

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •



June/July/August 2018

Volume 85 Number 4

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

This VFW year is coming to an end and the State Convention is just around the corner. Congratulations to Commander Matt and President Bonnie on a job well done. I would like to thank our State Commander Matt for his many years of dedicated service to our organization and to our veterans throughout the state. Thank you so much for your leadership. It has been my pleasure to serve with you these last two years at the Department of Michigan VFW.

Congratulations to all the Posts that have achieved All-State. You worked hard to achieve this honor so enjoy it. I look forward to seeing all of you at our State Convention in June.

For the incoming officers whose terms start in June, the month of May is critical. Your reporting starts this month. You cannot afford to get behind this early in the year. Set your goals and stay ahead of your deadlines, as this will make your year much easier to handle.

By the time you read my article, the new officers for 2018-2019 will have already been elected and installed at our posts, councils, and districts. I want to first congratulate each new officer and chairperson. Please learn and understand your duties and responsibilities well, so you, your post, your council, your district, and your Department will be successful throughout 2018-2019.



Phil Patterson
Senior Vice Commander

Please make sure your Election Reports are submitted to National, Department and your District Commander. Department will receive your Election Reports "electronically," once you submit them to National "electronically".

National and Department Delegate fees should be paid, and the delegate names sent in. Quartermasters and Commanders should have done this right after the elections in April.

Don't forget the year is not quite over and our membership goes on until June 30, 2018. We are always looking for new or reinstated members.

Just to clear up and stop all rumors about the Department roster, each District and Post will receive a new Department roster. The roster will also be on the Department website and will be updated as new information comes in.

What ever rumors you may hear throughout this next year I strongly urge you to find out the facts before spreading what you have heard, doing this will stop a lot of bad

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 14

STATE ADJ/QUARTERMASTER

Here comes the busy season. I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather. Before you know it the summer will be here and gone.

Life Membership Board of Trustees approved the following will be the 2019 Life Member payout. The National Council of Administration concurred in that payout at its March 5, 2018 meeting.

>Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.44 for each life member (\$3.48 to each Post, Department and National).

>Plan D - A total payout of \$11.58 for each life member (\$3.86 to each Post, Department and National).

>Plan E - A total payout of \$22.50 for each life member (\$7.50 to each Post, Department and National).

As indicated in the By-Laws, payment will be made in September 2018 for all Life Members recorded as of August 31,



Lynn Patterson
Department ADJ/Quartermaster

2018. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2019 for all Life Members processed during the period September 1 through December 31.

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office

ADJ/QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 2

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

To the members of the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and it's Auxiliary, thank you!!! Thank you for all the smiles and the warm hearts. Thank you for the friendship and love given to Cindy. You energize her.

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

"I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself. A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough without ever having felt sorry for itself." By D. H. LAWRENCE

Comrades, the above poem is entitled "SELF PITY." Comrades, too many of us are in the state of self-pity. "We can't get enough members to a meeting. We can't get the chairs filled." For those of you in the above situation ask yourself this: do I have a decent



Mike Fineis
Junior Vice Commander

Membership Letter? If not, try the following letter below.

Dear Veteran,
For those of you who have been turned off about the VFW, for whatever reason, know the following: Every organization has a "know it all" that does little but complain. Every organization has a "ladder climber" who does not care who they step on to climb the ladder. Every organization has those who would take what is not theirs.

Allow me to address the negative personnel above. But I need your help. I need your membership. Your membership helps the National Commander when

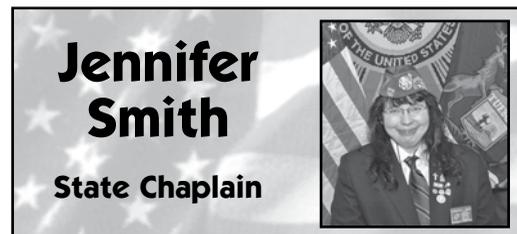
JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 14

STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers:

This marks the end of the fiscal year for our MOV. After elections, a new year will start and continue worthy service goals. It is only fitting, as we embrace the full spring, to convey humble words of hope both in our organizational and personal journeys when experiencing challenges.

From desolation to hopefulness, let us embrace positive tactics. As you know, loss, betrayal, and other anguish result in wounds, some rather deep. Please remember that we may never fully recover but the scars of healing are from endurance not withdrawal. The difference between joy and melancholy; high road and low blow; astuteness and folly; productivity and 'wishdom;' and endurance and entanglement is often choice. That means, despite possible constraints of illness or hardship, may we try *as we can* to



Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain

either push through or become encumbered in stagnate toxicity. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (ESV): "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed[;]"

For veterans and others, organizational success in times of strife may involve being open to consider other apt perspectives (Proverbs 9:9-10). Personal success may also relate to pursuing the competent assistance of faith groups, Comrades, clinicians, and/

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued on page 14

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

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

**DEPARTMENT OF
MICHIGAN VFW
99TH ANNUAL
DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION**

JUNE 7-9, 2018

CONVENTION RULES AND PROCEDURES

“The presiding officer of this 99th Annual Convention shall be the Department Commander or any person he may delegate as a temporary chairman during any session.”

“The minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transacting of business at the State Convention shall be not less than one (1) delegate each from ten (10) posts in the Department. Once established in a session, a quorum shall be deemed to exist unless challenged from the floor by a delegate.”

“The Convention will be governed by Robert’s Rules of Order 11th Edition except where they conflict with our Department Charter and By Laws or a specific provision of these rules.”

“The Convention will proceed in order of business as stated in the convention program.”

“Business requiring the action of elected Department delegates shall be the only business of this State Convention.”

“Where time of recess has been set up, recess time shall be as stated by the chair; and when recess has been declared, the order of business on hand at the time of recess shall be the first order of business of the next session.”

“All committee reports shall be accepted or rejected by a motion on the floor.”

“In addressing the chair, the delegates shall first rise and identify themselves by name, post number and district, and speak from a microphone.” (There are three microphones set up in the aisles. They are numbered 1, 2 and 3).

“No delegate shall speak more than twice on any subject and the speaker shall be limited to five (5) minutes. A motion shall be in order at any times to limit the debate or discussion on any subject; provided however, that a motion is passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting. The person reporting for a committee or a maker of a motion shall be permitted three (3) minutes rebuttal time unless overruled by the chairman. Any delegate desiring a roll call on any subject on the floor may so move and if supported by three (3) posts, the roll call will be called.”

“If the chair is in doubt on a voice vote or any action, the chair may request a roll call vote.”

“The decision of the chair shall be final unless an appeal is made. Appeals of the decisions of the chair shall be requested by at least five (5) or more posts representing at least three (3) or more districts.”

“At the request of the chairman, the



Parliamentarian shall advise the chair in matters of Parliamentary Procedure, but the decision of the chair shall be final unless appealed by the convention.”

“Resolutions shall be submitted in writing and shall be signed by a delegate or officer of the sponsoring Post and shall be submitted to the chairman of the Resolutions Committee. No resolution shall be submitted after 11:00 am Saturday, June 9, 2018.”

“The chair may refer any and all resolutions held over, back to committee to meet with objectors, then return back to the convention floor.”

“Voting: Each member of the Department Convention as those persons defined in Section 504 present at a meeting of the convention shall be entitled to one vote, and an individual possessing more than one (1) qualification for membership in the Department Convention shall have no more than one (1) vote. The delegate or delegates of a post present at a meeting of the Department Convention shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which post is entitled. The Post Commander, or the Senior or Junior Vice Commander functioning in his place as a member of the convention, may, at his option, choose to vote as a delegate rather than as a Post Commander. Should there be a division among delegates representing the post, each delegate present shall cast his pro rata share of the total delegate voting strength of the post. A roll call may be required and entered upon the record of the Department Convention at the call of any three (3) officers or delegates representing three (3) different posts.”

“Election of Department Officers will be called for at approximately 3:00 pm Saturday, June 9, 2018.”

“Posts that are under suspension in the opening of the State Convention will not be eligible to vote. Post suspension will not be lifted after the convention has opened.”

“Posts that are in arrears to Department for poppy orders; posts that are not bonded; posts that have not submitted an election report of officers; posts that have not paid their Department Convention delegate fees; or Posts that are delinquent for any quarterly report of trustees audit will not be eligible to vote under Section 213 of the National by laws. Post eligibility to vote will be restored immediately upon receipt of evidence of resolution of the deficiency.”

At this time, these are the posts with outstanding obligations to the department:

All cell phones shall be turned off or placed in the vibration mode. Any conversations on cell phones shall be conducted outside of the convention floor unless pre-approved by the chairman.

Registration shall close on Saturday at 11:00 am.

ADJ./QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post-Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters. Posts that do not do election reports via VFW website are to forward them to the State Adjutant.

Post Commanders are directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that was mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing that went out in February. Advanced registration for the 119th National Convention should be mailed with each delegate’s name and address to: Convention Registration, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure: Provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for

each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election.

Any Post in arrears for National, Department or District dues, Poppy monies, supply monies, or other financial obligations, or failing to have the Quartermaster properly bonded, or failing to submit properly completed Quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Report shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Representation will be restored upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

Internal Revenue Service Form 990: Post Commanders should ensure that information returns are filed annually on Form 990. These forms may be obtained by calling Federal Tax Forms & Publications hot-line @ 800-829-3676. The forms must be filed on or before the 15th of the fifth month following the close of the respective annual accounting period. If gross receipts are \$50,000 or less, you need to file e-postcard 990N online. The IRS asks ONLY the heading on page one to be completed, being sure to check Box B and send it to the Ogden IRS Center, Ogden, UT 84201.

Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars is now subscription based and expires on their anniversary date. All officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of each and every continuous member prior to their expiration. Reports showing members 30, 60, and 90 days from expiration can be obtained by the Post Quartermaster through the Online Membership System (OMS). Commanders: On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

Thank you for all you do on a daily basis for your Post, County Council, District and Dept. of MI VFW.

State Inspector

Comrades it is election time soon.

Remember that all audits must be completed within 30 days of the completion of the Quarter. You must have the signatures of the 3 trustees and the Commanders signature on the Audit before you submit it to Department.

Also for the Trustees line 15 and 17 must match. The ending balance of the previous quarter must be the beginning balance of the new quarter. This is a big issue throughout the department.

Also the national by-laws (219) state a RELIEF fund will be established and maintained by the POST. Comrades the audit is a very important part of the post and needs to be accurate.

If you need any assistance contact the district personnel first then contact me or the department. The district officers are there to assist you so don’t be afraid to ask for help.

Upon elections for all the new Trustees and Quartermasters please make sure that they attend a VTS training session to help with their position the first one is June 23rd at Camp Trotter in Newaygo cost of \$30.00 person includes meals.

**Butch Ogden
State Inspector**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Deadline dates for the next
Michigan Overseas Veteran**

August 1, 2018

November 1, 2018

February 1, 2019

April 1, 2019

**99th Annual State Convention
June 7-8-9, 2018**



POW/MIA Director

Greetings Comrades!

It has been a busy year so far and so much has been happening on the home front. Many of our Nation's MIA's are being identified and returned to their loved ones who have waited so long. I try to keep a regular update on the FB page National POW/MIA Honor Guard. If you are on FB, and request to join the site, or send a friend request to Jim Fernandez and I will add you to the page. This will be a great resource for making your monthly meeting reports for your post and districts. No one is dead unless they are forgotten and it's our duty to our missing Brothers and Sisters to be very visible and vocal in order to keep our MIA's from being forgotten! Wear your POW/MIA shirts or hats and be prepared to educate who ever asks what POW/MIA means and stands for. Education is the key to understanding. By

doing this you will be doing your part in further fulfilling our Nation's promise that "NO MAN IS LEFT BEHIND"!!!

Make sure when you are making your monthly reports that you put your District and Post number on them. If you have questions on if it should be on the report, then add it to your report, and we will check it out. "The only stupid question is a question not asked"! Once again, "EDUCATION" is the key to understanding. We are the students and we are the educators all in one nut shell. Above all, answer all questions politely no matter how silly or stupid the question might be.

I hope that you are all in good health, and to see you at the Convention and thank you for all that you do in keeping the memory alive!

Jim Fernandez

BIOS

Benjamin (Ben) L. Light joined the VFW Service Office staff on August 26, 2017 following in the footsteps of his grandfather who also was a VFW service officer. Ben gained his eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars by serving with the United States Army from January 2004 to May 2006. From 2004 to 2005, Ben served in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division. During his time in service he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

He became a life member of the VFW in 2010 and serves as Senior Vice Commander, Legislative Chairperson, and Community Activities Chairperson at James Europe Post 2233 in Detroit. Ben represented his post as a delegate for both the State Convention and National Convention in New Orleans. Ben is married to Leah Light. Ben and Leah welcomed their first child and future VFW Auxiliary Member Jude, into the world on October 23, 2017. Ben will be performing service officer duties at the Detroit Regional Office.

VFW Michigan recently hired a new service officer, **Sean P. Kelly**. Sean served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007-2011. He served with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Weapons Company at Camp Pendleton, CA as an 81mm mortarman. Sean earned his VFW eligibility through two eight month deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan where he participated in counterinsurgency operations. Sean is a 2015 graduate of Central Michigan University with a degree in Political Science. He lives with his lovely fiancée, two dogs and two cats. Sean looks forward to serving his fellow veterans while working at the Detroit Regional Office and becoming involved with his local VFW Post.

Ross Urtel served four years in the US Navy from 2006 to 2010. Ross was inspired to join the military by stories of his late grandfather who served as an Army Engineer during World War II. Ross also joined an elite engineering program when he was awarded the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command's Personal Excellence Award in 2007.

While serving aboard the nuclear carrier USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), Ross kept his shipmates equipped and ready for emergencies as a Reactor Department Damage Control Petty Officer (DCPO). Following his discharge in 2010, Ross completed his Master's degree in Criminal Justice at Wayne State University by way of the post 9/11 G.I. Bill. Later, while working at the Detroit Zoo, Ross became involved in the Hiring Our Heroes event at the Detroit VAMC. Providing employment opportunities to his fellow veterans led him to consider a career as a professional veteran's advocate. He is hopeful that the rigorous academic standards demanded by the U.S. Navy will help him to be successful as a VFW Claims Officer at the Detroit Regional Office.

Troy North served four years in the US Navy from 1992 to 1996. He was stationed in Atsugi, Japan with VAQ-136 as an Aviation Structural Mechanic where he worked on the EA-6B Prowler while attached to the USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). Troy's next assignment after serving in Japan was going state side to Whidbey Island, Washington where he was attached to VAQ-140 and served on the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73). Troy completed two West PACS, one Mediterranean cruise and three tours in the Persian Gulf. After Troy's military service he spent the next 20 plus years working in Aviation and in education. He is married to his lovely wife Vanessa of 18 years. He will be assigned to the VA Medical Center Ann Arbor and looking forward to serving his fellow Veteran to the best of his ability.

On behalf of the Honor Guard

I want to thank all the District Commanders & Presidents for distributing envelopes to you on behalf of the Honor Guard and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Veterans of Foreign War and Auxiliary Posts for your support for our Basket of Cheer Raffle and a special thank you goes out to all the Posts that sent in a donation over and above the ten dollars for the five tickets. Your support does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated by the entire Honor Guard team for without your continued support we would have a much larger out of pocket expense. Anyone that would like more tickets can email me at jerryasher@att.net. Please mail in your money, stubs, and any unsold tickets by June 1 or you can drop them off at the Honor Guard table any day of the State Convention prior to the drawing. Our Basket of Cheer will be on display at the State Convention and we will have additional tickets for sale until they run out. Prizes are first prize is the Basket of Cheer plus \$100.00, second prize is \$100.00, third prize is \$50.00. Drawing is on the 9TH of June 2018.

Department Service Officers SUCCESS STORY

As often happens when meeting with a prospective client you may be pleasantly surprised at the final outcome of a claim. Our service officer met with the daughter of a surviving spouse at an assisted living facility. The widow was relocating back to Michigan after having suffered a stroke that left her with debilitating health issues and unable to live on her own. The daughter was seeking information on any form of assistance her mother might be qualified for.

After obtaining the basic information needed to initiate the claim our service officer learned the widow had received benefits shortly after her husband's death in 1995. This bit of information was critical to the overall claim. The widow had been in receipt of survivor's pension until she was eligible to receive social security benefits. After that the widow was making ends meet with her social security benefits alone...and then the stroke happened.

Upon reviewing the DD 214 the service officer learned the veteran had served in Vietnam. Attention was immediately directed at the death certificate which indicated the veteran passed away as a result of heart disease. Heart disease is recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a presumptive disease associated with Agent Orange exposure.

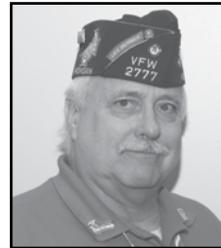
There was no question in the mind of the service officer concerning the widow's eligibility to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC is a tax free monetary benefit paid to eligible

survivors of military Service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease. What was a matter of keen interest was how far back the VA would go for awarding the benefit.

This is not a question easily answered for many. The widow filed the claim in October 2017 so many would consider the date of claim as the effective date. In some cases the VA will recognize the effective date one year prior to the date of claim. At other times the VA will consider the date the law went into effect. Ischemic heart disease was added to the presumptive disease list in October 2010. Confused yet? Now you know why our service officers undergo such specialized training.

There is yet another situation that allows the VA to award an effective date before an illness was added to the presumptive list. In this case it was when the widow initially filed for survivor's benefits in January 1995. That's right. Even though the widow filed for DIC in 2017 the VA awarded her back to the initial date of claim in 1995. The widow received a payment for over \$175,000! And that's not all. Because the stroke left her in need of the aid and assistance (A&A) of another person to cope with the activities of daily living the widow qualified for the A&A enhancement which adds \$317.87 to the monthly benefit. Despite her unique health challenges the surviving spouse will be able to enjoy a comfortable quality of life. No one does more for veterans ...or their surviving spouses.

Military Order of the Cootie "Doing BIG Things for Veterans"



Greetings, Comrades and Members of the MOCA!

—Grand Commander Michael Bayne and Grand President Ivy Schaffer wanted to close the year by thanking all of you who participated in supporting the Grand this year. They 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 is scheduled in June and we need your help. Please continue to support our Grand by sending a donation to our Grand Quartermaster Ernie Pauline.

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

Michigan Nitpickers" for 2017-2018

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along very nicely with the help of PGC Bob Routhier Jr. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grands 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. He also would like to welcome aboard our new MOCA from Pup Tent PT-34 "Chippewa Braves" out of Midland, MI. As of this date, we have two VFW Post looking to become Pup Tent. Remember membership is the life blood of both the VFW and the MOC.

The Grand Commander Michael Bayne would also like to thank again, the MOCA and its Grand President Ivy Schaffer for their help and support throughout the year.

Get well wishes to all who are sick and disabled. Condolences to those who have lost loved ones. Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison





DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Gary Gamble
District 4 Commander



Greetings,

It has been a distinct honor and privilege serving as your District 4 Commander this year. I am very proud of each and every post on what you have been able to accomplish supporting the VFW mission. Even though the finish line for the 2017-18 year may be in sight, the year and the work of the VFW are not over. Please continue to report all your

they obtained 100% again. Not only can it be done once but, it can be done twice in the same year. Great job by all the members of Post 9283 for getting it done! In addition, Dearborn Hts. VFW Post 9973 and Trenton VFW Post 1888 also achieved **100% in Membership** since, the last edition of the MOV. The outstanding recruiting efforts and membership retention being done today will

Post 345	Hubert-Fortiers-O'Grady May 28, 1919	99 Years
Post 1136	City of Wyandotte February 19, 1924	94 Years
Post 9283 – 100%	Cpl. Lambert A. Pfeiffer Jr. February 3, 1946	72 Years
Post 6896	Sgt. Stanley Romanowski May 12, 1946	72 Years
Post 7310	General William S. Knudson May 19, 1946	72 Years
Post 9363 – 100%	Miller-Strawn June 1, 1947	71 Years
Post 9973 – 100%	Moroz-Pietrowski May 28, 1949	69 Years
Post 4230	Rock of Gibraltar May 15, 1966	52 Years

activities and continue to work on increasing and retaining your post membership. Let's continue to work together and support one another going forward and assist all the newly elected and appointed officers. The work we do today ensures we will have a strong membership for tomorrow. I look forward to the continued success of every post for years to come and I remain standing by to assist with that mission in any way I can. Together, is how we help veterans and do the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The members of Cpl. Lambert A. Pfeiffer Jr. VFW Post 5572 located in Allen Park and the City of Southgate VFW Post 9283 located in Southgate joined ranks and are now consolidated and one post. They are a much stronger and improved post as they continue to serve veterans and the community. Today they are known as the Cpl. Lambert A. Pfeiffer Jr. VFW Post 9283 meeting in Southgate. I wish them many more years of success doing the great work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Next, I would like to extend a warm and **Happy Birthday** to the following Posts from District 4. Each and every one of these posts has a long and storied history of supporting veterans and their communities over many decades. They have over 600 years of combined service supporting the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars! So, please join me in wishing them many more years of success doing the great work of the VFW.

BIG CONGRATULATIONS goes out to VFW Post 9283 for achieving **100% in membership TWICE!** The second time came after consolidating with Allen Park VFW Post 5572 and in a few short weeks of working the new membership numbers

ensure a strong membership in the future. These posts are leading from the front and setting the example for us to follow. Remember, the membership year ends on June 30. So, please continue to work hard to get those last few unpaid members renewed along with recruiting new members right up until the last day. Some posts are very close and only need a couple more to achieve 100%

ATTENTION ALL ANNUAL MEMBERS READING THIS!!! STOP READING and PULL OUT YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARD AND CHECK THE DATE! Does your membership card have an expiration date that falls before July 1, 2018? If so, please **RENEW** your **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP** or purchase a Life Membership **TODAY!** Keep in mind, there is **NO PENALTY** or disadvantage for early renewal and we both know you want to remain a member of the greatest combat veteran organization in the world that leads the nation in helping all veterans! It's a simple and quick process to renew your membership. Any Annual member can simply go to this website: <https://www.vfw.org/OMS/QuickRenew.aspx> and SAFELY pay your dues online or you can **call toll free 1-800-963-3180** and renew your Annual membership or purchase a Life membership over the phone. Remember, it's not about the cost of membership it's the price you already paid to be eligible to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The District 4 - VFW Riders membership stands at 42 with 12 being VFW Auxiliary members and we are still growing. Monthly meetings are currently being held at Lincoln Park VFW Post 552 on the 1st Friday of

—DISTRICT 4, continued on page 18



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Mike Oleksiak
District 5 Commander



Comrades,

How the time has flown by. This is my last article for the MOV as your District 5 Commander. I can honestly say that I have learned a great deal of information regarding all of the different situations that happen on all levels of the Posts that I have had a chance to visit or speak to over the telephone.

I want to thank all, and I do mean all of the people who I have called on and who have mentored me for information on different issues. Again, a huge thank you!!! And you

all know who you are!

Moving forward, I welcome the new incoming Commander and all of his officers for the upcoming year. I know it will be a good experience for all of you. Have a great year and keep the 5th District as good as it has been!

Yours in comradeship

Michael Oleksiak
5th District Commander



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Steve Jueemann
District 8 Commander



Here we go again! Spring has sprung, tripped in a pothole and fell flat on its' face in the muddy water. Not a heckuva start for all of us that are very tired of cold and wet and cloudy weather. But, we're temperate zone people, so it's not supposed to faze us. We're going to keep on going, doing everything we can to support our VFW and Auxiliary, and all the projects we have. First of all, congratulations to all the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy winners at this year's banquet at the Radisson in Kalamazoo. We made sure that each and every one knew how much we appreciate them., and all the people who encouraged them and supported them. Thanks again to all of you.

Are all of you aware that we (all of us in the VFW) still occasionally have a problem with "stolen valor"? This occurs when a non-qualified person is allowed to join the VFW. How can this happen ?

When a "good 'ol boy" sponsors another "good 'ol boy" by claiming that "he/she was with me over there". Hang onto your papers, comrades, and be ready to show them; be proud to show them anytime it proves to be necessary, such as transferring to another Post. Please don't be offended if you are asked, we don't all know each other that well. My "214"s are with me at all VFW functions.

Have you got a membership application in your back pocket, or wallet, or purse? If not, please do; try to make it part of your SOP (Standard Operating Procedure). Be

ready to hit on that person in the ballcap that says "Veteran" (of whatever war theatre or conflict), and let them know how much we'd appreciate their company. As much as I hate to admit that a politician might be right about something, there is truth to the adage: "There is strength in numbers". Our number right now in the VFW is over 4 Million, and you know as well as I that it should/could/would be a lot more if only we could work up the energy and enthusiasm to get out there and work on it. Please.

Does the patriotic music we hear at our functions and meetings affect you? (I sure hope so) The feelings that well up in me at VFW functions are sometimes almost more than I can bear. The first, and most affecting was at the VFW National Convention at Milwaukee, WI in 2001. With no prior experience with this sensation whatsoever, I stood there listening to Lee Greenwood's "God Bless The USA" and tears rolled off my face, uncontrollably. There and then I knew I was a "flag-wavin" patriot.

Never knew that before; I always assumed that these feelings were shared by everyone, and I was almost embarrassed to have them. Now, whenever we are at a karaoke session, and someone (usually Sandy Anderson, Pullman) finishes the evening with this song, we are all encouraged to stand up and participate. Raise your arms! Let your chest swell with pride! God bless you, one and all!



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Terry Dowdell
District 9 Commander



Greeting Comrades:

When you get this MOV I will only have less than a month to go on my year and I would like to thank everyone who supported me through my year. I would also like to thanks all of my Officers and Chairperson for all that ther did and keep up the work I whatever you do.

Even though my year is almost up we need to keep working on our Membership please don't let no comrades slip out the back door please keep in touch with your member and try to get new members because we need to keep the Veterans of Foreign Wars going so please keep working on membership.

Our District Meeting was May 5 at Belding Post 4406 where we had Nomination and Election of new Officer for the year of 2018-2019 so I would like to congratulate the new Officer and wish them the best of luck during their year.

We had some up's and down's this pass year but we made it through so I hope that

this coming year will be better for the new Officers.

Remember if you have any officer dues that are coming due make sure that they pay them so they are not removed from office.

I want to thank all the post that order Buddy Poppy this year I only had 6 post that did not order any poppies. I want to wish all the posts good luck on getting donation for your poppies May 10 to 12.

The State Convention is June 7-9 in Flint and I hope to see lots of comrades there. They will also be having Nomination and Election of new Officer for Department of Michigan.

Before I close I would like to wish Irene Hosking a 100th Happy Birthday. She is a remarkable lady and a remarkable Comrade. We can all learn from her I love her with all my heart, so my best wishes go out to her.

Yours in Comradeship,
Terry Dowdell
District Commander

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Don Callaway
District 10 Commander



What a quick year!

It has been a pleasure to serve as your district commander this past year.

There were a few rough spots along the road but these are Michigan roads, we should be used to it. It was sad to see two of our post's turn in their charters this past year. Unfortunately, there may be even more post's in the not too far future doing the same. The best way to keep this trend from continuing is recruiting new members. We meet and talk to veterans as we go about our every daily life, please reach out and let them know they are welcome at whatever level of involvement they are comfortable with.

Also, we need a lot of the people who have been around for a long time to step up and get involved at their post, be an officer, help the new officers, I know a lot of us have health issues, and some need a break that have been doing this a long time but it has to be done. The motto "no one does more for veterans"

means exactly what it says, if we do not do it ourselves, all the progress that has been made over the years will slip away.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the district 10 officers for the help they have given over the past year, it would have been much more difficult without each and every one of you.

Our VOD/PP chairman, Sherwood Pea will not be able to take this position next year, he will be performing these duties at the department level, thank you for an outstanding job for the past several years, semper fi and good luck.

We almost had a district meeting with 100% attendance last year, with a little effort we can do it in the coming year. There will be a district vts in the coming year, all post officers should make an effort to attend, especially those new officers or ones that have questions about the duties, responsibilities, and deadlines for submitting reports.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Bruce Bridson
District 11 Commander



Comrades,

This will be my last article in the M.O.V. as District 11 Commander for the 2017-2018 year. I would like to start by saying thank you for the confidence in me to serve as your Commander. I am very proud that District 11 took home both traveling trophies for Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy this past year, receiving one trophy is an honor, but both from District 11 my term was remarkable. I am pleased to say that I was awarded a National Appointment to serve as a member of the Committee on Finance and Internal Organization at the 119th National Convention. Phil Patterson, the assumed incoming Department of Michigan commander, has also asked, and I accepted, an appointment at the Department of Michigan level as your Department Community Service Director.

Over the past year I have visited all Posts in the District but the couple that have meetings in the afternoon on weekdays, which by the way is nearly impossible for a working veteran to be able to attend a VFW function that is during normal working hours. However, I am grateful for the time that I had with each Post, & I encourage everyone to support their posts, attend post functions, and volunteer to help around your posts as often as you can.

I would like to thank those from the District

that have stepped up and taken responsibility as a committee member, and to those that participated at the District Meetings; to the District Auxiliary thank you for your continued support of the VFW and our fellow veterans; to the Department Officers, & fellow C of A members who have helped me along this past year, giving guidance and reassurance; I would also like to thank Colon Laney, who has been there for every question that I have had, It is hard to replace John Harrow a dear friend to both of us that passed away, but you have done so very well, thank you for taking on the responsibility of the District Quartermaster. Thank you to Dave Patrick, Ralph Dady, & Colon for being at every Department Convention. Thank you to our District Sr. Vice Terry Inosencio, and Jr. Vice Tim Artibee, I know you both will be great leaders.

By the time this is published you will have already held Post elections. I hope that you elected comrades who are willing to fulfill the duties to the position to which they were elected, and they give 100% to support the VFW. Be sure to send election reports to National, Department, and the incoming District Commander.

I hope to see all of you at the next district meeting in Harrison on May 6, 2018 and at the Department Convention in June.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2017 - 2018 District Commander.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen R. Olsen
District 14 Commander



As all good things come to an end, so does my time as District 14 Commander. It has been a pleasure to serve this great District 14 and all of you. My wife and I enjoyed traveling to the state conventions, as well as meeting all the members. We also liked seeing the UP while traveling to my 12 posts for their meetings. Thanks to all of you for the kindness and welcome you showed to me and my wife. We have some great members in the various posts in the UP. I want to thank all of them for their support and the job they have all done for me. It has been a memorable 3 years filled of highs and lows, and a time that I will never forget.

I have been so fortunate to have had great Department Commanders to work with, Paul McIvor, Jerry Gorski, and Matt David. All were very helpful and taught me a lot, as well as being very supportive to all of us in

the UP. What an honor to have worked with all of them. I urge all of you to go to the Department Conventions if you have not, and see the workings at that level. It gives one a whole new perspective, and it is interesting how it all comes together.

A big thanks to my Senior Carl Hosang this past year. He was very helpful, did everything I asked of him and more. I enjoyed traveling with him and his wife to all the meetings.

Nominations and elections are going on now at all the posts. Good luck to all of them and I wish you all success in the New Year. Phil Patterson- hope you have a great year, I know you will be another very good Commander. Our District Convention is coming up end of this month and I wish the new team well in the 2018-2019 year.

Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who continue to guard our gates of freedom.

William A. Thien
Commander-in-Chief



William A. "Bill" Thien was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 24, 2013, at the VFW's 114th National Convention, held in Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Thien served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1974 and served five years in the Indiana National Guard. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal with 3 stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Bar, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), National Defense Service Medal and several from the National Guard.

He joined the VFW in 1971 at Post 3281 in New Albany, Ind., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions including All American Post Commander, All State District Commander and All American State Commander. He has also held positions on numerous National committees, including Vice Chairman of Citizenship Education and Community Service and as Chairman of National Scholarship and Recognition.

In 1995, Indiana Governor Evan Bayh bestowed the honor of naming him a Distinguished Hoosier, and Governor Joe Kernan awarded Bill the Sagamore of the Wabash Chieftain in 2004. Kentucky Governor Steven Beshear commissioned him a Kentucky Colonel in 2012.

Mr. Thien attended Indiana University Southeast. He worked as a Team Leader/Shift Supervisor at Duke Energy and is now retired.

Mr. Thien is a member of the American Legion, DAV, Veterans of Vietnam War Inc., Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 51 and VFW National Home.

He and his wife Linda have four children and eight grandchildren. Bill and Linda make their home in Georgetown, Ind.

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2018-2019
PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DEADLINES ON PAGE 2

Helpful Tips!

1. Do not type all in CAPITAL LETTERS. If you must, then do so sparingly. Use 12-point font type size.
2. PLEASE- **no handwritten submissions.**
3. Do not write on back of pictures as ink may smear onto other items. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. When taking a GROUP photo make sure the images are large enough to identify the people or places in them.
4. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest and news/photos of events from their areas.
5. We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
6. **Articles and/or photos from other publications need Reprint permission.**
7. **DISTRICT COMMANDERS** - Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
8. **MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:**

MOV Editor
Scott Gloger, mov@vfwmi.org

Auxiliary Editor
Cindy Peto, ccpeto@yahoo.com

The Second Annual .1K Fun Run is coming up!

This event is held on the beautiful grounds of the VFW National Home for Children on Michigan Day, Sunday, August 5th 2018.

To register for this event, visit
vfnationalhome.org/fun-run

3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI



Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Bonnie Pray

Have you noticed that Spring has not arrived on schedule this year? It is time to get on with better weather and summer. Lots to do this summer.

Even though Spring is not on time, all the Auxiliaries in the Department need to

be on time for us to continue to move forward with our Programs, and the Auxiliary business. It is time for the process of completing this year and get ready to begin a new year with new Officers and Chair people. There is still some work, volunteering, and communication with our Auxiliaries. We can do this and hopefully continue to keep our hearts high as we approach the National Convention. We will be proud.

This last couple of months I have continued with attending several functions. I went to Washington D.C. to have the excitement of escorting the First Place Voice of Democracy winner from District 11 along with the Department Commander, Matt David. I found out I cannot ride on the underground subway. I then attended the Auxiliary Pool Tournament and some of our members can really shoot. That is always a good time. I was very proud to be invited to the Ann Arbor VA Volunteers of the Year Award Banquet. It was a pleasure to be greeted by the staff and seeing all those volunteers who spend their time with our Veterans doing program, bingos, horse races, and the caring is such a beautiful thing. After the traveling slowed down, I could concentrate on getting some work done and contacting some of the Auxiliaries. The David/Pray Testimonial. What a great time. I hope everyone had as much fun as I did. It was so nice to see everyone there and we even tried a little

something new called "Basket Bingo". We filled the hospitality room and a great time was had by everyone. The Testimonial went smoothly, and I was very excited as my family, and so many friends were all there for me.

May is a very, very, important month. There is lots to do to meet our deadlines for all our business, the programs, and reports. I am going to try very hard to make us all proud of this Department, the District Presidents and Chair people as we know they have worked so very hard this year with all the changes we have had. The excellent training was done in so many areas and hopefully you are using that training to complete all that needs to be done. A huge thank you to the Officers who worked and handled all that training.

I have one more trip to attend in May and I have waited six years to go. I am going to Holland, MI. to attend the Tulip Festival Parade. I can hardly wait. But first, I have business to attend to in the Department along with my Officers, Chair people, and Auxiliary members. This month will probably go very fast and I want to be ready for the Department Convention and looking forward to having an outstanding turnout of members and guests.

I am very proud to have represented this Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan Auxiliary. I love this organization. We will be ready to attend the National Convention and let them know that we work and volunteer very hard for our Veterans. I especially want to thank "ALL" our Veterans, Active Duty Troops, and their families. I hope they know we are always there for them and always will be. When you see a Veteran anywhere, thank them and make their day. God Bless this United States of America.

Loyally Submitted:
Bonnie Pray
Department President

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Debbie Scheetz



Circle of Excellence. It has been a tough year trying to achieve this, but we are still working hard to do so.

All year my auxiliaries in District 5 worked hard to serve our veterans and the community. We did that in many ways from hosting fundraisers so that we had money to support our programs, we helped in the hospitals, drove Vets to their doctor appointments and cooked food for funeral luncheons to help the families of the veterans and auxiliary members, just to name a few. I am very proud of how all the auxiliaries stepped up to accomplish so much this year.

I would like to thank all my line officers for stepping up for me when needed this year, but I would like to give a special thanks to my Senior Vice Nancy Gaglio for being my sidekick all year long. She accompanied me on all my inspections and was there to help me make sure the auxiliaries were doing what was required of them. She was always there when I needed her to be and I am thankful she was by my side!

I would also like to thank my floor officers. At every meeting you came and did excellent floor work, especially when the Department President came for her official visit. We preformed the cross-a-malta to start the meeting and it worked out great. I am very proud of all of you! Not many districts or

auxiliaries for that matter do floor work anymore, so I am proud that District 5 still does! Thanks for a job well done.

I would like to thank a few members for being there for me throughout the year. First, Marilyn Malick, the Department Chief of Staff, my most important mentor always giving me sound advice when I asked, Linda Gloger, my district treasurer, was always there when I had questions, Gloria Dobbie, PDP, always there to remind me what needed to be done and Cindy Peto, Department Secretary, always just a phone call away when I needed something! Thank you, ladies, for all your help!

I had a goal to mentor and teach as many members as I could this year, and I truly felt like I did a great job. There were many members that had reached out for help and I did what I could to mentor them the way I was mentored over the years. Also, during the auxiliary inspections, I felt I brought a lot of knowledge to the auxiliaries to better help them in their duties as members or officers.

It is very fulfilling to me to know how well we did as a district this year. I had a wonderful time working under Bonnie Pray, the Department President as well as alongside the other District Presidents. I will not forget all the friends I have made along the way either! Now I wish my dear friend Nancy, the best of luck in her upcoming year as the President of District 5. I want her to know I am only a phone call away if she needs anything because I want to continue to be able to mentor others in this great organization that we belong to!

Loyally submitted
Debbie Scheetz, District 5 President

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Jean Bestervelt



Where has this year gone, the year is almost over.

It has been great, so many wonderful things have happened in our district, thank you. All our auxiliaries have been working on different projects to help their

Post and the Veterans at the VA hospital and Grand Rapids home. Our year is on the downward side, but there is still so much that we can and will get done. We are almost at 100 % in district, keep up the good work and

we will make it. Yes we will make it.

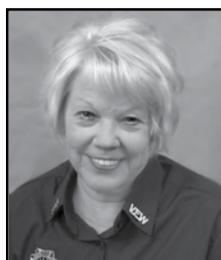
I have had a great time visiting all the auxiliary members and socializing with you and meeting the new members. It was a wonderful year to be with all of you, you have all been great. My heartfelt thanks for all you have done to make our GREAT 8 District so successful this year.

My love, all my memories and thank you to all my auxiliary members.

Jean Bestervelt
District 8

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Shirley Caldwell



Hi to Everyone!
"Thank you" just does not seem good enough to say to my members of District 4, which have made me ever so proud to be their President this past year. The great times we have shared,

will remain with me forever.

"Kindness" is a priority with me as I feel it motivates and gives a person a feeling of being appreciated. District 4 has worked really hard this year and if I have given each of my members a sense of importance in serving our Veterans, one of my goals has been attained.

The hospitality of my posts at Inspections was outstanding and I enjoyed meeting my members individually.

The banquet, conferences, parades, memorials, visiting the Michigan National

Home for children, the Military Ball, fundraisers, dinners and craft shows are just some of the things that kept me busy.

District 4 will make history this year for Sr. Vice President Jonathan Burchard will be our first male District President. He has truly been a very supportive friend and confident as well, and I have nothing but respect for him. I wish him much success!

So as my journey continues, I am a complete woman today because of my husband, I am a blessed woman today because of my children and grandchildren, I am a FREE person today because of our VETERANS but, I will be a better woman tomorrow because of all of you.

God Bless Our Veterans and
God Bless America!!!!

Served with Pride,
Shirley Caldwell President
District 4, 2017-2018

God Bless America

**It's an honor to
serve our veterans**



DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Beth Plont



First I would like to thank the membership of District 12 for electing me as their District President for the 2017 – 2018 year. It has been an honor, a privilege and my pleasure to serve you in this position. Thank-you.

It has been fun and great seeing everyone again at the inspections, conferences and conventions. Even at some of the auxiliary's events as well.

This year has been a rewarding and fun one. We have seen a lot of the members coming together as a team, working together and helping each other with training on audits, the treasurer's books and how to report on the State's website along with using the MALTA system. We are very proud of the District and what they have accomplished this year.

It has been informative for me as well as I have learned new things. Along with the District meetings it was great being at all of the conferences, convention, attending the National Convention in New Orleans, which is a fun town, also that trip was also made into a vacation as after the convention, PDP Annabelle Furgason and I also visited Nashville on our way down and then after the convention we went to Memphis TN where I got to know some very great ladies from Auxiliary 7729, (Muskegon) as we meet them in Memphis for the night and explored Beal street. Then on our way to Branson Missouri, it was a great trip, thanks Annabelle. Also the trip to Minnesota for the Big Ten Convention was fun. Great seeing friends from other states.

It has been great working with all the other District Presidents; it was great meeting new

people that I have not met before. Everyone has great ideas, was fun sharing different ways of doing things.

Michigan Days at The National Home for Children was fun. The District did the registration this year and seeing all the American and District Flags is one of my favorite things. It is such a beautiful site. Camp Trotter Days is always fun and it was again this year. If you haven't been to either one you really need to go. They are awesome places.

I love the Mid-Winter Convention as it is dedicated to our youth with the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship Program. These young youths always inspire me with their speeches. Knowing we have these great youth as our future of America makes me proud.

Also supporting auxiliaries fund raisers, cooked a turkey for an auxiliaries dinner and attended the VFW Auxiliary Pool Tournament, was the first time and I really enjoyed it. Learned some rules on pool as well.

At this writing we have the Testimonial and then the State Convention which I know will be great as they always are.

It has been an honor and I really enjoyed serving State President Bonnie Pray as one of her District Presidents. Thank you Bonnie. I really enjoyed the night on the town in Kalamazoo, everything was great and really enjoyed just sitting and relaxing in your Presidential room that evening, getting to know everybody and just chill in.

I wish the incoming District President the best of luck in their year.

Respectively,
Beth Plont
District 12 President

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Jane Dady

For the VFW and Auxiliary to survive, we need to keep up and add to our membership rolls. We have a stigma that all we do is sit at a bar, smoke and trade war stories. Is that why are our younger veterans are not joining the VFW or Auxiliary? Partly.

It was disheartening to read two separate stories, yet the same. One veteran went into a VFW and wanted to join, then a post member asked her if she wanted application for the auxiliary. She refuses to join as "the organization is unwelcoming and out of touch with the needs of veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq." The other entered a VFW Post with a fellow veteran a short time after returning from Afghanistan. The male friend was escorted into the meeting with cheers of joy. When she tried to follow, she was told she couldn't go

in there. They didn't know she was a veteran. Their stories are not unique.

Veterans no longer sound, look or act a certain way. Today they want to be outside running, volunteering with physical service. They want opportunities for young veterans to interact with one another. Educate them on what you have recently done and how they can be involved. Show them what you are doing in the community. Let them share and try their ideas.

Greet every new comer with a smile and a welcoming attitude.

Introduce the spouse or relative to Auxiliary members. Let them know about their fantastic work and how they help our veterans and communities.

Everyone you meet is a potential source for a member. They either are a Veteran, married to one, have kids or grandkids that are, or know someone who is.

Attitude is everything.

Jane Dady
Membership Chairman

AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN

Greetings!

I would like to thank Auxiliary Department President Bonnie Pray for the honor as her Historian. It's been a pleasure to full fill this Chairmanship recording events for our Auxiliary & VFW, for 2017-2018.

To all my Historians, for your kindness, contributions and recordings of events within your Auxiliaries making it a success with great team work.

We were honored to have National Auxiliary President Dee Gillory in August for her first official visit to states during her term as Auxiliary National President for two days. Madam President visited our State Capitol and Veterans Memorial downtown Lansing. She also attended banquets in her honor from area posts with many members from area posts to greet her. They included Lansing #701, Mount Pleasant #4106, where she was greeted by the Junior Cadet Corps. where Yeoman Blackwell, brought the troop to attention with his Boatswain whistle in her honor, which she made the comment, "that it was a first for such, and was so thrilled." Finally, to Plymouth post #6695 for her final evening in the great state of Michigan.

Madam President also made a special stop in Holly at the National Cemetery to visit the grave of Past Commander-In-Chief Jim Goldsmith. Thank you, Madam President Dee Gillory for letting us get to know you better with your wit and wisdom.

Trips to New Orleans for National, St. Paul for Big Ten, Boyne Highlands, Kalamazoo VOD/PP, Teachers of Year awards, to honor the young men & women whom will making our future even brighter. To the educators who help guide them. Finally, to Flint for State, as we say goodbye to our officers of 2017-2018 and welcome our new officers for 2018-2019.

Rewarding aspects of this chairmanship, is getting to meet, renew friendships and traveling to many different states. But the most rewarding, is being part of this great organization, getting to know and helping our veterans, service men & women.

May Blessings be with each and every one of us. God Bless the U.S.A.

Cheryle Nastos
VFW Auxiliary
Department of Michigan Historian

DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT

Linda Olsen



And the year comes to an end! What a ride. Just finished my "Year End Report" and it was enlightening to look back at all the achievements and problems in the past year. Looking over the numbers, I noticed We May be Small but we are Mighty!

	New Members	% Of total New Members
National	23,404	5.0%
Michigan	1,047	4.2%
Dist 14 Aux	75	6.9%

We have the highest percentage of new members (compared National and State) at 6.9%.

	Total Members	% for Year
National	467,674	95.19%
Michigan	24,640	94.41%
Dist 14 Aux	1080	97.82%

We didn't meet 100% plus one, but we are higher than the National and State numbers at 97.82%. We are second in the State with only District 6 ahead of us at 97.91%. Congrats to Scott Collins Negaunee with 101.23% and Todd Insley St. Ignace with 171.87%-the highest in the State.

	Number of Auxiliaries	% of Life Members
National	Nearly 4,000	63.4%
Michigan	172	72.2%
Dist 14 Aux	7	64.5%

It was interesting to see that 64.5% of our members are Life Members and how that compared to National and State. Our economic status has improved also.

I would like to thank my Senior-Vice Janice Lovel for making my job easier by being there and helping with everything this past year. Thank-you Kathy DeNise for her guidance, Cindy Peto for answering all my dumb questions and for all her words of wisdom, and Bonnie Pray for the wise counselling and a VERY FUN YEAR!

Portland City Hall Meeting
"Awards presentation"

March 19, 2018 7 PM.



On Monday, March 19, VFW Post 4090 introduced their community safety awards winners to the Portland City Council.

Before the introduction of the "Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year", Commander Bill Almy began with, "The Veterans of Foreign Wars has given our post an opportunity to recognize outstanding community servants. This year Post 4090 would like to honor two individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty."

The first individual has worked with the Portland Ambulance Service for over three years as an Emergency Medical Technician. He is a hard worker who makes himself always available for extra shifts and calls. He volunteered his time with Olivet Fire Department while attending Olivet College. He is an example of the dedication and professionalism we all can be proud of.

VFW Post 4090s EMT of the Year, **Mr. Jacob Schafer.**

This next individual has over ten years of service as a firefighter. He started as a firefighter, working his way up to lieutenant and now Captain. He is an individual sworn to serve and is well connected with the people of our community. He currently serves both Portland Fire Authority and is a full time Medic for the Portland Ambulance. His leadership skills are an assist the department can count on in all situations.

VFW Post 4090s Firefighter of the Year, **Mr. Zach Waltersdorf.**

Commander Almy closed with, "This is an honor for our Post to be involved with the community, and we thank the city of Portland for all you do for our post and our military veterans."

**VFW Camp Trotter for Children
Twelfth Annual Charity Golf Outing**
Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

Friday, June 22, 2018 Village Green Golf Course
8130 Bingham Avenue • Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513
•8:00 a.m. – Registration • 9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

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

18 Golf Entry Form

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 18, 2018

Captains name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Player #2 Name: _____
 Player #3 Name: _____
 Player #4 Name: _____
 Hole/Tee Sponsor (Minimum) \$55 _____ Cash Donation \$ _____

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____
 Checks payable to: VFW Camp Trotter for Children
 Mail to: Larry Thayer – Committee Member
 4858 Apache Path
 Owosso, MI 48867

Questions? Call Larry Thayer – 989-413-1096 email: vwflarry@aol.com
www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter Foundation are tax deductible under section 501c (3) of the IRS Code

High School JROTC Cadets

Renaissance High School held its Annual JROTC Banquet on March 29, 2018. James Europe VFW Post 2233 was well represented by Senior Vice Commander Benjamin Light, Auxiliary President Beverly A. Burton, and Past Post Commander Roscoe Burton Jr. On behalf of the Department of Michigan VFW, a Citation and Medal award was presented to Cadet SSG Dezaray Hall, by SVC Benjamin Light. Colonel George S. Pettigrew was the guest speaker. Major Walter Moss Presided.

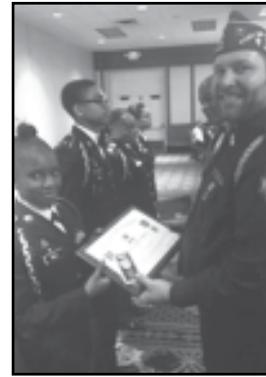
By Roscoe Burton Jr.



Renaissance High School JROTC Cadets



Beverly Burton
Roscoe Burton Jr
Dezara Hall
Benjamin Light



Dezaray Hal JROTC
Benjamin Light



Colonel George S. Pettigrew



Maj. Walter Moss

James Europe VFW Post 2233

James Europe VFW Post 2233, on March 23, 2018, had the honor of presenting to East English Village prep Academy, on behalf of VFW District 4, State of Michigan, a check for \$100.00 in honor of their Teacher of the Year Candidate, SGM Eduardo Rosario. Along with the check, a certificate was presented to Assistant Principal Nadonya Muslin, by Post Auxiliary president Beverly A. Burton, Post Teacher of the Year Chairperson Robert Charley, and Past Post Commander Roscoe Burton Jr. They also presented SGM Rosario with a teacher's Apple Trophy for Winning Michigan State Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year (High School). He received other awards earlier.

By Beverly A. Burton



L-R: Beverly Burton, Roscoe Burton Jr,
Nadon ya Mushm, Robert Charley,
Sgt Edwardo Rosario



Robert Charley, Sgt Edwardo Rosario,
Nadonya Mushm



L-R: Beverly Burton, Robert Charley,
Sgt Edwardo Rosario,
Nadon ya Mushm, Roscoe Burton Jr.

—POST 2233, continued on page 9

The VFW National Home for Children Is Here for Michigan Families.

The VFW National Home for Children offers a once in a lifetime **opportunity** for military and veteran related families.

If you know of a family in Michigan that could use our help, please encourage them to call!

We are currently accepting new resident families into our program.

Most qualify to apply. Caring staff will help families to determine eligibility.

800-313-4200

A Great Place to Call Home!

We challenge America to always put our veterans first!

Are you eligible for VFW membership?
JOIN THE CHALLENGE.

VFW
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
 NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

God Bless America



Membership Program



Scott Gloger

Hello Comrades,

A year is ending, a new year is upon us. Do not forget new members are the lifeblood of our organization. Remember also, you still have time to get 100% + 1. June 30, 2018 is your deadline. So continue on getting new members and contacting your members who have not paid their dues.

We need to start and continue the recruitment and retention of our members every day. Do not wait till halfway or the end of the year.

Life membership only, amnesty is in effect another year from July 1, 2018 to August 31, 2018. Report them and clean up your rosters with no membership penalties.

I would like to thank Commander Matt David for the appointment this year.

Loyally,

Comrade Scott Gloger
Membership Director

—POST 2233, continued from page 8—

India Slaughter Team Jackets

Congratulations to the James Europe VFW Post 2233 Pool Team. They all received new Pool Team Jackets from Past Post Commander Roscoe Burton Jr. in honor of previous team players (George Young, Henry Strong, Willie Watts, "Starvin" Marvin Stevens, "Batman" Howard Fletcher, Ernest Clay Jr.) whom have gone on to that great pool hall in the sky, and to some who are still around but no longer play (Calhoun Claxton, William Brown, Tom Falk and Jim Boyce. Also, thanks to our present team who is presently in 4th place: Captain James Bowie, Ezra Thomas, Carlos Blackshire, William Lee, Virgil Martin, Perry Gilmore, Claude Dickerson-Houilles, Ernest Ashford, Leroy Anderson Jr. and India Slaughter.

By Roscoe Burton Jr.



India Slaughter
Only Female
in the League.
She's good, too!



Team Jackets
Past Post Cdr
Roscoe Burton Jr.

VFW Post 582

VFW Post 582 members Dennis Hoffman, Steve Jurewich, and pictured are SGT. Cooper post service dog & mascot, Ron Allen, and John Wudarcki help with the wreath clean up at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly on Jan. 27th.



CHAIRMAN NATIONAL VFW PROGRAMS COMMITTEE



Jerry
Gorski

Comrades, Sisters & Brothers,

In my previous article, I told you that I would tell you in my next article about our (53) Departments' Voice of Democracy Winners and our 1st Place Patriot's Pen Winner. You will see in this article, the "List of Winners & their Awards," the "Washington D.C. Student Trip Itinerary" and "some" Photos I took every day. I took a lot of pictures. You will also see pictures of our own "Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy Winner, Emma Russell." I tried to take as many pictures of Emma.

I did "not" know what the Department Winners did while in Washington D.C. and I did "not" know the Various Amounts of Awards given to each of the (53) Department Winners. Now I know because I was with them. Please read everything and look at all the pictures. I hope you will "share" this information and pictures with your VFW & Auxiliary Post & District VOD Chairpersons and everyone interested in our VFW Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Program, so they can "share" this information when they visit their local schools this year and when they have their Post & District Banquets. Thank You!

This National Voice of Democracy Event took a lot of preparation and a lot of hard work by many VFW & Auxiliary Members/Employees from our Kansas City & Washington D.C. Offices. I would like to recognize these individuals who were with me. Maybe you know some of them. **These individuals were with the students "everyday"** from the time they arrived at the airport on Saturday, March 3, 2018 until the time they left at the airport gate/TSA on their return flights home on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. We were together every day from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Everyone was Great! **From our VFW Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri; Lynn Rolf III, National Programs Director, Quentin Carroll, National Program Coordinator, Tammy Beauchamp, Geremie Berkley, Tammie Gniotczynski, Renee Martin, Leticia Cortez, Mark Potter, Karen Hoover, Auxiliary Ambassador from the Department of Pennsylvania, Tracy Barcavage (Karen Hoover's Niece) and myself from the Department of Michigan.**

On Saturday, the 1st day when the students arrived, employees from the VFW DC Office met the students at the Washington Reagan Airport. They are; George Burke, Sylvester Jones, Mike Figlioli, Greg Orto, Bob Jackson, Chris Macinkowicz, Tony Lowe, Wayne Hutchison and Brad Hazell. Both Lynn Rolf and Mark Potter drove the Students with (2) vans back & forth from the airport to the hotel.

As you read the "Washington, DC Student Trip Itinerary, you will see that the Students & Chaperones did a lot together. At the last minute, **Bob Wallace from our Washington D.C. Office made arrangement for the Students to visit the "White House"** on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. This was "not" on the original itinerary given to me previously. Only the Students and Lynn Rolf visited the White House. **Thank you, Bob Wallace for doing this!**

Everywhere we went, we used a large touring bus and a large van. **The "same" Bus Driver has been used every year for many years because he knew the city and was a Great Tour Guide for the Students.** Every student ate well every day. So, did the Chaperones. Every night, when we returned to the hotel from the day's touring, the Students & Chaperones ended up in the hospitality room for cookies & milk or soft drinks. Everyone mingled and talked about the day's events. Every Student had a "room check" at 11:00 p.m. The Male Students were on one floor. The Female Students were on a different floor. There was a Security Guard throughout the night to make sure every student was safe, and no student left their assigned room. There were (2) students to a room. Every effort was made to assign (2) students to the same room, who had similar interests.

Karen Hoover, Auxiliary Ambassador from Pennsylvania and I had the honor of "Announcing the Winners" on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. on stage at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Crystal City Hotel. We sat with Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon, National Auxiliary President Dee Guillory, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz and National Programs Director Lynn Rolf III. I had a lot of "fun" doing this because I got to "know" the Students, so I told something "funny" about many of them as they were called up by Karen Hoover and myself to receive their award from Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon & National President Dee Guillory. Everyone sitting in the audience also enjoyed it. This is the 1st Year that both the Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Winners came from the "same" State, Maryland! **Robyn Anzulis was the 1st Place Voice of Democracy Winner from Maryland and received a \$30,000 Scholarship. Karolina Mazur was the 1st Place Patriot's Pen Winner from Maryland and received a check for \$5,000.**

After the Awards Ceremony, Harry "Les" Croyle, Bob Williams, Jim Galen, Gary Gamble and myself, all from Michigan had our picture taken together by "Raffle" Ruthie Barnhill from District 4. You will see that photo among the other photos.

I want to thank Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon for appointing me, "Chairman of the National VFW Programs Committee." I am so very fortunate to have done so much and seen so much of Washington DC with our Voice of Democracy Student Winners from our (53) Departments, our 1st Place Patriot's Pen Winner Karolina Mazur from Maryland, our Kansas City Staff, our Washington DC Staff and everyone who attended this event. **Thank you, Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman, for giving me this "memorable" opportunity.** I will "not" forget it!

I hope I have given you some insight about what our Department Voice of Democracy Winners experience in Washington DC. I hope you will pass this information on to your Membership.

God Bless You. Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who continue to guard the Gates of Freedom. **Jerry Gorski** —ENJOY THE CENTERSPREAD PHOTOS!



A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC IN HONOR OF OUR PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNERS



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
& VFW AUXILIARY**





2018 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY NATIONAL FINALS

WASHINGTON, DC STUDENT TRIP ITINERARY

March 3-7, 2018

NOTE: SCHEDULE CAN CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Students will each be met at the airport by VFW Voice of Democracy staff and transported to the Holiday Inn Resort Hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel students will be assigned sleeping rooms by VFW registration staff - who will be operating from the "Jefferson" Registration Room on the first floor of the hotel. When an arriving student is assigned a room please lobby after the hotel's 3:00 pm check-in time) students are asked to unpack and then return to the chaplain-monitored hospitality room (either the Club or Shenandoah rooms) which is available all day for the student's use and informal social gathering.

Congratulations again on receiving your Department's Voice of Democracy competition. The VFW wants to make sure that we give you the best of all possible things in this monumental achievement. After all, you've earned it. That's why we're asking you to share your day in DC experiences with us through Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Use hashtag #VFWDC2018 and help us spread the word of your accomplishment!

Student Arrivals, Registration & Hospitality Rooms

All Day	Student Registration (Jefferson Room - 1 st floor)
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Sandwich and Salad Lunch Buffet (Club Room- 1st floor)
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Snacks (Club Room- 1st floor)
7:00 PM	Italian Dinner Buffet at the Holiday Inn Hotel (Shenandoah AB 2 nd floor)
8:00 PM	Orientation at Holiday Inn Hotel (Shenandoah AB 2 nd floor)
9:00 - 11:00 PM	Social time and snacks at hotel (Shenandoah AB 2 nd floor)
11:00 PM	Room Check

DRESS Casual.

All the VOD essay winners with National Commander Keith Harman and National President Dee Guillory



MICHIGAN DELEGATION AFTER AWARD CEREMONY
Left to Right: Jim Galen, Bob Williams, Gerald Gorski, Harry "Les" Croyle, Gary Gamble



National Sergeant Jim Galen giving instructions prior to Awards Ceremony

A TRIP TO THE WHITE HOUSE



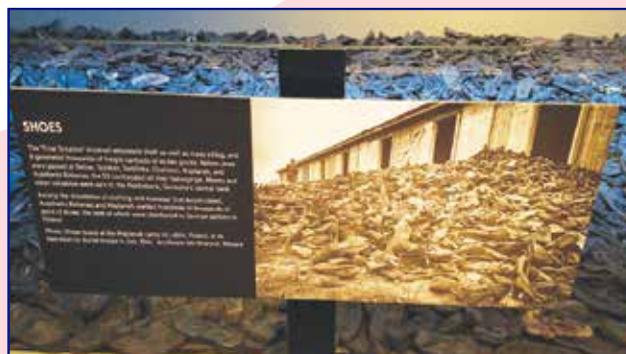
LINCOLN MEMORIAL



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY



THE HOLOCAUST





NEWSEUM



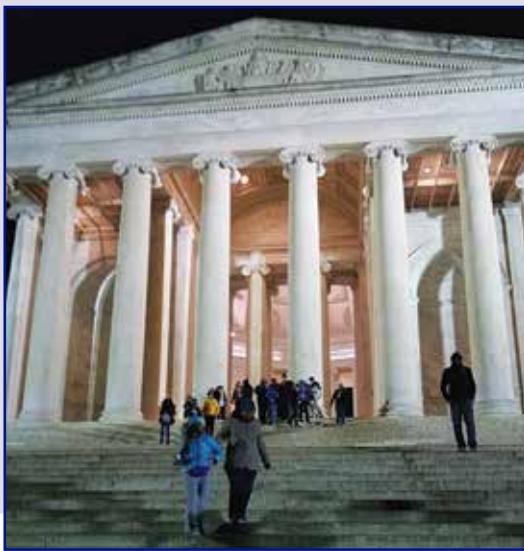
MT. VERNON



INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM



JEFFERSON MEMORIAL



VIETNAM WALL

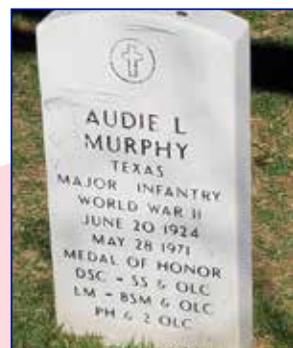
MALL SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM



WORLD WAR II



KOREAN WAR



Read Contest Winners names and awards plus more photos of the DC trip on Pgs. 15, 16 and 17

FRANKENMUTH VFW POST 2725
&
INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE OF FRANKENMUTH
PRESENT THE 5TH ANNUAL

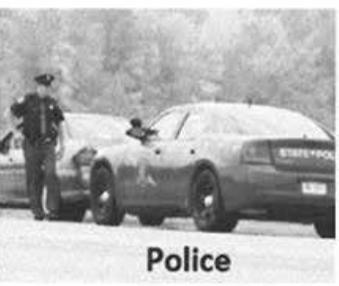




Sunday July 22, 2018

Free family-friendly day to honor our heroes
Military, Police, EMS, Firemen
(Active, discharged, and retired)





Join us for a free, family friendly, carnival style event offering a hot dog lunch for all heroes and their families. Enjoy music, entertainment, activities, displays, and games for all ages including military resource booths.

Want to support the event? Bring a non-perishable item for the "I Support the 1%" Food Pantry of Saginaw County serving military personnel and their families. T-shirts will also be available for a donation of \$10.00. All proceeds will directly benefit the event or the food pantry.

COME RAIN OR SHINE! SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018 FROM 12:00 – 4:00 PM

<p>INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE OF FRANKENMUTH 255 MAYER ROAD FRANKENMUTH MI 48734</p>	<p>CONTACT: LARRY SCHLUCKEBIER OF VFW POST 2725 @ (989) 652-6823 JUDY ADAMS OF "I SUPPORT THE 1%" (989) 823-2078 Frankenmuth.vfw2725@gmail.com</p>
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VFW Post 4090 2018 Veteran of the Year

On February 27, at 6pm Post 4090 honored Mr. John Dorsky as their Veteran of the Year. Before the award was presented, Commander William Almy read the following achievements to a packed room of veterans, auxiliary and family.

"As a young man, John joined the Air Force after graduating from high school in Baraga, Michigan in 1951. He served in the Korean War from 1952 through part of 1953. He completed his military duty November 14, 1953 while stateside.

John's first introduction of Post 4090 came in 1970, when a fellow veteran stated, "You should visit our post, they have liquor there".

He joined the post February 10, 1972 and became a life member December 19, 1977.

John first served as post quartermaster and then post commander in 1982 – 1983. During his many years with Post 4090, he served as post service officer, Trustee, Voice of Democracy chair, and County Council Commander for the 1985 – 1986 year.

At District 9 level, he marched through the chairs on his way to being elected District 9 commander for the 1988 and 1989 term. While at the district level, his dedication continued with many appointments. John worked closely with Wes Longinbaugh setting up the Patriot Pen essay program for the posts of District 9. The program became so popular that it expanded to state and national level. In addition, at the District 9 he served as Cancer director, State inspector, all State director and was one of the architects of the first Activities Evaluation Committee, a program that is in use to this day.

In the year of 2002 – 2003 John received the Raymond G. O'Neal award for state service officer of the year. John states; "of all my duties and responsibilities, being service officer was the one thing I cherished the most."

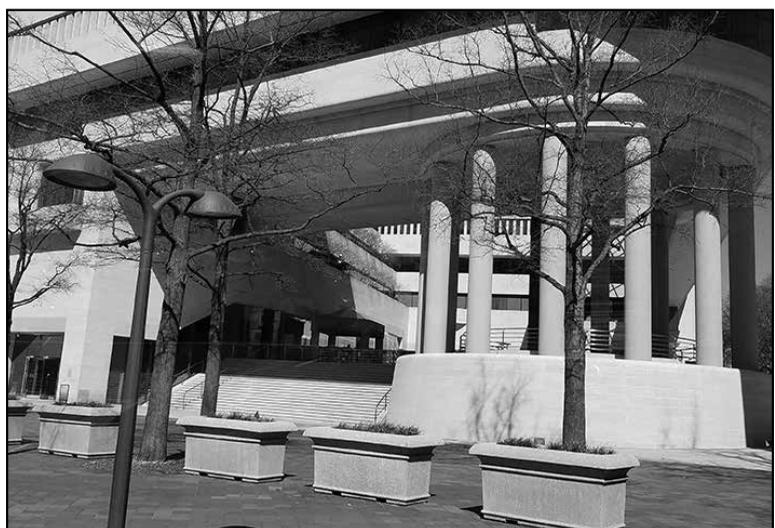
John has served as Post 4090's Funeral Honor Guard chairperson, a position he has held for over 25 years.

Long time funeral director Keith Neller stated – "I have worked with John for at least 25 years, and one thing I remember about his funeral detail is, they were always on time, always signed the register and the men always followed protocol and procedure with dignity and honor."

It should be obvious to us all that his loyalty and dedication to family, to his Post and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are a measure of hard work that all of us can appreciate."

Day of Challenges at Michigan Tech District 14

THE NEWSEUM IN D.C.


Winning with Rosie: VFW Post 334 Auxiliary takes First place in Buddy Poppy Contest

On Jan. 20, the North Oakland Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 334 Auxiliary won first place for its display in the Buddy Poppy Contest at the Mid-Winter Conference for the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) held in Kalamazoo.

This year, there were 45 entries in the contest. With the VFW's theme, "Strength and Unity for Our Veterans" in mind, Auxiliary Member Heather Dalling created the post's winning display using lots of newspaper, a small box and a tube along with glue and paint.

Each display was required to include a bugle and Rosie the Riveter, along with a minimum of five of the VFW's Buddy Poppies in their original format.

Rosie the Riveter, whose real-life inspiration Naomi Parker Fraley recently passed away at age 96, is a widely-known icon and symbol of feminism stemming from World War II. She represented the women who worked in factories and shipyards during the war to make up for the lack of male workers, many of whom were serving in the military.

Auxiliary President Kathy Hubbard said she was proud to see the North Oakland VFW Post 334 place first for the fourth year in a row. "When our Auxiliary was instituted in September of 2013 and we entered the first year, we took second place. Ever since then, we have taken first place . . . all because of Heather's gifted talents," Hubbard said. "Our Auxiliary is very fortunate to have one of the most creative and talented members." Hubbard wished to remind the community that the VFW's annual National Poppy Days fund-raiser will be held from Friday, May 9 through Monday, May 12.

All proceeds from donations will be used to benefit veterans and help their dependents or the orphans of veterans. "Be sure to look for a veteran . . . and get your fresh, new Buddy Poppy and help a veteran in need," Hubbard said. [Reprinted with permission from the Oxford Leader.]



Kathy Hubbard (left) president of North Oakland #334 VFW Auxiliary and Department Poppy Chairman Diana Ward stand with their winning Rosie the Riveter display at this year's Mid-Winter Conference.

Don Steiner shared his WWII service with the Clarkston JR. High School Ninth Grade History Class students



Ninth graders in Laura Murray's Clarkston Junior High School history classes started their World War II unit by hearing first hand an account of the war from Post member Don Steiner. There were three classes with 30 plus students each on November 27 and three classes of 30 plus students each on Tuesday, November 28. Don brought along his WWII souvenirs including bayonets, helmets and Nazi flags.

Also speaking at each class was Mrs. Donnaleen Lanktree who was a "Rosie the Riveter" in WWII and she described how women worked in factories so that men could answer the call of a grateful nation to win WWII.



From L to R: Don Steiner, History Teacher Laura Murray and "Rosie the Riveter" Donnaleen Lanktree. Don and Donnaleen shared their WWII stories with the 5th grade students.

**WE
SUPPORT
OUR VETERANS**

**GOD BLESS
AMERICA!**

On Saturday, February 17 Post and Auxiliary Members helped pack 227 boxes sent to men and women serving overseas in the military



In addition to helping pack boxes the Post also made a \$1,000.00 donation to help purchase the items that went into the boxes and to pay for freight. Participants in check presentation from (L to R) are: Mike Racer, Mary Ann Hajduk-Merritt, Chuck Haskin and Jim Hubbard. This event is sponsored by the Women Marines Association and takes place at the Romeo Masonic Hall.

Also added to each box a Valentine's card made by Oxford Middle School 7th

and 8th graders, Oxford Elementary School 5th graders, and Helen Keller Elementary school in Royal Oak 1st graders with help from 5th grade students.



Packages sorted and ready to be shipped overseas.



Post and Auxiliary members take a well deserved break.

A Reunion Among Comrades



Jim and Karen Muys enjoying a lunch with Jerry Griepentroh

During a recent vacation to San Diego, CA., Jim and Karen Muys got to see where Jim was stationed while in the Navy. They had a week to travel around the area and enjoy the beaches and warm air while it was snowing here in Michigan.

They were fortunate enough to meet up with Jim's best friend while he was in the Navy, Jerry Griepentroh for lunch. It was the first time they had seen each other since 1970 when they were in the same squadron together. A lot of stories were told as they recalled things that happened while they were together. Some true, some sea stories. They stayed in contact by e-mail the last couple of years and it was great to see each other. The time spent with old friends is something that should never be passed up. If you ever get the chance to be with your comrades from your past; embrace it. Life is too short to let it go by. You may not get the chance to get together again.



AME shop taken aboard ship in 1969, with Jim and Jerry in the back row on the right.



Jim used to work on planes just like this one (F-4B) during his time in the Navy.



USS IWO JIMA (LPH2/LHD7) SHIPMATES
152 Frissell Street
Hampton, VA 23663
(757) 723-0317
ihavlabs@verizon.net
<http://ussiwjimashipmates.cfns.net>

EDITOR:

It is respectfully requested that the below information regarding the USS IWO JIMA (LPH2/LHD7) Shipmates Organization's Reunion be published. The following information is hereby submitted:

NAME OF REUNION: USS IWO JIMA (LPH2/LHD7) SHIPMATES. For All Ships Company and Embarked Navy and Marine Corps personnel who were on board the LPH2 or LHD7.

PLACE OF REUNION: DOUBLETREE HOTEL JACKSONVILLE RIVERFRONT, Jacksonville, FL

DATE OF REUNION: 10-13 OCTOBER 2018

CONTACT: ROBERT G. MCANALLY

STREET: 152 FRISSELL STREET

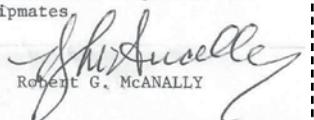
CITY/STATE: HAMPTON, VA ZIP: 23663

TELEPHONE: (757)723-0317

E-MAIL: yujack46709@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://ussiwjimashipmates.cfns.net/>

FB: USS Iwo Jima LPH2/LHD7 Shipmates -or- USSIwoJimaShipmates


Robert G. McANALLY

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE:

Submitted by _____
(Name) (Please Print)

Address: _____
(City/State/Zip)

I am a member of _____

My Membership ID Nr is: _____

Signature

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

information from being passed, which means going to the source. I have an open-door policy, you may contact me at any time, but I will be asking if you have talked to your Post or District Commander before you have talked with me. I also am asking everyone that before you go straight to National with your

issues please give my staff and I a chance to correct the issue. It is pretty embarrassing to hear from National about an issue that we are not even aware of. I have always said I work for you.

TEAMBUILDING~TEAMWORK~
COMMUNICATION

JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

he goes before congress to fight for our entitlements and benefits.

We need your help!! Each year your Veterans of Foreign Wars Post **must** fulfill various duties in order keep the doors open. Financial reports to our state organization and the IRS. Fund raising to pay the bills is but a few. All of these take time and energy.

Each year your post **sponsors** Jr. High and High School **students** in an essay scholarship program. Prizes are awarded at post, district, state and national levels.

We have service officers that file claims for veterans in order for them to receive the **entitlements** and **benefits** they earned. We perform **military funerals** that provide comfort to the bereaved families. We have a **relief fund** that we use to aide needy veterans. There are many other things we do for the community and veterans.

This is where we need your help, if you

haven't already paid your dues; you can aide us in the above tasks by paying your membership dues now. This action on your part will save time, time that could be used else wares. For those of you who might be interested in a life membership we have an installment program.

This letter worked well for me in the past. As post commander I would mail it early in the year, then as needed. Any questions call me at 989-287-3404.

Comrades many years ago I asked a mentor of mine what was the difference between the VFW and American Legion. His answer was "to be eligible for the VFW you had to have the opportunity to die for your country". Think about it. To put your life in harm's way to protect our loved ones at home. Having done so I am honored and consider it a privilege to be a member of "The Veterans of Foreign Wars," so should you!

CHAPLAIN, continued from page 1

or other subject matter experts ~ physical, mental, emotional, or fiscal. We are often highly hesitant, but please do not let ego deter from seeking help, as pride dispels nobility when wisdom and humility are negated.* Proverbs 19:20-21 (ESV): "Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

Moreover, personal matters frequently require the allowance to mourn, to address wrongs proactively, and to learn from mistakes. Healing is often promoted by positive remembrance, offering/seeking forgiveness of others and self, gaining objective insight, AND gleaning the lessons from the darkest days. Organizationally, growth and repair usually involve remaining receptive, ethical, and mindful of purpose. May we do our best to work within and toward the path of 'light' in our hearts, minds, bodies, and in our organizational endeavors

to thrive and renew. Psalm 119:105 (ESV): "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

May God Bless You.

*Please Note: Twenty (20) veterans per day take their own lives per the most recent VA Suicide Data Report (2016); Even one is too many. Please convey light and hope.

Here are some resources:

- <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>
- <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide-prevention/>
- <http://m-span.org/buddy/>
- VA Veterans Crisis Line: 1-(800) 273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1 (800) 273-8255

Resolutions Passed at State Conventions Sometimes Work

Daniel J. Crocker, Retired State Director of Veterans Services for Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Every year VFW Posts and other veteran service organizations across the America receive calls from disgruntle survivors of veterans whose grave were not marked by a flag on Memorial Day weekend. In most cases the current marker that is in place is a commercial one and is void of any indication that a veteran is even interred there.

For the better part of the two decades the Department of Michigan, VFW through its State Conventions has passed resolution after resolution that were sent to our National Convention floor to try to alleviate this situation.

Some would say that it is not a big deal to have a veteran's grave marked with a flag. Tell that to the families who will finally have their loved one remembered for their military service!

Getting the Federal Government to change procedure can be a monumental task. Around 1998, the Department of Michigan, VFW began submitting resolutions indicating:

- Government headstones should be available to all who request;
- There is to be no consideration given to the circumstance if a grave has a commercial headstone or not;
- There is to be complete elimination of any date that prohibits the government marker from being placed on a marked grave with a commercial marker.

Year after year, resolutions were submitted at the Department of Michigan, VFW Conventions. Year after year, our position was pressed at the VFW National Conventions.

The following summary gives an historical perspective of how the mountain was moved:

Prior to September 11, 2001

- Policy: A government headstone could only be requested for an "unmarked grave of a veteran."
- Reality: Many cemetery sextons interpreted "unmarked" loosely. If nothing on the commercial headstone identifying the deceased as a veteran, application was made for the headstone.
- Result: The Department of Veterans Affairs issued policy regulations addressing the matter. Consequentially, fewer families received the government headstone for their loved one.

December 6, 2002

- Public Law 107-103, title V, Section 502 (a)-(c)
- Policy: Removed requirement that the grave must be "unmarked"
- Reality: Stipulation went back only to September 11, 2001

December 26, 2007

- Public Law 110-157, title II, sections 201,203 (a)
- Policy: The creation of the Medallion for commercial markers in lieu of a government headstone.
- Retroactively went back and established November 1, 1990, as the date that would be allowed both government headstones and/or commercial markers.
- There still was no eligibility for the Medallion prior to November 1, 1990.

For the next ten years the Michigan VFW continued to go through with the resolutions at the State Conventions and on to the National Conventions. However, we changed our strategy when the Medallion was created. In an act of fiscal responsibility, it was our opinion that we change our resolution to address only the Medallion due to the cost of headstones versus medallions.

The following is the resolution that we continued to push forward each year at the State Conventions and on to the National Convention. In fact, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States adopted the resolution as a Commander-In -Chief resolution in the latter years before enactment from Congress.

MARKER MEDALLION

WHEREAS, Public Law 110-157, signed into law on December 26, 2007 gives the VA authority to "furnish, upon request", a medallion or other device of a design determined by the Secretary, to signify the deceased's status as a veteran, to be attached to a headstone or marker that was furnished at private expense; and

WHEREAS, veterans who died prior to November 1, 1990 are not eligible to have this medallion or other device provided; and

WHEREAS, family headstones or monuments often do not necessarily commemorate the veteran's military service; and

WHEREAS, many of our honored deceased veterans now lie in their final resting place without lasting testimony by our government of their service to our country; and

WHEREAS, we believe this injustice to our Nation's veterans must be corrected; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we support amending Public Law 110-157 to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish a medallion or other device notwithstanding that fact that they died prior to November 1. 1990.

In the early part of 2016, the VFW National Legislative Service testified before Congress the need to support and address this injustice. Public Law 114-315, title III, section 302, dated December 16, 2016, referred to as the "Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Improvement Act of 2016," retroactively adjusted the eligibility date for requesting a Medallion for a commercial headstone of a marked grave to April 7, 1917, the beginning of World War I.

The effective date of this law took effect on December 16, 2017 and the new form 40-1330M was published online on March 20, 2018. How appropriate that during the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI, the Michigan VFW can celebrate such an accomplishment! Many WWI veterans were buried in family plots throughout our nation with just their first name on a stone. No markings of military service at all.

—RESOLUTIONS, continued on Pg. 18





Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Announces the 2017-18 Voice of Democracy National Scholarship Winners

First-place winner Robyn Anzulis, from Woodbine, Md., represented the VFW Department of Maryland, and was awarded the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.

Second-place winner Philip Dunagan, from Mosier, Ore., represented the VFW Department of Oregon, and was awarded the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship.

Third-place winner Hannah Brown, from Menomonie, Wis., represented the VFW Department of Wisconsin, and was awarded the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship.

Fourth-place winner Justin Grosvenor, from Kingsley, Pa., represented the VFW Department of Pennsylvania, and was awarded the \$7,000 LeRoy Moorhead Memorial Scholarship.

Fifth-place winner Caitlyn Olson, from Greeley, Colo., represented the VFW Department of Colorado, and was awarded the \$5,500 Department of Minnesota William F. Halsey Memorial and Stanley and Carla Martinez Scholarships.

Sixth-place winner Rachel Penner, from Tijeras, N.M., represented the VFW Department of New Mexico, and was awarded the \$5,000 Floyd County VFW Post 3281, New Albany Indiana Scholarship.

Seventh-place winner Logan Ledman, from Northfield, Minn., represented the VFW Department of Minnesota, and was awarded the \$5,000 Rehoboth Beach Post 7447 and Auxiliary Dept. of Delaware Scholarship.

Eighth-place winner William Merrill, from Montgomery, Ala., represented the VFW Department of Alabama, and was awarded the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G. Salmon Memorial Scholarship.

Ninth-place winner Marissa Berardo, from Bradford, R.I., represented the VFW Department of Rhode Island, and was awarded the \$3,500 Department of New Jersey Howard E. Vander Clute and Daniel Sean Wallace Memorial Scholarships.

Tenth-place winner Charles Hermesmann, from Columbus, N.J., represented the VFW Department of New Jersey, and was awarded the \$3,000 Department of Indiana and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Annabel Peltzer, from Laveen, Ariz., represented the VFW Department of Arizona, and was awarded the \$3,000 Joseph and Irene Hansen Memorial Scholarship.

Charity Hernandez, from Las Vegas, Nev., represented the VFW Department of Nevada, and was awarded the \$2,500 Troy and Sandy Rothbart Memorial Scholarship.

James Witt, from Ricardo, Texas, represented the VFW Department of Texas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship.

Jacob Francis, from Boise, Idaho, represented the VFW Department of Idaho, and was awarded the \$2,000 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship.

Emily Moore, from Blacksburg, Va., represented the VFW Department of Virginia, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Arizona and Auxiliary Harry A. Kosht Memorial Scholarship.

Hannah Doyle, from West Richland, Wash., represented the VFW Department of Washington, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of California and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Keeley Higley, from Walkerton, Ind., represented the VFW Department of Indiana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Illinois VFW – Ray Soden/George Cramer Scholarship.

Weston Church, from Fairview, Okla., represented the VFW Department of Oklahoma, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Wisconsin Wally Hogan/Tom Tradewell Commanders-in-Chief Scholarship.

Austin Amestoy, from Laurel, Mont., represented the VFW Department of Montana, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Kentucky and Auxiliary Brian Duffy and Marion Watson Scholarship.

Brandon Davis, from Conway, S.C., represented the VFW Department of South Carolina, and was awarded the \$2,000 Francis Tallman Memorial and Robert A. Stock Memorial Scholarships.

Morgan Wilcox, from Shawnee, Kan., represented the VFW Department of Kansas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Memorial and Southern Conference Scholarships.

Owen Martin, from Caribou, Maine, represented the VFW Department of Maine, and was awarded the \$2,000 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Black and Jane Young Memorial Scholarships.

Gianna Jones, from Warren, Ohio, represented the VFW Department of Ohio, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Alabama and Department of Georgia James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Memorial Scholarships.

Editor's Note



Scott Gloger

Yours in comradeship,

Scott Gloger
MOV Editor

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers:

I would like to take this time to Thank You All for your help and patience over the last 3 years as your editor.

I have one more issue to edit after this one. I am resigning as the Editor. It is due to future endeavors I have for the VFW organization. We have a total of 24 pages we can print for the paper; let's see if we can fill them all.

Give the new Editor all the help and cooperation you can to keep the MOV printing.

—Voice of Democracy National Scholarship Winners continued

Natasha Martinez Alvarado, from San Francisco, Calif., represented the VFW Department of California, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Georgia R.D. "Bulldog" Smith, Jr. and Department of Ohio Chester J. Koch Memorial Scholarships.

Krista Wamhoff, from Papillion, Neb., represented the VFW Department of Nebraska, and was awarded the \$2,000 Department of Connecticut and Auxiliary and Stephen and Elsie Riordan Memorial Scholarships.

Katrina Schell, from Wilmington, Mass., represented the VFW Department of Massachusetts, and was awarded the \$2,000 Larry W. Rivers and Department of Illinois Scott Post 4183 Scholarships.

Mattilyn Winburn, from Bainbridge, Ga., represented the VFW Department of Georgia, and was awarded the \$2,000 All American Post 284 and Bernard J. Michels, Post 9610 and Auxiliary Scholarships.

Olivia Heinecke, from Sisseton, S.D., represented the VFW Department of South Dakota, and was awarded the \$2,000 Juanita Crowe-Durbino, Department of Tennessee and Ervin and Lorraine Rothenbuhler Scholarships.

Caitlin Omev, from Discovery Bay, Hong Kong, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas, and was awarded the \$2,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary and Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarships.

Lydia Eason, from El Dorado Springs, Mo., represented the VFW Department of Missouri, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Hampshire Scholarship.

Maria Sebekow, from Northwood, N.D., represented the VFW Department of North Dakota, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Illinois and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Timothy Venable, from Milford, Del., represented the VFW Department of Delaware, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Missouri and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Seth Polk, from Scott Depot, W.Va., represented the VFW Department of West Virginia, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of New Mexico and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Thomas Pearson, from Libertyville, Ill., represented the VFW Department of Illinois, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Massachusetts Edward A. Nardi Scholarship.

Elliot Paul, from Greenville, N.C., represented the VFW Department of North Carolina, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Colorado and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Kristen Bednarczyk, from Fairport, N.Y., represented the VFW Department of New York, and was awarded the \$1,500 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship.

Sean Belhumeur, from Alexandria, Ky., represented the VFW Department of Kentucky, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Wyoming and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Kaitlyn Kiekintveld, from Brooksville, Fla., represented the VFW Department of Florida, and was awarded the \$1,000 Roy Chandler VFW Post 762 and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Sean Humphrey, from Glastonbury, Conn., represented the VFW Department of Connecticut, and was awarded the \$1,000 Arthur W. Jones VFW Post 7564 and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Emma Russell, from Mount Pleasant, Mich., represented the VFW Department of Michigan, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Pennsylvania Joseph L. Vicites Memorial Scholarship.

Mary Golden, from Columbia, Tenn., represented the VFW Department of Tennessee, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Maine Scholarship "to Remember the U.S.S. Maine."

—Voice of Democracy National Scholarship Winners continued on Pg. 16

God Bless America

—Voice of Democracy National Scholarship Winners continued from Pg. 15

Luke Jones, from Wailuku, Hawaii, represented the VFW Department of Hawaii, and was awarded the \$1,000 Gilbert N. Nelson - Post 1326 and their Auxiliary - Bismarck, North Dakota Scholarship.

Sarah Prather, from Oxford, Miss., represented the VFW Department of Mississippi, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Kansas and Auxiliary Robert R. Whipple Memorial Scholarship.

Emily Daine, from Littleton, N.H., represented the VFW Department of New Hampshire, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Nevada and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Erich Loewer, from Crowley, La., represented the VFW Department of Louisiana, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Florida John M. "Jack" Carney Scholarship.

Christina Chatfield, from Healy, Alaska, represented the VFW Department of Alaska, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Hawaii and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Abigail Clawson, from Mt. Pleasant, Utah, represented the VFW Department of Utah, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Idaho and Auxiliary Scholarship.

Lauren Haley, from North Little Rock, Ark., represented the VFW Department of Arkansas, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi VFW and Auxiliary Bernard McClelland Memorial Scholarship.

Sean Hogan, from Ramstein, Germany, represented the VFW Department of Europe, and was awarded the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship.

Sean Liddiard, from Waukon, Iowa, represented the VFW Department of Iowa, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Tennessee Cooper T. Holt - John Furgess Scholarship.

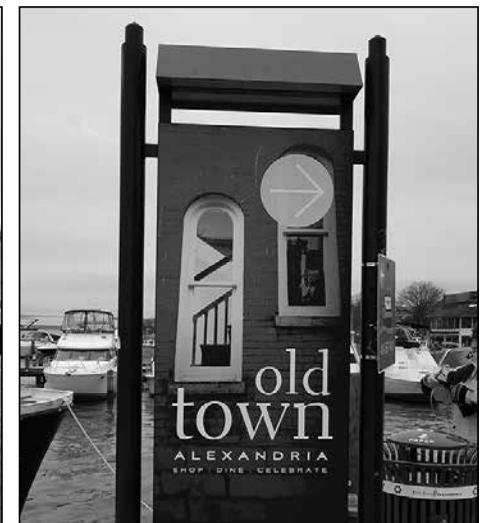
Victor Reynoso, from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, represented Puerto Rico, and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Mississippi Toxie K. Stapleton Post 6473 Luther J. Cox Memorial Scholarship.

Jacob Brogdon, from Gillette, Wyo., represented the VFW Department of Wyoming, and was awarded the \$1,000 Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank and 2010-2011 Department Commanders Scholarship.

Sofia Gulick, from Springfield, Vt., represented the VFW Department of Vermont, and was awarded the \$1,000 Mr. and Mrs. John Biedrzycki and the 2015 Homecoming Committee Scholarship.

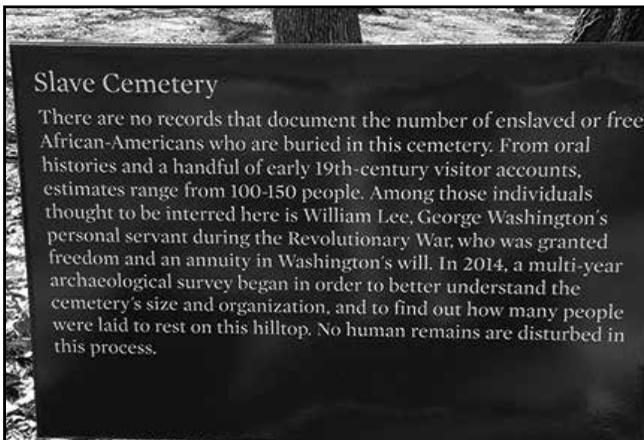
—The DC Trip Continued

RIVER BOAT CRUISE ON THE LAST DAY



—The DC Trip Continued

MT. VERNON



Phil Patterson

Candidate

For the Office of
DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER
2018-2019

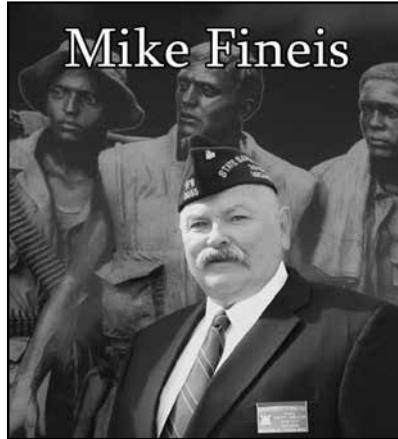


*Supported and Endorsed by
District 4
Post 6695
and his Wife and Family*

Mike Fineis

Candidate

For the Office of
DEPARTMENT
SR. VICE COMMANDER
2018-2019



*Supported by District 9 and
VFW Post 3055 and Family*

Scott Gloger

Candidate

For the Office of
DEPARTMENT
JR. VICE COMMANDER
2018-2019



*Endorsed by
District 5
Macomb County Council
Oakland County Council
Districts 7 and 9
Post 4156
Wife and Family*

Jennifer L. Smith

Candidate

For the Office of
DEPARTMENT
CHAPLAIN
2018-2019



*Endorsed by
District 6
Post 701 and its Auxiliary
Her husband, her family and
her church.*

Selfless Service Through Faith

Donald Martindale

Candidate

For the Office of
DEPARTMENT
SURGEON
2018-2019



*Endorsed by
VFW Post 1794
Macomb and Oakland
County Council
District Five, District 6
His wife Marie*

—The DC Trip Continued

MT. VERNON

Bowling Green
"Began again to Smooth the Face of the Lawn, or Bolling [sic] Green on the West front of my House..."
Washington Diary Entry, September 30, 1785

George Washington devised, as the central element of his landscape composition, a level, well-manicured lawn, admirably described by one French nobleman as "a kind of courtyard with green carpet." While modern visitors may be accustomed to such wide expanses of evenly trimmed grass, 18th-century lawns were expensive to plant and required extensive labor to maintain. The gently curving perimeters gave the landscape a more natural appearance, strongly contrasting with the straight, formal walks of most 18th-century American landscapes. To maintain its appearance, the grass was regularly smoothed with a large stone roller and cut with scythes by skilled enslaved laborers.



Wood That Looks Like Stone
The Mansion, constructed of wood, appears to be made of stone; an effect called rustication. The pine siding boards were cut and beveled to resemble stone blocks. After paint was applied to the boards, sand was thrown onto their wet surfaces to create a stone-like texture. In addition to making the Mansion appear more substantial and expensive, the sand-painted surface wore well and protected the wood siding boards.

The warm buff color of the Mansion today replicates its appearance after the last round of sand painting ordered by Washington in 1796. He instructed his farm manager, James Anderson, to use crushed sandstone from the nearby Aquia Creek, instead of the lighter colored Chesapeake Bay beach sand that was previously applied. In 2011, Mount Vernon staff reintroduced off-white paint and Aquia sand, consistent with 18th-century practice.



THE SPY MUSEUM

THE NEWSEUM



DISTRICT 4, continued from page 4

every month at 7pm. All District 4 VFW and VFW Auxiliary members in good standing are eligible to join the District 4 VFW Riders after meeting the motorcycle related requirements. Simply put, we have an open invitation to all District 4 members that enjoy riding motorcycles to join us. Use the email at the end of this article for more information about the VFW Riders or contact your post commander for contact information.

Post Commanders/Chairmen and all newly elected officers. Be sure to continue reporting your monthly Hospital Activity and Community Service Activity by the 10th of the following month. Remember, the reporting year starts on May 1 and ends on April 30. We are now in the new reporting year before we finish the current elected and appointed administrative year.

District 4 - Web links

District 4 Email: District4@vfwmi.org
 District 4 VFW Riders Email: melonman1950@aol.com
 District 4 Website: www.VFWMIDist4.org
 District 4 Facebook Group: Simply search for: **VFW District 4 Michigan and ask to join the Group.**

District 4 - Events

- 1st Friday May 5** District 4 - VFW Riders – Meet at VFW Post 552 – Lincoln Park – 7pm.
 District 4 Convention- Mayflower-Lt. Gamble - VFW Post 6695 – Plymouth – Noon Sharp
- May 5** District 4 - Joint Installation Banquet – Mayflower-Lt. Gamble - VFW Post 6695 – Plymouth
 Doors open 4pm - Dinner at 6pm - Tickets are \$15.00 each
 For tickets contact: Bob Caldwell at 248-508-0232
 or Email: gemic9055@sbcglobal.net
- May 27** District 4 - Memorial Day Ceremony - Woodmere Cemetery, 9400 W Fort St., Detroit.
 Line up at 10am. Step off at 10:30am and Ceremony starts a few minutes later after units are in place.
- June 7-8** District 4 Hospitality Room. Open Thurs. & Fri. evening at State Convention. Please plan to stop by for a refreshment and comraderie. It will be located in the Courtyard by Marriot and signs will be posted in the elevators.
- June 14 July 4** District 4 Planning Meeting at Taylor VFW Post 4422 at 7pm.
 4th of July Parade, City of Wyandotte. Meet at Post VFW Post 1136 by 8:00 am.
- Aug 18** District 4 Family Picnic at Bova Engineers VFW Post 9885, Westland. Noon. Please bring a dish to pass.
- Aug 27-30** District 4 Charity Poker Fundraiser at Malarkey's Irish Pub, Westland. Volunteers Needed!

RESOLUTIONS, continued from page 14

So that we are perfectly clear, the following applies for any request for government headstones, markers, and medallions:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible Veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. VA may also furnish a headstone or marker for graves marked with a private headstone or marker, for Veterans who died on or after Nov. 1, 1990.

Any deceased Veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty may be eligible. Service after Sep. 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances (e.g., death on active duty). Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances (e.g., death while on active duty or because of training). Reservists and National Guard members who, at the time of death, were entitled to retired pay, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60 are eligible. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who Federalized and who serve for the period are called are eligible. Service prior to World War I require detailed documentation (e.g., muster rolls, extracts from State files, military or State organization where served, pension or land warrant, etc.). Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national, state Veterans', or military post/base cemetery.

The VA furnishes a medallion, upon request, to be affixed to an existing, privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased status as a Veteran. This device is furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for Veterans who served on or after Apr. 6, 1917, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Any deceased Veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable who served in the Armed Forces on or after Apr. 6, 1917 or any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty and is buried in a private cemetery in a grave marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker may be eligible. Service after Sep. 7, 1980 must be for a minimum of 24 months continuous active duty or be completed under special circumstances (e.g., death on active duty). Persons who have only limited active duty service for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances (e.g., death while on active duty or because of training). Reservists and National Guard members who, at the time of death, were entitled to retired pay, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60 are eligible. Reservists called to active duty other than training and National Guard members who are Federalized and who serve for the period called are eligible.

There are literally tens of thousands of veterans' graves that do not acknowledge their service. It is up to each VFW Post to search and find those graves. Please work with our VFW Service Office, your County Office of Veteran's Affairs, and cemetery sextons to assist in locating and identifying those deceased veterans' graves. Secure as much information as possible before applying for a medallion.

This mission began several years by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and it is now up for the membership to carry the torch and once again validate that **"No One Does More for Veterans,"** than the **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.**

WHO CAN APPLY - An "applicant" for a Medallion may be any of the following:

- (i) A decedent's family member, which includes the decedent's spouse or individual who was in a legal union as defined in 38 CFR 3.1702(b)(1)(ii) with the decedent; a child, parent, or sibling of the decedent, whether biological, adopted, or step relation; and any lineal or collateral descendant of the decedent;
- (ii) A personal representative, defined as a family member or other individual who has identified himself or herself as the person responsible for making decisions concerning the interment of the remains of or memorialization of a deceased individual;
- (iii) A representative of a Congressionally-chartered Veterans Service Organization;
- (iv) An individual employed by the relevant state, tribal organization, or local government whose official responsibilities include serving veterans and families of veterans, such as a state or county veterans service officer; or
- (v) Any individual who is responsible, under the laws of the relevant state or locality, for the disposition of the unclaimed remains of the decedent or for other matters relating to the interment or memorialization of the decedent.

If you need assistance in completing or identifying deceased veterans, please contact our Department Service Office at:

VFW Service Office
 McNamara Federal Building
 477 Michigan Ave, Ste. #1215
 Detroit, MI 48226-2588
 Phone: 313-964-6510/313-964-6510
 Fax: 313-964-6545
 Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov



**HE'S ON WATCH.
SO ARE WE.**

We always watch out for our own. And right now, our fellow veterans need us. Membership dues alone cover only 15% of the cost of VFW programs. With two wars and an aging veterans' population, demand is unprecedented. Please donate to your Department mailings. They're counting on us.

**GOD BLESS
OUR TROOPS**



Scott Gloger, Editor

Editorial Committee:

Paul McIvor, Commander
 Jerry Gorski, Sr. Vice Commander
 Matt David, Jr. Vice Commander
 Scott Gloger, MOV Editor
 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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 American Publishing LLC
 Jenny DeBack, President

TAPS

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 Department of MI VFW
 924 North Washington
 Lansing, MI 48906
 (517) 485-9456

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



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

607 ROGERS CITY

BRUDER LARRY E. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
 MILLER MELVIN J. 91 ARMY/WWII

1519 NORTHVILLE

BYSZKOWSKI WALTER 93 NAVY/WWII
 JOHNSTON EARL 91 ARMY/WWII

2269 WIXOM

LEIDER HARRY 87 KOREA

2406 CHARLOTTE

SENKO LON M. 69 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

3165 NEGAUNEE

BEAUCHAINE BRUCE C. 75 NAVY/VIETNAM

KRATZ GARY P. 71 MARINES/VIETNAM

LEWIS GROVER D. 72 NAVY/VIETNAM

MAGER STANLEY A. 93 NAVY/WWII

3314 ARCADIA

WARE BURTON J. 84 ARMY

3676 SAULT STE MARIE

OBERLE LAWRENCE 68 ARMY/VIETNAM

4005 CORUNNA

CAMPBELL RICHARD E. 87 MARINES/KOREA/
 VIETNAM

FROMHOLZ BILL 72 NAVY/VIETNAM

SCOLLON BERNARD G. 86 ARMY/KOREA

4090 PORTLAND

BENAK JOE J. 92 ARMY/WWII

POHL RICHARD 83 ARMY

4164 CARO

CUMMINGS ELTON 74 ARMY/VIETNAM

EGGERT ROBERT 85 ARMY/KOREA

JANDO JOHN 87 ARMY/KOREA

SCHANK ROBERT 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

4461 LAKE ODESSA

WAITE RICHARD 89 ARMY/WWII

4659 SHELBY TOWNSHIP

PARRELL JOSEPH 78 ARMY

SELEY WILLIAM 83 NAVY/KOREA

STADE RAYMOND 79 ARMY/KOREA

STEINBRECHER JAMES 73 ARMY/VIETNAM

SUNDELL HENRY 88 ARMY/AIR FORCE/KOREA

VENDETTI CARLO 91 ARMY/WWII

5602 SIX LAKES

CASWELL EDWARD L. 73 ARMY/VIETNAM

KANINSKY ROBERT B. 86 ARMY/KOREA

5666 FLUSHING

JONES ALLEN 93 ARMY/WWII

5670 GWINN

PARIS LOUIS B. 89 AIR FORCE/WWII

ZUCKIEWSKI RONALD 71 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

5678 TAWAS CITY

KILLEY MERTON 95 ARMY/WWII

6754 SPRUCE

ZIESMAN CARL A. 86 AIR FORCE/KOREA

6782 EASTPOINTE

WILLS GORDON 83 ARMY/KOREA

9283 SOUTHGATE

MARSHALL FRANK 95 NAVY/WWII

9388 MUSKOGON

BLACK GEORGE JR. 80 AIR FORCE

DARNELL JACKIE 78 ARMY

LANE OTIS J. 82 ARMY/KOREA

STAPLES FLATE 92 MARINES/WWII

WALLACE HARRISON 94 ARMY/WWII

9489 ATLANTA

McMURPHY ORAL N. 98 ARMY/WWII



—The DC Trip Continued

THE HOLOCAUST



WW II MEMORIAL



VIETNAM WALL



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

Thank you to all veterans for keeping our country safe.

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
June/July/August 2018



Volume 85 Number 4

STATE COMMANDER

I would like to congratulate the newly elected VFW and Auxiliary officers for the 2018-2019 year. This is not the first rodeo for some of you but for some it is. Regardless if you've done it for multiple years or this is your first, I hope you take the time between now and when you take office to sit down and think about what you want to accomplish in the coming year. To the new Post and District Commanders, start planning now. State Convention will be over before you know it and you will be in charge. The success of your post will depend on your leadership. Get your team and your plan together so you are ready to execute on June 10. Enjoy your year. It goes very fast.

In March, I attended the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington DC. This is the annual conference where we honor our Department winners of the Voice of Democracy and the National winner of the Patriots Pen. State President Bonney Pray and I had the honor of escorting the Dept of Michigan winner Emma Russell from the 11th District into the awards ceremony. It was pretty exciting to sit there while they announced the 52 winners. Hoping while the names are called that the next one wasn't Emma. Unfortunately, she didn't win first place but she did very well and we wish her luck in her future endeavors.

The second reason for the Legislative Conference is for the VFW to storm Capitol Hill and meet with our respective legislative delegations to discuss veteran's issues. I was accompanied on this trip by my Chief of Staff Bob Williams. I would like to thank Bob for his hard work in setting up the appointments. I could not have done it without him. Bob and I talked a lot and one of the things we talked about most was how we, the Dept of Michigan, are very fortunate. All of our legislators, representatives and senators, are very supportive of veterans and want to make sure veterans are taken care of. They were all very supportive of our goals. We did not have a single meeting where we felt that we did not have their full support. We both were thankful that we are not from the Dept of California.

I would like to congratulate the 46 posts that have attained 100% so far this year. I know it wasn't easy but you did it. Congratulations. There are 117 posts that need 5 members or less and 25 of those only need

one or two. Keep digging comrades. I know you can make it. The membership year does not end until June 30. It can be done. John Griffith, the 6th District Commander last year, is living proof. Between May and the end of June, he went from 75 members short of making 100% to being well over 100% and becoming an All State and All-American District Commander. He did it and so can you.

I know the 2017-2018 administrative year is winding down but there is still work to do. You guessed it, it's membership. As of this writing we still need 2,644 members to make 100%. Sound like a lot but it really isn't. It comes out to about 9 members per post. I sent out a list to each district commander with all the unpaid members. This should have been sent down to each post. I need you to get this list and start calling the unpaid members and get them to renew their dues. The weather is getting nicer so if you can't reach them by phone, get a couple of guys together and go visit. We need to bring these comrades back into the ranks.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last 3 years. It has gone quickly. It seems like yesterday I was being sworn in as the new State Jr Vice Cdr, I blinked, and now my year as State Cdr is almost over. Thanks to State Sr Vice Phil Patterson and State Jr Vice Mike Fineis. Thank you for having my back. If I can ever be of help to you, I am at your service. Thank you to State Adj/QM Lynn Patterson for taking care of the routine day to day operations of the Dept. I would not have been able to do it without you. Thank you to my Chief of Staff Bob Williams for your friendship, counsel, and listening to me to vent. Unfortunately, there isn't enough room in this paper to thank everyone that has helped me along the way. Please know that you have my gratitude. I would not have been able to do this without your help and support. I look forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention. It has been an honor and a privilege. God bless you.



Matt David
State Commander

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STATE CONVENTION
JUNE 7-8-9, 2018

*Veterans,
 We thank
 you for your
 service and the
 sacrifices you
 make to keep
 our country safe.
 We are forever
 grateful to you.*