases offered by the Administration's Budget for FY 2015 and for advance appropriations for FY 2016, particularly with regards to health care and benefits services, we have concerns

that the serious lack of commitment to infrastructure funding to support the system will undermine the VA's ability to deliver those services,” said *The Independent Budget* authors. “We now look to Congress to correct the funding deficiencies.”

The President's budget proposes \$61.9 billion for total medical care for FY 2016 advance appropriations and \$589 million for medical and prosthetic research. While *The Independent Budget* recommends \$62.4 billion for total medical care for FY 2016 advance appropriations and \$611 million for medical and prosthetic research.

Additionally the President's overall budget request for VA is approximately \$4.5 billion less than what the *IB* recommends for overall discretionary spending for FY 2015.

This marks the 28th year that *The Independent Budget* has been developed by AMVETS, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans and VFW. The document is written by veterans for veterans detailing funding requirements for VA. *The Independent Budget* aims to present a full picture of veterans' needs — and how government can meet these needs.

VFW Announces 2013-2014 National Youth Scholarship Contest Winners

See VFW's National Annual Essay Contest Winners

March 04, 2014 – The winners of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition and the Patriot's Pen essay competition were announced yesterday during the 2014 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, DC.

The Voice of Democracy program celebrated its 67th year with this year's theme, “Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future.” The 1st Place winner, Madison Haley, sponsored by VFW Post 777 and Ladies Auxiliary in Mount Pulaski, Illinois, received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, where she was presented with the T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award in the amount of \$30,000. The 2nd Place winner, Grace Speas, sponsored by VFW Post 10097 and Ladies Auxiliary in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, received the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship Award. The 3rd Place winner, Luke Ball, sponsored by VFW Post 2573 and Ladies Auxiliary in Wilmington,

North Carolina, received the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship Award. All other state winners received at least a \$1,000 college scholarship. More than 40,000 students participated in this year's competition.

The Patriot's Pen program is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to express their opinions on democracy based on an annual theme, this year's being, “What Patriotism Means to Me.” The 1st Place winner, Alexis Canen, sponsored by VFW Post 1125 and Ladies Auxiliary in Glendive, Montana, received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, where she received a \$5,000 award. The 2nd Place winner, Noelle Nakaoka, sponsored by VFW Post 2875 in Honolulu, Hawaii, will receive a \$4,000 award. The 3rd Place winner, Olivia Leising, sponsored by VFW Post 9357 in Cambridge, Nebraska, will receive a \$3,500 award. More than 111,000 students participated in this year's competition.





Matt David, Editor

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 Cindy Peto, 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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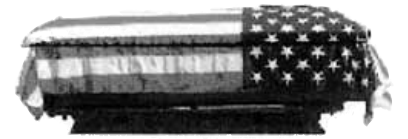
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**OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
 A VETERAN DIED TODAY**



116-BAD AXE

HARWOOD, VERNON G., 82,
 USA/KOREA

203-BERVILLE

ROMAN, ROMAN A., 92, USA/WWII

345-REDFORD

LOESCH, GEORGE N., 92, USA/WWII

552-LINCOLN PARK

ATTINELLO, SALVATORE, 86, USN/WWII
 CLOUTHIER, KENNETH, 88, USA/WWII
 FRAZEE, ROBERT, 82, USA/KOREA
 HAGEN, NORRIS, 91, USA/WWII
 HALL, DOUGLAS, 67, USA/VIETNAM
 JESUE, ANTHONY, 87, USA/WWII
 KISSEL, GERALD, 64, USA/KOREA
 KRASINSKI, JOHN, 93, USMC/WWII
 LOCKLEAR, ROBERT, 82, USN/KOREA
 PARSLEY, RANDALL, 64, USMC/VIETNAM
 PLOHG, JAMES, 82, KOREA
 WESSERLING, RICHARD, 91, USA/WWII
 WINSLOW, FREDERICK, 71, USN/VIETNAM

607-ROGERS CITY

GLENTZ, MICHAEL, 63, USA

796-PORT HURON

FORTUNE, ELMER J., 82, USA/KOREA
 GRAHAM, DONALD S., 89, USAAF/WWII
 WOLFE, PRESTON P., 90, USA/WWII

1075-HARRISON

CRISCUOLO, LYLE, 71, USAF/VIETNAM
 JESSE, FRANCIS, 86, USA/KOREA
 WELCH, ROBERT, 91, USA/WWII

1138-MONROE

BARRETT, RONALD, 77, USN/VIETNAM
 DISABATINE, TIMOTHY, 92, USA/WWII

1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES

BARTSCH, ALBERT M., 83, USA/KOREA
 ST. MARY, ROBERT H., 91, WWII

1355-STURGIS

BALDWIN, FREDERICK, 83, USAF/KOREA
 BISHOP, LEROY, 69, USMC/VIETNAM
 SHARICK, RAYMOND, 86, WWII

1566-SAGINAW

RINDHAGE, HERMAN, 94, USA/WWII

1669-ROYAL OAK

BUJOLD, DONALD, 94, USN/WWII
 EVANS, ROBERT, 71, USAAF/VIETNAM
 RASMUSSEN, TIMOTHY, 42, USA
 SMIGELSKI, RAYMOND, 87, USA

2292-EDMORE

ROSS, JACK, 93, USA/WWII

2406-CHARLOTTE

REIST, HOWARD, 69, USA/VIETNAM

2645-SOUTHFIELD

FAHEY, JAMES, 81, USAF/KOREA

2725-FRANKENMUTH

COOPER, JIMMIE, 90, USN/WWII
 KRUMNAUER, SCOTT, 38,
 USA/KOREA/AFGHANISTAN
 LOESEL, GERALD, 83, USAF/KOREA

2780-TRAVERSE CITY

BISSELL, RAYMOND, 82, USA/KOREA
 HAYDEN, ERNEST, 66, USMC/VIETNAM
 HEIN, MANCELL, 92, USA/WWII
 JURICA, PETER, 91, USN/WWII
 KINNEY, CLINTON, 89, USA/WWII
 RITCHIE, ALEXANDER, 86, USMC/WWII
 ROKOS, GENE, 66, USAF/VIETNAM
 WIBBY, JAMES, 89, USA/WWII

2891-CRYSTAL FALLS

WILLIAMS, THOMAS, 88, USA/WWII

2964-REED CITY

KOZAL, ROBERT, 65, USN/VIETNAM
 NEUMANN, PAUL E., 90,
 USAF/WWII/KOREA

3134-IRON RIVER

DUNN, JAMES, 65, USAF/VIETNAM

3165-NEGAUNEE

DESORMIER, WILLIAM H., 87, USA/WWII
 DUBBS, VERTIN P., 82, USA/KOREA
 HESS, MATTHEW P., 62, USA/VIETNAM
 LUKKONEN, GILBERT W., 89, USN/WWII
 PAQUETTE, ROBERT J., 87, USN/WWII
 PIASECKI, LOUIS R., 97, USAAF/WWII
 PODESZNIK, DENNIS F., 66, USN/VIETNAM
 SAARIO, ARTHUR H., 81, USA/KOREA

3676-SAULT STE MARIE

BEAUDOIN, WILLIAM E., USCG/KOREA
 PUSKA, CLARENCE J. JR., 65,
 USA/USCG/VIETNAM
 SHUNK, SPENCER S., 92, USN/WWII
 WOLFE, CLARENCE R., 83, USA/KOREA

3733-FOWLER

CRAIG, GENE E., 84, USA/KOREA
 DETRAZ, DAVID C., 81, USN/KOREA
 HICKS, FRED C., 88, USA/WWII
 KOENIGSKNECHT, GEORGE J., 87,
 USA/WWII
 KOENIGSKNECHT, ALFRED J., 89,
 USA/WWII
 MARTYN, KEITH C., 87, USA/WWII

