

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

WINTER 19/20

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, MIKE FINEIS



"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes

short again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, if he wins, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly:

So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

- (unknown author)

Comrades, for those of you that can relate to the above, realize that you are not alone. Do not be afraid to reach out for help and advice. Take the high ground!

Comrades, many of you have met our PTSD Director Doug Brinker and our PTSD friends Larry and Ray from United Veterans of Michigan (UVM). Together we are building a program with the end goal of saving

lives amongst our veterans. We will accomplish this through a combination of counseling and/or hunting and fishing at this time. We are working towards other PTSD groups to join us.

In order to maintain the partnership, we have built with UVM, we will need your help. We need your help to support my fundraiser. To raise funds to pay for a room at state functions and to pay for hunting and fishing trips for troubled veterans. Since becoming your Jr. Vice Commander, Mama and I have paid for a room at Pow Wow, Mid-Winter, and State Convention. These rooms were used to give troubled veterans a place to eat and relax with like kind. This room was also used by

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A COOTIE CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

The Grand of Michigan held its 91st Grand of Michigan Cootie Christmas Party on the 7th of December at the VFW National Home for Children. The Grand of Michigan was able to provide gifts for over 89 Children.

Santa (Ben Light) with the help from the Supreme Commander Steve Ruger, Supreme Auxiliary President Marquita Hill, Grand Commander Eddie Dandridge, Grand President Rosalyn Dandridge our Department Representatives Dept. Sr. Vice Scott Gloger, and Dept. Auxiliary President Delta Steege passed out gifts to the Children.

... see more photos on page 8 ...

SPORT CLIPS HAIRCUTS' \$1.25M DONATION

Help A Hero is now one of the "top-awarding" programs of its kind

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Dec. 9, 2019) – A \$1.25 million donation by Sport Clips Haircuts to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation will boost the impact of the Help A Hero Scholarship program

that supports education for civilian careers. Sport Clips Founder and CEO Gordon Logan, who is a veteran and VFW Life member, presented the million-dollar-plus check to VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz today at the VFW National Headquarters.

"There's a common misconception that GI Bill benefits and military training are enough to secure education or training for civilian occupations, but that's often not the case. For many service members, additional degrees and certifications are needed to secure sought-after Post-military work.

... continue reading on page 10 ...



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

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CONTINUED ...

the State Honor Guard in the same way. Because of the discussions in these rooms the birth of the PTSD program was born.

Help the PTSD program to achieve adulthood, please support my fund raiser.

Two – Patriot 450 Bushmaster Bolt Action Rifles w/ Leupold 3x9x30 Scopes
Two -Killer Instinct Hero 380 Crossbows
One – 4K 49” TV

First place through Fourth place is choice. Tickets are \$2 or 3 for \$5. Drawing be June 6th between 6 and 8pm. Contact Mike Fineis **989-287-3404** or **mike.fineis@gmail.com**

To the Department of Michigan Service Office Director Joe Greene and his entire staff, thank you from Cindy and me.


It was truly an honor to be invited and attend the Service Office Christmas Party. I witnessed an entire staff that enjoy each other and are one of the very top producing service offices’ in the VFW. Ryan Gallucci from the Washington DC office informed me of the top performance status.

Joe, your leadership has taken an office whose morale was very low just a year ago to very high.

Outstanding!!!

VETERAN CRISIS HOTLINE **1-800-273-8255** & PRESS 1

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT / QUARTMASTER, LYNN PATTERSON



I hope this finds you all in good health and enjoying this Holiday season with your loved ones.

Recent changes to the VFW National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual establish that Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of procedure. Newly revised Robert’s Rules of Order is readily available at local book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon. You may also find the National By-Laws and Roberts’s Rules of Order on the Kindle app.

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a **regular meeting in April**. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st. With this change please elect your delegates for the District and Department Convention with your Post elections. You may have to look up the Post membership for that meeting as you may not have your Delegate form from Dept, before your meeting.

Trustee reports of Audit **MUST** be completed by the Trustees and the Commander verifying with his signature on the report. **ALL** accounts must be audited by the trustees. This includes any cash on hand.


If the Post is behind 2 audits they will be placed on suspension. Posts failing to go to 2 District meetings, the Post Commander will be removed from his/ her position.

If your Post is considering Consolidation, Surrendering the charter or selling the Post building you need to let the Department know in writing. Prior to entering into any agreement.

If you haven’t reviewed or updated the Post By-Laws in the last 3 years it is time for you to look them over and update where needed. There is a template that you can use to assist you in the process. It is on the National website and the Department website.

As always if you have any questions of concerns please use your chain of command starting at the Post, District and then the Department Headquarters. We are all here to help you in anyway that we can. Thank you for all the support over the years.

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER



Hello Comrades, Brothers, Sisters, Family and Friends,

With the holiday season upon us, Linda and I would like to extend our best wishes for a great holiday and everyone be safe in all your travels.

Congratulations to all Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pens winners, they are our future. Please remember as parents and grandparents it is up to us to teach them the meaning of Freedom and what it is all about and how we have gotten to this point and continue on.

Congratulations to all teachers, you are who we entrust our young children to. We need to support our teachers as well.

Congratulations to all the Posts that have achieved 100% in membership. Keep up the good work. We all know it takes everyone to keep our organization moving forward.

This is the season of God, family and country. We are all one big family some of our families are struggling during this time. It is up to us to help them as much as we can. Not just this time of the year but all time through the year.

As all families we sometimes have differences of opinion. There is always two sides to every story. Take time to listen to both sides and time to use logic and common sense before you react to the situation.

Remember, you can always call me or email with any questions or concerns you may have. You may or may not like the results but that is how communication and a family like ours can and will succeed.

734-323-1188
miroadrunner52@yahoo.com
sgloger@vfwmi.org
Respectfully yours in Comradeship

**DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT,
DELLA STEEGE**

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I've been a very busy girl, I've completed all my official visits to our Veterans Hospitals and Homes went to Big Ten in Omaha

Nebraska and hung out with Santa at National Home as he made his visit to all the children. I attended the Cootie Christmas at National Home as well as the banquet that night. Mid-Winter conference is in a few weeks and I hope it all goes well.

I have been to 7 district meetings across the state so far and we have instituted 2 new auxiliaries but sadly, we have lost more than a few auxiliaries this year.

I truly hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season, but our little break is now over, now we get back to work.

Membership, audits & reporting are all on the top of the "to do" list.

Congratulations to all those auxiliaries that have reached 100% already.

I want to say Thank You to all my chairmen and district presidents, the continued dedication and hard work isn't going unnoticed.

Together we improve the lives of our veterans, their families and the communities we all live in on a daily basis.

Thank You!!

**DEPARTMENT
INSPECTOR,
BUTCH OGDEN**

Comrades another quarter has passed and a new one is starting. There are a lot of audits that are not

in on time again.

Comrades the date that audits are due never changes, it is always the end of the month that the quarter ends.

Department Commander Fineis has ended the practice of submitting a letter to excuse a trustee so make sure your audit has all 3 trustee signatures along with the Post Commanders signature.

All accounts of the Post must be on the audit and your bond must be larger than all the liquid assets of the Post. This includes your bonds and investments no exceptions. The signatures of the trustees and the Post Commander are of a true and accurate document.

You can download the manuals for trustees from the national website vfw.org

All newly elected trustees and quartermasters should attend a VTS to learn the position they accepted. When a trustee resigns or quits you must elect a new one you **CANNOT** appoint a trustee, and the newly elected position must be sent to Department Adjutant.

Any questions contact me
ogdenswan3454@gmail.com
517-223-3454

**DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH**

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Many of you already provided extra help this time of year, as able. Just a handful of these

actions included sending packages overseas to our troops; supporting the USMCR's Toys for Tots program; volunteering at the VA hospitals and State Veterans Homes to bring veterans good cheer; conveying gifts to children at the VFW Home for Veterans; laying wreaths in our State Veterans Cemeteries; and still others help homeless veterans and their beloved. As mentioned, these are but a few of the numerous activities Veterans of Foreign Wars members and Auxiliaries undertake during this time. We should be encouraged by the fact that these actions positively affect the lives of others. As Acts 20:35 aptly explains, "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

I do not need to tell you that these can be tough times for our needy. Still, we each have our special gifts bestowed by the Lord (1 Peter 4:10). That means that we need not be exceptionally skilled or wealthy to give. Instead, we need only be willing to extend our own talents, gifts, and resources as we can.

So, while we very carefully navigate the later snowy roads, let us please remember our many blessings and endeavor to give back. While we stand in line to use our holiday gift cards, let us remember those veterans that can no longer stand. As we wonder what else on earth can be made with the turkey or ham left overs, please reflect upon those current service members families and shut-in veterans perhaps without much food or company. Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers, even in the toughest of times we are so incredibly blessed to live in this great republic and to have the joy-building and faith-strengthening ability to comfort others in need. Belated Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah; may your 2020 be richly blessed with many positives, renewed strength, and gladdened hearts.

May God bless you.

**DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN**

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

The holiday season is upon us and let's remember those who cannot be home for the holidays. I would like

to commend those Posts and Auxiliaries that have been putting packages together for our troops. Many of you know there is nothing like getting a package from home when you are deployed. These packages bring a little bit of home to the troops. If you cannot send a package please send prayers to keep them and their families safe this holiday season

The Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Contests are in full swing and the Midwinter Conference will be here in just few short weeks. I am very excited to listen to the entries this year. I am always amazed by the essays and speeches from the students. Our teachers also do a great job with these kids. Thank you to everyone that makes this program so enjoyable.

There have been a lot of great programs and events going on this year that I have been able to attend. There is always a veterans' event somewhere and I really love that about

the VFW. The VFW Unmet Needs program has a new sponsorship with Jesse James Dupree, a musician and a great businessman. He is the lead singer of a rock band called Jackyl. I attended one of their concerts when I was in the service and loved it. He is very supportive of veterans and the VFW Unmet Needs program. I was able to meet Jesse and the band, and they are a bunch of great guys. Jesse invited many veterans to include our Unmet Needs Director Vincent "Tommy" Oltesvig to get on stage to show his support. Please continue to support the Unmet Needs Program anyway you can. This program will continue to grow each year with your support and the great sponsorship of Jesse James Dupree.

As many of you already have heard I have retired from the Michigan State Police as of October 1. I will continue my public service as the Under Sheriff of Van Buren County. The Sheriff and Van Buren County support my service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I have been able to reach many future VFW members in my travels and I will continue my service to you. I am continuing my planning for the 2021-2022 year and I am getting excited. I hope you are also! I look forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Winter Conference.

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, RAY LOPEZ**

Greetings Comrades,

We are now at or beyond the halfway point of the year and our plans of reaching our goals should be well on there way.

All of our Districts and Posts are required to have current copies of our State and National Bylaws.

Many Posts throughout the Department have not updated their Bylaws in several years. Please take the opportunity to go

through your current Post Bylaws and update them as needed.

There are Bylaw templates available on the Department website which can assist your Post if you are currently updating your Bylaws.

Thank You for serving in our great organization and assisting Veterans.

Please don't hesitate to call if I can be of any assistance.

Happiest of holidays to you and your families.

Yours in True Comradeship

JERRY GORSKI, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION



I hope everyone had a great Christmas 2019 and Welcomed in the New Year. I wish everyone, the Very best in 2020.

I want to now give you some information about our Posts. As of December 6, we have 6,155 Posts. There are 43 "Less" Posts since August 30, 2019. Of the 242 Commander-in-Chief-directed Post Suspension orders issued on July 2, 2019, for failure to submit an Election Report by July 1, there are currently 19 Posts still under suspension and an additional 28 Posts under suspension for reasons other than failing to submit an election report. For a total of 47 Posts under suspension. Please, please do not let your Post become part of these statistics. Please do everything you are required and supposed to do.

Today, Monday, December 9, Michigan is in 14th place out of (53) Departments at 88.10%. We have 32,887 Members and need 4,439 Members in order to reach our Goal of 100%. WE CAN DO IT!

Michigan is in 3rd place in the Big Ten Conference. Minnesota is in 1st at 90.14%. Wisconsin is in 2nd at 89.42%.

Regarding District membership, District 13 is in 1st at 89.63%, District 11 is in 2nd at 89.57% and District 8 is in 3rd at 89.49%.

With everyone's help, Michigan will again achieve 100% in Membership by June 30, 2020. Thank You in Advance!

I will be attending the National Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. It starts Sunday, March 1st and ends on Wednesday, March 4th. I will be attending the National Council of Administration Workshop, the National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, which I am a Member, the National Council of Administration Meeting, the Parade of Winners, which are the (53) Department Voice of Democracy Winners and the National Patriot's Pen Winner. If you remember, Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman from Ohio appointed me VFW National Programs Committee Chairman and I was with the 2018 (53) Department Voice of Democracy Winners and the National Patriot's Pen Winner for five days in Washington D.C. and announced the National Voice of Democracy Winners in March 2018. I will be visiting our Michigan U.S. Senators and Michigan U.S. Congressmen & Congresswomen with our Michigan Contingent on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Lastly, I will be attending the Commander-in-Chief's Testimony on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. I will be very busy!

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you as your National Council of Administration Member representing the Department of Michigan.

I want to end by thanking everyone who have contributed to my campaign fund, so far, for my candidacy for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief 2023-2024. It is expensive! Please help me by sending your campaign contributions to: Su-jen Mauldin, 214 Endwell, Novi, Michigan 48377.

THANK YOU!

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



@VFWAUXMI & @VFWMI

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, GARY GAMBLE

Congratulations and Thank You to all the Posts and Districts recruiting new and retaining existing members. This is a 24/7 undertaking and NOT a seasonal program. As I review the membership statistics, I can see that we are showing some great results and moving in the right direction. Unfortunately, I also see many Posts that have not recruited at least one new member since July and have a large list of expired members. Our organization **CANNOT** survive unless **WE ADD & RETAIN EXISTING MEMBERS** to our great organization. Continuously working together to ensure we have a strong membership is every member's responsibility. With a strong membership we can complete the VFW mission of helping veterans and our community.

Michigan Membership by the numbers as of December 15. At this point we are very close to the mid-point for 2019-20 membership year.

Department Membership Stands at: 88.86% - District 13, 11, and 8 are leading in the Top Three Spots & above 90%. I am hopeful that the numbers will be much higher at the time this issue makes it to you.

Life Members: 29,081

New Members: 339

Reinstate Members: 90

Paid Annual Members: 3,659

New\ Reinstate Life members: 118

Total Membership: 33,169

Posts at 100% +: 10

Number of Annual Members EXPIRED or will be EXPIRING before JUNE 30: 4,891

Michigan is currently 4157 short of 100% in Membership. As you can see, by renewing our existing members we have a pathway to 100% and beyond!

We had 177 members recruit or reinstate 547 members to date. Thank you to each and every one of you! 255 members were recruited without someone receiving recruiter credit. Keep in mind; it is very important that the Post Quartermaster **INCLUDE** the recruiter information when transmitting new and reinstated members.

When speaking to prospective members, it is important to be a well-informed recruiter. Knowing the VFW and its programs will give you the ability to speak with confidence with prospective members. Be sure to stay informed by reading your Department MOV and VFW Magazine. Know your Post and District programs and events. Visit your Department website (www.vfwmi.org) often and stay on top of the Department Programs and activities. Also visit our National VFW website (www.vfw.org) where you will find even more information about our great organization. Keep in mind, to get the most out of our VFW National website you **MUST** login as a VFW member. You will need to create a unique username and password to log in. If you're having trouble logging in or need any

help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Membership Recruiting & Retention:

visit vfw.org and login

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention>

Here you will find videos and other useful information that will help you be a better recruiter. Type or click this web link to review a YouTube video on How to Conduct a Phone Campaign. <https://youtu.be/rvOL9lmqNB0>

VFW AUXILIARY CAN HELP WITH VFW MEMBERSHIP!

We are asking for additional help from our VFW Auxiliary! Our VFW Membership Program is encouraging our VFW Auxiliary members to submit veteran referrals to us for VFW membership. Simply put, we are asking for the submission of a name and phone number as a potential VFW member. The VFW will do the investigating and steer them to the Post of your choice. The VFW Auxiliary Member, VFW Auxiliary, and VFW Auxiliary District with the most referrals (name and contact information) will receive special recognition.

1. The VFW AUX with the most referrals will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the VFW Store.

2. The TOP VFW AUX MEMBERS and TOP VFW AUX DISTRICT with the most referrals will receive a "Special State Commander Award" at the 2020 VFW State Convention.

Deadline to submit referrals to the State Membership Director is: May 15, 2020

Our VFW National Commander has initiated a "New Life Membership Incentive Program". All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to a Life membership beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 VFW store credit. Also included are all members on a Life member installment plan. Final payment **MUST** be made before June 30, 2020 to be eligible for the \$50 store credit. This credit **MUST** be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Please consider an upgrade, pay off, or reinstate as a Life member today. Use this web link to do it online now!

<http://bit.ly/35kIHAd>

or call 1-833-VFW-VETS (833-839-8387)

Any existing or unpaid annual member can call this number to pay annual dues, upgrade to Life Membership, change mailing address, reach the VFW Store, etc. All you need is a credit or debit card to safely renew over the phone. The Member Service Center is open: Mon-Fri 9:15am - 5:15pm.

The 2019-20 Dept. Membership Program can be found at: (www.vfwmi.org) under "Programs". Every Post should be working toward achieving our 2019-20 membership goals.

If you need any help with Membership, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of your Department Membership Team!

Keep the momentum going and thank you for everything you're doing supporting the VFW Mission.

"Together We Can Build a Stronger VFW"
313 575-6258 / Ggamble354@sbcglobal.net



PTSD DIRECTOR, DOUGLAS BRINKER

Happiest of Holidays to my fellow Department Comrades and incredible members of the Auxiliary. The past couple of months has seen some great progress

UVM and myself felt at home with all who welcomed us there. Madam Auxiliary President shared why she is part of Team PTSD as well. The program is blessed by each who are a committee member each member brings a moving story why they are on the Team. Personally, the program wouldn't be possible without Commander Fineis and an awesome department of incredible warriors.

On a personal note, we had a Comrade who recently had ran out of Hope in their life and wanted that pain to end. Through God's grace and intervention Larry Billings, Norm and Sue Mauldin spent quite a few hours on the phone using some empathetic listening of the Veteran who wanted to die by Suicide and was successful at getting the Veteran to safety at the Battle Creek VA. It's dedication such as that what makes this program a continued growth for success moving forward.

Hope is Real and Team PTSD is here anytime to listen when a crisis has put perhaps yourself in a compromised position that you feel Suicide is the Only answer. We are working to offer some Suicide Prevention training

so that more of you can be there when others need you most. We also are looking to adding more partnerships with organizations that have your 6 in their best interest. As the holidays approach this is the time of the year when so many feel lost and feel that Hope is running out. Know that your PTSD Team will be here now and always.

We will have resources available at the Winter Conference in Kalamazoo at the table and we are working on special giveaways.

Finally, we are excited to hear the FCC passing the 3-digit Suicide Hotline

#988

the first part of December. We will be working on gathering helpful materials regarding the new number. We also have a department email address:

PTSD@vfwmi.org

Please use this for all communication related directly to the program. In the event you need to speak immediately with someone please contact me at

517-499-0926

Honored to Serve, Serving to Honor

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

JENNIFER SMITH

As you know, legislative reports are important as they convey information to our membership and encourage proactive action to encourage bills that affect our Comrades, active troops, and their beloved are acted upon. For those Comrades who have yet to do so, am gently reminding all to please sign up for the Action Corps Weekly via:

<https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly>

It features timely updates on federal legislation that affects veterans, troops, their families, and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action updates.

Additionally, please note that attending other veterans' groups meetings counts as Legislative (and misc.) points as joint legislative efforts are often discussed. This is another great opportunity to obtain points, as well as your current efforts. Please see the All-State Guide via Activity Evaluation, which is also on this site under 'Programs' on the VFWMI.org website. The 'Legislative' section of 'Programs' is often updated.

If we do not report, correct information on important matters is often not effective-

ly conveyed and volunteer credit/non-profit stats are lost for our organization at all levels.

By the time you receive this publication, the vote on the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act will most likely have taken place as a deadline looms. Recently (13 Dec. 2019) a Congressional compromise regarding the Widows Tax provision in that bill was reached and our Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative office supports it. By the time you read this, it hopefully will be law.

Please see: **<http://bit.ly/2RT45sj>** to check status. Other VFW supported federal bills may be viewed via the above listed Action Corp website or via:

<https://ssl.capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills/>

As previously stated, this is the importance of our voices as Veterans of Foreign Wars Comrades, in close collaboration with our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers; we are a mighty force for good. Please keep up your efforts, report your positive endeavors, and know that YOU are our true legislative strength!

CAMP TROTTER DIRECTOR,
BOB BENDERMAN

Your VFW Camp Trotter for Children is on the move, As spring approaches we will be installing a new toilet, vanity, sink and faucets in cabin 5 and 6, donated by Lowes Home Improvement. A big thanks goes out to them.

The new side walk was completed along cabin 3 and mess hall to showers. New furnace and A/C was installed above mess hall on Oct. 30, the company will be back in spring to adjust the A/C.

The fencing along the frt. Of camp and the rear fencing along the dirt road at the rear of the camp is in need of replacing badly. We have been donated \$200.00 at present for this project and in need of approximately \$1400.00 more to complete this spring/summer.

If you would like to donate please send to VFW Dept. Quartermaster Lynn and ear mark "Camp Trotter fencing project".

If any Post or Auxiliaries would like to do some fund raisers for the Camp Trotter Scholarship fund, this would be greatly appreciated. Let's try to get over the 400 mark this year for campers.

A shout out to Post 702 and Auxiliary. They had meet and greets at the Blueberry Festival and Metro Cruise in Grand Rapids and had children sign up for a free drawing to attend Camp Trotter 2020 and take a friend of their choice with them. It was a good draw to talk with parents and obtain members for the VFW and Auxiliary.

The golf outing will be held on June 19th, 2020 at Village Green Golf Course again. Please help looking for hole sponsors and prizes. Flyers will be on Dept. website under Camp Trotter.

I would appreciate any suggestion on what we could do to keep your Camp Trotter improving.

Please e-mail me at
rsb002@comcast.net

Find the Golf Outing flyer on Page 15



SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT

Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers. We are closing in on the deadline for Public Service Officers of the Year. Posts have until December 31, 2019 to submit their nominations to myself. Hopefully this newsletter arrives in time for you to have a couple more days. Please send your nominations to me at

ds@vfwmi.org

or 7468 N. Johnson Road Lakeview, Michigan 48850

Please ensure that the form is legible so that I am able to contact you if necessary. All required documents should be submitted with the Post form. As a reminder you will re-

ceive 10 All-State points for each of the three nominations. The awards presentation will be held at the June State Convention in Flint, Mi.

As indicated in the last article, the Michigan State Police have **FREE** safety information available for you. The form to obtain the safety information can be found online at

<http://bit.ly/31ZR9mC>

or you call 517-636-4256. If you are unable to access the online form please call or email me and I will be happy to send you a copy. I am here to help you achieve your goals and assist with getting you the drug and safety points you need!

"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."

-JFK-

**CHAMPIONING FOR ADVOCACY****JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE**

This is an update on Veteran Benefit Administrations processing of stayed claims.

H.R. 299 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

was signed into law on 25 June, 2019. This is a tremendous victory for all those who proudly served off the coast of Vietnam, and an even more daunting task for the VA to not only notify those who are now conceded as exposed to herbicides, but to prosecute those claims as well. They did request and receive a Stay of those claims until 1 January, 2020. This would afford the VA the opportunity to initiate policies and procedures, as well as implement training.

One of the first things they did was have members from Department of Defense, National Archives and Records Administration, Veterans Administration, and IT to come up with a way to rapidly

identify those ships within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam through the years 1962 through 1975. This IT tool is known as the Ship-Locator program, and has already identified 1800 ships that meet this criterion. This will impact thousand upon thousands of veterans and their dependents, and we need to do all we can to get this message out! The VA has stated they initiated public service announcements, but there are no guarantees of contacting all of them so the VSO pleads for each of us to continue to spread the word. As of this date, there are only 8,000 claims currently in this Stay position.

The VA needs to do a better job of developing these claims because the reality is of the 8,000 submitted, only 137 have been scheduled for examinations, and only 2 are ready for a decision. This is unacceptable as all of these veterans are already 28 years behind their fellow comrades who were "boots on the ground".

The VA has also identified the 8 regional offices these claims will be prosecuted at.

They include: Roanoke VA, Phoenix AZ, St Paul MN, St Petersburg FL, and St. Louis MO with three to be named later. These will be the only installations with this Ship-Locator tool which our National VFW is advocating for the VA to administer a list much like they do currently for us to be more efficient. So far this has not been authorized, but they did say they would partner with the VSOs in those regions.

One thing important to note, if a veteran is on a ship that currently does not show up in this tool, it is NOT an automatic denial. This will just mean the claim would require further development. The only port the VA does concede with this new law is Da Nang Port.

VFW continues to provide testimony that the VA simply has to do more.

Happy Holidays to you and yours, and please get the word out to all our Navy comrades!

Any additional information: please contact VFW SO office at **313-964-6510**

**NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR, JAMES HUBBARD**

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers

It was great to see so many at Fall Conference, Thank you to all that made donations to the National Home "Make a Change" for the campus maintenance fund. We were challenged by the Dept. of MI Auxiliary, who can raise the most monies, they won this time. The collection bottle will be at Mid-Winter's National Home table, so bring your monies and remember every .16 cents we collect, you have walked a foot, of the green campus area and never left your chair....

I hope each member has purchased a National Home Life Membership for either yourself or a family member.

Other ways you can support the National Home : if you shop on-line use AmazonSmile, last quarter the home received a check for over \$4,000. Or if you shop at Kroger's, use the Community Rewards program. Go to

krogercommunityrewards.com
group #79329

for the VFW National Home. This is no cost to you but the Home benefits from your shopping.

The Cootie Christmas Party at the National Home was a great success. I saw the pictures and it looks like they all had a wonderful time. Many smiles on the many children's faces. Thank you everyone that attended.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference. I know for myself I enjoy spending time talking with the students and seeing the joy & fun they have over the week-end, making new friends they will have for years to come. This is where we meet the students of our future.

Thank you, for all you do for our Veterans & their families at the National Home.

VMS DIRECTOR**VINCENT OLTESVIG**

On December 7, 2019, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9914, honored those that lost their lives 70 years ago in the attack at Pearl Harbor. Post #9914 also honored All POW/MIA's still missing and unaccounted for.

After Honor Ceremony VFW Post #9914, had a fund raiser, raffles and silent auction raising funds for UNMET NEEDS. Raising over \$1,800 for this VMS Program.

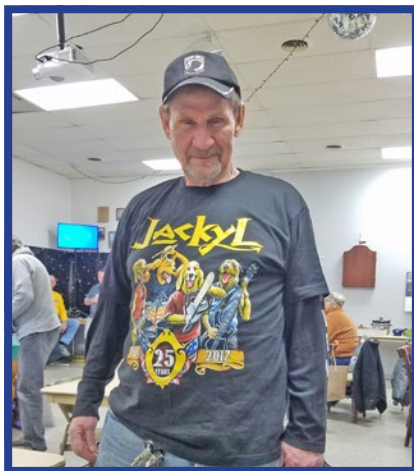
VFW Post Commander and Dept. of Michigan and VMS National Committee Member, is quite busy in soliciting donations along with Jesse James Dupree, The JACKL and his Band, in Grand Rapids, Michigan

at the Intersection Night Club and in Flint, Michigan at The Machine Shop, Night Club.

A special recognition is warranted for Vehicle City Harley Davidson, Flint, in their efforts for hosting a fund raiser for UNMET NEEDS, with an autographed and collector Jesse James Dupree, The JACKL, STIHL Chainsaw and memorabilia.

VMS Dept. of Michigan will also be raffling off an additional Collector Jesse James Dupree Chainsaw at the Department of Michigan Mid Winter Conference on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

Tickets for the chainsaw are available now.

**BUDDY POPPY DIRECTOR, TERRY DOWDELL**

Comrades, I hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving. I would also like to wish all the comrades a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As of December 3rd, I have a lot of Posts in the Department that did not order any Buddy

Poppies. We have 264 in the Department and only 35 of those Posts have ordered Poppies. I have 5 Districts in the Department with zero Posts that have purchased Poppies. Comrades, please order your Poppies to help out those who are in the VA Hospitals, even if you only are able to order 500 poppies.

Once again, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday.

Yours in Comradeship



ALL STATE DIRECTOR, NORM MAULDIN

Greetings and Salutations to all. We hope your holidays went well and are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference.

This has been a busy year and a lot of you are racking up the points toward All-State honors. Continue to utilize the link below to verify your points. Please, please help us, help you by reviewing your records and contacting the program chairman as soon as a discrepancy is noted. We would rather fix them now instead of waiting until crunch time. We update the point values on a quarterly basis and just finished the latest update.

<http://bit.ly/38HJjbx>

The new PTSD/Suicide Awareness Program has been added to the All-State Program. Guidelines are as follows:

Five (5) points per Post for members attending a PTSD/Suicide Prevention Seminar at a District Meeting. MUST print and sign both beginning and ending sign-in sheets.

Five (5) points if a Post donates their hall for PTSD/Suicide Prevention Seminar.

One (1) points will be awarded for each \$25.00 donated to PTSD/Suicide Prevention

PTSD Director / Doug Brinker
PTSD@vfwmi.org / 517-499-0926

Remember the deadline for submission to department is April 30, 2020. If you would, please send a courtesy copy to me it would be greatly appreciated.

as@vfwmi.org or unreper@mi.rr.com
248-624-3185

BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME AUXILIARY CHAIR

KATHY HUBBARD

Happy New Year Everyone

How time flies when you're enjoying yourself. It's hard to believe our 2019-20 year is half-over. I would like to Thank President Della for having Confidence in me as Chairman, it just happens to be the Chairmanship very dear to my heart that I Love!

Are you planning for Mid-Winter Conference? Visiting the Poppy entries, meeting our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers of the Year, spending time talking with the students this is such a pleasure along with hearing their speeches at the Banquet... Such a Great Time for all of Us.

Keep in mind Valentine's Day is fast approaching, What is your Auxiliary doing for your Veterans to make sure they realize

How Much We Appreciate Them. Be sure to think outside the box doing something you have never done perhaps. Surprise them! Be it a Dinner with a special table Thank you for each setting. Can't wait to hear what you did for our Veterans in reporting. Be sure to place a Buddy Poppy in whatever you do. Be sure to report the number of poppies used. Also St Patrick's Day is following perhaps paint rocks with a Shamrock & a Buddy Poppy on them, then hide them in your Post and when there returned a small token is given to them.

Have you begun to think of May Poppy drives is your Post eligible for the Commemorate Anniversary Poppies. Make arrangements with your Post Quartermaster to order your Anniversary Poppies along with your regular Poppy order.

KARMANOS CANCER PHILANTHROPY AWARD

JERRY GORSKI

On November 6, 2019. I represented the Department of Michigan VFW at the Annual Karmanos Cancer Institute Awards' Presentation at The Gem Theatre in Downtown Detroit, Michigan. The Gem Theatre is a very old, beautiful and historical theatre in Downtown, Detroit, Michigan.

At this Event, Karmanos Cancer Institute gave Awards to many groups, individuals including Doctors and Patients, who had Cancer and become Cancer Free.

One of the awards given was the Philanthropy Award to the Department of Michigan VFW.

The Philanthropy Award stated, "Honoring those who have dedicated their resources and talent to benefit the cause of cancer."

It further stated, "Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars. For Many years, the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been donating funds to Karmanos Cancer Institute to help fight cancer. To date, members have contributed more than \$800,000 to support Karmanos and Wayne State University School of Medicine's cancer research initiatives. The Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars began a program in 1983 to furnish monetary aid for cancer research and dedicated their funds to Karmanos. For the past several years, Michigan veterans have raised funds through local Posts to support Karmanos Prostate Cancer Research

Program, Veteran Posts throughout Michigan conduct a multitude of annual events in their communities to raise awareness of and funding for cancer research."

"We here at the VFW are humbled and honored to have been selected to win this award. We take great pride in providing funds to assist in furthering cancer research and hope to be able to continue for years to come." - Lynn Patterson, Dept. Quartermaster

Every member in every VFW Post, should be very proud and honored that the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars received the Philanthropy Award from the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE CHAIR, JENNIFER SMITH

Sisters and Brothers:

Just in case you have not yet done so, gently urging all to please sign up for the informative VFW Action Corps Weekly via:

www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly

It features timely updates on federal legislation that affects veterans, troops, their families, and Prisoners of War/Missing in Action updates. Those that wonder why it is so often brought up, please take a look and see what it offers.

As for reports, once again, thank you for all you do! Am so encouraged when reviewing your efforts. Just a reminder, please be sure to include a valid telephone number or email on your reports so I can contact you in case of questions. Most do so, but sometimes I really need to touch base and it is tough when the information is not listed.

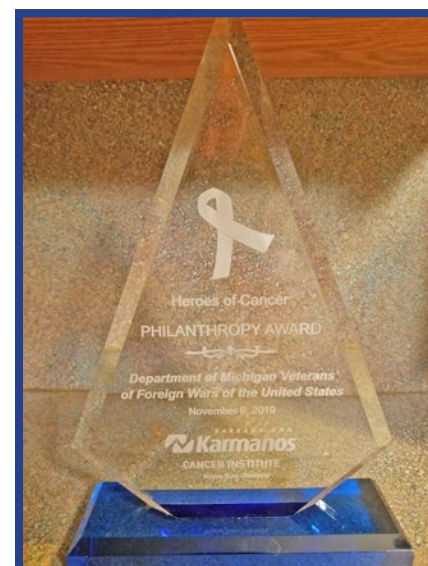
As always, please be certain to follow the Guide Sheets and review the Bulletins. Your legislative efforts should relate to veterans, active duty, and their families, VFW Priority Goals, and Community Legislative Education and Engagement, as described in the Guide Sheets. I know that it can sometimes be dry reading [grin] but please know that your efforts do inform and can positively affect our Veterans, troops, youth, and the families of all. For those that do not know, the VFW Auxiliary Department of Michigan Legislative Facebook page is often updated with easy-to-download Word files that feature VFW Action Corps Weekly summaries, misc.

Current federal bills that could use our support: S. 2950, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act of 2019; IMPROVE Well-Being for Veterans Act; and H.R. 3495.

For all federal bills supported by the VFW please see:

<https://ssl.capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills/>

Last, wanted to share with you that your efforts and those of our VFW Comrades have helped lead to the passage of Michigan Public Act 96 of 2019 – Public Health Code, Effective January 27, 2020: HB 4325 (Miller) Health occupations; counselors; scope of practice for counselors; modify, and revise licensing requirements. This bill moved to correct recent changes by the State of MI's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs regarding mental health care treatment that removed limited license counselor clinicians' ability to diagnose, offer psychotherapy, and be reimbursed. This law will help those, including veterans, seeking private mental health care from limited license counselors.



YOU FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY. NOW JOIN US IN THE FIGHT **FOR VETERANS.**

COOTIE CORNER

PGC ROBERT E. WILSON

“The MOC & MOCA is On the Same TEAM and We will work Together as One”

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! – This year the Grand of Michigan held our 91st Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party on the 7th of December at the VFW National Home for Children. We had a great turnout with several Cooties from throughout the country. Along with our Grand Commander Eddie Dandridge, Grand MOCA Rosalyn Dandridge we had the Supreme Commander Steve Ruger, Supreme Auxiliary President Marquita Hill, our Department Representatives Scott Gloger and his wife Linda, Dept. Chaplain Jennifer Smith, and Dept. Auxiliary President Delta Steege. All were present and had a great time.

The Grand of Michigan was able to provide gifts for over 89 Children. Santa and the Grand Commander, Supreme Commander, both Presidents from the MOCA and Dept. of Michigan Auxiliary handle out those gifts. The Grand of Florida provided lunch to all. Overall the Children of the National Home enjoyed the day.

Grand Commander Eddie Dandridge, Grand Sr. Vice Russell Makowski Cootie Christmas Chairman and the Grand MOCA Rosalyn Dandridge would like to thank all who participated in support for this year’s Cootie Christmas Program. Our next Project for the Children of the National Home is the trip to Cedar Point in June.

“Michigan Nitpickers” for 2019-2020

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

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

Keep ‘Em Smiling in Beds of White



Grand Commander & MOCA President



Grand Sr. Vice Russell Makowski,
Grand Commander Eddie Dandridge,
PGC Eric Bell, PGC Robert Routhier Jr.,
and PGC Patrick Henderson

VISION TO REALITY

SAGINAW

Vision to reality....Veterans of Foreign Wars Schulz/McKinney, Jr, Post Commander, Kimberly A. Napoleon realized there were a special group of “young” men in the city of Saginaw that served their community for a combined age totaling over 500 years, but more special than that these men were part of the elite “Greatest Generation” and so-called “Forgotten War. She sought to have them saluted by their County Commissioners for their service to their country and continued service to their community.

On Tuesday, November 19th, 2019, The City of Saginaw County Board of Commissioner’s honored World War II, Korean War Veterans and Commander Kimberly A. Napoleon of VFW Post 9931 at the Saginaw County Commissioner’s meeting. Bridgeport VFW Post 9931 Commander Kimberly A. Napoleon receiving the honor of leading the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag.

Commissioner Sheldon Matthews and Commissioner Amos O’Neal presented the following Thank You Citations for their service to the United States of America Armed Forces and for their continued service to the City of Saginaw;

Mr. B.L Little	Mr. Robert McKandes
Mr. Henry S. Brown	Mr. Johnny Ballard
Mr. Clinton	Mr. Everett Toney
McMillon, Sr	Mr. Arthur Johnson
Mr. Mark Thomas	Mr. Leon Clark
Mr. John Carter	Mr. Ralph Culpepper



JERRY GORSKI

Candidate for National Jr. Vice
Commander-In-Chief
2023-2024



Please send donations for my
campaign to Su-Jen Mauldin
214 Endwell - Novi, MI 48377

NORMAN MAULDIN

Candidate for
Big 10 Delegate
2020-2022



“Stormin’ Norman”
Ready to Serve with
Honor and Integrity

JENNIFER L. SMITH


Candidate for
Department Chaplain
2020-2021



Selfless Service through Faith.
Proud member of
District 6 and Post #6464

JAY BENNER

Candidate for
Department Quartermaster
2020-2021



GARY GAMBLE


Candidate for Department Jr.
Vice Commander
2020-2021



Supported and endorsed by
his wife, family, Post,
District 4, and many more

JOHN GRIFFITH


Candidate for Department Jr.
Vice Commander
2020-2021



Endorsed and Supported by
District 6, Post #4003
and Family

VERN BLAUWKAMP

Candidate for
Jr. Vice Candidate
2020-2022



Dedicated
Hardworking
Team-builder

VFWMI.ORG EASY LINKS

We are constantly trying
to improve the Department
website to make it easier to use
and navigate.
Here are a few direct links to
some useful pages!

vfwmi.org/contact
vfwmi.org/vethelp
vfwmi.org/join
vfwmi.org/directory
vfwmi.org/officers
vfwmi.org/allstate
vfwmi.org/camptrotter
vfwmi.org/mov
vfwmi.org/forms
vfwmi.org/gallery

DISTRICT 8 - CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual 8th District Christmas party at the VFW National Home for Children was held on December 6th where we had 3 Santa Clauses and Mrs. Clauses. All their presents were delivered to all the residents living at the home.

In attendance for this event were District 8 Commander Richard Ringersma, District 8 Sr. Vice Commander Gary Brown Sr., District 8 Adjutant (Santa) Garry Goff, Department of Michigan State Commander Michael Fineis with Department of Michigan Auxiliary

President Della Steege, National Council of Administration Gerald Gorski, Wisconsin State Commander Donald Lynch to include a Swarm of Cooties and elves to help pass out the presents.

This District 8 Christmas Party has been our District 8 project since 1978, and all the Posts in our District contribute to purchase all the presents we deliver to the children. It was another great Christmas for the District and to all the Children living at the VFW National Home for Children.





VOD/PP/TOY DIRECTOR, GARY BROWN

I would like to thank all the VFW Post and District VOD Chairman for their dedication and time to help get their VOD Winners to me for judging this year. We received student packets for ALL 12 Districts in the Department for VOD and PP. There are 25 Teacher of the Year Packets received and Winners will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Again, I want to thank Andy Conklin and Jason Manke for their support to make this a fantastic Mid-Winter Conference. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone.

V.F.W & Auxiliaries 40th Mid-Winter Conference
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo, Michigan

BANQUET TICKETS
JANUARY 25, 2020 / 6:00 PM

Price \$40 per person / All seats are reserved / No tickets sold at the door

Deadline for ticket ordering is January 17, 2020
All tickets ordered after 1/17/20 will be at the rate of \$50 each.
Banquet ticket orders will be held accountable, including no shows unless authorized by the State commander for refund.

All tickets must be picked up by noon on the day of / Tickets will not be mailed

NAME: _____ DIST: _____ POST: _____
ADDRESS: _____
NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Make all checks payable to **Department of Michigan VFW** (no cash accepted)
Mail to: Patrick Patterson - 21650 Ulrich, Clinton Township, MI 48036

When Posting to social media use #VFWPostPRIDE

SUCCESS STORY / JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Here we are half way through the centennial year of the Veterans’ of Foreign Wars advocacy, and what a successful year it has been! For the first time in its history, VFW National Veterans Service exceeded \$9.1 Billion dollars in recoveries. The great department here in Michigan contributed \$412 million to that effort, the highest ever with a 33% increase over last year through the hard work and commitment to the men and women of the Service Office. Their advocacy extends far beyond any dollar amount however, which asks the question, what all does a Service Officer do?

The hats the men and women in advocacy wear are plentiful, and mostly worn simultaneously. These vary in the form of a doctor, a lawyer, a psychologist, a social worker, an accountant, a therapist, a counselor, and an overall defender all in the effort to change that client’s life for the better. For each of the over 560 thousand veterans and their dependents within Michigan to receive all the benefits they are entitled to by law. Upon meeting with a veteran, the Service Officer has to be intimately be familiar with VA law and manual for procedures, the Merck Manual for the numerous medical conditions, and oh by the way, how can I assist you?

At the end of the day, the National Veteran Service office offered a challenge. They were anticipated to receive over 8.9 Billion in return to the countless veterans and dependents that

were deserving. It was their goal and objective to take that number over 9 Billion! A lofty goal but one we in Michigan embraced! In order for NVS to attain their goal, Michigan would have to really shine. It has just been discovered that NVS did achieve their goal, to secure over 9.1 Billion dollars to veterans’ and their dependents’ throughout FY 2019. As the Director of the Service Office during this FY, I am proud to report that Michigan can report 412,000,000 in recoveries! What an awesome accomplishment for the 20 proud members we have on our staff!

There was a challenge set at the National Veterans of Foreign Wars conference but we were at a decided disadvantage. I appreciate the NVS Director stating it had to be an increase in percentage rather than just a dollar amount. Had it not been, Michigan would have come in first hands down! This is simple math but the amount of revenue the VFW in Michigan supports to the NVS overall effort is baffling. In light of all this, the Department of Michigan increased their overall recoveries to 412,000,000 which was at least 33% increase over the past year.

I have been the interim Director of the VSO for the Department of Michigan for 6 months now, and could not be prouder of what we are accomplishing! My hat is off to all the 19 remaining members to secure such a high dollar amount and standing amongst their peers! Happy holidays to all~

SPORTS CLIPS - CONT. FROM PAGE 1

There are 165 student veterans attending colleges and certification programs right now with the aid of Help A Hero Scholarships and more than 1,450 student veterans have benefited from these scholarships since 2014. This year's fundraising will make even more scholarships available to U.S. service members and veterans in the year ahead," says Logan. "We are so grateful to the men and women who serve, and to their families, and we owe the success of the Help A Hero campaign to our generous Sport Clips clients, team members, and product partners. It's an honor to say 'thank you' to them all."

"To date, the program has awarded more than \$6.5 million in scholarships, which places it among the top-awarding service member and veteran scholarship programs in the country," said Schmitz. "Higher education doesn't come easily to all of our student veterans. It often takes the support of scholarships or burdensome loans beyond what the GI Bill covers to get the education needed for meaningful careers as they transition from military service. Working with veteran-friendly companies such as Sport Clips is one way we can help make the transition from service member to the civilian world easier for veterans and their families."

More than \$120,000 of the money was raised from Sport Clips' own \$1 per haircare service donation made on Veterans Day while clients, individual supporters and Sport Clips team members donated the largest portion of the money raised. Sport Clips partners Direct Beauty Express, American Crew, John Paul Mitchell Systems, Nioxin, Sexy Hair, Gibs Grooming and Darlington Raceway also made substantial contributions.

The Help A Hero program started in 2007 when Sport Clips first worked with the VFW to provide phone calls home for deployed and hospitalized service members and veterans. After the drawdown in troops began a few years later, the partnership transitioned in 2013 to become the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program.

Sport Clips is the Official Haircutter of the VFW, and its Help A Hero campaign is just one of the many ways it supports active-duty military and veterans.

To find out more, visit your local Sport Clips or SportClips.com.





DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER GEORGE NAVARRETTE JR.

I would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. We can all

remember the Christmas we were serving overseas and wishing we were home with our families and loved ones. Sometimes we may forget that lonely feeling we had, but this is the time that we should remember those that are now serving our country.

The Fifth District Post and Auxiliaries wish all a festive season.

Keep all our Comrades in your prayers for their safe return home.

SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK.
WE PROVE IT



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - DON CASWELL

To the fighting 6th! I would like to start my column by saying I am sorry that I have missed the last two issues of the MOV, time was

not on my side. I hope everyone had a good and safe holiday.

I have been making Post visits to all but 5, these are on my schedule. This has been a most enjoyable experience, giving me a chance to see 6th District from a Post level in action. One of the things that all Posts have in common is attendance at meetings. I have a letter that was drafted up by me and given out at the Dec. 7th hoping that will help, it concerns participation and communication.

Our VOD, Patriot Pen and Teacher of the Year winners have been determined and sent to Dept. for final judging and presentation of the 1st place winners at the Mid-Winter Conference Jan 24-26 at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo.

The 6th District winners that were sent

to Dept. for final State wide judging were:

Voice of Democracy

1st Abigail R. Morris Post 1584

2nd Emily G. Klyder Post 1138

3rd Jessica M. Wood Post 423

Patriot Pen

1st Madduy M. Overweg Post 6056

2nd Brennan M. Wyrem Belski 6464

3rd Gabrielle L. Ceccarelli 6464

Teacher of the Year

1st Jason R. Kubiak K-5 Post 6464

1st Michelle Spisz 6-8 Post 6464

1st Jill Thomas 9-12 Post 6464

2nd Erika Sponsler 9-12 Post 6056

3rd Jeff Goins 9-12 Post 4093

I wish them well in the future and will see the 1st place winners at the Mid-Winter conference.

There is only one more District meeting left for my term that will be held

on April 25 at Post 6056 Springport where we will have nominations and election for officers for the year of 2020-21.

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER - BILL THICK JR.



Welcome to 2020, fellow comrades! We had some ups and downs over the last decade, but I am optimistic that there will be more ups in the upcoming one. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed whatever Winter

holidays that you may celebrate. Mid-Winter Conference is coming up shortly. It will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, Mi. from Wednesday, January 22nd through Sunday, January 26th, 2020. I urge all Post Commanders, Post Sr. Vice-Commanders and Post Quartermasters to attend on Friday and Saturday, as well as District officers.

Please remember that every one of us has

served the United States of America and we all have passion for serving fellow veterans, their families and our communities. There are people who may not care for each other, but let's all try to treat each other with respect. We all have skills, assets, knowledge, etc. If we work together, our organization will be stronger.

Hope to see you at Mid-Winter!

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER - BOB WILSON



Dear Comrades and Aux Members of the 10th:

A lot of good things are happening throughout the District. Our reports are being reported

in a timely matter. Although our Hospital Reports still needs some work. You can't be telling us you have forgotten your fellow brothers and sisters. We know better. There is a big push to keep our membership up to date. If you know of a member who has not paid his or her's dues, please get them to do so. Remember, if a member is having hard times our Relief Fund can be used. You officers who have not paid your dues. If you

do not, you will be removed from office and will not be able to run again to the next year's elections. Membership is the life blood of our organization.

Elections are coming up. Remember you are responsible to notifying the Department and National of your elections. Also, in April you will get a notice from the Department about your convention responsibilities. If you do not plan to make the convention you still need to pay the fees and have all your reports in. Last year 11 Posts fail to execute their responsibilities and thus the district lost half our voting strength. As I see it, we do not have any new Post in our district, so your quarterly audits should never be late. If you are having issues with your audit, please let us know ASAP. Let's remember they are due 30

days after the quarter. Please make sure your bylaws, 990's and other tax responsibilities are taken care of. Don't wait to hear from the IRS or local tax boards.

District Meeting – February 8th, 2020 – Lawrence W. Smith VFW Post 4139 128 Daley Rd. Lapeer, MI. 48446. Phone: 810-664-9222

District Convention – May 9th, 2019 – (VFW Meeting) - Burton-Clark-Durocher VFW Post 2777 2260 S. Belsay Rd. Burton, MI. 48509 810-743-4138. (Aux Meeting) - Flint VFW Post 822 G-5065 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI. 48507.

School of Instructions at 10:00 (am) Lunch at 11:15 (am) and Meeting starting at 12:30 (pm).

DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER - DEAN MAKI



Greetings from the Upper Peninsula - The Winter Wonderland. Due to several back to back snow squalls we are sitting on about five feet of snow and somewhat seasonable temperatures near twenty degrees.

First of all, congratulations to District 14's Voice of Democracy winner, Bonnie Li from Post 3676 in Sault Ste. Marie. The Soo Post also claimed the Patriots Pen winner this year, Tiffeney Stratton. We wish them good luck in the department judging. We of course will honor them and their respective second and third place winners at our Spring Convention in April which will be hosted by Post 3165 in

Negaunee.

Although we do not meet in the winter anymore, please do not forget to send in the audit for that quarter.

Also please continue to remit any Hospital or Activities reports.

And of course: Retain, Renew, & Recruit.

I wish everyone a happy New Year.



DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER - DAN CARON



Welcome Veterans, I Pray that all had a Blessed Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas.

Our District is doing well but we need everyone to step up on your MEMBERSHIP and REPORTING.

Each one of our Posts and your activities is what keeps this District and Department of Michigan and National VFW going. Without

all your hard work our organization would crumble. A lot of work is still needed so let's get going in 2020.

DAY of CHALLENGES is scheduled for February 29th at Michigan Tech University. This is a department program with youth challenging each other's teams and I would like to see ALL Posts in the Department of Michigan do their part to participate and donate to this program.

February 9th is District 15's Mid-Winter conference.

It is **MANDATORY**, that all Posts have a representative at each District Meeting.

Meeting will be at: VFW Post 3134, 194 East Genesee Street, Iron River, MI.

Here is the schedule: (ALL TIMES CENTRAL)

Registration - 08:30-9:00am

Membership Training - 09:00-10:30am

Meeting - 10:30 - 12:00noon

Lunch - Following Meeting

Thank You from all District officers.



AUXILIARY DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS



DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT - LESIE GILLIES



Happy New Year District 6!! With the conclusion of Mid-Winter Conference comes congratulations for our VOD, Patriots Pen and Teacher of

the Year participants and winners. You might think it's time for a long winters nap, but that could not be farther from the truth. The

Young American Patriotic Art Contest and Illustrating America art entries are due to the Posts by March 31. Let's keep those kids involved.

It's time to get our second wind and push forward. Membership needs our helping hands to give it a boost. We are very close to making our 100% plus one goal. Currently we stand at 89% and only need 190 new or paid current members. Let's get out there and share this wonderful opportunity to support

our veterans and communities with others

Don't forget our final District 6 meeting will be held at the VFW Adams-Rockey Post 6056 in Springport on April 25. Registration and the audit will start at 10AM, luncheon and meeting to follow. We will be electing new officers and having a training about audits. All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

I hope everyone has a warm and safe winter.



DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT - JANE DADY

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone"
-Ronald Regan

I would like to thank all our loving

and caring members for the outstanding work you have done for our veterans. Boxes and cards were mailed to our troops, homeless veterans were clothed, fed and given information. Our veterans were invited into homes. Hospitalized veterans were visited and those in nursing homes were greeted with smiles and presents. And so much more! The hundreds of veterans that were helped or assisted could not have been accomplished without your caring and generosity. Thank you District 11 for all you have done and continue to do for our Military, Veterans and their families.

If you are a veteran reading this and are in need, the National Home's HELPLINE is 1-800-313-4200.

The VA's Crisis line is 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.

You can also contact your local VFW and Auxiliary. Never believe that caring people can't change your world!

On behalf of District 11, we would like to Thank a bingo player from Post 5680 St. Helen.

This player's name is Edna Blair. She crocheted lap robes to help #5678's Christmas part that they are having for veterans. Edna heard they needed 40 lap robes and she was willing to help. This is not her first time helping the VFW (she is not a member of the Auxiliary either). She has sent lap robes preciously to the Grand Rapids Veterans home and to other homes in the state. Edna just was willing to help in any way that she could.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Edna!



BK® ANNUAL CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

NATIONAL VFW

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (November 5, 2019)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is pleased to announce nearly 800 participating BURGER KING® restaurants will be raising funds throughout the month of November in support of the VFW's Unmet Needs program. BURGER KING® customers are encouraged to donate \$1 or more to the program with their purchase.

"Military and veteran families can count on the VFW when their military service causes unexpected financial hardship," said VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz.

"But it's because of the loyal and continued support from thousands of BURGER KING® franchisees and patrons that we're able to provide those families with the vital support they need to get through the tough and trying times."

The VFW Unmet Needs program provides grants of up to \$1,500 to service members and military families who experience times of financial hardship due to military service. The grants help with basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments, vehicle repair, medical expenses and food. Since its inception in 2004, Unmet Needs has awarded

more than \$11.4 million in assistance to more than 10,200 service members, veterans and their families.

Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees have raised more than \$6 million in support of the program. The fundraising campaign, now in its 13th year, raised nearly \$800,000 in 2018.

Hundreds of locations nationwide participated in last year's fundraising campaign with even higher participation expected this year.

Find a participating BURGER KING® restaurant near you.



Post REPORTS



POST #582 ORTONVILLE



Ron Allen, Dennis Hoffman, Carl Jeffrey & John Wudarcki presented a glass apple award to 4th grade teacher, Sharon Voyer



Post members perform a flag folding ceremony at Veterans Day concert



Post presented girl scout troop 76460 patriotic certificates



Post members and girl scouts getting set to place wreaths at the Ortonville cemetery on November 20th, 2019

POST #2233 DETROIT



Post Honor Guard presents the colors to the children during a Veterans Day program



Post Members celebrate their 16th Annual Ball



Comrade Curtis Clark & Comrade Tommy Payne perform a Missing Man's Table Ceremony during Veterans Day program



Auxiliary Members during the Donates & Serves Dinner to Veterans at Volunteers of America



Post Members participating in the Detroit Veterans Day Parade 2019

POST #2144 HOLLAND

In recognition of Veterans Day on Monday, November 11, 90th District State Representative Bradley Slagh presented an American Flag that flew over the state capitol to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2144 in Holland. Slagh, R-Zeeland, visited the Post at 175 West 8th Street in Holland presented a flag that flew over the capitol on October 3rd of this year.

"The deal for me is how do we honor those folks who have served us and fought for and protected our freedom?" Slagh said. "This is a prime day for us to remember that. This is an opportunity to say, 'Thank you' to these folks."

Slagh presented the flag to Post Commander Michael Martin, who said it is an honor for the Post to be recognized. "It's important for us to get this recognition," Martin said. "We do a lot of things in our community and recognition like this motivates our members to serve the community even more."



L-R : Quartermaster Garrett Dickey, Representative Bradley Slagh, Post Commander Michael Martin, and Senior Vice Commander Jenna Schaub.

POST #5678 TAWAS CITY

Tawas City VFW Post 5678 dedicated 6 new flag poles added to the Tawas City Memorial Gardens Cemetery on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019.

The poles were donated by Laura & George Rieth in honor of Laura's daughter, Amber H. Finnell, who died on 30 June 2009 while serving with the U.S.A.F. in Portugal.

Flags were provided by Post 5678.



POST #4090 PORTLAND

In late 2018, Boy Scout Jesse Ward of Troop 129 approached VFW Post 4090 with an offer to build a fire pit on the Post property as his Eagle Scout project. The fire pit would be used for proper flag disposal and retirement.

Post commander Bill Almy submitted the project in detail to the Post membership for their approval. The motion passed with unanimous support.

After months of planning, the project started and was completed June 30, 2019.



Eagle Scout Jesse Ward was the project manager from start to finish. He designed, developed, raised the money and enlisted the labor to complete the entire project.

On September 28, at 11:00 am. a dedication ceremony took place at Post 4090.

Jesse welcomed the 50 guests and proceeded to explain the details of the construction of the fire pit. Jesse thanked the volunteers who gave their time to help in the construction. He also thanked Cook Brothers Excavation Co. for their donation of the materials for building up the ground and landscaping that was involved.

At the conclusion of Jesse's opening speech, both Commander Almy and Jesse proceeded to the pedestal plaque where



Jesse was presented with a certificate of achievement from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Jesse then presented a check to the Post of additional monies left over from the project to be deposited into the VFW Post Veteran's Relief Fund.

Commander Almy stated, "This idea proved to be a blessing to our Post, our veterans and our community in many ways. First, it offered all of us an opportunity to witness a service that most have never seen. Secondly, it gave us a perfect location for retiring our greatest symbol of freedom, the American flag."

After the dedication ceremony was finished, Eagle Scout Jesse Ward invited the audience to witness an actual flag retirement

ceremony.

Jesse explained, "Today we honor the symbol of our American freedom, the American flag, as we retire her from duty". He went to explain the history of "old glory" and closed with "look at her with renewed allegiance, honor her, respect her and defend her."

Commander Almy and Jesse Ward each carried a flag to the fire pit for its final rest. Boy Scouts color guards each took turns carrying a flag to the fire pit for retirement where they came to attention and gave a salute.

When the last flag was retired, the ceremony closed with the playing of Taps.

Commander Almy closed the ceremony with, "The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Auxiliary and the American Legion are very proud of this project and of the Boy Scouts of America. Thank you for attending today's ceremony and god bless America."



POST #3701 LAKEVIEW



Post members honored eldest member, James Shaw WWII, with life member hat



Post members participated in the 2019 Waterfowl for Warriors Veteran Hunt



Post & Auxiliary members honor veterans & spouses at Veterans Day program

POST #9931 BRIDGEPORT



Post Commander prepares to lead annual 2019 Saginaw County PRIDE parade



Post members show support during the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Cancer Walk/Saginaw County.



Commander Kimberly A. Napoleon honored as a "Change Maker" in her hometown for her longtime service to Veterans and her community.



Military Order of the Cootie, Pup Tent 32 Fenton, MI



Senator Ken Horn, 95th District Representative Vanessa Guerra and Commander Napoleon present Vietnam Tribute pins to 20 veterans on 11/14/19



City Council Member & Vietnam Veteran Willie Haynes receives a certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Saginaw City Council

41ST ANNUAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA / JANUARY 24-25TH**Friday, January 24**

- 8 am - 4 pm Great Lakes Room / Registration Table, Program Display Tables
Banquet Tickets
- 9 am - 11:30 am Prairies / Budget & Finance, Service Officer Committee
PTSD Seminar, Director's Reports
- 11:30 am - 1 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
- 1 pm - 4:30 pm Stone Theatre / VTS Training
- 4 pm - 4:30 pm TBA / CMDR, SR, JR Session, Redistrict Committee
- 5:30 pm Zazio / Night on the Town
- 6 pm VOD event for students
- 7 pm - 11 pm Room 813 / Department Hospitality Room
- Dress Code : Meetings / Commander Fineis' shirt Night on the Town / Casual**

Saturday, January 25

- 8 am - 8:50 am Meadows / Council of Administration Breakfast
- 8 am - 11:30 pm Great Lakes Room / Registration
- 8 am - 4 pm Great Lakes Room / Program Display Tables, Banquet Tickets
- ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11:30 AM**
- 9 am - 9:30 am Prairies / Camp Trotter Meeting
- 9:45 am - 12 pm Prairies / Council of Administration
- 12 pm - 1:30 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
- 2:30 pm - 3 pm Glens / VFW Aux VOD/PP Reception
- 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Fields / VOD/PP Students, District Cmdr. / Pres. head table line up
- 5:30 pm Head table seated
- 6 pm Arcadia Ballroom / VOD/PP Banquet

Meetings Dress Code : Council of Administration (jacket and tie)**Any Past State Commander's shirt and tan pants for all others****Banquet Dress Code : / Suite or sport coat and tie / Head table, black tux./formal****We are honoring our VOD and PP Students, please DO NOT take alcoholic beverages in the banquet hall. Thank you****MID-WINTER HOTEL INFORMATION****Make Your Reservation ASAP
Space is very limited**

To Make Reservations Call the Radisson Plaza Hotel / **Phone 269-343-3333**
100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007

- Please make your reservations as soon as you receive this information.
- Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.
- A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.
- Rates are subject to 6% State Tax And 5% Occupancy Tax.
- Discounted rates available Wednesday January 22, 2020 - Sunday, January 26, 2020.

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

Group Room Rates :
Standard Rooms / \$109 Suites / \$149

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE

Our Commander-in-Chief is offering a new Life membership incentive program. All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to Life beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 store credit. This credit must be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Upgrade, pay off or reinstate your Life membership today! <http://bit.ly/2VDSulH>

SNOWBIRD ADDRESS UPDATE

Quartermasters now have the ability to update snowbird addresses to ensure members to receive their VFW mail.

- Go to Post QM Services
- Click on "Member Contact Info"
- Click on "Edit"
- You will see the "From" and "To", these are dates that the member will be at their winter location.
- Add the winter address
- Hit "Submit"

**VFW CAMP TROTTER FOR CHILDREN
14TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING**
Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020**VILLAGE GREEN GOLF COURSE**

8130 Bingham Ave - Newaygo, MI 49337

8am Registration / 9am Shotgun Start

\$60 per person / \$240 per team

Includes 18 holes, lunch at the turn, grilled steak dinner, team prizes & door prizes

This form must be submitted with fees by June 15, 2020

Captain's Name : _____ Phone : _____

Player #2 : _____

Player #3 : _____

Player #4 : _____

Hole/Tee Sponsor \$55 _____ Cash Donation _____

☐ I am able to donate items for prizes, please contact me**Checks payable to :VFW Camp Trotter for Children****Mail to : Roberts Benderman / 3893 Macarthur Rd - Muskegon, MI 49442**Questions? Contact Bob 231-773-2076 / rsb002@comcast.net**MICHIGAN OVERSEAS
VETERAN NEWSLETTER**

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**Postmaster: Send address changes to
MOV Editor Stacey Roberts
7901 Backus Rd, Greenville, MI 48838**

ROLL CALL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

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

345 Redford
Heikkinen, Iver M. 76 Army/Vietnam

607 Rogers City
Brege, Earl J. 93 Army/WWII

796 Port Huron
Irvin, Roger M. 94 Army/WWII
Springer, Vernon M. 72 Army/Vietnam

1519 Northville
Cardenas, Albert 70 Army/Marines

1887 Menominee
Clark, John 86 Army/Korea/Vietnam
Hubbard, Warren 92 Navy/WWII
Schacht, Fred 87, Navy/Korea
Schmidt, Arnold 94 Army/WWII

2144 Holland
Feikema, Robert F. Jr. 90 Navy/WWII
Gilley, Danny 71 Army/Vietnam
Speet, Anthony 100 Army/WWII
VanderMeulen, Raymond
91 Army Air Corps/WWII

3023 Grand Rapids
Belke, James 87 Navy/Korea
Burchfield, Richard 76
Gregones, William J. 73 Navy/Vietnam
Peterson, Gene E. 74 Navy/Desert Storm
Smith, Clayton L. 72 Vietnam

3134 Iron River
Sorby, Ernest C. 92 Navy/WWII

3293 Grand Ledge
Robinson, John 72 Air Force/Vietnam

3701 Lakeview
Schwandt, Lloyd 96 Army/WWII

4005 Corunna
Darnell, Arthur K. 79
Army/Korea/Vietnam
Follen, Harold L. 88 Army/Korea
Ryan, Michael 92 Army/WWII

4054 Marcellus
Hackenberg, Leon 76 Army
Rice, Dale 87 Army/Korea

4090 Portland
Kiter, Brian 56 Marines/Lebanon

4162 Hamtramck
Hedrick, Gary W. 71 Army/Vietnam

4499 Manistee
Guthridge, Richard 72 Army/Vietnam
Matthewson, Harry 92 Navy/WWII
Sielski, Ted S. 104 Army/WWII
Yoder, Floyd H. 93 Coast Guard/WWII

6248 Decatur
Tolles, Burr 72 Army/Vietnam

6464 Fowlerville
Gulowski, Edward 82 Army/Korea
House, Walter B. 94
Army Air Corps/WWII
Leach, Kenneth R. 91 Army/Korea

6756 Center Line
Viriden, Chadwick C. 73 Army/Vietnam

6782 Eastpointe
Cannarella, Paul 96 Army/WWII
Fasseel, John 82 Navy/Korea
Levites, Joseph 91 WWII

6864 Cadillac
French, Roger A. 75 Army/Vietnam

7542 Birch Run
Ruddy, Bernard C. 72 Army/Vietnam

7805 Ithaca
Boyer, Gwendell L. 94
Army Air Corps/WWII
Loudenslager, Donald E. 81
Navy/Vietnam

9023 Brimley
Graham, Kenneth 87 Army/Korea

9388 Muskegon
Robertson, Naman L. Sr. 93
Air Force/WWII

9656 Lambertville
Fair, Barton 71 Army/Vietnam

MAY WE NEVER FORGET



DESIGNER & EDITOR,
STACEY ROBERTS

Thank you for the great articles shared. It is nice to read the helpful information on our programs and all the happenings at Posts across the state. Please keep submitting these wonderful articles and encourage our comrades to subscribe to the MOV email or hard-copy by contacting me. Happy Holidays!

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be returned for revision. **We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.** The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

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Articles & images for consideration should be sent to:
MOV@VFWMI.ORG
7901 Backus Road - Greenville, MI 48838
Next article deadline : March 15, 2020

TAPS FORM	
Comrades, please copy this form and use it for your TAPS report.	
Send completed form to: VFW of Michigan 924 N Washington - Lansing, MI 48906	
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(Last Name)	
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(First Name)	
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(Age)	(Date of Death)
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(Post)	
<hr/>	
(City)	
Branch of Service (Circle One):	
ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY	
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD	
Served in (Circle one):	
WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM	
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN	
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES	