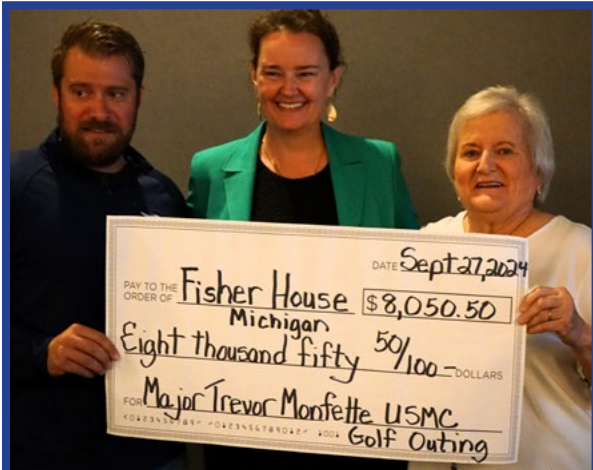


# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

FALL/WINTER 24



Presentation of Fisher House donation at the Fall Conference Joint Program



State President Jane Dady and her District Presidents dressed as pirates for the Past Presidents Luncheon



State Commander Kimberly Napoleon presenting check to Modesto (Mo) Delao from FOXHOLE

## VFWMI.ORG Quick Links

[vfwmi.org/contact](http://vfwmi.org/contact)  
[vfwmi.org/vethelp](http://vfwmi.org/vethelp)  
[vfwmi.org/join](http://vfwmi.org/join)  
[vfwmi.org/directory](http://vfwmi.org/directory)  
[vfwmi.org/officers](http://vfwmi.org/officers)  
[vfwmi.org/allstate](http://vfwmi.org/allstate)  
[vfwmi.org/mov](http://vfwmi.org/mov)  
[vfwmi.org/gallery](http://vfwmi.org/gallery)

Editor: Alyssa McElfresh  
[mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org)

VFW Dept. of Michigan  
 (517) 485-9456  
[vfwmi.org](http://vfwmi.org)

924 N Washington Ave  
 Lansing, MI 48906  
[Facebook.com/vfwmi](https://www.facebook.com/vfwmi)



Adam Ingrao from Heros To Hives speaks during the Fall Conference Joint Program



Activity Director Bob Lutz speaks to VFW Officers during VTS at Fall Conference



Chief of Staff Jan Passmore answering questions during Auxiliary Training at Fall Conference



## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, KIMBERLY NAPOLEON

Greetings, Comrades, and our Sister Auxiliary Counterpart, where has the time gone? My favorite time of the year, the fall season has come, and winter is fast approaching! We are off from what many have said was a wonderful Fall Conference, and I trust that we learned something positive to take back and incorporate into our Posts and Districts. To all that attended the Commander and Presidents Gala, thank you for your support and comradeship as we recognized our Past Department Commanders that were present. In addition to supporting the Department Cancer Program and The Fischer House, President Dady and I are grateful. To the Past Department Commanders in attendance, I trust you felt the appreciation for your continued dedication of service. I am honored and humbled to serve the Department of Michigan as Commander. You all never cease to amaze me with your incredible generosity in times of disaster. During the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the Department of Michigan was at work, carrying out the mission of #stillserving! This is not just a slogan we use, but rather a call to action. Thank you to all of the Posts, Districts, and independent community businesses that gave so freely, allowing two full loads of needed support to be delivered by a team of Department Comrades to our sister VFW Post in Asheville, North Carolina. A special thank you to Comrade District 11 Commander, Scott Taylor, for serving as team leader along with members of Post 1075 and Past Department Commander Ray Lopez. Comrades, while we are headed into the upcoming season, let us pause to remember those less fortunate and to check on our brothers and sisters and lend a helping hand where possible. It is said, "Gratitude, help us to see what is there instead of what isn't." I am truly grateful for you all, and I pray that your holiday season is filled with thankfulness and love.



IN THIS ISSUE	
Dept. Commander.....	1
Dept. Sr. Vice Commander.....	2
Dept. Jr. Vice Commander.....	2
Great Lakes National Cemetery.....	2
Dept. Adjutant/Quartermaster.....	3
Cpl. Thomas Powers Reinternment.....	3
Mental Health/VMS.....	4
VFW Store Ad.....	4
Big 10 Conference.....	5
Candidate Ad.....	5
Gold Star Mothers Banquet.....	6
Cootie Corner.....	6
Post Reports.....	7-9
Aux. President.....	9
Aux Legistlative Chairman.....	9
Aux. Membership Chairman.....	10
Aux. Youth Activities/Camp Trotter.....	10
District Commander Reports.....	10-13
TAPS.....	13
District President Reports.....	14
USPS Statement Of Ownership.....	14
Mid-Winter Conference Info.....	15-19



Greetings Comrades! Here it is mid-October, and a quarter of the year is past. With the Fall Conference behind us, the Mid-Winter Conference is next. By the time of this publication, all Posts should have submitted their VOD and Patriots Pen winners to the District, and the District should have sent their winners to State. Congratulations to all

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

Hello, for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Great Lakes National Cemetery, the following occurred. There were 4,400 internments between October 1st, 2023, through September 30th, 2024, bringing the total internments since opening in 2005 to 70,242. Flagpole maintenance is underway; this is the first time that all 100 poles will have maintenance and repairs done at once since the poles were installed. The poles have been repaired on an as-needed basis in the past. For the 19th



DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, REINOLD YAHNKA

Dear Comrades, It's hard to believe that half the year has already passed, and we are moving forward into the new year. In my role as the State Senior Vice Commander, I've had the privilege of promoting the Department of Michigan and its programs on behalf of State Commander Napoleon while traveling throughout the state. I'm excited to see everyone at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo from January 30th to February 2nd, 2025. During this event, we will be recognizing our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teachers of the Year. If you haven't already, please secure your banquet ticket to support our youth and teachers. I'm looking forward to meeting with all the District Senior Vice Commanders at the breakout session for the Senior Vice District Commanders at Mid-Winter. By now, your All-American

Dashboard should be updated with your VMS donation, Buddy Poppy purchase, VOD, PP, and Day of Service, so they are all green on the dashboard. As long as your Post reports on community service monthly, you will meet the dashboard requirement for community service. Once you have done those, you can focus on achieving CIC Al Lipphardt's challenge of 102% in membership this year. Membership is the lifeblood of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and each member needs to recruit at least one member every year. The key to success is communication, so make sure you are disseminating information that you receive from those above you to the members. Technology makes that easy, so take advantage of it. For those who do not use technology, you are missing out on a great opportunity to communicate with your members. Technology is here to stay and advancing every day. Comrades, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Senior Vice Commander. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you. Thank you.



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, LARRY THAYER

District winners. And congratulations to all the teachers who participated in the Teacher of the Year contest. I just got back from the Big Ten conference in Indianapolis, where we met the entire National leadership team. C-n-C Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt has passed on what he expects for all states; the first is 102% in Membership. I know this can be attained. With your help, State Commander Napoleon can and will achieve her goal of 102%. The other is for all Posts to get involved in their communities. I know all

Posts do this, but the only way we have to know this is by the Post Community Service Report. If you're having problems doing this, please contact me, and I will help or get you the help you need. For the Posts that want to achieve All-State and All-American, the 102% should not be a holdup. Contact our Department Membership Director, Garrett Dickey, and he can give you the help you need as long as you're willing to help too. If there is anything I can do to help make your Post successful, please contact me.

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

DANE BEZEMEK

year, the Unaccompanied Ceremony was conducted in September, and 19 veterans received honors this year. Notable burials that recently occurred: Corporal Thomas Powers, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Indian Wars in Arizona, was interned on October 15th, 2024; he is the second Medal of Honor recipient to be interned at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Corporal Butler Martin, the last surviving member of the Montford Point Marines, was also interned on October 15th, 2024. Upcoming

event at the cemetery: Wreaths Across America will be December 14th, 2024. To close, I want to share a poem by Theodore O'hara that the Great Lakes National Cemetery posted on their Facebook page: Bivouac of the Dead "The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo; no more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few. On Fame's eternal camping-ground, their silent tents are spread, and glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead."



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, BARRY WALTER

Comrades of Michigan, we have had a very busy couple of months since National Convention in July. Because National Convention was in Louisville, KY, we had a rather large Michigan contingent with many first-timers. With the Convention in Columbus in 2025, we are hoping for another good showing of Michigan members. Please plan ahead, and if you can attend, it will be a great experience for you. The Department conducted three VTS (Officer Training Seminars) in June and July. We were pleased with all of them, Charlotte, Gwinn, and Graying. We thank all of those Post and District officers and members who took advantage of the opportunity to receive this training. We also want to thank the host Posts who contributed so much to the success of these events. We had an excellent turnout for the Fall Conference in September, and we thank you all for your participation in this event with the return of a Fall Conference banquet. We hope to be able to continue that event as part of our Fall Conference in the future. A big thank you to VFW Post 3243, Fenton, for hosting the banquet. Proceeds from the banquet benefited the Commander's special project

FOXHOLE and the President's special project Fisher House of Michigan. During the Conference, the Department presented our annual contribution to Karmanos Cancer Center. This year we were able to donate \$17,144.06, all as a result of your donations from Posts and members. Thank you for allowing your Department to do that on your behalf. Most recently, your Department Officers attended the Big Ten Conference Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Please see the article on this event in this issue of the MOV. Many Posts and Districts have been actively promoting VFW programs, especially on the subject of suicide awareness and prevention. There is no such thing as too much attention when it comes to this issue amongst our veteran population of all age groups. Be a friend and be watchful. Be a friend and save a life. The Department inspection program by our Districts is an important function of our Department. It is through these efforts that we are able to identify minor problems before they become major problems in your Post. We encourage Post Officers to work with your District Inspectors and make these inspections beneficial to the welfare of your Post. During the last thirty days, with the support of you, our members, and many of your Posts, we have contributed significantly and generously to support our fellow veterans in northwest North

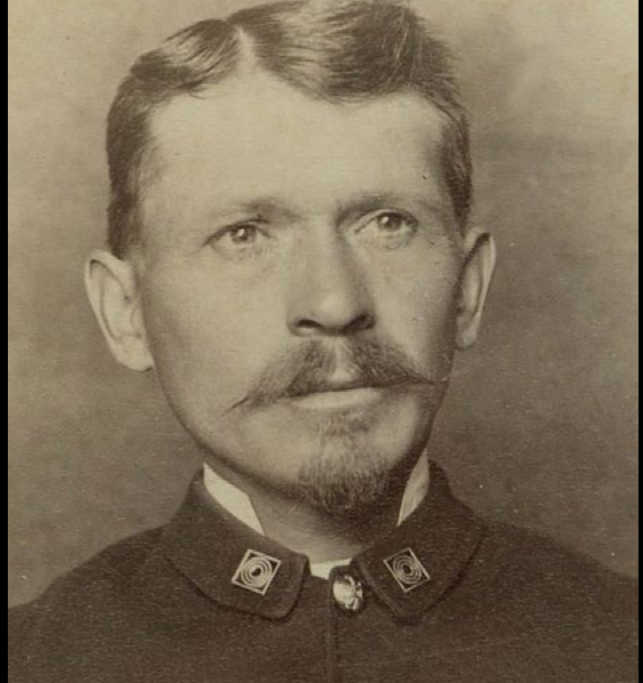
Carolina. We have gathered donations of every type and, with the aid of many businesses, acquired much more than we would have been able to acquire on our own. Through the outstanding and sacrificial efforts of Scott Taylor, Post 1075, Bill King, Post 9283, Ray Lopez, Post 1136, Kevin Conklin, Post 6248, Phil Lundie, Post 2335, and many others, we were able to fund two very successful trips hauling supplies to North Carolina. Comrades, your efforts to support our Comrades, their families, and their neighbors are in the best traditions of the VFW. Thank you! The Department 2025 Mid-Winter Conference is fast approaching, January 31st-February 2nd, 2025. This event is when we recognize our District VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of Year winners and announce the Department winners. If you are able, please make your reservations now to attend this great event honoring our outstanding teachers and students. During the next year, the VFW National Home will be hosting several events celebrating their 100th anniversary. If you can support any of these activities, we encourage you to do so. You will find them listed on the Department website under Upcoming Events under the News Tab and on the National Home website. Thank you for your support this year, and please keep up your hard work on behalf of our fellow veterans.

A HERO HAS BEEN LAID TO REST WITH HONORS

On Tuesday, October 15th, 2024, Michigan veterans gathered at Great Lakes National Cemetery for the reinternment of Cpl. Thomas Powers, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Indian Wars in Arizona. Originally from New York, he had relocated to Detroit and eventually enlisted in the US Army on April 17th, 1867, at the age of 20. Assigned to Co. "G" of the 1st Calvary, he was assigned to the Arizona territory. In action against the Apache on October 20th, 1868, he performed above and beyond the call of duty and was awarded the Medal of Honor on March 8th, 1870, at Camp Bowie, AZ. Returning to Michigan, he married but died at a young age on December 2nd, 1884. His grave was marked by a large headstone that made no reference to his military service but spoke of his love of wife and family. His original burial place in Cummin Cemetery, Hazelton Township, Shiawassee County, was discovered in the fall of 2023. The cemetery is inactive and literally abandoned. Since that time Ray Johnston, Board Member of the Medal of Honor Historical Society, has been researching Cpl. Powers to learn of any surviving family members. None were found, and so began the application process of moving his remains to a place of honor, the Great Lakes National Cemetery. In September, permission was granted by the township and county to exhume any

potential remains. In a painstaking process, sufficient remains and other evidence were found to declare that the remains of Cpl. Thomas Powers were acquired. His remains were draped in the flag of our country, and he was removed to Nelson House Funeral Home in Owosso. An application for reburial at Great Lakes was made and ultimately granted. On October 15th, a detail of the US Army Funeral Honors Team performed the final services bestowed on all veterans, the final folding of the Flag under which he served, the volley of a final rifle salute, and the playing of Taps. And with that simple service, prayed over by the VFW Department Chaplain Terry Kunst, witnessed by honored veterans of the Patriot Guard, VFW Riders from Mt Pleasant, Midland, and District 4, VFW and Auxiliary members from Districts 4, 6, 9, 10, and 11, representatives of the American Legion and the DAV, and the Great Lakes Cemetery Honor Guard, and representatives of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, Cpl. Thomas Powers was committed to the care of the Great Lakes VA National Cemetery. His burial flag was ceremoniously presented to John Ryder, Executive Director of Michigan Heroes Museum, Frankenmuth, where it will be permanently displayed together with his original grave marker, which has been relocated to the museum. We would

like to thank the many VFW Posts, DAV Chapters, and the American Legion, as well as many individuals who donated the funds necessary to make this happen and bring honor to a long-forgotten hero. We would like to thank MSG Adam Bacon, USAR Military Funeral Honors NCOIC, 88th Readiness Division, for his assistance above and beyond to ensure that final honors were performed in memory of Cpl. Thomas Powers, US Army. May he rest in peace in the care of his country and fellow veterans.



Cpl. Thomas Powers





MENTAL HEALTH/VMS DIRECTOR, DOUG BRINKER

Comrades and Auxiliary of Mighty Michigan VFW, greetings from your Mental Health Wellness and VMS Team. We made it through another Fall Conference, and while I was not able to be at the table as I normally am, I hope you found some valuable resources there. With Mid-Winter approaching, I wanted to remind each Post, Auxiliary, and District that the team is available to request through Department website. For that, visit [vfwmi.org/forms](http://vfwmi.org/forms), then request a Department representative; please indicate dress attire if we are speaking and how long. I had the humbled honor to be a keynote speaker at Lenawee County Veterans Coalition's Inaugural Ruck, where I promoted the VFW and our Mental Health Team. And, on September 13th, I became THRIVE Certified, a suicide prevention program; THRIVE stands for Trusted relationships, High expectations, Resources, Involvement, Vision, and Enrichment. I hope to become a trainer in this model soon so that we can offer it throughout the Department. Next, I want to talk about All-State credit points and how they can be earned. 5 points for submitting a Mental Health Awareness Advocate of the Year. 10 points for holding a mental health forum in your community (must include outreach resources with pictures of the event and at least one Certified Mental Health official submitted within 48 hours of the event). 5 points for donating your Post for a community mental health event. The Mental Health Team will host two panel discussions, and if a member of your Post volunteers as a panelist, your Post receives 5 points with a maximum of 15. 2 points for each member of your Post who attends a suicide prevention program training (ex. SAVE, QPR, SAFE TALK, ASSIST, etc.); the maximum is 10 points. 10 points for every Post hosting a VMS event biannually. 2 points per member attending a VMA-sponsored event that reports back to me. 5 points for purchasing a MAP pin and wearing it at District or Department events. 5 points to every Post submitting a bimonthly VMS report. 1 point for holding a VMS event or displaying VMS materials; maximum 5 points. 2 points to Adop-A-Unit and report which unit and what support is being given. 1 point for displaying VMS materials at your Post (picture evidence required); maximum 3 points. And finally, 1 point for each Post per District that completes requirements for All-American by donating \$125 through the dashboard, not Department checks. We hope to be busy around the state at your Posts and community events for mental health wellness. We personally hope you found the presentation Dr. Kai gave was informative and helped in many ways. We will try to hold more of those and panels as well. A big focus is on military sexual trauma, where suicide rates are at an all-time high with reports of a 23% increase over the last 6 months. With the holidays upon us by the time this comes to you, it's crucial to ask your loved ones, "Are You OK?" times during holidays are most stressful on families. We have VMS pins available for \$20; they are gold, silver, and bronze kevlar (helmets). We have a very limited supply and will be selling them for Unmet Needs at Mid-Winter or District meetings. In closing, we must take care of each other, listening effectively to someone who states they don't feel safe or they're thinking of suicide. Please know the signs and know how to ask the ultimate question, "Are You Thinking of Suicide? If so, do you have a plan? These two life-saving questions are important to be willing to ask! On behalf of the team, we extend the happiest of holidays season to each of you and your families.

VETERAN CRISIS LINE // 800-273-8255 PRESS 1

**FLEECE HOODIE**  
Established 1899 in gray screened on front. 51/42/7 polyester/cotton/ rayon. Front pouch pocket. Imported; decorated in the USA. 7648 S-3XL \$48.00



**ANNIVERSARY BLANKET**  
Recycled and organic black cotton blend with logo woven in design. Machine washable. 72 x 54". Made in the USA. 1077 \$80.00



**VFW THROW** This knit throw is 100% acrylic, machine washable and dryable. The VFW Emblem is woven into the design. 63 x 63" Made in the USA. 1987 \$81.95



**#STILLSERVING KNIT HAT** Black knit with solid cuff and embroidered logo. Made in USA. 7921 \$14.95



**PATRIOTIC KNIT CAP** Show your patriotic side with this warm knit cap! Navy blue with white USA and red stripes plus coordinating pom. Made in the USA. 7236 \$16.95



**LEATHER PATCH KNIT CAP** Made of 3M Thinsulate® material. Made in the USA. 7174 \$31.95



**BUDDY® POPPY SEEDS**  
Flanders Poppy (Red Corn Poppy)  
Papaver rhoeas  
Show your support for those who gave all. Get your VFW "Buddy" Poppy, the official flower of remembrance here.



**NEW! POPPY SEEDS** Grow your own red corn poppies. This annual can grow to 12" to 30" tall. Plant in full sun. Approx. 350 seeds per packet. 1250 \$3.00



**VFW STORE.ORG**

Prices valid through 8/31/2025 To place your order, call 1.833.839.8387 or go online to [VFWSTORE.ORG](http://VFWSTORE.ORG)

BIG 10 CONFERENCE

On October 18th-20th, 2024, the Department of Michigan VFW and Auxiliary Officers attended the Big Ten Conference Meeting in Indianapolis. On Friday evening, the delegates were entertained by country music star John Rich, who shared the story of his WWII grandfather in a song of tribute. It was a great evening! Big Ten Chairman James Nail (MO) chaired the VFW Conference meeting on Saturday. The delegates heard from all three of the National Officers: Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt, Sr. Vice Carol Whitmore, and Jr. Vice Tim Peters. Adjutant General Dan West was also present and gave a great update on National Headquarters issues, including the very successful hurricane relief efforts in the southeast. The conference attendees received a presentation on parliamentary procedure, heard reports from each Department Commander, and received an update on the National Home from Executive Director Michael Wilson. The Big Ten Conference has several candidates running for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief for 2026-27, and we heard briefly from two of them, Chris Haynes (OH) and Jim Nail (MO). The business meeting was concluded with the election of officers for the 2024-2025 year. Adam Wallace (WI) was elected as the VFW Big Ten Conference Chairman, Kurt Hermosen (MN) was elected as Vice Chairman, Barry Walter (MI) was elected Secretary-Treasurer, and Debra Halter was elected Chaplain. Elected Officers were installed by Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt, with Asst. National Sgt. at Arms James Galen (MI) assisting. The Conference Meeting ended with the banquet on Saturday evening. National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant and Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt both delivered their remarks to a full banquet room, concluding a very successful Big Ten Conference.



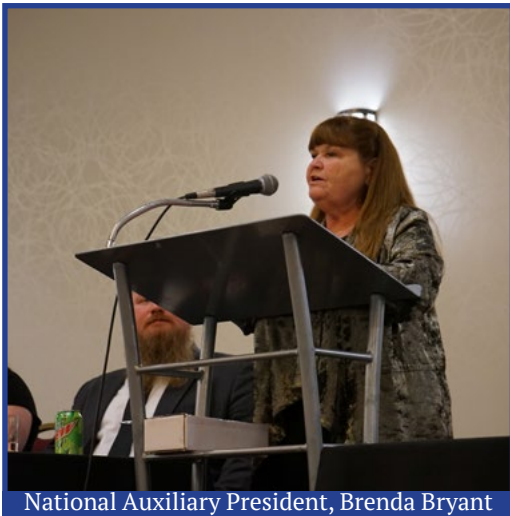
Commander-in-Chief joined by Big 10 Dept Commanders



Carol Whitmore joined by Dept Sr Vice Commanders



Newly elected Big 10 Officers being installed



National Auxiliary President, Brenda Bryant



State Commander Kimberly Napoleon and Sr Vice Reinold Yahnka



Commander-in-Chief, Al Lipphardt



Big 10 Secretary, Barry Walter



Tim Peters joined by Dept Jr Vice Commanders



Tim Peters, Carol Whitmore, and Al Lipphardt

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN JR VICE COMMANDER 2025-2026



Ricky R. Young

Endorsed & Supported By:  
District 10  
Flint VFW Post 822  
His Family



## GOLD STAR MOTHERS BANQUET

The District 5 Gold Star Mother's Banquet was held at VFW 9021 in Warren on Sunday, October 20, 2024. Over 125 people attended representing the VFW, the DAV, the MOPH, the Catholic War Veterans, the PLAV, and other organizations including Auxiliaries, all gathered to recognize the sacrifice of Gold Star Mothers. Ron Allen, State Commander of the Military Order of Purple Heart, and his wife Debbie, attended and presented checks from both Purple Heart Members

and the Auxiliary Members. Ken Klee, State Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, and his wife Terri, attended and presented a check. John Gubin, State Treasurer of PLAV, and his wife Beverly attended and presented a check. Many District 5 Posts and Auxiliaries presented checks to Gold Star Mother Carol Johnson. District 4 Auxiliary also presented checks. Mission BBQ donated the meal for the banquet. Jamie Wilson, Mission BBQ Regional Community Ambassador,

represented Mission BBQ at the event. Past Department Commander Jerry Gorski was the VFW Department Representative and gave the Keynote Speech. He then presented Gold Star Mother Carol Johnson with a donation from the VFW Department of Michigan which represented donations received by Department from VFW Posts and members. Carol was overwhelmed with the donation total of \$11,474.00. Thank you to all the donors for your generosity.



**Greetings Comrades, Auxiliary Sisters, and Brothers!**

The Grand of Michigan continues to be busier than a bee! We sponsored and attended many events since February. In addition to our monthly hospital visits and Veteran's Court work, here are some notable events, VFW National Home Cedar Point Trip (July 17th), VFW National/Supreme Cootie Convention, and the Romeo Peach Festival Parade on Labor Day to name just a few. The VFW National Home Bee Apiary will soon be offering their honey for sale, Cootie Nectar! Michigan's very own Russell Makowski (VFW 1519/Pup Tent 12-Northville) was awarded Supreme Cootie of the Year for 2024. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication in Making a Difference for veterans!



VFW National Home Poppy Child Layla, having brunch before the "Point". Russell Makowski (center) at Supreme Cootie Convention in Louisville, KY.

Members of the Grand of Michigan in Romeo, MI.  
The Cootie Nectar from the VFW National Home Apiary.

**Cootie School: Lousy is great!** 😊

## POST REPORTS

## POST 582 - ORTONVILLE



Post 582 Food Tent at September Fest with Post Members, Youth Group Brandon Care Bears, and Scouts ready to serve



Post 582 leading the Homecoming Parade through Ortonville to the school



Post Honor Guard presenting Colors at Veteran's and Hero's Night football game

**POST 1527 - KALAMAZOO**

Hello Brothers and Sisters! The fence around the outside area has been installed. This will allow the post to serve beer at the pavilion. The second area is still on tap to complete, depending on material cost or donations of funds or the materials needed. The wood for the overhang supports in the front of the building are nearly done. We will need to make templates up. To project the new wood, we need to cover the ends with stainless steel. Which needs to be bought yet. For the all hands day we are working on obtaining tan paint to paint the post exterior. I want to remind all of you, this is a safe place for you to come to. Looking forward to seeing you. - Tim Davis, Commander, VFW Post 1527

**POST 2645 - SOUTHFIELD**

For the past five years, Post 2645 has aimed to plan events on Patriot's Day that express our appreciation for the Southfield first responders. Each year, we provide lunch at two locations and for 24 hours the Firemen and Police Officers of Southfield are able to enjoy some delicious food and desserts.





POST 3946 - ROCKFORD

Rockford VFW Post 3946 presented a check for \$2,000 to Senior Neighbors Veterans’ Home Repair Assistance Program during its monthly meeting in September. “This is VFW Post 3946’s first donation to Senior Neighbors, and we are excited to help provide financial support for their home repair program, which helps veterans remain independent in their own homes,” said Post Commander Larry Herrington. Ashley Doyle, administrator of the program, said the funds provided by the Post are greatly appreciated “and will be used to make needed repairs and modifications to the homes of Kent County veterans.” Home repair assistance is individualized, based on the specific need of the veteran, and ranges from simple things such as installing grab bars in bathrooms and showers to more involved projects such as building handicap ramps and making minor home repairs. Suzanne Callahan, President of Senior Neighbors, said she “couldn’t be more pleased with the donation,” emphasizing “Senior Neighbors

is dedicated to helping all Kent County seniors, including veterans, live their lives with dignity, independence, and a sense of community.” In addition to its Veterans’ Home Repair Program, Senior Neighbors offers a wide range of other programs and services available not just to veterans but to any Kent County senior age 60 or over. The services the organization provides range from a pet program that helps seniors with veterinary bills and animal care items such as food to transportation, meals, and case management and crisis assistance. According to Herrington, “Rockford VFW Post 3946 is committed to community service and outreach,” and the Post supports wide-ranging charitable activities, “some specifically aiding veterans and their families, others supporting the community at large.” Some of the Post’s recent charitable donations include scholarships to local disadvantage youth to attend VFW Camp Trotter for Children in Newaygo, support of Eagle Scout projects, donations to

the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, sponsoring Sparta Little League teams, and the Bishop Hills Flag Pole Project. The sole source of revenue supporting VFW Post 3946’s community outreach is their monthly, home-cooked, roast beef dinner. Served with all the trimmings, the dinner is served 12-2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month at the Boat & Canoe Club, 401 N. Park St. Eat-in or carry-out. Drop by for dinner if you’re in the area!



POST 4037 - TROY

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, VFW Post 4037 in Troy, MI, was the focal point for a vital discussion on veteran mental health. The symposium, organized by Post Commander Todd Wodzinski, gathered over 40 community members, veterans, and leaders to share insights and resources aimed at addressing the mental health challenges faced by service members. VIP attendees, including Representative Sharon Macdonell of the 56th district and Commander Kimberly Napoleon of the

VFW Department of Michigan, emphasized the importance of community support and legislative action in tackling veterans’ mental health issues. The panel featured notable speakers such as Willie Elliot and Doug Hibbing from Post 4037, as well as Will Gambill, Commander of Post 1407 in Ferndale, and Lorena Black, CEO of She

Served LLC. Together, they shared personal stories, discussed available VA resources, and highlighted community initiatives designed to foster mental well-being among veterans. Participants expressed their gratitude for the informative event, reinforcing the message that no veteran should struggle alone. With continued collaboration among local organizations, lawmakers, and veterans, there is hope for a brighter future in mental health support for Michigan’s military heroes.



When Posting to social media use #VFWPostPride

POST 8846 - MUSKEGON

The recent storms in North Carolina have left many families homeless and without food, water, and necessary supplies to simply survive. VFW Post 8846 in Muskegon has partnered with Larry Fowler, Commander of Post 891 in Asheville, North Carolina, to send financial donations to his Post. To date, VFW 8846 has accepted donations of over \$5,000.00 and is sending them to Post 891 for the purchase of much needed food and supplies. Post 8846 has also delivered a truck load of cleaning supplies, paper products, disposable gloves, 30 cases of N95 face masks, shovels, buckets, trash bags, hygiene products, blankets, toiletries, and

much more to Kevin Conklin, Commander of Post 6248 in Decatur, Michigan. The Officers of Post 8846 who have stepped up to provide much needed assistance are

Commander David Jones, Senior Vice Steve Allen, Quartermaster Clay Orrison, and Adjutant Rod Siegel. This is our supreme commitment to duty when called upon.



POST 8872 - PORT SANILAC

On November 11th, 2024, VFW Post 8872 held their annual Veteran’s Day Service. They had a great turnout of 78 attendees. Adjutant Jeff Lyall covered local history surrounding the Post.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, JANE DADY



Thank you to Team Michigan, Past State Commander Ray Lopez, District 11 Commander Scott Taylor, Department Adjutant / Quartermaster Barry Walter, and everyone who helped with the hurricane relief efforts. It was an outstanding effort that helped hundreds of families. They are continuing to collect items and cash. We are eternally grateful for our members compassion and dedication.

Thank you to all our “unsung” Auxiliary heroes. We appreciate every member for being a member and all that you do. I want to remind every member how important you are and the difference you make. No matter how you contribute, it has a lasting impact, and we are grateful. The holidays are upon us. If you are a veteran reading this and are in need, please seek out an Auxiliary or Post near you. Those unsung heroes I mentioned are ready to help you. They can connect you with whatever it is you need. They can help you get a service officer to help you. All you need to do is ask. You can also call

the VFW National Home Helpline at (800) 313-4200. If you are in crisis, dial 988 and press 1, or you can text 838255. If you are an Auxiliary member and are in crisis, please dial 988; someone is there 24/7, 365 days a year. You are not alone! Throughout the holidays, New Year, and Valentine’s Day, remember our hospitalized veterans. Visit a VA hospital or nursing home; just show up with a smile. Remember all our veterans and everyone deployed. Let them know they are remembered and appreciated. Cherish and hold dear America’s greatest treasure—our veterans!

AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Greetings and welcome to a new year where we will endeavor to continue to better the lives of our veterans through legislation. We have many new faces in our government, and we need to make sure they know what our legislative priorities are and the VFW supported bills that need to be enacted into law

to benefit our veterans. As in previous years, we need to continue to promote the VFW priority goals. Do all of your members, Post and Auxiliary, know what these goals are? Are all of your members signed up for the Action Corps Weekly Newsletter? And don’t forget education on the legislative process.

DEBRA MARSHALL

The Post and Auxiliary will be working as a team to achieve these goals this year. We are continuing the push for a national military cemetery in the Upper Peninsula. Petitions are available on our Legislative-Michigan Facebook page or contact me. This coming year, we will “Aspire to Inspire!”



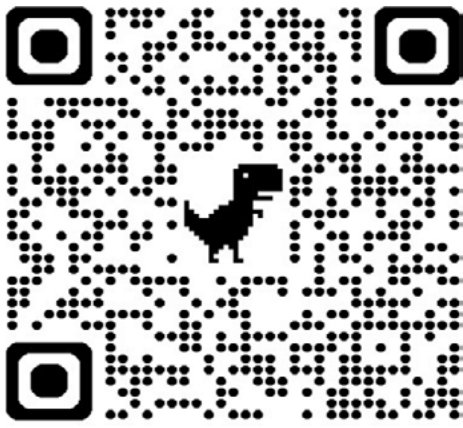


AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, MARIAN BELAIRE

Look what's new for the Auxiliary... a QR code! It's incredible! Once you scan it, you will find it opens to a brief explanation of the Auxiliary, what we do for our veterans, the Auxiliary fact sheet, a membership application, and if that wasn't enough, a search button to help you find the nearest Post/Auxiliary to you. No more lugging around papers that prospective members just probably toss away once they get home. Best part, it is fillable! The prospective member must print it out and bring it, along with proof of eligibility, to your meeting. The tech savvy generation will love this. I gave out dog tags with the QR code on them at Fall Conference and they were a hit. I will have more of them at Mid-Winter Conference in

January if you wish to grab one for yourself. Let's talk about recruiting for a moment. Did you know that National has many awards for not only Auxiliary members who recruit, but also VFW members who recruit? A recruiter pin goes to anyone who recruits five (5) new/rejoined members by May 31st, 2025. If you recruit 20 or more, you will get an award presented to you at National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Auxiliary members do not have to fill out a form, Malta compiles it for us. The VFW members who recruit, must fill out a members-only form that is available in Malta Member Resources. That form must be received by VFW National Headquarters and the Department Treasurer must enter Membership in Malta by June 10th, 2025. For Auxiliary members who recruit ten (10) new members by Dec 31st, 2024, you will be in a drawing for \$100.00 at Mid-Winter. At Department convention, I will

have a drawing for the top three recruiters in the state for \$100.00. New members are out there, we just have to go get 'em! With the holidays approaching, it is a good time to reach out to the family members who haven't joined yet. A membership to our organization would make a great gift to honor a beloved family veteran. May God bless our United States and our veterans. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES/CAMP TROTTER, APRIL LOWERY

First, I want to thank Districts 4, 7, 10, and 13 for donating items to be raffled off at the Auxiliary Camp Trotter Table (formerly the Silver Dollartable). Next, I want to thank everyone who stopped by to purchase tickets for the raffle. We raised \$240 to donate to the Camp Trotter general fund. The general fund can be used for anything the camp needs throughout the year. At Mid-Winter

Conference I ask that districts 5, 8, 11, and 14 bring items to be raffled off. This does not have to be one District item; it can be items from all of the Auxiliaries within the District. The more we have to raffle off the more money we make for camp! Don't forget to check out the Department Website under Youth Programs to find the books suggested for donation to promote Patriotism through Literacy. Plan an event where children and veterans can read those donated books with each other. As the other scholarships come to an end, we can begin thinking about Illustrating

America. These are not due until March 31st, 2025, but we want to give these artists plenty of time to create their masterpiece. One change from last year is the name and grade of the artist must be on the back of the submission. There is a new submission form, located under the Youth Program on the Department Website. If you passed forms out for Illustrating America prior to September, you will need to make sure the incoming forms are the updated one. If these steps are not followed the submission risks disqualification from National.

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER, JON ADAMS

Hello, Comrades, my Officers and I are proud to address you again for an evaluation. Four months seems like a reasonable time to revisit the 2024-2025 goals we established and determine our progress. Goal 1: Educate our Members. As I announced before, education is my primary objective, and ensuring the Veterans Training Session (VTS) will be part of the District 5 Meeting. Thank you to Ben Light and Bob Lutz for their contribution at the August 25th Meeting. Also, the panels at the Fall Conference did a great job with the School of Instruction. Goal 2: Leave each Post healthy and whole. Our team has visited several Posts, and everyone is doing a terrific job. The plan is for our team to visit everyone before the term is over. Some of the highlights to date are participating in the 10th anniversary of the Bruce Post 1146 in St. Clair Shores, the upcoming 75th anniversary at Post 7573 in New Baltimore, and the Gold Star Mothers 76th VJ Day ceremony at White

Memorial Park Cemetery, while many of District 5 were also at Michigan Day at the National Home. I want to thank all the Posts that participated in one or both events. I also want to thank Old Settlers Post 4658 in Shelby Township for putting on a very enjoyable District Picnic. One bad part of this period was the loss of my Post 2645 Commander, Don Kuffner; however, we welcome our new Commander, Al Stabrava. I admit we are facing a few disappointments. Some Posts missed deadlines for reports and updating their Quartermaster Bond. This needs improvement. There should be a calendar of events that all Post members have access to and understand. As I mentioned above about the VFW Posts that had anniversaries, you must think about what it takes for a Post to succeed for that many years. It is not about us individually but about us collectively as a team to support our mission. We cannot let personalities get in the way of good 'works,' and we must recruit and train good people to do the work the correct way. Goal 3: To promote the unity of VFW and Auxiliary. The 5th District Posts and Auxiliaries had a wonderful Gold Star Mothers event at Warren

Post 9021 this month. Thank you to Janet Swica and her Auxiliary for a welcoming and well-planned banquet. Norman Mauldin (chairman) and Rhunell Adams (co-chair) hosted over 100 guests and generous donors to the Gold Star Mothers fundraiser. From what I observed, the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen (PP) essay contests are in full swing. The deadline is close. There are only two more weeks to submit essays and recordings and have them judged. Keep up the good work! Goal 4: Strengthen our ability to support our fellow veterans. If fundraising activities are a barometer, Posts are active to provide our fellow veterans with the support they need. Charity poker, bingo, and Poppy distributions continue to provide resources for our Posts and Auxiliaries. Upcoming Activities: Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo, January 31st-February 2nd, 2025. District 5 Meeting February 16th, 2025. And PC/PP Banquet March 23rd, 2025, at Eastpointe Post 6782. I think we are off to a good start. We welcome your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments, questions, or concerns. I am proud to be in service with you.



DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER, LEONARD BOSTON

Greetings, Comrades of the Great 8! As I make my way around the District conducting tours, attending various events, and simply visiting with Post members and family, I find myself honored to be in the Great 8 representing all of you as your District Commander. Although you may not see all 24 Posts within this MOV, I can assure you we are all working very hard to service our veterans and communities! Post 702 participated in the Grandville Michigan Parade, which gave them the opportunity to present themselves to the general public and younger veterans. On August 16th-17th, Post 702 participated in the Grandville Vintage Festival, where they interacted with veterans, helping them fill out SF180s to receive copies of their DD214 and medical records for filing with the VA. Members also passed out flags to the kids. Throughout the quarter, Post 702 had the opportunity to participate in the yearly Veterans Standdown for homeless veterans in Grand Rapids and local Boots and Badges activities for the local fire and police department. On October 3rd, Post 702

partnered with the Grandville Education Foundation and grilled 800 hotdogs for the families of the incoming kindergarteners (Class of 2037). Then two days later, they partnered with Ashley Furniture for their Veterans Salute activity. The aim is to participate in activities that inform younger veterans we are here and that we are here to help the veterans and their families in our communities. Post 827 hosted a POW/MIA Recognition Day presentation and ceremony. The Americanism Chairperson searched and located a book with sketches of local POW's and MIA's from the local Kalamazoo area and found some sketches loved ones wrote on. A few 827 members had the honor and privilege to read them aloud during the ceremony. Also, a Patriots Day dinner was held on 9/11 to recognize and honor our fine first responders present as well as those loved ones we lost because of that fateful day. Where were you on that day? Post 827 also took up donations for those affected by Hurricane Helene. 75 coats, water, diapers, and various clothing items were donated. On October 21st, Post 1527 in Kalamazoo hosted the Veterans Family Resource Fair on their grounds during a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The event included several organizations in and

around the Kalamazoo County area. Several organizations are dedicated to providing information, assistance, and services to veterans and their families critical to increasing their quality of life. Information and assistance were provided in the areas of housing, VA navigation, transition assistance from military to civilian life once detached, as well as a host of several vendors and organizations participation. Additionally, services such as free haircuts, medical check-ups, and plenty of activities for the children to participate in. The event also provided free food and a live band for entertainment. Post 2144 is taking part in a wonderful gesture by helping to support the construction of the Holland, MI, area Veterans Memorial Park. It is always fascinating to see the vast interest of various organizations, community leaders, and community members in parks and monuments in support of honoring our veterans and making them forever a pillar in our communities for all to see and enjoy! Lastly, the next District Meetings are February 8th, 2025, at Charlotte Post 2406, followed by May 3rd, 2025, at Otsego Post 3030. VTS is at every District Meeting from 10:00am-11:00am, with the meeting to follow at 12:30pm.



DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER, FRED VANTROOSTENBERGHE

I hope all is well for everyone and that you have a happy holiday season. With that being said, let's keep up with the good work and don't let up. I want to thank the students who submitted essays for Patriots Pen and

Voice of Democracy. We are all immensely proud of every student. There are a couple of things that we must continue to strive for. One thing to keep working on is recruiting new members. Remember, once you recruit new members, strongly encourage a Life Membership. Secondly, make sure that all Post inspections are complete. If there are any deficits, let's take care of them as soon as possible.

Please don't wait until the next inspection to address it. Lastly, make sure every Post has bylaws adopted and sent to National for approval. On another note, make sure that all hospital and activity reports are being sent in. Election reports will be due soon as well. If there are any issues and you are not sure how to do something, please ask for help. There are people within our District that are willing to help!



DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER, SCOTT TAYLOR

Greetings, Comrades, from the 11th District. Things have been quite busy in the 11th District with Post visits, Post Inspections, onsite training with Post Commanders and Quartermasters, as well as members from within the District attending the Fall Conference. On Saturday, September 14th, we were able to get together with other members from within the District for a hoedown at the Harrison Post. This was a fun night with a great meal of smoked meats and goodies, along with a live band, drinks, dancing, and kids games. On Thursday, October 10th, Department Commander Kimberly Napoleon and I had the privilege of hosting US Congressman John Moolenaar and his Aide Josiah Bear at Mount Pleasant Post 3035. Despite the passing of their Post Commander Tim Artibee, the Mount Pleasant Post and Auxiliary membership were able to pull together and achieve All-State and All-American recognition for Fiscal Year

23/24. Due to their outstanding teamwork and efforts as a Post, I submitted the Post for Congressional recognition for their accomplishments. Congressman Moolenaar presented Post Commander Arnaldo "Arnie" Huertas with two separate Congressional Awards at a ceremony held at their Post, one for achieving All-State and the other for achieving All-American. Congratulations, Post 3035! As you all have seen, North Carolina and several other states throughout the south were devastated by the recent hurricanes, torrential rain, and flooding. The Department of Michigan gave us the go-ahead to begin collecting donations from the Posts throughout the State of Michigan to be presented to VFW Post 1142 in North Carolina for distribution. As a result of your generous donations of cash and contributions of supplies from our list of needs, we were able to take a trailer load down to North Carolina on Friday, October 11th. The first load was delivered safely and offloaded in North Wilkesboro, NC, to Post Commander Tom Mitchell (1142). We then had the privilege of loading out a trailer load of supplies to deliver to Post 5202 in Waynesville, NC, which is northwest of

Asheville. Since arriving back in Michigan on Sunday, October 13th, we had already put the wheels in motion to take a second load down. Once again, through the generous donations from our Posts throughout Michigan, it appears we should have at least two trailer loads ready to load out on Monday, October 21st, and we plan to hit the road Tuesday morning, the 22nd. It was an awesome feeling to be a part of the VFW when we were able to see firsthand the impact the generosity of our members is having. The members of Post 1142 have truly stepped up in this endeavor and are leading the charge in North Carolina. They have set up their Post as a receiving and distribution point to ensure the supplies are being pushed out to the greater Asheville, NC, area where they are needed most. I am truly honored and humbled to be part of our team of five from Michigan who have stepped up and responded to North Carolina to provide this much-needed assistance. Thank you to the members of Michigan for stepping up and helping the communities of North Carolina. "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why"—Mark Twain.





DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER, MAX RIEKSE

The Mid-Winter Department of Michigan Conference in Kalamazoo is coming up in late January 2025; please try to attend at least one of the two days. Next, please get your audits in on time. Hospital Reports, Post Reports on what your Post does in regards to community service, Americanism: Legislative, Youth and Safety, etc. need to

be sent to Department National by the 10th of each month. Do not send in Hospital Reports to the Community Service Director. Let's also remember our POW/MIA's left behind in Russia—over 23,000 from WWII; over 2,500 from the Korean War that went to Russia; in Southeast Asia—Laos & Communist Vietnam—there were around 800 live POWs left behind; and many from Cold War shootdowns. I implore you to set up a POW/MIA table at your Post and to write your local congressman and Michigan senators asking them to contact

the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on returning the remains of all our POW/MIAs that ended up in Russia. Ask for a written response from your congressman. If you get one, please send me a copy and report it. Support your local scouting organizations, and when you have them use your Post, report that, along with the cost of what it would be to rent it. Finally, every VFW Post is required to send a Post representative to each and every District meeting, or possibly face suspension of its charter.



DISTRICT 13 COMMANDER, DEREK BRAUN

District 13's journey through the summer has been nothing short of amazing. As our leadership traveled throughout the District, it was refreshing for the VFW and Auxiliary leaders to see how close knit the Post and Auxiliary memberships have become. Our Posts have been busy over the past several months. The District Line Officers, Commander Braun, Sr. Vice Commander Hann-Miles, and Jr. Vice Commander Peter attended the VFW National Convention in Louisville, KY. Commander Braun served on the National Bylaws Committee, and Senior Vice Commander Hann-Miles served on the Finance and Internal Organization Committee. All three officers attended numerous training sessions, meetings, events, and ceremonies while at the Convention, and have brought that knowledge back to help the District thrive. Post 2780 and 8684 hosted a week-long recruiting event at the National Cherry Festival in July, with the Department Membership Director and the District VFW and Auxiliary officers taking the day of the airshow so the Post and Auxiliary members could enjoy the show. The event was an immediate success, adding five members to the District, numerous members to the Auxiliaries, and communicating the

VFW's message and programs. The Town of Hillman hosted the only remaining V-J Day parade and celebration. Post 2356 in Hillman hosted a pancake breakfast and numerous raffles to welcome the community into the Post. The honor guards from Post 2356, 5857, and 7804, as well as District Commander Braun and District President Crawford, marched in the parade. Though local law enforcement took comedic exception to the District Commander's attendance to the parade. The town of Posen hosted the annual Potato Festival. Post 7804 hosted a pancake breakfast on the Sunday of the festival. Post 2496 unveiled their new parade float at the parade and were recognized as the best Veteran Service Organization float in the parade. Commander Braun, Senior Vice Commander Hann-Miles, Junior Vice Commander Peter, and District Auxiliary President Crawford traveled to Posen to help with the recruiting tent and participate in the parade, taking the time to talk to U.S. Congressman Bergman about veteran issues in the parade staging area. Post 2780 in Traverse City hosted their annual POW/MIA Remembrance Day on September 20th, 2024, welcoming Congressman Bergman, State Senator Damoose, two local State Representatives, the Coast Guard Air Station Commander, and Department Commander Napoleon. District Commander Braun attended as the keynote speaker and delivered a moving

speech regarding the Mayaguez Incident and the final MIAs of the Vietnam War. After the ceremony, the District and Auxiliary officers hosted a dinner in celebration of Commander Napoleon's birthday. The District as a whole has embraced the challenges and focus areas put forward by the new District leaders. 1: Membership. We have one Post already above 102%, 7804 Posen, and the District is outpacing the Department membership percentage. We only need 162 new or renewed members by the end of the year to make the Commander in Chief's goal of 102%. 2: Reporting. The Posts were recognized at Fall Conference for being the only District 100% reported in Community Service and 100% reported in Hospital Reporting. 3: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year. More Posts are reaching out with questions about locating and completing the application process, which shows an increase in participation this year. 4: Community Outreach. Posts within the District have already done a great job with this; they have now embraced raising their hands and saying, "Look at what we did." Commander Braun was quoted as saying, "I'm exceptionally proud of the hard work each Post and the membership and officers have put forth in the first quarter." Several Posts received Department and National-level awards that were passed out at the District Meeting on November 2nd, 2024, at Post 2780 in Traverse City.



DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER, DEAN MAKI

I want to thank Commander Napoleon and her administration for a great Fall Conference in Flint. The training was valuable and

interesting. I am looking forward to another great convention at Mid-Winter in Kalamazoo. I want to thank those Posts in my District who have been submitting their audits on time and also those who've gotten their reports entered every month. For those Posts who have not reported, please do so. If

you are having trouble reporting, call me and I will help you through it. In November, we will begin conducting Post Inspections. Please work towards 102% in membership in your Post by recruiting, renewing, and reinstalling. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

@VFWMI & @VFWAUXMI  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK



DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER, ARTHUR KREIVI

Greetings, Comrades, from the 15th District in the soon-to-be white North. Well, summer has quickly passed, and it is time to start getting our VOD/PP/TOY nominations into the Post and the winners on to the District judges and then to the Department. I would like to see a good turnout with entries from all the Posts this year. I know we have some great teachers out in the District, and a lot of times they do not want to enter themselves; just remember anyone can enter a teacher. We had some busy Posts in the District this past summer, and I would like to thank the following Posts for the things they have done for the veterans and the communities they are in: Post 2891 Crystal Falls held their

first coffee and doughnuts for a veteran at the Post and participated along with Post 3134 in holding the Iron County All Veteran Picnic at Chicagoan Lake in September. Post 6507 Chassell Donated personal items to the Michigan Homes D.J. Jacobetti home, and members from the Post did countless veteran honors for veteran burials in the District along with other Post members from other Posts in the District. I believe without the volunteers from the VFW and American Legion, these veterans would not have been given the honors that they so well deserved. Post 4624 Hubbell held a 5K run along with the Air Force ROTC cadets for MIA/POW Day. Post 8945 Covington and its Auxiliary will be holding a Poker Ride Fundraiser for the District Auxiliary, which is a good time to view the fall colors and raise some money. Post 9084 Wakefield Held the 12th Annual Walk-

A-Mile in My Shoes Rally promoting Stop the Stigma with Mental Health. Post 3673 Bessemer has held a few different breakfasts and festivals for the community. Post 3900 Calumet held the 23rd Annual Neil Isaacson Memorial Golf Fundraiser at Sandy Pebbles Golf Course and did a VFW Day of Service cleaning up the Honor Roll and Park in Copper City. I would like to give my congratulations to Post 3900 Calumet for being named an All-American Post for 23/24. Reminder to all Posts: the best way to recruit new members is to be active in your community. Nominate a VFW Member of the Year, Employer of the Year, Fire Fighter of the Year, Police Officer, EMT, or Dispatcher of the Year. You can also nominate for Scout (boy or girl) and JROTC Cadet of the Year; just look at the department website for details on all that you can do to be more visible to your community.



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

LISTED BY	POST NUMBER	/	LAST NAME	/	FIRST NAME	/	AGE	/	SERVICE	/	WAR
	796		Port Huron								
Weston, Norman	98		Navy/WWII								
	2144		Holland								
Koeman, Brian	73		Korea								
Biber, Benjamin	70		Navy/Vietnam								
Ramaker, Larry	76		Army/Vietnam								
Scalf, Paul	76		Marines/Vietnam								
	2292		Edmore								
Conklin, Richard	90		Navy/Korea								
Peters, James	93		Air Force/Korea								
	2645		Southfield								
Kuffner, Donald	78		Navy/Vietnam								
	3672		Albion								
Vincent, Burt	76		Air Force/Vietnam								
	3701		Lakeview								
Johnson, William	83		Army/Vietnam								
	4054		Marcellus								
Gardner, Bobby J.	100		Navy/WWII								
	4087		Davison								
Worvie, Dale E.	74		Army/Vietnam								
	4093		Carleton								
Nelson, Darryl	77		Marines/Vietnam								
	4162		Hamtramck								
Masters, Fred	84		Army/Vietnam								
	4659		Shelby Township								
Kinner, Hugh T.	92		Army/Korea								
	5319		Athens								
Rose, Clifford	98		Army/Army Air Corps/ Navy/WWII								
	6507		Chassell								
Makela, Paul	83		Navy/Korea								
	6782		Eastpointe								
Jenner, David B.	83		Air Force								
Sexton, Joel A.	80		Navy								
	6864		Cadillac								
Hoover, Robert P.	97		Navy/WWII								
Powell, Eldon L.	98		Army/WWII								
	8846		Muskegon								
Babcock, Joseph	77		Army/Vietnam								
Britton, Gary	77		Air Force/Vietnam								
Yeck, Jack	75		Army/Vietnam								
	15023		Lansing								
Spegel, Terrence J. Sr.	78		Army/Vietnam								

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS®



★ ★

AUXILIARY DISTRICT REPORTS

★ ★



DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT, DAWN SHOCK

The adventures have begun. Traveling District 6, visiting Auxiliaries, has been a pleasure. I was made to feel welcome and appreciated, and they were open to suggestions and direction. I have found they are organized, prepared, and dedicated to their veterans. Reporting is going well. Fall Conference was informative and fun. “On the Road,” a special school of instruction for secretaries, treasurers, trustees, and MALTA demonstrations, was a treasury of information. Marilyn Malick and Marian Belaire did it so well. District 6 Auxiliaries have been busy, visiting veterans hospitals, enjoying bingo, euchre, membership drives, car shows, luncheons, and much more. And lookout, here comes Santa Claus. Many Auxiliaries will be hosting Christmas events this holiday season. And before we know it, a new year will begin. Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas season. Looking forward to seeing what the Auxiliaries will be doing next. See you at Mid-Winter in Kalamazoo!



DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT, APRIL LOWERY

District 8 has been busy! If you follow our Facebook page, you can see all the events different Auxiliaries are participating in. Please feel free to share posts to the page advertising events or showing pictures of the fun had at the various events. What I am learning through all my official visits is that there are so many events Auxiliaries are hosting and participating in, but they don’t always get reported. Sharing your ideas helps other Auxiliaries with ideas for events! Thank you to everyone who attended Fall Conference and participated in trainings and meetings. Our District Meeting was hosted by Nashville Post #8260 on November 2nd, 2024. At our August meeting, we agreed to hold a fundraiser at our November meeting for “Moore Homes for Vets” out of Grand Rapids. Another big topic of our November meeting was discussing Operation Bottom Cover and the more local, Female Baby Shower, hosted by the VA hospitals. Looking forward to another great season here in District 8! Thank you for all you are doing to support our veterans!



DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT, JUDY FELL

This year, State President Jane Dady had the Unsung Honor Award. This is for an individual who has done many things for veterans without seeking praise. I had the honor of presenting these awards at each of my Auxillary visits. The individual was picked by the Auxilliary. The award was a travel mug, and written on it is a saying: “May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make.” The comment made by all recipients was, ‘I do it to thank all servicemen and women who have served or are serving our country. Thank you for your service.’

USPS ANNUAL STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

1. Company Name/Publication Title MICHIGAN VFW MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN	7. Complete Mailing Address of Publication 924 N WASHINGTON AVE, LANSING MI 48906-5136	Publisher - STAFFORD PRINTING 1005 E FAIRPLAINS, GREENVILLE MI 48838
2. Publication Number : 9348	Contact - ALYSSA McELFRESH (989)292-0918	Editor - ALYSSA McELFRESH
3. Filing Date : 10/01/2024	8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher 924 N WASHINGTON AVE, LANSING MI 48906-5136	329 N KNOWLTON ST, MI, 48831
4. Issue Frequency: 3X YEARLY IN MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUG, SEPT/OCT/NOV/DEC, & JAN/FEB/MAR/APRIL	9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor	10. Owner - VFW DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN 924 N WASHINGTON AVE, LANSING MI 48906-5136
5. No. Issues Published Annually: THREE		13. Company Name/Publication Title MICHIGAN VFW MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN
6. Annual Subscription: FREE TO VFW MEMBERS		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data 10/01/2024
		15. Extent and Nature of Circulation SEE CHART TO LEFT
		16. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation NONE
		17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the 11/15/2024 issue of this publication.
		18. Signature of Editor  AlyssaMcelfresh

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

a. Total Number of Copies (net press run)	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1308	1293
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	0	0
Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	1308	1293
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	1308	1293
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15e and 15f)	1308	1293
g. Copies not Distributed	0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)	1308	1293
i. Percent Paid (15d divided by 15f times 100)	0.00 %	0.00 %
10. If total circulation includes electronic copies, report that circulation on lines below		
a. Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies	0	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies	1308	1293
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid & Electronic Copies)	0 %	0 %

2025 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

January 31-February 2

Kalamazoo, MI

VFW AGENDA

Thursday January 30	Hospitality Room	TBA
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Dinner W/ JR Vice Commander-in-Chief	(by invitation)
7:00 p.m.		
Friday January 31 (Dress Code: Casual, VFW Commander's Polo & Grey Slacks)	Registration	Fields
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	(Closed for Lunch 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)	
	Pickup Pre-Purchased Banquet Tickets @ Registration	
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Program Display tables	Kalamazoo 1
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Displays	Oaks
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Joint VFW & Auxiliary	
	State of Michigan Charitable Gaming	Glens
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Joint VFW & Auxiliary	
	State of Michigan MLCC	Glens
11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:15 a.m.	VFW Service Committee Meeting	Prairies
	Chairman, Kevin Conklin	
11:30 a.m.	VFW Budget & Finance Committee Meeting	Prairies
	Chairman, Phil Patterson	
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 p.m.	VFW Legislative Priorities Update	Prairies
	National Legislative Committee Member, Kimberly Napoleon	
	State Legislative Director, Barry Walter	
1:30 p.m.	Post Inspections & Audits	Prairies
	Dept Inspector, Butch Ogden	
2:00 p.m.	Post Service Officer Updates	Prairies
	Service Office Director, Sidney Love	
2:00 p.m.	Dept & District Senior Vice Commanders	Stone Theatre
	Dept & District Junior Vice Commanders	Meadows
2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:45 p.m.	Parliamentary Procedure	Prairies
	David Staehlin, State Cmdr Minnesota	
4:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Department Officers	
6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room	TBA
6:30 p.m.	DINNER WITH JR VICE COMMANDER-in-CHIEF AND DEPARTMENT CofA MEMBERS	
Saturday February 1 (Dress Code: VFW CofA Uniform for Council Members & VFW Commander's Polo for VFW Members)	Registration	Fields
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 10:00 A.M.	
	Program Display tables	Kalamazoo 1
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Displays	Oaks
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Council of Administration Breakfast	Meadows
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Council of Administration Meeting	Prairies
9:05 a.m. -	Program Director Reports as requested by the Commander	
	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	VFW Aux. VOD/ PP Reception	Glens
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VOD/ PP Students, District Cmdr. / Pres.	Kalamazoo 2
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Head table meet for line up	
VFW BANQUET DRESS - HEAD TABLE BLACK JACKET FORMAL		
VFW MEMBERS ATTENDING - SUIT & TIE		
5:00 p.m.	VOD/ PP Banquet	Arcadia Ballroom
	(Tickets must have been purchased in advance)	
Sunday February 2	Safe Travels Home	



VFW AUXILIARY AGENDA

**Thursday, January 30 (Casual dress)**  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Pre-Council of Administration Meeting Suite 813  
including Budget and Audit  
(Council Members Only)  
6:00 pm Department Officers Dinner with National Representative  
6:30 pm – 10:00 pm Department Hospitality Room

**Friday, January 31 (Morning is casual; afternoon is official look blouse/shirt)**  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm Registration (closes for lunch Noon-1:30) Fields  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Hospital Booth & Camp Trotter Table Kalamazoo 1  
Buddy Poppy Contest Oaks  
8:30 am – 11:00 am Joint Michigan Charitable Gaming Training and Glens  
State of Michigan Liquor Control  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Understanding Delegates and Voting Process Glens  
Stump the Chief  
Noon – 1:30 pm Lunch on your own  
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm District Sr. Vice President Meeting Stone Theatre  
With Sr. Vice President Debbie Scheetz  
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm District Jr. Vice President Meeting Meadows  
With Jr. Vice President Jason Manke  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Council of Administration Meeting Glens  
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm 2025-26 Program Chairmen Training Glens  
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Department Color Bearer Floor Practice Training TBA  
5:00 pm District President’s Reception Suite 813  
5:45 pm District President’s Night on the Town  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Department Hospitality Room

**Saturday, February 1 (Department Pink Shirt; Banquet is dressy, except for head table which is formal)**  
8:00 am – 10:00 am Registration  
8:00 am – 12:30 pm Hospital Booth & Camp Trotter Table Fields  
Buddy Poppy will be judged at 10:00 am Oaks  
8:30 am – 9:00 am 2024 -25 Program Chairman Meeting Glens  
with Marilyn Malick  
9:00 am – 12:30 pm Programs, Buddy Poppy Awards and Glens  
Membership Awards  
12:30 pm – 2:15 pm Lunch on your own  
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm Auxiliary VOD/PP Reception Glens  
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm VOD/PP Students, District Commanders/ Kalamazoo 2  
Presidents & Head Table  
5:00 pm Escort of Head Table and VOD/PP Students  
5:00 pm Banquet Arcadia Ballroom

**Sunday, February 2** Safe Travels

**\*TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY CHANGE – REVISIONS WILL BE POSTED ON DEPARTMENT WEBSITE @ [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)**



BANQUET TICKET FORM

**V.F.W. AND AUXILIARY  
46th MID – WINTER CONFERENCE**  
Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo Michigan

**BANQUET TICKETS  
FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

**Price \$52.00 per person /All seats are reserved**  
**No tickets sold at the door**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR ORDERING TICKETS IS JANUARY 21, 2025**  
**All tickets ordered after Deadline of January 21, 2025 will be at the Rate of \$60.00**  
**BANQUET TICKET ORDERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUDING NO**  
**SHOWS UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY STATE COMMANDER FOR REFUND**

**ALL TICKETS will be available for pick up at the Conference**  
**Banquet starts at 5:00 PM**

Payment can be made by check or credit card.

Make check payable to VFW Department of Michigan and mail with form to:  
VFW Department of Michigan  
924 N. Washington  
Lansing, MI 48906

To pay with credit card complete information below and fax to 517-485-6432 or email to  
Jan: [bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet](mailto:bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet) or Amanda: [amanda@vfwmi.vet](mailto:amanda@vfwmi.vet)

_____ / _____		
Credit Card #	Expiration Date	
_____		
3 Digit Code	Zip Code	Email for Receipt





## HOUSING FORM

**Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars  
46th Mid – Winter Conference  
Wednesday January 29, 2025 – Sunday February 2, 2025**

**Make Your Reservation by January 6, 2025**  
**To Make Reservations Call**  
**Radisson Plaza Hotel**  
**100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007**  
**Phone 269-343-3333**

- **Cutoff date is January 6, 2025 or until block fills, whichever occurs first.**
- **Please make your reservations as soon as you receive this information.**

**To reserve your room, please call 269-343-3333 Reservation must be guaranteed with a major credit card.**

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

**A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.**

**Rates are subject to 6% State Tax And 5% Occupancy Tax**

**Room rates:**               **Standard Rooms: \$119.00**  
  **Suites: \$169.00**

**Group: Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Mid -Winter Conference**

**Wednesday January 29, 2025 – Sunday February 2, 2025**



## AD BOOK FORM

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
VFW AND AUXILIARY  
46th ANNUAL MID WINTER CONFERENCE AD BOOK

RATES:

FULL PAGE AD - \$115.00

1/2 PAGE AD - \$85.00

1/4 PAGE AD - \$60.00

PATRON AD - \$10.00 (Name and Post or Auxiliary Number Only)

Payment can be made by check (made out to Department of Michigan VFW) or by credit card by contacting Jan or Amanda at Department Headquarters at 517-485-9456

MAIL AD TO:

Department of Michigan VFW

924 N. Washington

Lansing, MI 48906

Email: Jan Passmore - bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet

**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS JANUARY 10, 2025**

MESSAGE: (PLEASE PRINT)

[illegible]



DESIGNER / EDITOR  
ALYSSA MCELFRISH

Hello friends! Where did Fall go? My favorite season always comes and goes so quickly. With that being said, we are quickly moving into the holidays and I hope everyone gets to enjoy them surrounded by the people they love. I also look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Warm wishes to all!

Next deadline = February 15, 2025

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](https://vfwmi.org/contact)

[vfwmi.org/vethelp](https://vfwmi.org/vethelp)

[vfwmi.org/join](https://vfwmi.org/join)

[vfwmi.org/directory](https://vfwmi.org/directory)

[vfwmi.org/officers](https://vfwmi.org/officers)

[vfwmi.org/allstate](https://vfwmi.org/allstate)

[vfwmi.org/mov](https://vfwmi.org/mov)

[vfwmi.org/gallery](https://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 : 02/15/25  
Send to : MOV@VFWMI.ORG

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