4005-CORUNNA

EVANS, ROBERT E., 79, USA/VIETNAM
 MARTY, MICHAEL, 68, USA/VIETNAM
 MONTAGUE, RONALD L., 65,
 USMC/VIETNAM

4054-MARCELLUS

FRY, ALBERT, 91, WWII

4115-SEBEWAING

HENSEL, NORMAN C., 95, USA/WWII

4159-ROSCOMMON

BEEUWSAERT, ALBERT M., 87, USN/WWII
 MEIBEYER, CHARLES, 84, USA/VIETNAM

4164-CARO

FESTIAN, PAUL, 86, USN/WWII

4249-NEWAYGO

CIVILS, FOREST, 83, USA/KOREA
 JINGLES, GEORGE, 70, USN/VIETNAM
 TELLKAMP, DALE, USA/GERMANY

4659-SHELBY TOWNSHIP

DAVIDGE, WILLIAM N., 91, USN/WWII
 FOSS, PHILIP, 88, USA/WWII
 GREB, ALBERT, 94, USN/WWII
 GROBBEL, VINCENT, 90, USCG/WWII
 JENDRZEJEWSKI, STANLEY A.,
 70, USA/VIETNAM
 OWSIANY, WALTER, 82, USAAF/KOREA
 SELDON, RICHARD A., 82, USA/KOREA
 STEPULLA, JOSEPH, 66, VIETNAM
 WEIKER, MICHAEL T., 63, USAAF/VIETNAM

4952-BERRIEN SPRINGS

WILKEN, WILBUR C. JR., 87,
 USA/WWII/KOREA

5065-SHERIDAN

BENNETTS, KENNETH E., 91, USN/WWII
 GOODSSELL, RAY C., 87, USN/WWII
 HALL, SPENCER C., 64, USA/VIETNAM
 TREBIAN, BRUCE A., 72,
 USN/PERSIAN GULF
 WYATT, WILLIAM, 79, USA/KOREA

5315-BALDWIN

DRAPER, EDWIN, 81, USA/KOREA
 GILES, FREDERICK, 97, USAF/WWII
 GULCH, EDWARD, 85, USA/KOREA
 JORDAN, KENNETH, 79, USA/KOREA

NEEL, ROBERT, USAF

ORA, THOMAS, 86, USA/WWII
 STRAYER, VIRGIL, 84, USA/KOREA
 SUNDSTROM, ED, 80, USA/KOREA
 THOMPSON, CHARLES, 65, USA/VIETNAM

5670-GWINN

QUEEN, ANN, 92, USA/WWII

6260-STERLING HEIGHTS

GRASSI, VERGINIO, WWII

6464-FOWLerville

GRIMES, CHAUNCEY, 88, USMC/WWII

6507-CHASSELL

HELMICK, DONALD, 81, USA/KOREA
 HOULE, PIERRE, 53, USN/PERSIAN GULF
 ISAKSON, DANIEL, 62, USA/VIETNAM
 MERK, ROBERT, 88, USA/WWII

6691-FRASER

ROSTECK, JIM, 90, USN/WWII

6754-SPRUCE

TROY, TIMOTHY, 64, USN/VIETNAM

6756-CENTER LINE

ZMUDCZYNSKI, RICHARD, 91, USA/WWII

7170-TROY

WIECZOREK, JEROME, USA/WWII

7302-HEMLOCK

BRALEY, CHARLES, 67, USA/VIETNAM
 KOCIS, LOUIS, 88, USN/WWII

7486-AKRON

MC COLLUM, RICHARD, 82, USA/KOREA
 WIERGOWSKI, HAROLD, 83, KOREA

7542-BIRCH RUN

FENT, DUANE, 83, USN/KOREA

7804-POSEN

COOKE, NORMAN, 87, USMC/WWII

8594-YALE

HAYDUK, DONALD R., 80, USN/KOREA
 KROSNICKI, GEORGE T., 63, USN/VIETNAM

8846-MUSKEGON

SKUSE, DONALD R., 80, USA/KOREA
 STROMOSKI, CHARLES R., 89, USN/WWII

9021-WARREN

BRISKEY, HARRY, USA/WWII
 BUSLAWSKI, ROBERT, KOREA

9023-BRIMLEY

WAISENEN, KENNETH R., 82, USA/KOREA

9507-MADISON HEIGHTS

DUNN, LEONARD, 80, USN/WWII

9656-LAMBERTVILLE

LONGNECKER, WILLIAM, 89
 SMITH, THOMAS, 52, USA/VIETNAM



Comrades, please copy this form and use it for the Taps that you send in.

Send completed form to: VFW of Michigan, 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906

 (Last Name)

 (First Name)

 (Age)

 (Date of Death)

 (Post #)

 (City)

Branch (Circle One):

USA USAAC USN
 USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):


WWI WWII Korea
 Vietnam Gulf Other

Occupation Forces

Auxiliary TAPS


78-Dearborn Heights Tull, Wanda	2144-Holland Gamby, Hilda	3735-Oscoda Wagner, Norma Williams, Holly	4406-Belding Adams, Beverly	6898-Fremont Carney, Barbara	10704-Cassapolis Whitmyer, Rowena
203-Berville Patania, Jeanette	2233-Detroit Boyer, Dorothy Winston, Altonette	3775-West Branch Gehl, Imbi	4499-Manistee Konicki, Marie	7303-Gladwin Cripps, Ula Faye Merriman, Marion	15023-Member At Large Batcher, Ginny Hammar, Eva Jilbert, Josephine Nolan, Elaine Plegue, Regina Remijan, Audrey Roper, Doris Townsend, Dorothy Trudell, Shirley
565-Battle Creek Bean, Freddie Bennett, Ruth Dearman, Martha Doxey, Betty Erickson, Erma Ferrari, Charlene Piani, Lorayne Stout, Juanita Swafford, Anna Ulshoefer, Helen	2326-Grand Haven Grant, Judy	3900-Calumet Bonenfant, Eleanor Klobuchar, Eleanor Wuopio, Eleanor	4553-Detroit Gonzales, Norma	7435-Hale Bartal, Genevieve Bishop, Harriette Brown, Evelyn Goodrow, Veda	
701-Lansing Sleep, Carol Wampler, Martha	2780-Traverse City Nevin, Lois	4054-Marcellus Martin, Gloria Packer, Celesta	5065-Sheridan Daymon, Isadora Greenhoe, Ethel Ryan, Elma	7542-Birch Run Hayward, Sally	
1136-Wyandotte Zalewski, Alice	3023-Grand Rapids Albrecht, Jeri	4093-Carleton Perry, Marianne	5096-Custer Groendyke, Rose	7956-Augusta Walterspaugh, Deborah	
1224-South Lyon Paddock, Patricia	3030-Otsego Campbell, Gilda	4139-Lapeer Amlotte, Erin Coffey, Lori June, Arlene Lucille	5315-Baldwin Sliss, Darlene	8846-Muskegon Taylor, Emily	
1407-Berkly Mercea, Frances	3055-St. Louis Dault, Bette	4159-Roscommon Kollar, Dorothy	5319-Athens Black, Joyce Woods, Joan	9023-Brimley Ball, Marguerite Lyons, Jean Paulson, Arbutus	
1584-Adrian Callahan, Frances	3165-Negaunee Armstrong, Joyce, 91 Prusi, Helvi, 85	4164-Caro Witkovsky, Elaine	5670-Gwinn Feole, Sondra Queen, Ann	9411-Homer Hall, Eva	
	3243-Fenton Newell, Barbara Ann O'Connell, Betty Philburn, Martha	4187-Tecumseh Brown, Nerissa	6507-Chassell Aitama, Lucille	99455-Owosso Jones, Shirley Pirochta, Helen	
	3675-Boyer City Westphal, Agnes, 86		6896-Westland Martin, Judith		

Stephen Bilan
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Quartermaster
2014-2015*




Endorsed and supported by:
5th District
Macomb & Oakland County Councils
Post 6250
His wife and family

Jerry Gorski
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2014-2015*




Endorsed and supported by:
5th District
Macomb & Oakland County Councils
Post 6250
His fiancé and family

Phil Merrow
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2014-2015*




Endorsed and supported by:
4th District
Mayflower-Lt. Gamble Post 6695
His wife and family

Paul McIvor
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Sr. Vice Commander
2014-2015*




Endorsed and supported by:
10th District
Yale VFW Post 8594
His family

Jennifer Smith
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
2014-2015*




Endorsed and supported by:
6th District
Post 701
Her husband and family

Leon Hinkle
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
2014-2015*




Endorsed and supported by:
5th District
Oakland County Council
VFW Post 9021
His family

Della Steege
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Guard
2014-2015*



Endorsed and supported by:
9th District
Corunna Auxiliary 4005
Her loving husband and family

Jerry Smith
*Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Surgeon
2014-2015*



Endorsed and supported by:
8th District
Post 7581
His wife and family

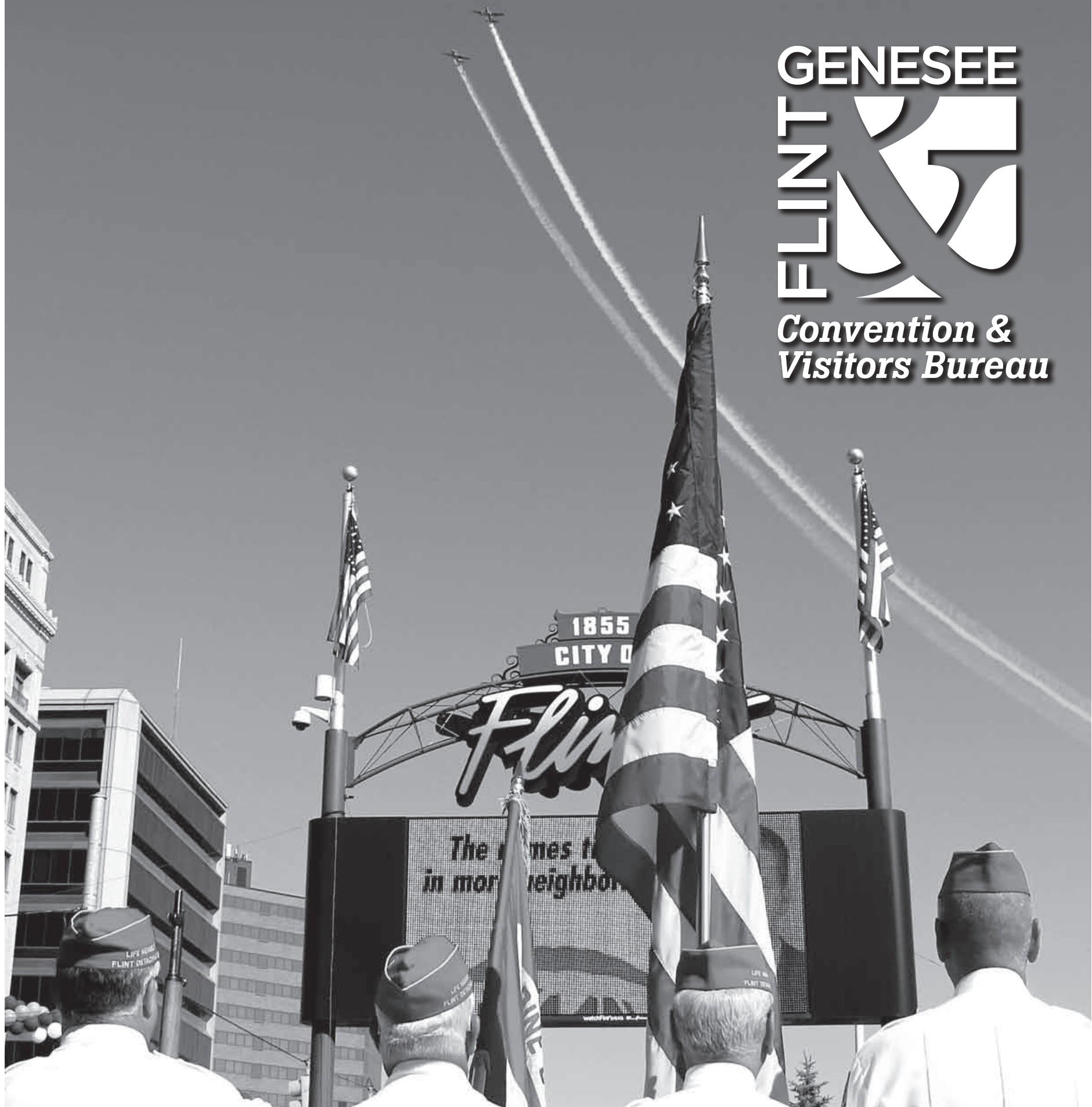


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*Convention &
Visitors Bureau*



**Welcome Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary
to the State Convention**

Camp Trotter for Children Eighth Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Dept. of Michigan VFW

VFW Camp Trotter for Children
PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.
925 Forest Street
Charlotte, MI 48813-1264

Dear Supporter:

The VFW Camp Trotter for Children is holding its Eighth Annual Charity Golf Outing, Friday, June 20, 2014 at Village Green Golf Course located in Newaygo, Michigan and sponsored by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars. To be a huge success, this Charity Golf Outing needs your support.

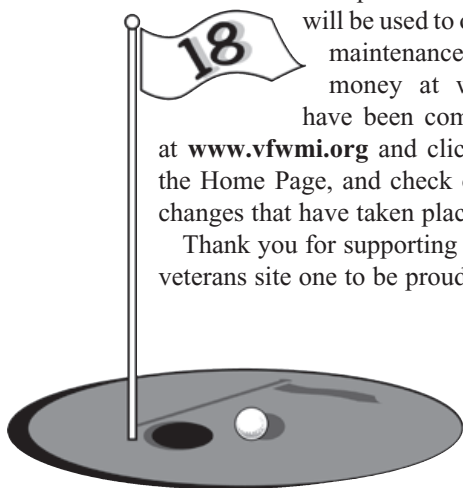
We do hope you will consider supporting this fundraiser for the VFW Camp Trotter for Children. The VFW Camp Trotter for Children was established for children ages 7 through 12. Camp Trotter is located on beautiful Bills Lake in Newaygo County. The Camping Season runs from July 6 through August 9, 2014. Donations from supporters like you make our event one that everyone wants to attend year after year.

Donation Opportunities:

- Sponsor a hole or tee box. Because of the popularity of sponsoring holes and tees, we are recognizing those individuals, Corporations or Groups with the appropriate sign on the tee or hole. (\$55.00 minimum donation)
- Sponsor a Team. \$60/person or \$240.00 per foursome.
- Donate a product or gift certificate that can be used as a raffle prize or a door prize.
- Make a monetary donation.
- All participation to the Golf Outing is credited to the All-State program for 2014-2015.

The proceeds from this year's Charity Golf Outing will be used to offset the cost of the ongoing monthly maintenance costs. Drop by and see some of your money at work with major renovations that have been completed. Go online with the Internet at www.vfwmi.org and click "Camp Trotter" on the bottom of the Home Page, and check out your Camp Trotter for the latest changes that have taken place.

Thank you for supporting our children's camp and making this veterans site one to be proud of for many generations to come.



Ernie Meyers, Sr.
Chairman
E-mail: emeyers76@att.net
Phone: 1-517-543-0014

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter for Children are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

VFW Camp Trotter for Children Eighth Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

Friday, June 20, 2014
8:00 a.m. – Registration
9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

Village Green Golf Course
8130 Bingham Avenue
Newaygo, MI 49337
Phone: 231-652-6513

Cost \$60.00 Per Person/\$240.00 Per Team Includes:
* 18 Holes with cart * Lunch at the Turn * Grilled Steak Dinner
* 4 person scramble * Team Placement Prizes * Door Prizes

Golf Entry Form

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 16, 2012.

Captain's name: _____

Phone # _____

Address: _____

Player #2 Name: _____

Player #3 Name: _____

Player #4 Name: _____

Hole/Tee Sponsor \$55 _____ Cash Donation \$ _____

I am able to donate products or gift certificates. Please contact me.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Check payable to: VFW Camp Trotter for Children

Mail to: PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.
925 Forest Street
Charlotte, MI 48813-1264

Questions?

Call Ernie Meyers, Sr. at 517-490-1221 or e-mail: emeyers76@att.net
www.michiganagolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter for Children are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(19) of the IRS Code.



Corvette Show to be held on the VFW National Home for Children Campus



The Capital City Corvette Club will be hosting its first-ever car show on the beautiful campus of the VFW National Home for Children.

The Corvette show will be held during Michigan Day on August 10, 2014 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please take a look at all the awesome Corvettes that will be featured while attending Michigan Day.

God Bless
Our Troops

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



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April/May/June 2014

Volume 81 Number 4



John W. Stroud Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to Represent National at Convention

John W. Stroud was elected Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 24, 2013, at the VFW's 114th National Convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Stroud served in the U.S. Air Force from 1976-1997, including a tour in Korea in 1992-1993 with the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base as a Flight Operations Superintendent. His decorations include four Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, three Air Force Achievement Medals, the Korea Defense Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1996 at Post 10047 in Las Vegas, Nevada. He maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership at Post 2313 in Hawthorne, Nevada. Mr. Stroud has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including Nevada Department Commander in 2006-2007. He has also served on numerous National Committees, including Chairman of the



National Veterans Service Committee. He is a Triple Crown All-American Commander Award recipient.

Mr. Stroud graduated with honors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics. He worked as the Mineral County Building Official and is now retired.

Mr. Stroud is a member of The American Legion, the Elks, the VFW National Home for Children, and is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans and a Life Member of the Military Order of the Cootie. He and his wife, Mary have five children and 10 grandchildren; they reside in Hawthorne, Nevada.

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STATE COMMANDER

I would like to start this *MOV* article with a thank you to all the Posts in the Department of Michigan, which go unnoticed every year, the Post officers that do their job. They turn in audits, election reports, delegate fees and everything else that is needed of them to keep their Post in good standing. This does not go unnoticed by Department, and every day we say a silent thank you to all of you. Once in a while we get word that you never hear from Department and are forgotten, which can be a good thing...so once again THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for everything that you do.

It's now that time of year when election reports are due to National and Department, along with delegate fees for State and National Convention. You must pay the delegate fees even if you don't put any names down on the delegate paper. National will put your Post on suspension if you do not turn in election reports. Remember Judge Advocate and Surgeon are no longer elected officers, but must be appointed by the Commander.

I would like to thank everyone that worked so hard to make this year a success. The District Commanders,



Ron Devereaux
State Commander

Department line officers, program directors, Post Commanders and everyone in the Department that have stepped forward to help. It's been a hard year and we have had to make some hard decisions, but I believe it's all been for the better.

Comrades, please remember that the Ladies and Men's Auxiliary are a part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as are our family members, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, grandmas, grandpas, daughters and sons. So why is it that we cannot work with them? Please try a little harder.

Again, thank you for what you do each and every day and I wish the Department of Michigan and all the officers at Post, District and Department level success in the coming year and in the years to come.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS