

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

WINTER/SPRING 24



Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Pamela Morgan



Middle School Teacher of the Year, Kristine Casko



Voice of Democracy winner, Eddy Holcomb, with his parents

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High School Teacher of the Year, Jason Krajewski



Patriot's Pen winner, Derek Plichta, with his parents



2024 STATE CONVENTION NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, JR. VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, CAROL WHITMORE

Carol Whitmore was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on July 27, 2023, at the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Carol served in the United States Army from 1977 to 2013, earning her VFW eligibility by serving in Iraq. In recognition of her service, she received the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (six), Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (two), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Non-Commissioned Professional Development Ribbon (three), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (three), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, and the Combat Action Badge.

She joined the VFW in 2012 at Post 9127 in Des Moines, Iowa, where she maintains her Gold Legacy Life membership. She has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels, culminating with her election as the VFW Department of Iowa Commander from 2018 to 2019, in which she achieved All-American status. On the national level, she served on the Legislative Committee, the General Resolutions Committee, and on the National Council of Administration from 2019 to 2023. In 2022, she was elected as designee for National VFW Commander-in-Chief for the year 2025, becoming the first woman and first Iowan to hold the position. Carol attended the University of Northern Iowa and Hawkeye Community College. She is a retired nurse. She is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie, the VFW National Home, the American Legion and its Auxiliary. Carol and her husband, Brad, reside in Des Moines, Iowa.

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2024 STATE CONVENTION NATIONAL AUXILIARY REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL PRESIDENT, CARLA MARTINEZ

Carla Martinez of Layton, Utah, was elected to the office of National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary at its 110th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. A Life Member of Lt. Clarence E. Allen Auxiliary 409 in Salt Lake City, Utah, she has served the organization in many capacities, including Auxiliary, District and Department President. She also served as Department Chief of Staff from 2017 to 2018. On the National level, Carla served as National Certified Recruiter Trainer for the state of Utah from 2016 to 2018 and as the National Western Conference Chairman for the Scholarships Program from 2017 to 2018. She joined on the eligibility of her

father, Harry Creel, who served in the United States Air Force for 23 years and served in the Vietnam War. Carla has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and master's degree in criminal law from Weber State University. She retired from WCF Insurance after 22 1/2 years of helping individuals who were injured on the job. Carla is a Lifetime Member of the Military Order of the Cootie (MOC), a Lifetime Member of the Fleet Reserve Association and is a Gold Legacy Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). She is retired from the United States Navy and spent 13 months in Korea. Carla and her husband, Stanley (Utah's National Legislative Member (2021-2024), have a son, daughter-in-law and four grandchildren. In her spare time, likes to volunteer at the VA Hospital, recruit and mentor. She loves to bowl and swim.

EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, RAY LOPEZ



Comrades, I am so energized by everything you are doing throughout Michigan to serve our veteran and family community. It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at our Mid-Winter Conference in January and supporting our District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners. This year's Department Voice of Democracy winner, Eddy Holcomb, out of District 9 and VFW Post 4090, represented Michigan on the National level in Washington, DC, and on March 4th, the National Winners were introduced to the Legislative Conference attendees. Eddy received a \$2000 scholarship provided by VFW Post 2562, Silver Spring, MD. We also congratulate the Department Patriots Pen winner, "Mr. Derek" Plichta from District 11 and Post 3039! Derek received a \$1000 scholarship provided by the VFW Department of Colorado. Thank you to every Post and Auxiliary, to every chairman, to every teacher, and to every parent that contributed to making this program a success this year. The National First Place VOD winner

is Sophia Lin, from Scottsdale, Arizona. Sophia represented the VFW Department of Arizona and was awarded the \$35,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship. Gwendolen Troy, from Angeles City, Philippines, represented the VFW Department of Pacific Areas in the VOD competition and was awarded the \$2,000 Fridley VFW Post 363 and Auxiliary Scholarship (MN) and Department of Michigan and Auxiliary Scholarship (combined). The National First Place Patriots Pen winner is Bryant Day, from Ashland, Ohio. Bryant represented the VFW Department of Ohio and was awarded the \$5,000 North End Post 144, Paul A. Spera Past Commander-in-Chief Award. Ernest Crites, from Santa Fe, New Mexico, represented the VFW Department of New Mexico in the Patriots Pen competition and was awarded the \$1,000 Department of Michigan Award and the Warren A. Tressler Memorial (Department of Minnesota) Award (combined). While we celebrate these amazing achievements, I also must pause for a moment. Since the last issue of the MOV, we have lost some members who were deeply ingrained in the lifeblood of our organization. With a heavy heart and sincere

gratitude for their selfless service to others, I, like many of you, mourn the passing of Jim Muys, Department Chaplain, Frank Mills, 2022-23 Buddy Poppy Director, David Patrick, VFW and MCL Assistant Department Service Officer, Patrick Patterson, who served as Department Convention Director for many years, and Tim Artibee, 22-24 District 11 Commander and Department Riders Group Director. The passing of these members grieves me, like many of you. They all made real impacts on our communities and changed lives for the better, including mine. As I move forward as your Commander in 2024, I take their examples with me as inspiration and reinforcement that our VFW mission is crucial for safeguarding our history, enhancing the lives of our veterans, and ensuring that the future of our military and veteran community has the full support of the VFW. I am grateful to all of you. Thank you for what you do for each other and for veterans all over Michigan. You make a difference and inspire positive change for those who need it most. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our State Convention May 29-June 2.



DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, KIMBERLY NAPOLEON

Greetings Comrades! Where has the time gone? It's hard to believe we are in the last quarter of the 2023-2024 year. We are back from a week of advocacy in action at the Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. The week began with Commander Lopez and I having the distinct honor and humbling pleasure, after witnessing The Changing of the Guards ceremony, of laying a wreath on behalf of Department of Michigan VFW at the tomb of the unknown soldier, along with JVC Yahnka and PDC and C of A member, Kevin Conklin. Afterwards, it was time for business. We spent two days presenting the 2024 Priority Goals of Veterans of Foreign Wars to the 11 elected members of Congress and our two elected senators from Michigan at the Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. In between, we attended the parade of Voice of Democracy State winners and the announcement of the annual grand prize winner. Congratulations to District 9!! Our student from Michigan

represented us well and finished in the top 13. Job well done, and we are looking forward to next year's contest. Hearing the essays at Mid-Winter and the grand prize winner from Arizona, my reassurance was refreshed, knowing that our future is in good hands. The week culminated with attending the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting, where our National CIC Sarmiento testified and addressed the same issues to the Senate on behalf of the 1.4 million veterans and its Auxiliary members. I do not know about any of the other members of the State delegation, but it truly was a great week for me! Thank you to all who play a role in constantly contacting your elected officials on a monthly basis and encouraging them to pass legislation relevant to us as veterans as well as our families. Please continue responding to the action alerts and encourage family and friends to sign up as well; we are indeed stronger together than apart. Spring is around the corner, and it's a good time to check your reporting for any missed reports to submit for year-end credit. It's also a good time to contact those members whose dues have expired or are

expiring soon, and let's help Commander Lopez "Meet the Challenge" by reaching the membership goal of 102% on the way to Louisville, KY. In "Meeting the Challenge" not only does our Department grow, but the organization grows as well. Membership is our voice when advocating for our hard-earned benefits to our elected officials for veterans and our families. Please remember to submit your Post and District election reports immediately following the election to the Department office, in addition to the District Commander, for a smooth transition. In closing, Department of Michigan, all in all, it has been a good year, and I am grateful to have served you as your Department Sr. Vice Commander. I thank you for your challenges and your kind words of encouragement, support, guidance, and wisdom. I couldn't have asked for a better Commander than Commander Lopez. Thank you for your leadership and your dedication to serving. As always, keep the faith, remember, and believe, "The best is yet to come!" I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Kalamazoo for Department Convention on May 29th-June 2nd, 2024.



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, REINOLD YAHNKA

Comrades, where has this year gone? Before you know it, we will be at the State Convention in Kalamazoo and wrapping up this year. At this time, you should be working membership if your Post or District has not met the challenge of 102 percent or higher. Let's put the Department of Michigan over the top and meet CIC Sarmiento's "Meet the Challenge" of 102 percent so that we can keep this great organization growing. Then look at the All-State checklist, check off all of the items you have completed, and if you haven't met the requirements, make All-State work on those remaining requirements and get your All-State checklist turned into Department by April 30th, 2024. If you have not met the membership requirement

by April 30th, 2024, send in your All-State application because you have until June 30th, 2024, to meet the 100 percent plus 1 requirement, and then your Post will receive your All-State award at Fall Convention. Elections and the last round of District meetings will be coming up, and new leaders will be elected. Let's all work together to mentor those newly elected Officers in their new positions and prepare them for the positions they have been elected to. Pass on your knowledge to the new person and help them throughout the year. At the same time, all newly elected positions should be receptive, seeking the guidance and suggestions of those who have been there before them. If you find yourself by yourself and need assistance, please reach out to another Post near you or your District leadership for guidance. Make sure you submit your election reports

to National online as soon as you have completed the elections. Make sure you send a copy of your election report to your incoming District Commander, so that they can be prepared when they take office after the State Convention. When it comes to District Meetings, every Post Commander is required to attend or have a representative at every Meeting or Convention. You should also be electing Delegates that will be going to Department or National Conventions and sending in your delegate dues to both Department and National. It has been my pleasure and honor to be your State Junior Vice Commander and I thank you for putting that trust in me. I have had fun traveling throughout the state, meeting everyone while attending District meetings and other functions. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention.

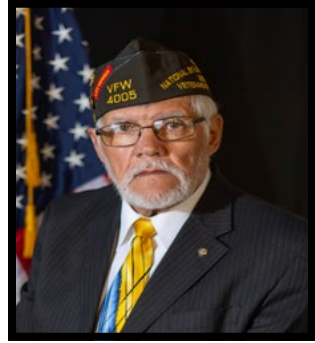
DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

GARRETT DICKEY

Greeting Comrades! It was great catching up with everyone at Mid-Winter Conference in Flint. I'd like to give a huge shout out to Director Mike Martin, Brian Martin, Department Jr. Vice Reinold Yahnka, and everyone involved in making the Patriots Pen/Voice of Democracy such a huge success. Heather and I were blown away by the special guests and essay writers. By now, all of our District

Commanders should have received the newest Members-at-Large roster. Please continue to work on this and your expiring or expired rosters. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Our goal for this year and years to come is 102%. It takes everyone working together to achieve this. Retention and growth are the names of the game. As always, if you have any events or membership activities

coming up, please don't hesitate to reach out. I love helping out in whatever way I can. Since All State and Membership go hand in hand, I'm usually joined at the hip by Director Mike Martin; think Starsky and Hutch in a big red pickup. Let's finish this year strong and earn that third All-American title in a row!



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, BARRY WALTER

Congratulations in order to the Posts of our Department, who have already achieved the goal of 100% in membership. There are also several Posts that have exceeded the Commander-in-Chief's goal of 102%. If our office may be of any assistance to your Post in your pursuit of your membership goals, please contact us. As we are preparing for Department Convention we remind all Posts that your

eligibility to vote at Convention requires you to be current with reporting your quarterly audits, submission of election reports, and payment of Post delegate fees. Delegate fee statements will be mailed to all Post Commanders the first week of April. If you have any questions about any of the requirements for voting at Convention please contact the office. We want to assist you before we get to Convention if at all possible. Department Convention is always an exciting time. We take the opportunity to celebrate and honor the success of the current year. We also take the opportunity

to elect new Department leadership and embark on a new path forward for our Department. This period of transition can be difficult. While we are not yet finished with the current year, we are preparing earnestly for the next year. Our obligation is always to complete the current mission first. We shall lose focus on the current mission to Meet the Challenge placed before us. That Challenge is 102% membership. I believe that we can Meet the Challenge. I look forward to that long line of Commanders receiving that recognition at Department Convention.

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

BOB LUTZ

Comrades, I hope that everybody is in good health and spirits. As I talk to Post Commanders about not sending in the monthly reports, I receive answers such as "I'm not going for a white hat" and "the Post doesn't do anything." I would like to remind everybody that in the National Manual of Procedure, Section 218, duties and obligations of the Commander paragraph, I "assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded," so it is each and every Post Commander's duty to make sure that their

Post is properly sending in their reports. I know that I have posted this before, but I just want to make sure that each Commander and future Commanders are aware of it. As this year quickly winds down and the new reporting year is just around the corner, I would like to remind everyone that there will be a few minor changes in reporting this coming year. Everything will be posted on the Department web page and gone over at the Department planning meeting. We are trying to make reporting as easy as possible. Your District

Commanders will be given all the details at the planning meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Commander Ray Lopez for the appointment and thank incoming Commander Kimberly Napoleon for appointing me for the 2024-2025 year. Yes, Comrades, you're stuck with me for at least another year. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me, Bob Lutz, at (586) 924-4591 or activity@vfwmi.org.



MENTAL HEALTH/VMS DIRECTOR, DOUG BRINKER

Comrades and Auxiliary, what a showing for Mid-Winter, grabbing up all those mental health and VMS goodies. More will be at State Convention. I truly appreciate each of you who stopped by the table. Those who didn't, please do so; there will be a chance at a give-away item at the end of Convention. Please visit our Mental Health page as well as VMS for more information, resources, and other important information that I don't get time at Department events to share in my report. Remember, if you want mental health credit in the All-State Program, you must showcase those items at your Post on a resource table and submit a picture with the Post number. As we work into the spring months, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and I am challenging 10 Posts before State Convention to have the Program at your Post for a Mental Health event. Such as Royal Oak's event

planned for April 14th. Contact William Gambill for details. You must request me by filling out the form on the Department website. Department must approve my attendance in advance of your event. Know the importance of each time you spread awareness; you help educate those around you and perhaps save a life. All those who face behind closed doors. The 988 items are to spread psychoeducation about the number and the efficiency it has when someone's life is at stake. By the time this goes to print, the first of several Foxhole/Dept Mental Health Program Suicide Prevention Pancake Breakfast/Cornhole Tournaments will be in the books, and we were able to raise \$300 for Foxhole. Thanks to members and nonmembers alike who turned out. Please add this to your May calendar: On May 18th, at VFW Post 423, there will be a Mental Health Resource Summit and another Foxhole/Mental Health Program Cornhole Fundraiser with some awesome prizes to win. Stay tuned

for details. Thanks to Robotics Therapy and Southern Michigan Cornhole for the awesome boards. Finally, remember May 4th as Day of Service, and this is a perfect VMS opportunity for you to Adopt a Unit or Community Park cleanup, etc., and get out and encourage the community to assist. I challenge every Post across the Department to participate and let Mighty Michigan rule on Day of Service. To close today, March 2nd, 2024, I attended the late Tim Artibee's memorial service at Clare VFW Post. I watched hundreds of supporters pack the Post wall to wall and listened as some remembered Tim the best, but more importantly, I learned how big Tim's heart was for the VFW and community. Comrades and Auxiliary, let's learn from Tim to be a treasure while we still have treasures to give our communities and the VFW Organization. Til Valhalla Comrade Artibee, "We have the watch."

IONIA CIVIL WAR FLAG

BY SARAH DANIELS

"They knew if the confederates took that flag, they would take the heart and soul of their men." Eric Calley, Post Commander of VFW Post 4646, said as he reflected on the importance of the preservation of what is believed to be the only Civil War Flag on public display in Michigan, located in the Ionia County Courthouse. Calley and his Muir-Lyons VFW Post have joined forces with Shane Houghton, and VFW Post 12082. They have raised around \$34,000 of their \$50,000 goal to restore Michigan's 21st Infantry Regiment Civil War 1862 battle banner. The VFW Department of Michigan donated \$500 in February to the project and has an ongoing fundraiser effort for the remainder of the year. While not yet at the fundraising goal, enough funds have been raised to start restoration. The flag will be taken down April 2, and replaced with a replica until the restoration is complete. Calley and

Houghton believe keeping the flag on public display in the Ionia County Courthouse is crucial to preserving Michigan's history. If this restoration is not supported by community members, the state program, Save the Flags, will archive the flag along with others in its care, where it will rest safely and preserved, but outside of public display or viewing. "Having the flag available to public view will preserve the legacy of those 2,423 soldiers who carried it," Calley said. "Over the last decade, our history has been slowly taken down across America, especially the Civil War history. If it is taken away, put out of sight, out of mind, their legacy won't be portrayed the way it should be." A fundraising gala was held in January in Lansing, featuring Vietnam veteran and Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy L. Davis as the keynote speaker, and a silent auction. Department Adjutant Barry Walter is now the proud

owner of a signed Gary Sinise poster acquired from the auction. While progress has been made raising funds, Calley and Houghton still need to raise more to meet the \$50,000 goal. To learn more, or to support the battle banner's restoration, visit vfwmi.org.

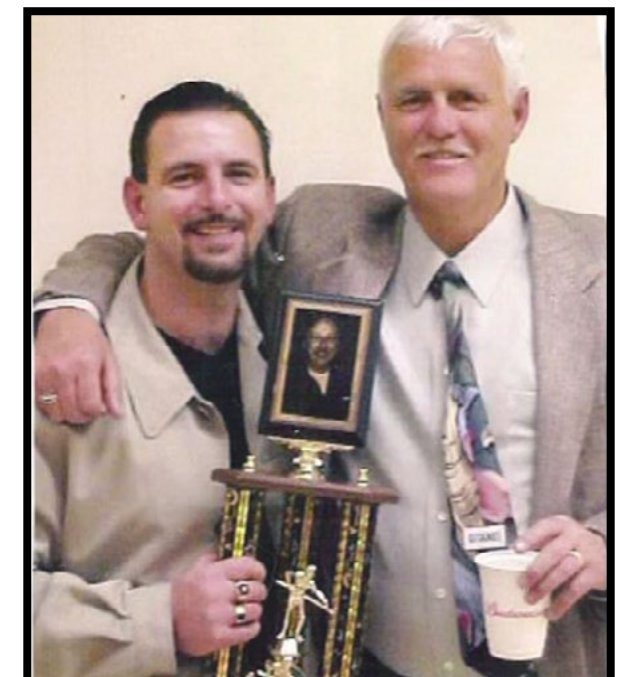


MORE THAN A GAME: THE LEGACY OF THE VFW POOL TOURNAMENT

In 1968, a friendly challenge to a game of pool was thrown out between VFW members from different parts of Michigan. Now, 56 years later, the VFW Michigan Pool League has attracted hundreds of veterans who compete annually in the longest running statewide tournament in Michigan and is the only state league in the VFW nationally. Pool League Director Don Smith credits the league's long history to the spirit of competition embedded in military and veteran culture, and the camaraderie surrounding the league reminiscent of bonds formed during military service. "For people that enjoy the game, the competition factor unifies us," Smith said. "It's all about the camaraderie, brotherhood, and sisterhood. No matter what generation of warrior we are, we are all raised our right hand, fought for the same cause. This brings us together, and pool is what brings us together now." This year marks Smith's 27th year involved in the league and views the tournament as more than just a game. It is also an outlet for veterans who struggle with mental health and looking for community. "It is a relief," he said. "When I play pool, I'm able to block out the outside noise, focus on the shot, trust myself and take risks. In life you have to stay focused and keep moving forward, blocking out the negative things. Also, in team events, you learn how to play with others and function effectively together. "I associate pool a lot with life," Smith continued. "Sometimes every shot is not there. Sometimes you need to create your own shot, play defense, be humble, and

need to be a good loser to be a good winner." Smith's personal passion for bringing veterans together for the tournament stems from his own experiences learning pool from his Vietnam veteran father at age 12, and later competing alongside him in the tournament after returning from the Gulf War. "My dad practiced playing pool every Sunday at the local VFW, and took me along," Smith said. "It wasn't until many years later, when my dad visited me at my duty station in Virginia that I finally beat him." One of Smith's most proud memories of the tournament came in 2004, when he and his father were the first father-son team to win the doubles championship. Many losses and exciting victories have come for Smith over the years, but this moment was among the fondest. "My dad and I fought like dogs when we played pool together," he said. "That day in April 2004 we came together. We were in sync, we had so much fun. We won, and still talk about it 20 years later." Today, a culture has formed around the tournament, with its own traditions and structure to honor the long history of the event and welcome all newcomers who want to compete. The tournament will have an opening ceremony, where the national anthem will play, and the pledge of allegiance spoken. Taps will also be played in remembrance of the past veterans that were involved in the league no longer with them. In their memory, a family member is invited to shoot an honorary 8-ball into a pocket. "It's important to recognize the members we lost, for not only their service,

but also their passion for this league and what they meant to the other members who played beside them," Smith said. Smith desires to continue the legacy of the veteran players who came before him and deeply impacted his life, among them are Fred Kemp and Mike Bunting. "It's a pleasure and an honor," Smith said. "Some call me Fred Jr., and it sure is a hell of a compliment, he was a great man. If I leave a legacy, I want to continue this tournament." This year's tournament will be held April 25-27 at VFW Post 3055 (1395 W Monroe Rd. St Louis, MI 48880). All VFW members are welcome and eligible to compete. "In this tournament, we all win in the end," Smith said. "We spend three days of our lives together as brothers and sisters. There is no money involved, all bragging rights." To learn more about the tournament and to register, visit vfwmi.org.





BIG 10 DELEGATE, NORM MAULDIN

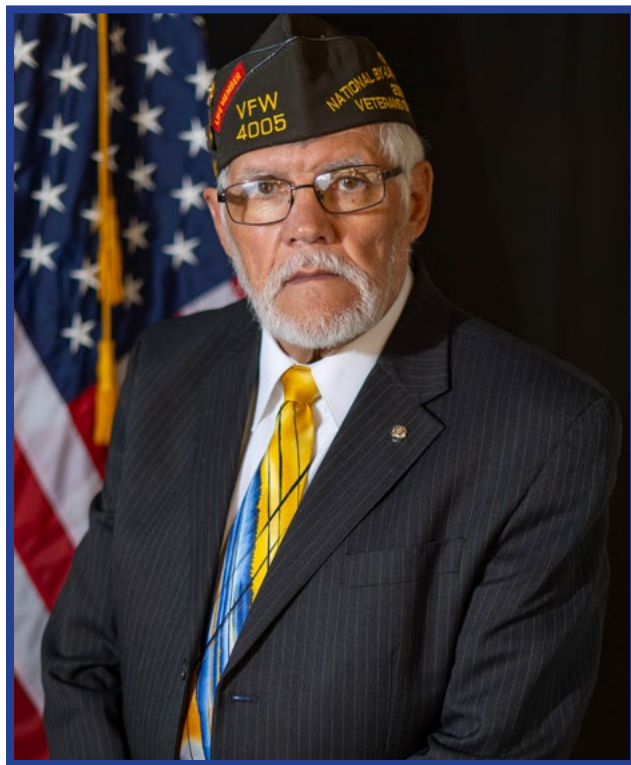
Greetings Comrades, I hope this article finds everyone doing well. I know we have all been very busy working on membership and the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year Programs. Congratulations to all the winners, and best wishes to our winners at the National level. Nothing has changed since my last article regarding Big Ten candidates for various positions, so I

will give you a recap of those running for office. Past Department Commander John Griffith and Wisconsin Past Department Commander Michelle Radcliff are running for District 7 Trustee for the National Home. As of right now, Dr. James R. Tuorila from Minnesota is the only candidate from Big Ten running for National Surgeon General in 2024-2025, a position he has held on three previous occasions. His project is the whole picture of the veteran's physical and mental well-being. Ohio Past Department Commander Chris Haynes and Wisconsin Past Department Commander

Don Lynch are running for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2027-2028. Don is currently the Big Ten Secretary/Treasurer. Chris Haynes was at Mid-Winter in Kalamazoo, and I hope many of you were able to speak with him. Well, my time as Big Ten Delegate is nearing an end. It has been a pleasure and an honor to represent you, the members of the Great State of Michigan, at Big Ten and National. I hope that I served you well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, this July.

★ MEET THE CANDIDATES ★

Barry Walter



Candidate for
Department
Quartermaster
2024-2025



Terry Kunst

My name is Terry Kunst, and I am placing my name as Chaplain for Department of Michigan for 2024-2025. I was honored to be elected to the position in January 2024 to complete the term previously held by James Muys (Mouse), who we sadly lost to illness recently. I am an Army Vietnam veteran, having served from May 1971 to February 1972 with the 101st Airborne, 159th Aviation Battalion in Phu Bai as a helicopter door gunner/crew chief on CH47's. After my enlistment was up, I attended Central Michigan University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. I worked full time (while attending CMU) at Morbark Industries and in construction at Lake Isabella in Weidman. We have owned our own business; I also sold real estate; and I have been in the insurance business since 1981. I have been married to my wife Diane for almost 45 years, effective June 2, 2024. We have four children and four grandchildren. We were very active in the Blanchard Church of God for many years, and we now meet in small groups. I have been a deacon, elder, teacher, and youth leader within the Christian community. I am also a certified officiant and have performed wedding and funeral services for friends. I am currently the Chaplain for VFW Post 3033, District 11 of VFW, and State Chaplain for Forgotten Eagles of Michigan. I served as Commander at

Post 4106 in Weidman until their closing and was a past District 11 Commander. We are a Gold Star family, as my older brother Gene gave his life on May 5, 1968, in DaNang Harbor. He is the main reason I want to serve veterans. I strive to live my life based upon the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." My priorities in life are God, family, honor, and country. I would appreciate your vote of confidence.



Candidate for
Department Chaplain
2024-2025

VETERANS & SCOUTS

BY JOHN GRIFFITH

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has for many years had a relationship with the Boy Scouts of America. VFW Post and Auxiliaries throughout the United States and abroad act as Charter Unit "Sponsors" of both Boy Scout Troops, Sea Scout Ships, Venture Crews, and Cub Scout Packs. While Scouts are not a military organization, because of their patriotic nature, many Scouts often end up joining the Armed Forces of the United States. In January 2024, MI State Commander Lopez requested that I represent the Michigan VFW in sponsorship of the Council Service Training for Scout Region 9, consisting of the states of Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. The training session was conducted at the Frankenmuth Lodge and attended by paid professional Scouters such as District Executives and Field Directors. In addition to acting as a sponsor for the four-

day training session, a VFW recruiting table was set up, which facilitated many conversations concerning Scouts and the VFW. One particular conversation I had was with Charity G. Davenport, a Senior Scout Reach Executive with the Eastern Division of the Michigan Crossroads Council, who could be of special interest to retired VFW members. Ms. Davenport and her Western Division counterpart, Abel Rubio, head up the Scout Reach Program in the state of Michigan. Scout Reach is a special program in which Scouting is introduced to underserved or low-income communities throughout the state. The program may be conducted in local churches or even schools. Ms. Davenport opined that the Scout Reach Program would be ideal to be conducted by retired VFW members who would be in a position to dedicate up to 20 hours of paid work.

Scouting experience is ideal; however, training will be provided to anyone selected for the position. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, successfully complete Scouts Youth Protection Training, pass a criminal background investigation, and become registered Scouters, the fee for which would be paid by the Scout Reach Program. Anyone interested in applying for a Scout Reach position should contact Ms. Davenport at (313) 757-8078 or Rubio Abel at (517) 885-3618. I want to thank Commander Lopez for the opportunity to introduce the VFW to this group of professional scouters. If you want to learn more about how you can become involved in Scouting, please contact me or the Department Scouting Director, Larry Thayer.

Greetings Comrades, Auxiliary Sisters, and Brothers!
The Grand of Michigan continues to be busier than a bee! Many Cootie Auxiliary members and VFW Auxiliary members worked very hard and were successful in starting PT-18 Downriver Rats Auxiliary! This is the first Auxiliary Pup Tent formed in District 4 since I do not know when! Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication in Making a Difference for veterans!



Just some pictures from their February Scratch! Full house with their very own Downriver Rat Mascot. Keep up the LOUSY work!



Cootie School: Lousy is still great!

POST REPORTS

POST 334 - NORTH OAKLAND

North Oakland VFW Post 334 presented a check for \$2,400 to the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry's Adopt-a-Shelf program on February 7th at the ONTV Food Drive that was located at the Orion Senior Center in Lake Orion. This food drive raised over \$16,000 and a van full of food for FISH as part of the 2024 Food Drive. After speaking with Michelle Behm, President of Oxford/Orion FISH, she mentioned that people could not use their Bridge cards for personal male and female products and had a shortage at FISH. VFW Post then went out and purchased \$565 of male personal products and \$221 of female products and delivered them to FISH on February 15th, 2024, along with six frozen turkeys. This is the 7th year in a row that VFW Post 334 has adopted a shelf at FISH and encourages other businesses, community groups, or individuals to come out and Adopt-a-Shelf or give donations to FISH to help support our community. This Adopt-a-Shelf program purchases food items to stock on the shelves each month during the year with the donated

funds. VFW Post 334 supports the pasta sauce shelf and the chunky soup shelf. Volunteers then take the purchased items and place them on the shelves throughout the building, which is like a small grocery store. Everyone involved with FISH is a volunteer from the community. The Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry provides groceries for people in need who currently live in Lake Orion, Oxford, Addison, and Oakland Township. Food is provided per the size of each family and can range from 60 to 200 pounds per month. With the high inflation on food these past years, the demand from the community is consonantly increasing, with an all-time high in demand at FISH. Seniors are faced with the choice of eating or taking their medication. For those in need of services or who want to join the Adopt-a-Shelf program or make a donation, call 248-628-3933 or visit oxfordorionfish.org to get more information. The Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry is located at 1060 South Lapeer Road, Oxford, MI, 48371. For more information about VFW Post 334 or if

you are thinking about or have questions about joining the VFW and helping our community, please call Jim Hubbard at 248-496-1213.

(Left to Right)

Sue Black
FISH Volunteer

Bob Mahan
JV Commander

Merry Lewis
FISH Volunteer



(Left to Right) Jim Hubbard, Commander; Michelle Behm, President of Oxford/Orion FISH; Chuck Haskin, Adj./Quartermaster

POST 582 - ORTONVILLE



Post/District 5 Brandon High School Teacher of the Year, Jeff Malicke (center), Sr. Vice Carl Jeffrey (left), and Commander Dennis Hoffman (right)



Post 582 placing a wreath at the Veterans Park WWII Memorial



Ruck for Vet's 4th Annual Walk raised \$1100.00 to help veteran families in need throughout the community



The VFW Post along with Girl and Boy Scout Troops and community helpers getting ready to place 600 wreaths on veteran's graves at the 5th Annual Wreaths Across Ortonville

POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



Post purchased a new AED device for their event space after being approved for a local grant. Members from the local Fire Department came and gave a class on using the machine. Pictured: Auxiliary members Andy Wright & Jared Roberts



Post CMDR Roberts and Post QTMR Wright received honorable awards from their Post (Dave Hadder) and Auxiliary (Jared Roberts) members for the work they've put into reviving the post over the last 7 years



Post held their first Murder Mystery Dinner! It was a 70's disco theme and we sold out almost immediately. The event was a hit and the next one is already in the works. Pictured: Post & Auxiliary members; Dave, Holly, Jared, Stacey, Jamie, Brent



Post awarded Kelli Medler with Dispatcher of the Year during their annual Honors Banquet. Pictured here is Kelli (center) with her supervisor Amy (left) and Post Quartermaster Jessica (right)

POST 9931 - BRIDGEPORT

Monthly outreach with Walking with Warrior Donuts and Coffee at the Saginaw, YMCA with State Senior Vice Commander Kimberly Napoleon and Post 9931 Commander Daren K. Humes. Talking to veterans about mental health, potential benefits, and VFW membership!



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, SARA MANKE



What an awesome year it has been! I want to take the time to thank all the members of the VFW Auxiliary who have helped spread kindness this year as we work for "Our Veterans, the Angels Among Us." Through your hard work and dedication, we have raised thousands of dollars for my special project, Veterans Suicide Prevention. I am looking forward to being able to present a check to Great Lakes Recovery part of

Marquette County Veterans Affairs, where our money will allow veterans to get free mental health therapy. Our Mid-Winter Conference was wonderful, and I would like to congratulate again our 1st place Patriots Pen Winner Derek Plichta, sponsored by District 11 Post 3039, and 1st place Voice of Democracy Winner Eddy Holcomb, sponsored by District 9 Post 4090. Being able to escort Eddy into the National Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners was something I will never forget. Eddy won a \$2000 scholarship, and we are so proud of this young man and all his accomplishments.

I am proud to say that the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary has reached 100% in membership! I am so grateful for all your hard work and recruiting efforts. Our true purpose is to work for our veterans and their families, and I am blown away this year by all our Auxiliary is doing. "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou. You have worked tirelessly this year to make veterans and their communities feel loved, appreciated, and respected. That's the best any of us can do!

AUXILIARY SR. VICE PRESIDENT, JANE DADY



One soldier or one veteran losing their life by suicide is one too many. We must do everything possible to reduce this number to zero. If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, there are caring, qualified VA responders standing by to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 988 and select 1, or text 838255. You are not alone. We are here to support and bring aid to the military, veterans, and their families. Resources are available

on two important websites. One is the VA.gov website. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or healthcare to call or look at the materials. There is a wealth of information available; just go in and look at the website. There is information on the PACT Act; you can sign up for health care or benefits, PTSD support, support for homeless veterans, and suicide help and prevention. The other is veteranscrisisline.net. If you need help, click on "How we help" and click on Call, Chat, Text, or Military Crisis Line. Someone will help you. To get more

information, click on "Resources and Support" at the top of the page drop-down menu and click on "Spread the word." "You do not have to be an expert to make a difference." Support veterans by sharing or using downloadable resources and information for social media, web materials, materials to print, and videos to share. You might never know, but that one post, one pamphlet, or one video you share with this information just may make a difference!

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - JERRY BESEAU



Hello Comrades! Since my last article, we have held our Voice of Democracy (VOD), Patriot's Pen (PP), and Teacher of the Year (TOY) banquet. Congratulations to our District VOD winner Joshua Dorfman, sponsored by Post 334; PP winner Georgia Haviaras, sponsored by Post 334; and TOYs grades 9-12 Jeff Malicke, sponsored by Post 582; grades 6-8 Kristine Casco, sponsored by Post 4037; and grades K-5 Kathryn Moon, sponsored by Post 1008. Thank you to all the Posts and Auxiliaries that participated. Sr. Vice Commander Jon Adams did an outstanding job representing the District at the VOD/PP/TOY Banquet in Kalamazoo. The members paid a wonderful tribute to the Past Commanders and Past Presidents. Thank you to Post 4156 for hosting the event and to both Sr. Vice Commander Jon Adams and Sr. Vice President Don McNichol for an excellent program. I look forward to

what the two of you will accomplish next year. Congratulations to all the Posts that made 100% in membership. I know it has not been easy this year, but you persevered. At the time of this writing, Troy Post 4037 was at 133.03%, and the District had 7 Posts that needed 10 or less to reach 100%. Let us make those phone calls, knock on some doors, do some buddy checks, whatever it takes to contact those veterans and get to that 102% goal. Here are some reminders: Your delegate strength is determined by the number of members you have on March 31st. Nominations and elections for Officers and Delegates should have been done in April. Make sure your Election Report was submitted immediately after the elections were completed. Department will be sending out a form to list your Post Delegates along with your Delegate fees. Please get them in the mail as soon as possible. They must be received before Department Convention in June; National Convention Delegate fees will also be sent out. These fees are mandatory and need to be submitted before

Department Convention. Make sure you are paid up with County Council, District, Department, and National, or you will not be eligible to vote at Department Convention. My time as Commander is nearing an end. My biggest regret is that I was not able to be there physically with you throughout the year, but I was there in spirit. The 5th District had two very strong teams this year. Working together with our 5th District Auxiliary, led by Madame President Kathy Hubbard, we had a great year! Thank you to Sr. Vice Commander Jon Adams for stepping up to the task. I know you were not expecting to take on the job a year early. I also want to thank the Officers, Chairmen, and staff of the Fighting 5th for their continued support this year while I was in rehab. Their Comradeship has been beyond reproach, and their exceptional leadership is why District 5 has been so successful. Congratulations to all our newly elected Officers! I wish you luck in the coming year.

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - MICHAEL WHITTUM



Greetings, Comrades. It is with a heavy heart that I must start this article with the sad news. We have lost a great Comrade in Tim Artibee, District Commander of District 11, Post Commander, and Director of VFW Riders. He was an exceptionally good Comrade and a great person. He will be missed. Rest in peace, brother veteran. On a happier note, all the District 6 Posts have completed their audits,

but there are still some issues with the 990's and three or four inspections. We need to have our reports done, and some Posts have not done very well; others have done well. Reports are to measure the Post activities to provide to Department and National. The month of March is busy for my home Post in Springport. Our kitchen has just started up after a major renovation. We are doing fish fries, baked chicken, french fries, coleslaw, and macaroni salad. This is our second week so far with good comments from customers. Fowlerville 6464 does a bang-up breakfast.

Mason Post 7309 has a canteen that also has exceptionally tasty food. Lambertville and Erie have good meals. Grass Lake does not have a Post but is highly active in their community. Springport 6056 and Grass Lake are the only VFW Posts left in Jackson County. We have done events together, and I can say Post 10194 is top of the shelf. I'm heading to Clare, Michigan, tomorrow for a memorial for District 11 Commander Tim Artibee. Rest in peace, brother veteran; you have done the deed.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER - ROBIN BAILEY



Well, it has been a busy nine months, and the fiscal year is winding down. To date, District 8 Membership is at 91.41% (last place in the state), and you should not stop working

toward your membership goals. There is still time before the end of the year to get the membership levels up. Regardless, even though the end of the fiscal year is fast approaching, all regular Post work (audits, membership drives, community service, etc.) still needs to be done. Doing these things is what makes us a viable

organization. I look forward to seeing as many of y'all at the last District Meeting and at State Convention at the Radisson, Kalamazoo, May 29-June 2, 2024. Lastly, our last District Meeting is May 4th, 2024, at Wayland. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. with VTS and lunch following, followed by Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER - RICKY YOUNG



To the Comrades and Sisters of the 10th District, congratulations to all the VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year recipients. To start off, I'd like to remind all Posts to attend all District Meetings as set forth in the National Bylaws. If Commanders are unable to attend, they need to send a representative in their place. I would encourage all of you to attend the District Meetings and Department functions to learn about the programs and what it takes to succeed in your year. And speaking of Bylaws, all Posts must have bylaws in accordance with the VFW National Bylaws. It still isn't too late to report your hospital activities, youth activities, community service, and Americanism projects. Any

monetary donations are reportable. Reports are still due by the 10th of the month. All reports must be submitted by the end of April for All-State consideration. Please refer to your Commander's Roster for all requirements and contact me with any questions. All reporting done is online only now. Get your quarterly audits in. We are not 100%. Quarterly audits need to be submitted by the last day of the month immediately following the quarterly period. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I can get someone to assist you. As of the writing of this article, just over half the Posts in the District have ordered Poppies. That means there are too many Posts that have not ordered theirs. Remember, do not order your Poppies from the catalog. You must use the Department order forms to get credit. The official forms can be found online at vfwmi.org under Programs/Buddy

Poppy. This program is designed to help you. The money goes into the relief fund to aid and assist your fellow comrades in need. Do you have members who are experiencing financial difficulties? This fund may be used to pay their dues. Refer to Section 704 in the Manual of Procedure for details on how to use your relief fund. Remember, the IRS Form 990 can be crucial to your Post's survival. If you got it after your Post inspection, please send me the page that has the signature blocks on it. Last, but not least, Membership is not yet 100%. Please encourage your members to get their dues paid. Don't forget that hardship dues can be paid out of your relief fund. Our District Convention will be May 4th, 2024, at the Lapeer VFW Post 4139, School of Instruction at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Convention begins at 12:30 p.m.

**HELP US SERVE
THOSE WHO SERVED.**



vfwfoundation.org



AUXILIARY DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT 4 - SHIRLEY CALDWELL

Now that the Mid-Winter Conference is over, we can concentrate on what there is to accomplish before June. District 4 is still holding music bingo on Wednesday nights at Southgate Post #9283 and Wyandotte Post #1136 on Friday nights. Lyskawa Post #7546 holds once-a-month dinners as well. I am looking forward to Wyandotte Post #1136 100th Anniversary Party on February 24th, 2024, at Crystal Gardens. Annual fish dinners are also available on Friday nights

at VFW Post #6695 in Plymouth. On March 9th, 2024, Wyandotte Post #1136 is holding a Sausage Making Fundraiser. On March 24th, 2024, District 4 VFW Auxiliary is holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at Plymouth Post #6695 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. There will be a 50/50 and basket raffle. The District 4 annual Loyalty Day Program will be held on April 28th also at Plymouth Post #6695. On April 13th, 2024, Southgate Post #9283 will

be hosting a Craft Show from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. As everyone can see, District 4 will be very busy in the next few months. Most of our Auxiliary elections will be held in April. I would like to challenge every member to think of what Chairmanship or Office you would like to run for to contribute to your Auxiliary this year. Change is good, and fresh ideas can be so important to keep up the interest of all members, including new ones; it can be so rewarding!

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT - BLANCHE BROWN

The VFW Department of Michigan Mid-Winter Conference took place at the end of January. Everyone had a chance to honor the winners of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year Programs. These programs are the VFW pride and joy. Congratulations to the winning students, teachers, and sponsoring Districts and Posts. Our District 8 is now getting ready for our up-coming year, 2024-2025. Nominations and elections will take place in April for our Officers. District 8 Auxiliaries during

the 2023-2024 year stayed busy visiting veterans in nursing homes, hospitals, and in the community, letting them know they are not forgotten. We provided them with cards and any needs they may have, along with snacks. The most important gift we gave was to show them we care. District 8 Auxiliaries included our youth in these activities, making the cards, visiting with veterans, and taking these moments to show them why we remember our veterans. VFW Department of Michigan President

Sara Manke chose suicide awareness as her special project because far too many of our veterans feel alone in their pain. We will continue our recognition of veterans, veteran visits, and contributing time to organizations that help better the lives of our veterans going into the new VFW year 2024-2025 and every year. As District 8 Auxiliaries work with their communities, we spread the recognition of our veteran's needs, the VFW priorities, and our purpose to help all our veterans.



WE WILL NEVER FORGET

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

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

1153 Charlevoix Sloan, Emory 85 Army/Vietnam	3293 Grand Ledge Lawrence, Orval K. 94 Army/Korea Marshall, Russell 93 Army/Korea	4054 Marcellus Vollrath, Harley 80 Navy/Vietnam Halifax, Richard 70 Army/Vietnam Bruens, Raymond 91 Navy/Korea
1794 Mt. Clemons Barkovitch, David A. 75 Army/Vietnam	3623 Cheboygan Beethem, William 90 Army/Korea	4090 Portland White, Robert 91 Army/Korea Moyer, John 95 Army/Navy/Korea
1887 Menominee Loskot, John J. 101 Navy/WWII/Korea	3673 Bessemer Paynter, David W. 80 Army/Vietnam	4093 Carleton Michaud, Dennis 76 Army/Vietnam Mills, Frank E. 76 Army/Vietnam
2053 White Cloud Jonaitis, Michael 79 Marines/Vietnam	3676 Sault Ste Marie Hillock, Thomas 83 Army/Vietnam	4461 Lake Odessa Brock, Harold 86 Air Force/Korea Deatsman, LaVon C. 91 Navy/Korea
2292 Edmore O'Dell, Robert 95 Navy/WWII Taylor, Lawrence 92 Army/Korea Sigsby, Charles 76 Army/Vietnam Johnson, William 91 Army/Air Force/ Korea/Vietnam	4005 Corunna Burke, Laurence D. 70 Navy/Vietnam Hildebrandt, Raymond 96 Air Force/WWII Riley, Joseph 74 Army/Vietnam	

4659 Shelby Township
Burin, David 73 Marines/Vietnam
Metris, William 92 Navy
Smoger, Stephen 77 Marines/Vietnam

5114 St. Ignace
Kingsbury, Charles 87 Air Force/Vietnam

5315 Baldwin
Gooley, Eugene 94 Army/Korea
Walton, Theodore 96 Army/WWII

5670 Gwinn
Ludeman, Toby G. 46 Marines/Iraq

6695 Plymouth
Marion, Donald 76 Marines/Vietnam

6864 Cadillac
Radtke, David 90 Navy/Korea

6965 Ubley
Messing, Howard 82 Army/Vietnam

8236 Flint
Burrell, Leroy Jr. 75 Navy/Vietnam

8846 Muskegon
Collins, William P. 83 Army/Vietnam
Rude, Willis 98 Army/WWII

8872 Port Sanilac
Waun, Richard 71 Army
Price, Joseph 82 Army/Vietnam

9363 Flat Rock
Lindsey, David 74 Marines/Vietnam
Blakemore, Randy 75 Navy/Vietnam
Slage, John 77 Navy/Vietnam
McDiarmid, Stuart 75 Army/Vietnam

9809 Saginaw
Florey, Daniel 76 Army/Gulf
Schmidt, Herbert D. 97 Army/WWII

15023 Lansing
Earley, Elmer V. 99 Army/WWII

VFW CAMP TROTTER FOR CHILDREN 18TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING FLYER



**VFW Camp Trotter for Children
18th Annual Charity Golf Outing**



Friday June 14, 2024

Village Green Golf Course

8 am – Registration, **9 am** – Shotgun Start
8130 Bingham Ave. Newaygo, MI 49337

Cost \$80 per person/ \$320 per team include:
*18 Hole Cart * Lunch At the Turn * Grilled Steak Dinner
*4 Person Scramble * Team Placement Prizes *Door Prizes
Limited to 100 Players or 25 Teams

Golf Entry / Sponsorship Form

This form must be filled out and returned with all fees by May 27th, 2023

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Player #1 Name: _____

Player #2 Name: _____

Player #3 Name: _____

Player #4 Name: _____

Hole/Tee Sponsors \$80 (minimum): \$ _____ Golf Cart Sponsor \$25: \$ _____

I can donate products or gift certificates, please contact me. Cash Donations: \$ _____

Total Being Paid: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **VFW Department of Michigan**, and mail to **Ricky Young 350 Rosemore Dr. Davison, MI 48423-1616**

Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan

For more information contact Ricky Young at 810-5692193, rickyrambo2928@yahoo.com
www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc



2024 STATE CONVENTION

May 29-June 2, Kalamazoo MI

VFW AGENDA

VFW AUXILIARY AGENDA

Wednesday, May 29	VFW Golf Outing	
Thursday, May 30		
7:30am-11:00am	Registration	Fields
8:00am-4:00pm	Program Display Tables	Great Lakes
8:00am-4:00pm	National VFW Store	Oaks
8:30am	Service Committee Meeting	Prairies
9:00am	Budget & Finance Committee	Prairies
9:30am	ByLaws & Resolutions	Prairies
10:30am-12:30pm	Joint VFW/Auxiliary Opening	Glens
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own	
12:30pm-1:30pm	CofA Lunch	Meadows
12:30pm-5:00pm	Registration	Fields
1:30pm-4:30pm	VFW Council of Administration	Prairies
5:00pm	Mandatory practice for Joint Memorial Service Required for Dept Line Officers & Dist Commanders	Glens
6:00pm-11:00pm	Department Hospitality Room	Room 837
Friday, May 31		
7:30am-11:00am	Registration	Fields
8:00am-4:00pm	Program Display Tables	Great Lakes

Wednesday, May 29	VFW Golf Outing	
Thursday, May 30		
7:30am-11:00am	Registration	Fields
8:00am-4:00pm	National VFW Store	Oaks
8:00am-4:00pm	Hospital Booth Silver Dollar Table	Great Lakes
8:30am-10:15am	Floor Practice	Glens
10:30am-12:30pm	Joint Opening (Dress Code - Business Attire)	Glens
12:30pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own	
12:30pm-5:00pm	Registration	Fields
1:45pm-4:00pm	CofA Meeting	Glens
4:00pm-5:00pm	Floor Practice FLOOR OFFICERS ONLY	Glens
4:00pm-4:30pm	Instruction to Pages	Glens
5:00pm-6:00pm	Mandatory practice for Joint Memorial Service Required for Dept Line Officers & Dist Commanders	Glens
6:00pm-11:00pm	Department Hospitality Room	Room 837
Friday, May 31		
7:30am-11:00am	Registration	Fields
8:00am-3:00pm	National VFW Store	Oaks
8:00am-3:00pm	Hospital Booth Silver Dollar Table	Great Lakes
8:30am-3:00pm	2024-2025 Aux Program Pins avail for pickup	Fields
9:00am-12:00pm	Aux Business Session Opens - Rules Committee/Intro of Convention Committee & Pages/Program Awards	Glens

VFW AGENDA

Friday, May 31		
8:00am-4:00pm	National VFW Store	Oaks
8:30am-12:00pm	Opening Session of 2024 Department Convention	Prairies
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch on your own	
12:30pm-3:00pm	Registration	Fields
1:00pm-3:00pm	Convention Business Session Resumes - Committee Reports	Prairies
2:30pm-2:55pm	Suspend Order of Business - Opening Nominations	Prairies
3:00pm-4:30pm	Joint VFW/Auxiliary Memorial Service	Glens
5:45pm	Joint Testimonial Cmdr. Ray Lopez & Pres. Sara Manke	Arcadia Ballroom
Saturday, June 1		
8:00am-10:00am	Registration	Fields
8:00am-2:00pm	Program Display Tables	Great Lakes
8:00am-12:00pm	National VFW Store	Oaks
8:00am-4:00pm	Photos (2024-2025 Officers/Directors/Chairmen)	Lower Level
8:30am	Convention Business Session Resumes - Committee Reports	Prairies
10:30am	Reopening of Nominations & Presentation of Candidates	Prairies
12:00pm-1:30pm	Past State Commanders/ Past State Presidents Luncheon	Room 837
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own Dist Caucuses on your own	
1:30pm	Convention Business Session Resumes - Committee Reports/Election of Officers/Installation/ Closing Ceremonies ('24-'25 CofA Meeting promptly after)	Prairies
6:30pm-10:00pm	Celebration w/ Cmdr. Kimberly Napoleon & Dept. Pres. Jane Dady at hotel	Kalamazoo 1
Sunday, June 2	SAVE TRAVELS HOME	

VFW AUXILIARY AGENDA

Friday, May 31		
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch on your own	
12:00pm-1:00pm	JV Presidents meet w/ Dept. JV Pres. Debbie Scheetz	
12:30pm-3:00pm	Registration	Fields
1:00pm-2:00pm	Presentation of Dist & Aux Achievement Awards	Glens
2:00pm-2:45pm	SV Presidents meet w/ Dept. SV Pres. Jane Dady	
3:00pm-4:30pm	Joint VFW/Auxiliary Memorial Service	Glens
5:45pm	Joint Testimonial Cmdr. Ray Lopez & Pres. Sara Manke	Arcadia Ballroom
Saturday, June 1		
8:00am-10:00am	Registration	Fields
8:00am-12:00pm	National VFW Store	Oaks
8:00am-12:00pm	Hospital Booth Silver Dollar Table	Great Lakes
8:00am-12:00pm	2024-2025 Aux Program Pins avail for pickup	Fields
8:00am-12:00pm	Aux Business Session Resumes - Flag Presentation/ Presentation of Past Dept. Presidents/ Recognition of 45yr plus/ Chapel of Four Chaplains Award/Comments from Nat VFW Aux Rep/ Nominations/Candidates Q&A	Glens
8:00am-4:00pm	Photos (2024-2025 Officers/Directors/Chairmen)	Lower Level
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on your own Caucus	
12:00pm-1:30pm	Past State Commanders/ Past State Presidents Luncheon	Room 837
1:30pm-3:00pm	Aux Business Session Resumes - 2025 Membership Kickoff/ Election & Installation of Officers/Closing Ceremonies	Glens
6:30pm-10:00pm	Celebration w/ Cmdr. Kimberly Napoleon & Dept. Pres. Jane Dady at hotel	Kalamazoo 1
Sunday, June 2	SAFE TRAVELS HOME	



**DESIGNER / EDITOR
ALYSSA MCELFRISH**

Hello All! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It was great seeing some of you at Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. I am looking forward to joining you at the upcoming State Convention May 29-June 2, also in Kalamazoo. The next deadline will be just following State Convention so anyone interested in submitting an article at that time is encouraged to do so!

Next deadline = June 15, 2024

Send articles for consideration to:
MOV@VFWMI.VET

The mission of this paper is to provide pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be rejected or returned for revision. *We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.*

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

TAPS FORM

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for your TAPS report.

**Send completed form to:
VFW of Michigan
924 N Washington - Lansing, MI 48906
or Amanda@vfwmi.org**

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

Branch of Service :

ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :

WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

CONTACT INFO UPDATE FORM

Members, please print the form to be filled out.
Return information is listed below.

Name: _____

Member number: _____ Post number: _____

Email address: _____

Address (if changed in last two years): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Are you currently on active duty? YES _____

Please complete and return to:

VFW Headquarters
924 N Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

Or email to: adjutant@vfwmi.vet

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

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.



**VFWMI.ORG
QUICK LINKS**

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

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN NEWSLETTER

(ISSN 1067-0661) is published 3x annually; May/June/July/August, September/October/November/December, January/February/March/April at Stafford Publishing, 1005 E Fairplains St, Greenville, MI 48838 by the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars at 924 N. Washington Ave., Lansing (Ingham), MI 48906.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LANSING, MI AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Members receive this publication as part of their dues. Subscriptions for non-members is \$4.

**Next Article Deadline : 6/15/24
Send to : MOV@VFWMI.ORG**

**Postmaster - Please send address changes to
MOV Editor
924 N. Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48906**