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MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SUMMER 26

2026 VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION



Deptartment Adjutant/Quartermaster, Barry Walter, receiving recognition for outstanding donations to the Stars and Stripes Program (pictured with National Commander-In-Chief. Carol Whitmore)



Past State Commander, Reinold Yahnka, receiving All-American Department Commander for the Department of Michigan award from National Commander-In-Chief. Carol Whitmore



VFW Riders Group National President and Post 6248 Life Member, Kevin Conklin, receiving a 2026 Commander-In-Chief Gold Medal of Merit from National Commander-In-Chief. Carol Whitmore

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VFW Auxiliary Installation of National Appointed Officers, including State President Jason Manke as Color Bearer #3 and Department Secretary Edna Kiviniemi as Assistant Guard, as well as Past State President, Debbie Scheetz as elected National Council of Administration Member. Area B



Past State President, Debbie Scheetz, being recognized during the Circle of Excellence Ceremony (pictured with Past National President, Lois Callahan)



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, LARRY THAYER

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers, we are off to a great start for this year. Thank you, Garrett, and your staff, for completing a successful Camp Totter season. After a year off, it was good to see our camp functioning again. The numbers were down, but that should be expected after an off year. Next year we're looking for a banner year, so get the word out.

Thank you, PSC Reinold Yahnka, for directing a fantastic VTS program. A lot of great information was put out by Reinold; Barry Walter, Dept. Adj/QM; Mike Martin, Dept. VOD/PP and All-State Dir.; Garrett Dickey, Dept. Membership Dir.; and Mike Eckmyre, Dept. Surgeon. VTS attendance by Commander and Quartermaster is a requirement for Post All-State, so I look forward to a plethora of All-State Posts.

As many of you know, I spent the last 20 years involved with Youth Activities. So it should be no surprise that I picked Camp Trotter as my Special Project. Specifically new floors for the cabins. Everyone knows they are badly needed and not in the budget, so think about your donations, which are good for All-State.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Fall Conference at the end of this month, where the All-State and All-American awards will be presented. Plus all of the Program awards from the 2025-2026 year. Congratulations in advance to all those recipients. Lastly, Michigan is hosting the Big Ten Conference in Kalamazoo this weekend. I know we will all have a great time, and I look forward to seeing you there. I am excited to see all of the National Officers in attendance and know there will be a wealth of information passed down to the Departments.

IN THIS ISSUE

Dept. Adjutant/Quartermaster.....2
Dept. Judge Advocate.....2
Dept. Inspector.....3
Dept. Activities Evaluation.....3
Great Lakes National Cemetary.....3
Dept. Youth Activities.....3
Dept. Legislative.....3
Dept. Chaplain.....4
Dept. Surgeon.....4
VFW Store Ad.....4
Dept. VMS/Mental Health.....5
Post Reports.....6-7
Aux. President.....8
Aux. Sr. Vice President.....8
Aux. Americanism Chairman.....8
Aux. Buddy Poppy Chairman.....8
Aux. Chaplain.....9
Aux. Chief-Of-Staff.....9
Aux. Historian/Media Relations.....9
Aux. Hospital.....9
Aux. National Home Chairman.....10
Aux. Youth Activities/Camp Trotter.....10
TAPS.....11
District Commander Reports.....11-12
District President Reports.....13
2026 Fall Conference Info.....14-15



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, BARRY WALTER

Comrades, the Department of Michigan had a great delegation at National Convention in Reno, and our members were active on all facets of the Convention. Member participation at National Conventions by Post delegates gives the opportunity to every Post to have a voice in our organization. The 2027 National Convention will be in Milwaukee, WI, easy for Michigan members to attend. Plan ahead and prepare yourself to be a Post delegate to National Convention.

We had great participation in our VTS training this year. 258 Officers and members from 88 Posts attended one of the sessions held throughout the state. Thank you to every member who attended and to every Post who hosted, making this a great year for our VTS program. It is now up to District Commanders to continue to present training to Post officers and at District meetings.

Post Inspections are underway. If District Inspectors or Post officers have questions about inspections, please contact me or the Department Inspector, Butch Ogden.

The Commander-in-Chief's All-American program and the State Commander's All-State Program are two separate and distinct programs. Both are presented on the Department website for you to review. The All-American program is on the Membership program page. The All-State program is on that program page. Review both and understand the different criteria.

Post and District reporting of the VOD, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year program may be entered on the National Program Dashboard as soon as your programs are complete and submitted. They must be entered on the Dashboard before January 31. If for any reason Post or District Chairmen need assistance in this process, please contact headquarters, and we will assist you in the reporting process.

The National Day of Service program requires pre-registration of your Post program before May 1, 2027, and the Post program must be performed in May and reported to National before June 30. If you need assistance in the registration of your Post project, please contact me. There is a direct link to the registration form on the Department website's Day of Service slider. There is a great deal of information about the Day of Service program on that webpage as well. Please review it.

It is the goal of your Department staff to assist you in any way possible. If you have a question, ask; we are ready to assist you!



DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, DANN TODD

Our Post homes are our forward operating bases. They are the focal point for our efforts to reach out and serve our fellow veterans. They are the starting point for our engagement in our communities.

Real estate is also an area where we can encounter trouble. To help avoid problems, Section 709 of our National bylaws provides the framework for purchasing, financing, refinancing, or selling property. The process for all those transactions begins with obtaining the approval of the Post membership. A motion may be made at a regular meeting to begin the process. The Post must then provide written notice to all Post members 10 days prior to the regular or special meeting where the formal motion to purchase, finance, refinance, or sell property will be decided. Additionally, the Post must provide notice to the Department Commander of the intent to consider the motion 30 days before the regular or special meeting will take place. The Department Commander has the responsibility to review the proposed transaction to ensure that it serves the purposes of the VFW.

Having notified the Department Commander 30 days before the proposed meeting date and having provided written notification to all Post members at least 10 days before the meeting date, the Post may then hold a meeting to formally consider a motion to purchase, finance, refinance, or sell real estate. If 2/3 of the members attending the meeting vote for the motion, and if the Department Commander has confirmed that the transaction serves the purposes of the VFW, then the Commander and Quartermaster are authorized to sign the legal documents executing the transaction.

Given the significance of this action, it is useful to have a sign-in sheet for the meeting. The Post Adjutant should also note the vote totals and which Comrades (if any) opposed the motion if it passes. Fully documenting the process will prevent future claims that the vote was not properly passed. Be in the habit of making and keeping detailed records of all Post actions. Why the fuss about real estate transactions? We have our Post homes because the general public trusts that the VFW is a responsible organization. They willingly give us money because of that trust. A Post that betrays that trust harms their local community along with the reputation of all other VFW Posts in that area. Real estate is an area where even the best intentions can cause problems.

Reach out if you have any questions. Your District and Department Officers are prepared to help your Post work through the process of properly conducting a real estate transaction. I look forward to seeing all of you at our Department meeting in October.



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR, WILLIAM (BUTCH) OGDEN

Comrades, when submitting Audits to Department, make sure that all 3 trustees have signed the document and that the Post Commander also signs it. If a trustee's signature is missing, the Post Commander must submit a letter explaining the missing trustee's signature. We only need the final Audit, not all your supporting documents. Also make sure you only send the document once; we have received duplicate Audits from several Posts in the past. If you receive an email from me, the Department Inspector, that there is an issue with your Audit, please respond with the correction requested.

Comrades, the Trustee report of Audit is the most important document to aid in completing your 990 and 990T. When a trustee resigns or passes, a new trustee must be elected and reported to Department and National. A trustee cannot be appointed; it is an elected position.

I hope to see you at Fall conference in Mount Pleasant at the end of October.



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES EVALUATION DIRECTOR, ROBIN BAILEY

Comrades, I hope that everybody is in good health and enjoying our "Autum weather." Now for some business. I am new to this and would like to remind all Post Commanders that all reports sent into the activities site need to be prepared correctly. Across the board, I have noticed several items that need your attention before I get the submissions. These items include things such as Posts claiming more members flying flags than their membership supports, not filling out the form correctly, double reporting on one form, and the most problematic one of all, putting hospital reports on the activities report (note: these will not get forwarded). And please, make sure there is only one report per month, one reporter per Post, and that the month is correctly identified on the report. Since the reporting deadline is now the 25th, there should be no reason for late reports. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at darwi46@aol.com or phone at 616-994-2239. Thank you!

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY — DANE BEZEMEK

Comrades, there have been 3868 internments for the fiscal year through September 2026 with total internments since opening now at 74,502. Great Lakes National Cemetery is the fifth busiest VA Cemetery out of 152. Committal Shelter number 4 is now open, and Committal Shelter 1 is closed for repairs. Fall Headstone cleaning will occur on October 17, 2026. Veterans Day Ceremony will be held on November 11, 2026, and the VFW Department of Michigan is the host for the Ceremony.



DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, DANE BEZEMEK

Greetings Comrades, I realize we are focused on Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year. I would like to remind you not to forget about our Scout of the Year and Cadet of the Year programs, so please be on the lookout for qualified candidates. And remember to send me reports on Youth Activities that will qualify for program recognition.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR/DEPUTY DIRECTOR — DEREK BLUMKE/ERIC CALLEY

FOWLERVILLE, Mich. — A lasting tribute to a Michigan Marine who gave his life in Iraq will now stand along one of the state's busiest roadways.

On July 23, 2026, House Bill 4189, one of the Michigan VFW's legislative priorities, was signed into law by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The legislation officially designates the South Grand Avenue bridge over I-96 in Fowlerville as the LCpl Michael W. Hanks Memorial Bridge.

Hanks, a native of Gregory, Michigan, was killed in action on November 17, 2004, while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, during combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq.

During the battle, Hanks repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary courage and selflessness while under enemy fire. Among his actions, he rescued a wounded Marine and engaged enemy combatants. For his bravery and actions during the battle, Hanks was awarded the Silver Star.

Nearly 22 years after his death, Hanks' name will now become a permanent part of the community and the landscape of Fowlerville.

The memorial bridge represents a permanent reminder of the sacrifice made by Hanks and by countless other service members who have fought to protect the freedoms Americans enjoy every day.



For his family, fellow Marines and the community, the designation ensures that his service and sacrifice will continue to be remembered by future generations.

The effort to name the bridge after Hanks was supported by the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars as part of its legislative efforts to honor Michigan veterans and preserve the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

While Michael Hanks was taken from his family and fellow Marines in 2004, his legacy will now remain visible for generations.

The LCpl Michael W. Hanks Memorial Bridge will stand as a lasting reminder that freedom comes at a cost—and that the men and women who paid that price should never be forgotten.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, TERRY KUNST

Veterans Day is quickly approaching November 11, 2026! So, what is a veteran? "Someone who at one time in their life wrote a blank check for an amount up to and including their life!" Author Unknown. We who are of faith believe in a higher power, and it is our duty and honor to protect our faith, family, and country. As G. K. Chesterton is quoted (I modified the quote to be inclusive), "The soldier, sailor, marine, airmen, and coast guard men don't hate what is in front of them; they love what is behind them!" We as veterans who have served in hostile places have done so not because we hate people, but because we love our way of life and the freedoms we have. On the other side of our weapon oftentimes is a person who also believes that they are protecting their faith, family, and country as well! We both perhaps are fighting for the very same reasons, just on different sides. Ask most any veteran, and they will tell you they hate war, but when called by their country, they stepped up! Thank you to all that have served or currently are. Welcome home, and thank you for your service!

If there are some who have not been on an Honor Flight, please sign up to go! It was a great honor to have gone on Mid-Michigan Honor Flight #27 on September 15th and 16th to Washington, D.C. My faith tells me that my God (creator) also is worthy of our honor and praise, and the Honor Flight is a glimpse of how he may feel when we honor him! If I can be of service to any Comrades, please reach out to me!



DEPARTMENT SURGEON, MICHAEL ECKMYRE

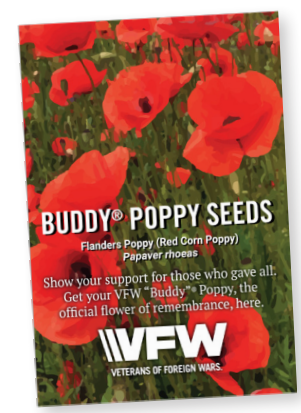
Greetings, fellow Comrades. The first thing I would like to say is that I was able to attend the VFW National Convention in Reno, Nevada. I had a great time, as this was my first National Convention, and wow, there were a lot of interesting and educational events during the week! I got to experience how the National part of the VFW works. I learned a lot of new things that will help me as I progress through my positions within the VFW. The trip was an experience as well, because I drove from Owosso, MI, to Reno. The drive makes you appreciate how big our country really is and the treasures that can only be seen to enjoy. Secondly, I am getting ever more familiar with my job as Department Surgeon. I am learning every day, and that helps me to communicate with all the VFW Posts in Michigan to help them produce effective and correct Hospital reports. A couple of key notes for further reporting are that when supplying a ramp to a veteran in need, please make sure the total cost is split up into 12 months to be able to claim the dollar amount for that reporting section. And, when claiming mileage, hours, etc., please put in some kind of description so I can justify your numbers. Finally, I want to give a shout-out to the VFW Post 6579 in New Lothrop, who sponsored and was instrumental in bringing the Moving Vietnam Memorial Wall to Chesaning Showboat Park. Over the four days there were over 12,000 people who attended. Again, thanks to Post 6579 for a job well done!



VFW STORE AD



GRUNT STYLE "HONOR THE CONTRACT" T-SHIRT
100% combed, ring-spun cotton. Unisex sizing. Imported; decorated in the USA.
7934 M-3XL **$30.00**
While quantities last.



POPPY SEEDS Grow your own red corn poppies. Sow in late fall or early spring in full sun. Blooms April thru June and can grow to 12" to 30" tall. Approx. 350 seeds per packet.
1250 **$3.00**

VFW
VFWSTORE.ORG



PATRIOTIC ORNAMENT
Handcrafted with beautiful detail VFW emblem in full color. Etched from solid brass with cutout design to showcase this special commemorative. Includes hanging cord for display. 24k gold finish. Mesaures 2 x 3". Made in the USA.
1030 **$24.00**
While quantities last.

Prices valid through 8/31/2027 **To place your order, call 1.833.839.8387 or go online to VFWSTORE.ORG**



VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICE DIRECTOR, DOUG BRINKER

Comrades, Brothers, and Sisters, welcome to Fall 2026. I want to extend my sincere and grateful appreciation to our State Commander, the Service Runs Deep Navy Shipmate, Larry Thayer, for his belief and appointment to lead the Mental Health and NVS Programs for the 2026-27 VFW year. I also want to extend an unwavering gratitude to the Middle of the Night email Legend himself, Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Barry Walter, for his dedication, love, selfless commitment, and his Yeomans work. He has provided support to thousands, if not millions, including myself, especially when he helped get the Mental Health Program into the Department Bylaws. Without him and the past 7 Department Commanders appointing me year after year, I could not provide the necessary resources and support to all of you. I am thankful we have had a few submissions for Mental Health Advocate of the Year and hope for many more for 26-27.

September was Suicide Prevention Month, and numerous Posts held events. I want to recognize those Posts that all year long are doing remarkable Mental Health Program events, including the newest one. The Edwardsburg Post 2284 hosted a Motorcycle Rude for Suicide Prevention on September 26. On September 12, Hough Pontius Post 3701 and its Auxiliary hosted their second Operation 988 Ruck/Walk. This event was open to the public and was created to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention. The Post shared this event on their social media platforms and emailed the registration link to local businesses and VSOs. The Post, along with its Auxiliary, sold T-shirts as part of the registration fee. The shirts were red in color and displayed an American flag on the back with the phrase "No one fights alone, call 988." The event received donations from a local business, which assisted in the cost of the shirts. The Post QM opened with a greeting and a short introduction and the Pledge of Allegiance, and then the Post Judge Advocate led a blessing for the participants. The ruck was 2.2 miles long in honor of the 22 veterans per day lost to suicide. Following the event participants were invited to share stories and hold open discussions regarding mental health and suicide.

On September 13, I was invited to Acorn Post in Royal Oak's PTS Symposium, and then on September 15, I attended Harrison's Annual PTS Symposium. By the time of print, the Decatur Post will have held their Annual Standdown Event, where hundreds of homeless veterans will have had the opportunity at a free meal, haircut, and other vital resources to survive. Dozens of Community Veteran resources are typically in attendance at this event. To all other Posts, remember to go to the Department website to request a Department Officer and Program.

Sport Clips will be hosting their annual fundraiser for the Help A Hero Scholarship Foundation, where each year they donate over 1 million dollars. Visit your local Sport Clips Hair Salon during the campaign from Oct 4 to Nov 14, 2026, and tell them you want to donate to the Help A Hero Scholarship Program. On Veterans Day, November 11, participating Sport Clips locations contribute an additional $2 for every haircut service and provide free haircuts for veterans. Did you know those E5 and Below Honorably discharged can apply for up to $5,000 each semester for higher education? Visit https://sportclips.com/partnerships/help-a-hero for more information. Application dates for the fall semester are January 1 through April 30, and dates for the spring semester are August 1 through November 15.

Following are some additional key programs and how they provide support:

- Military Appreciation Program (MAP): Provides grants to VFW posts to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings, and family get-togethers.
- Adopt-a-Unit: Connects local posts with deployed and active military units to offer ongoing support, resources, and care packages.
- Financial Assistance for Service Members: Offers direct grants (not loans) of up to $2,500 or more to help active-duty and activated Guard/Reserve families cover basic daily needs like housing, utilities, and food, paying creditors directly.
- War Dog Citation: Established in cooperation with organizations like Project K-9 Hero, the recognition program honors past and present canines that deployed to U.S. military combat areas. Any military working dog that answered the call to serve in a combat zone is eligible to receive the specialized certificate. The citations are provided to recognize the sacrifices and high-risk operations undertaken by K-9 service members alongside American troops. Contact me for details.



VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. SportClips HAIRCUTS

HELP A HERO

SCHOLARSHIP ★ PROGRAM



VETERAN CRISIS LINE 800-273-8255 PRESS 1

POST REPORTS

POST 796 - PORT HURON

Living the VFW Mission Through Service - At Charles Schoor VFW Post 796, our mission extends far beyond supporting veterans inside our walls. The VFW was built on the principles of service, patriotism, camaraderie, and taking care of our communities. Over the last several months, our members, Auxiliary, and community supporters have put those values into action.

One of the most powerful examples was the community benefit held for Charles "Doc" Viers following his motorcycle accident. Doc has been heavily involved with the post over the years. As veterans we understand the importance of standing besides one another during difficult times. When Doc needed support, our post and community answered the call. Through fundraising efforts, donations, and an outpouring of encouragement, we demonstrated one of the core values of the VFW: No One Left Behind. The event was a reminder that the bonds forged through service do not end when the uniform comes off.

Our commitment to service also reached local classrooms through a school supply drive that helped area teachers prepare for the new school year. Educators serve our community every day by investing in the next generation, and our members were proud to support them. Thanks to generous donations and community partnerships, multiple baskets of school supplies were collected and distributed to local teachers. Supporting education is another way we fulfil the VFW's commitment to strengthening the communities our veterans call home.

The spirit of service continued through a donation drive benefiting the Blue Water Area Humane Society. While the VFW's mission focuses on veterans, we also recognize the importance of community stewardship and compassion. Members and supporters came together to collect supplies for animals in need, demonstrating that service comes in many forms and that a strong community cares for all of its members, even our four-legged friends.

In addition to these community projects, our Post Commander, Andrea Warnock, continues to provide free haircuts for veterans and their families on the third Thursday of the month. This service provides more than a haircut. It creates an opportunity for veterans and their families to gather, connect, share stories, and strengthen the sense of camaraderie that has always been at the heart of the VFW. Donations are accepted but never required, ensuring that every veteran and family member feels welcome.

These projects may seem different on the surface, but they are all connected by the same purpose: service. Whether helping a fellow veteran recover after an accident, supporting local teachers, caring for shelter animals, or providing services to military families, Charles Schoor VFW Post 796 continues to live the VFW motto of "No One Does More for Veterans."

The success of these efforts belongs not only to our post members but also to the many community partners, businesses, volunteers, and donors who have stood beside us. Together, we are proving that the VFW remains a force for good, supporting veterans, strengthening our community, and carrying forward the values of service, sacrifice, and patriotism that define our organization.

POST 3794 - GREENVILLE

VFW Post 3794 is proud to recognize Past Post Commander William "Bill" Garlick with a VFW Gold Legacy Life Membership in appreciation for nearly 30 years of dedicated service to our Post and our veterans.

A Navy veteran who served four tours in Vietnam, Bill has continued his commitment to service long after returning home. Over the years, he has served in nearly every Post leadership position, from Benefits Advisor to Commander. His knowledge of the VFW, our Post's history, and the needs of our members has made him a trusted resource and a steady presence within our organization.

We are also proud to announce that VFW Post 3794 is bringing the VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay competitions back to the Greenville area for the 2026–2027 school year. These national scholarship programs give students an opportunity to share their perspectives on America, veterans, and service.

To our veterans serving overseas: your service continues to shape the next generation. Through programs like these, we can help young Americans understand the meaning of that service and the freedoms you protect every day.





POST 4659 - SHELBY TOWNSHIP

In June, we were recognized by the Military Order of the Purple Heart with a Special Recognition Award for our dedication and support in honoring America's Combat Wounded Veterans and their family members.

A beautiful plaque and Purple Heart Flag were presented to (then) Commander Art Huge by the Patriot members of the Macomb County Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 1818, by our own Comrade Bruce Hartung (shown holding the flag with Honor Guard member Bill Barron.)





POST 8846 - MUSKEGON

Don Rea Post #8846 will be conducting a "Diamond Jubilee" on Saturday, November 7, 2026, to celebrate the Post's 75th anniversary. The Post received its Charter on November 7, 1951, with 37 members.

The members meetings were held in the North Muskegon Fire Barn until the "Post Home" was completed, with all volunteer help, on March 28, 1956.

Pictured are the Post Officers and Auxiliary members responsible for making this prestigious milestone, marking seven and a half decades of unbroken dedication to veterans, community, and country.



POST 8872 - PORT SANILAC

On October 7th, Post 8872 hosted a dinner for all members to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Post, which was installed on December 15, 1946. Twenty-two members and spouses/ significant others attended. Guests included Barry Walter, Department Adjutant; two Past District Commanders, Don Calloway and Fred Vantroostenberg; Shannon Kreger and Kati Creguer, from the Sanilac County Veterans Affairs Office; and Carol Falls, wife of Charter Member Gene Falls. The program included a recognition of the guests and a history of the Post by Post Historian Jeff Lyall. Barry Walter presented the Post with a Certificate of Recognition for 80 years of faithful service in support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the veterans of their community. The dinner was held at the Bluewater Sports Bar and Grill and included a cake that was generously donated by Walmart.



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Certificate of Recognition

Presented to

VFW Post 8872, Port Sanilac

The Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars, congratulates the officers and members of VFW Post 8872, Port Sanilac on the occasion of their 80th Anniversary. Instituted on December 15, 1946, VFW Post 8872 has continuously served the community, the District and the Department of Michigan by being an outstanding example of leadership in the veteran community. For 80 years VFW Post 8872 has been active in supporting the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department and National Programs. It is therefore, with great honor, that the VFW Department of Michigan recognizes and thanks the members of Port Sanilac VFW Post 8872 for their 80 years of faithful service in support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the veterans of their community.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hand and the official seal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, this 7th day of October, 2026.

Larry Thayer, Department Commander

PORT SANILAC VFW POST 8872 CHARTER MEMBERS

Joseph Ales	Arthur J Kirkendall	Kenneth R Head
Sam L Ales	Ervin R Klaty	Albert F Ricket
Oscar P Begin	Herbert K Klaty	James J Rumbel
Laurel E Bopra	Edwin Lahart	Clyde O Rushton
William H Bopra	Leo McComb	Hubert J Schillinger
John D Cook	Keith D Manglos	Valentine Schumacher
Nicholas A Cosenza	Sterling F Massman	Dean P Sims
George F Davidson	Ralph I Ohm	Aloysius Tomichek
Morris E Day	Brian C O'Mara	Robert J Turk
Eugene I Falls	Joseph M O'Mara	Carl Weeder
Jack M Falls	Robert H O'Mara	Michael J Omaro
Chester A Giddings, Jr	Gorden R Pangborn	Stanley Cass
Joseph F Golenberke	Charles F Platts	Harry E Greening
Frederick H Gruber	Victor D Pratt	Earl D Jacobs
Wilford A Hayes		Eugene W Schommer

December 15, 2026 will mark the 80th anniversary of the installation of Port Sanilac VFW Post 8872. We are celebrating that significant milestone tonight. The Post began with 44 charter members listed above and grew over the years. We currently have 55 members. Those of you who are lifelong residents of Port Sanilac and this area are aware of the role Post 8872 played in the community over the years. The Ladies Auxiliary was a vibrant group during that time and played a role in the success of the Post. The generous support from the community has been used by the Post to support and help Veterans and Veteran causes. We have also given back to the community.

It is our hope to continue the legacy of Post 8872 and that of the VFW, which was begun by the Charter Members and has been carried out by the many members over these 80 years. In doing so we are upholding the motos of the VFW, "To honor the dead by helping the living" and "Still Serving"

Roger Bobby Commander	Jeff Lyall Adjutant	Burt Downing 1st Vice Commander	Lawrence Olds Jr. Vice Commander
Robert Rockwood Quartermaster	Dick Burl Chaplain	Keith Mino Service Officer	Ed Nurenberg Trustee
Robert Carter Trustee		Jeff Smeeder Trustee	



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, JASON MANKE

As I'm writing this, I have already made my visit to the Oscar G. Johnson VA Hospital in Iron Mountain, Saginaw VA Hospital, the Charles S. Kettles VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, the Michigan Veteran Home in Chesterfield, and the John D. Dingell VA Hospital in Detroit. I would like to thank each Department VA Representative for the wonderful tours; each one of you is doing a great job! It was my honor to tour these locations, as I'm "Leading this Department with a Patriot's Heart."

A huge shout-out to all our members who are stepping up to help us host the Big 10 conference. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries, Districts, and MOCA's who donated baskets for the Big 10 basket raffle. I am also looking forward to our Fall Conference at the end of the month and hope our members will take the important information they will learn from the available trainings and take it back to their Auxiliaries.

Remember with great teamwork anything is possible! May we never forget that we are here for our veterans and our VFW Posts. Let's never forget that, so if they need a helping hand on a project, each Auxiliary member should be jumping at the chance to help. Each Department Officer and District President is more than willing to assist and help an Auxiliary out rather than see an Auxiliary fail. If your Auxiliary Officers would like training in President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Trustee, please let the Department office know.

Lastly, I look forward to traveling and visiting with our members and hearing all the good work that is being done in our state.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, JAN GELDER

Summer is over, fall is beginning, and we've had our first round of District meetings for the 2026-2027 year. I hope everyone has had a chance to learn something new about the VFW Auxiliary and its workings.

Fall Conference is coming up at the end of the month and I hope you can all attend. It will be a great learning experience for everyone and a good time together with a Halloween costume party on Saturday evening.

Please keep an eye out for information regarding the Mid-Winter Conference that will be held in Kalamazoo at the Radisson Hotel in January. In the meantime, I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday season.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN, VICKIE BUSHONG

Americanism in Michigan: For members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the solemn oath to "Honor the dead by helping the living" extends beyond supporting our active military and local comrades—it encompasses a solemn promise to those who never made it back. Across every generation of conflict, more than 81,000 American service members remain missing or unaccounted for. Remembering our Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) is a sacred trust, a commitment to ensure that no warrior is left behind on foreign soil.

Honoring our nation's POW/MIAs requires active, continuous advocacy. Displaying the POW/MIA flag, observing National POW/MIA Recognition Day every September, and keeping the symbolic Missing Man Table set at our Posts are vital reminders to our local communities. Behind these symbolic acts lies a practical, operational effort to bring every missing hero home.

At the heart of recovery efforts is the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Operating under the Department of Defense, the DPAA employs teams of researchers, historians, forensic anthropologists, and active-duty service members who trek to remote battlefields and crash sites around the world—from the jungles of Southeast Asia to the waters of the Pacific—to identify remains and provide closure to families.

Recognizing the immense resource demands of this mission, the VFW leadership has rallied support through the National Special Project: "Operation Bring Them Home." This initiative unites VFW Posts and Auxiliaries nationwide to directly raise funds, foster awareness, and support DPAA's recovery and identification efforts.

The project focuses on critical DPAA initiatives, including:

- Field Recovery Operations: Funding essential logistics and specialized equipment for field teams searching remote sites.
- Advanced DNA Identification: Supporting high-tech genetic testing and the Disinterment Program to identify "Unknowns" buried in national cemeteries.
- Family Outreach: Helping fund educational programs and update briefings for families who have waited decades for news of their missing loved ones.

Check to support this project may be mailed to National Headquarters earmarked "National President's/Commander-In-Chief's 2026-27 Special Project."



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT BUDDY POPPY CHAIRMAN, JANE DADY

The incredibly powerful Buddy Poppy has helped thousands of veterans and their families. We "Honor the dead by helping the living." We wear our poppy proudly to remember those who were lost in battle. They will never be forgotten.

The proceeds from VFW Buddy Poppy distributions go into the Post or Auxiliary Relief fund. This is a restricted account that you can only use to aid veterans and their families.

This poppy is responsible for heating homes when it is 36 below zero, and the furnace quits. It provided a handicap ramp. It provided food for families who had nothing in the house to eat. It provided rides to VA medical centers and hospitals. It provided cheer and comfort to those veterans who were hospitalized or in a nursing home. And filled many needs for hurricane relief and other situations.

Give generously. When you go out and see someone distributing this beautiful red flower, please know your spare change is needed and appreciated more than you know, and you have quite possibly saved a life.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, DENISE ARNOLD

Almighty God, we lift our hearts today in profound gratitude for our veterans and the devoted members of the Auxiliary of the VFW. We ask that you bless them with robust health, enduring strength, and the deep comfort of knowing their sacrifices are cherished and remembered.

Ignite in all of us a spirit of continued patriotism. May the steadfast dedication shown by our veterans inspire our communities to honor the freedoms we hold dear and to serve one another with unwavering loyalty.

We also pray for our government representatives at every level. Grant them the wisdom, courage, and integrity to do what is right. Guide their hands and hearts so they may always honor their commitments, ensuring that those who wore the uniform receive the care, respect, and steadfast support they have so rightfully earned.

Watch over our posts, our families, and our shared mission of service and advocacy. Amen.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT CHIEF-OF-STAFF, DELLA STEEGE

Have you ever wondered what the Chief of Staff is responsible for? Here is a look at what we do:

Expansion - Establishing New Auxiliaries. An Auxiliary must be directly affiliated with an active VFW Post and cannot operate independently. Establishing a new chapter requires these steps:

1. Post Approval: The VFW Post must approve forming an Auxiliary by a two-thirds majority vote.
2. Official Organizer: The Department President appoints a current, knowledgeable VFW Auxiliary member to serve as the official organizer.
3. Charter Application: The application must include at least 15 eligible applicants; transfers do not count toward this minimum.
4. Official Paperwork: Charter documents and presentation materials are available from Department leadership or through MALTA member resources online.

Revitalization - Sustaining Healthy Auxiliaries. Revitalization supports struggling chapters by identifying warning signs—such as poor teamwork, declining membership, or low meeting attendance—and intervening before suspension or charter loss occurs. To remain in good standing with the National Organization, an Auxiliary must meet the 5 Essentials:

1. Meetings: Hold at least 10 business meetings each year, with a quorum of five or more members.
2. Dues: Ensure that at least 10 members pay their dues by February 1 of the current year.
3. Audits: Trustees must complete and submit quarterly financial audits.
4. Officers: Elect and install local officers, then report them to National Headquarters by June 30.
5. Bonding: Ensure that the President and Treasurer are fully bonded by August 31.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS, ANGELA WOOD

Thank you to everyone who has been sharing and posting your Auxiliary activities and events on the Historian/Media Relations-Michigan Facebook page. Your posts help showcase the outstanding work being accomplished throughout our Department and provide excellent opportunities to celebrate and inspire one another. If you are not already following the page, please take a moment to join Historian/Media Relations-Michigan and stay connected with news, events, and highlights from across the state. I also want to thank everyone who has submitted reports this year and remind members that reports for previous quarters may still be entered during the current reporting year. I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference and having the opportunity to meet more chairmen during the School of Instructions. Thank you for your continued dedication and for helping tell the story of the amazing work being done by our Auxiliaries every day.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN, FRAN BUDZISCH

Thank you to everyone who has been sharing and posting your Auxiliary activities and events on the Historian/Media Relations-Michigan Facebook page. Your posts help showcase the outstanding work being accomplished throughout our Department and provide excellent opportunities to celebrate and inspire one another. If you are not already following the page, please take a moment to join Historian/Media Relations-Michigan and stay connected with news, events, and highlights from across the state. I also want to thank everyone who has submitted reports this year and remind members that reports for previous quarters may still be entered during the current reporting year. I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference and having the opportunity to meet more chairmen during the School of Instructions. Thank you for your continued dedication and for helping tell the story of the amazing work being done by our Auxiliaries every day.





AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN, JANE DADY

Do you know of a struggling veteran or a struggling veteran family? The VFW National Home Helpline is there to help. This free service offers information and creates connections that a veteran might not know they were eligible for. If you are a veteran transitioning out of the service or are facing sudden life changes and need help, the VFW National Home Helpline is 1-800-313-4200.

They have veteran services experts who will help you with resources for your particular situation. They will listen to you and get you set up with the help you need. They can set you up with mental health services, financial services, and VA services. You may qualify for on-campus housing with a goal-oriented program.

Since being founded in 1925, they have provided the necessary tools and encouragement for our veterans and their families. Today's families face different challenges—reintegration, post-traumatic stress, unemployment, the need for rehabilitation or training, and more—and the National Home has evolved over its decades-long history to meet those changing needs. Please reach out or give the number to someone who can use the help.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT YOUTH/CAMP TROTTER CHAIRMAN, APRIL LOWERY

As Auxiliary members, we spend a lot of time talking about our programs, our projects, and the many ways we can support our veterans, their families, and our communities. But there is one group we should always remember to include—our youth.

Our young people are watching what we do. When we invite them to participate, we are giving them more than something to do. We are showing them what it means to serve, to give back, and to care about others. We are also helping build the next generation of volunteers who may someday carry on the work we are doing today.

The good news is that including youth doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, this time of year makes it especially easy! With the holidays right around the corner, there are so many opportunities for children and teens to lend a hand. They can help with food drives, collect toys or winter clothing, make cards for veterans, put together care packages, or simply help us find ways to bring a little extra joy to someone who needs it.

Sometimes we may think an activity has to be big or complicated to make a difference. It doesn't. A child's handmade card, a few donated items, or an afternoon spent helping others can mean more than we realize. And what better lesson can we give our young people than the joy of helping someone else?

There may not be much happening in front of the scene at Camp Trotter right now, but that doesn't mean the need has gone away. Donations are always important and always make a difference. Every dollar and every donated item helps provide support where it is needed. This is also a great opportunity to involve our youth and teach them that every contribution, no matter how small, matters.

And don't forget about the Illustrating America art contest! This is a wonderful opportunity for our young artists in kindergarten through eighth grade to share their creativity and their love of America. Encourage the children in your families, schools, and communities to participate. Entries must be submitted to the hosting VFW Auxiliary by December 15, 2026.

So, as we plan our activities this holiday season and throughout the year, let's make it a habit to ask ourselves, "How can we include our youth?" Invite them along. Give them a job. Listen to their ideas. Most importantly, let them know that they have a place beside us.

After all, the work we do today is about more than today. It's about leaving a tradition of service for those who will come after us, and our youth are the ones who will carry it forward.





ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

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

1136 Wyandotte
Ashburn, Joseph 84 Army/Vietnam
Harris, Clifford 77 Marines/Vietnam

2292 Edmore
Johnston, Dwight M. 80 Army/D.R.

3672 Albion
Hull, Russell 78 Marines/Vietnam
May, Darnel 79 Army/Vietnam

3701 Lakeview
Sherman, David 72 Air Force/Vietnam
Smith, Bernard 93 Army/Korea
Wichman, John 79 Coast Guard/Vietnam

4054 Marcellus
Rimes, Carroll W. 98 Navy/WWII
Walter, Fred 94 Army/Korea

4659 Shelby Township
Brooks, Earl 77 Navy/Vietnam
Whitcher, Gary 78 Army/Vietnam

6132 Lansing
Salinez, Christopher 42 Army/Iraq

6464 Fowlerville
Burgess, Neil 76 Navy/Vietnam

8846 Muskegon
Brown, Harold 80 Army/Vietnam
Ferski, Richard 87 Marines/Korea
Kartes, Robert 77 Marines/Vietnam
Meyers, Andrew 89 Army/Korea
Wabindato, Jacob 76 Army/Vietnam

9363 Flat Rock
Shrader, Robert 99 Army/WWII

10704 Cassopolis
Sheteron, Tex E. 78 Army/Vietnam

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER, CHRIS TEMPLETON

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the mighty Fifth District. This is your Commander, Chris Templeton. I would like to update you on everything that we have going on to this point. We have done the 4th of July, the POW/MIA Gold Star Mothers at Whitechapel, the Gold Star Mothers Banquet, and the Fifth District picnic at 7573 in New Baltimore. Membership is doing well; we're currently at 83.76%. As of the time of writing this article, we have lots of things upcoming. I would like to remind all Post Commanders to make sure that your 990s are in by the deadline of November 15th. I would also like to remind all Post Commanders that you need to attend the Fall Conference. If you cannot attend, your Senior, Junior, or Post member must be there to represent your Post. The Fall Conference is coming up at the end of October, the 29th through the 1st of November in Mt. Pleasant.

I would also like to remind you all to get going and be diligent on your Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Teacher of the Year programs. We will have our banquet in January, so make sure you get those entries done and turned in to be judged and ready for pickup by the November 15th deadline. This is my first MOV article; I will be writing another one. In the meantime, if you need anything, the District is here to help you. You can call us at any time for anything. Thank you again for being an awesome District, Post, and Auxiliary.



DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER, DOUG BRINKER

Hello Brothers, Sisters, Comrades, and Friends of Mighty Michigan VFW. Fall greetings, Anchors Aweigh from the Super 6th District, where our theme is Family, Fun, and Fellowship! It is all about bringing back the 6th District as one unit where "Service Runs Deep" in our Posts and communities. Perhaps many haven't had the opportunity to visit the Super 6th. Plenty of events have already brought togetherness and community support since July 1st. Breakfasts, parades, picnics, Flag Day ceremonies, and just recently POW/MIA special remembrance. We encourage you to come visit a Post meeting to continue building our membership, getting to know one another, supporting our Department Commander and Auxiliary President, and their special projects.

My travels thus far include the Grass Lake 10194 Traffic Jammin Annual Event in July. In August I had the pleasure of providing the Tecumseh Post Commander with some important mentoring guidance when I visited their Post in early August and learned of a Feather Party event on November 14th at 1700 hours (contact the Post for details). Recently I visited Post 423 for such an event that included our Scouts, members, and our Department Senior Vice State Commander for POW/MIA remembrance. We successfully held our first District meeting on Saturday, September 19, in Brighton, and I was very appreciative of the Post Commander Steve and his team for their hospitality both for the SOI (School of Instruction) and District Meeting. We even had a few new members attend on both sides of the organization.

Coming up in November is the Mason Post Buck Pole that attracts hundreds of community members to their VFW Post; currently their Eagle Scout is remodeling the bathrooms.

With fall upon us, so will be the very important holidays, from Trunk or Treats to remembering our veterans on Veterans Day to giving thanks during Thanksgiving, wrapping up with Christmas and New Year's Eve. Community service opportunities continue to connect families together with the VFW. Our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year Banquet Awards Ceremony with a District Meeting following will be January 9, 2027, at Post 7309, 1243 Hull Rd, Mason, MI, beginning at 10am.

Finally, I personally want to thank all Past State Commanders who also served as District 6 Commanders for their mentoring and guidance since becoming involved with the District level of the VFW. I can't thank enough the Chairmen who have accepted appointments this year, including Ross, who is new to our District. He is a very ambitious Comrade serving as our Membership Chairman and is always willing to help with events to build up our Super 6 District. We are especially thankful for all his help at the DDA Jackson Car Shows all season. "Each One, Reach One, Teach One" is a quote Moe Armstrong, founder of Vet to Vet, uses frequently. My challenge across the Department of Michigan is to Reach Just One and bring them into the VFW and our Auxiliary. To all my Line Officers who keep me guided and grounded, you are the heartbeat of Super 6, and without it, our District doesn't function.





DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER, MARILYN MUNRO

The VFW has a long-standing motto that serves as its North Star: "No one does more for veterans." In Michigan's District 8, this is not just a catchy slogan printed on a banner; it is a daily mission statement. From supporting local schools to providing critical relief funds and honoring the fallen, the Posts across District 8 continuously prove that their dedication to service knows no bounds. Here is a look at how several District 8 Posts are turning that motto into real-world action.

Post 3030: Stepping Up for the Community. True service means recognizing when a neighbor is in need, even outside the immediate veteran community. When Dix Street Elementary suffered a devastating library fire, the members of VFW Post 3030 didn't hesitate. They immediately stepped up to donate $500 to help replace the lost books, ensuring local children wouldn't lose access to vital educational resources. By investing in the next generation, Post 3030 proves that a strong community is the bedrock of a strong nation.

Post 827: Overcoming Obstacles and Navigating Care. Sometimes, Mother Nature tries to get in the way of a good cause. VFW Post 827 recently organized a charity golf outing to raise money for the Veterans Relief Fund. Despite torrential rain forcing a complete washout of the event, the community's spirit couldn't be dampened. Thanks to dedicated supporters and resilient organizing, the Post still managed to raise over $5,000 for veterans in need. Beyond fundraising, Post 827 is also a vital hub for healthcare and benefits navigation. Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Glenn Whitt, a proud member of the Post, dedicates one day a month to working directly out of the Post building. This local presence has allowed him to connect with and support homeless veterans in the area. It has also created a seamless pipeline of care: when the Post encounters a veteran struggling to navigate their benefits, they can refer them to Glenn at the VA. It is a highly efficient, life-changing system of teamwork.

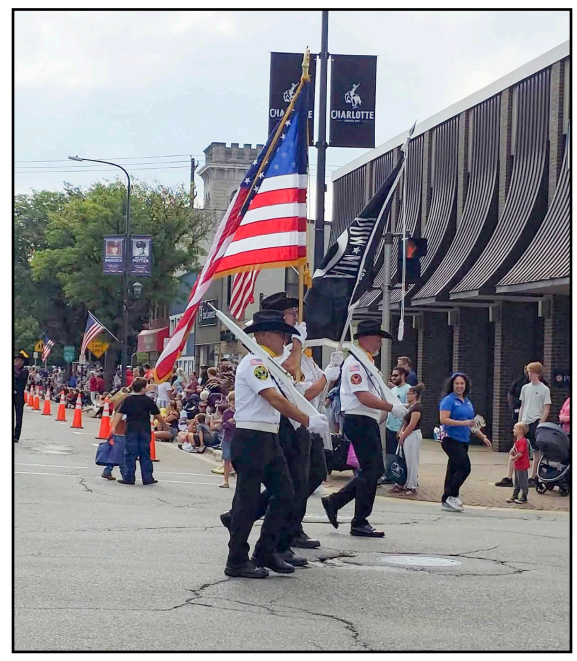
Post 2406: Keeping Traditions Alive and Showing Personal Gratitude. In Charlotte, VFW Post 2406 remains a cornerstone of local tradition. During the annual Frontier Day celebration, the Post proudly supported the community by providing a formal Color Guard for the parade route. Leading by example, the Post Auxiliary President and the Post Commander marched along the route, handing out candy and bringing smiles to families lining the streets. The generosity of Post 2406 also extends to personal acts of camaraderie. A special shout-out goes to the Post and their talented friend, Lyle Loveless. Lyle generously donated his time and immense skill to handcraft five sets of custom-designed coasters to be used as raffle prizes and awards for a local golf outing. It is a testament to the tight-knit network of support that defines the post's culture.

Post 6353: Honoring the Missing. A core pillar of the VFW is ensuring that those who sacrificed everything are never forgotten. On September 18th, VFW Post 6353 hosted a powerful POW/MIA presentation. In coordination with Chaplain Moran, the Post meticulously compiled a list of all Michigan service members still missing in action. They had this sacred roster printed on high-quality vinyl and acrylic, creating a beautiful, lasting memorial sign to ensure their legacies endure.

Post 8872: Keeping Volunteer Work Alive. Members of Post 8872 have volunteered at several pop-up food pantries. They have also recruited three new members, reinstated one member, and had an at-large transfer, plus two transfers from other Posts. Lastly, the Post donated $500 to Washington State Wildfire Relief, $500 to a local youth group called Veterans Esteem Team, and $250 to Mama's Mission, a food pantry/meal site.

Post 2144: Hosting Important Events. VFW Post 2144 held a joint POW/MIA ceremony with Commander Lopez, QM Bailey, Aux Chaplain Lawrence Diamond, and Marine Corps League Shoreline Detachment Gunny Peterson. They also had a Buddy Poppy/Membership table at Blains Farm and Fleet on September 4th and 5th.







VISIT DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE TODAY
VFWMI.ORG

vfwmi.org/contact
vfwmi.org/vethelp
vfwmi.org/join

vfwmi.org/directory
vfwmi.org/officers
vfwmi.org/forms

AUXILIARY DISTRICT REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT, SANDRA KLEVEN

Hello from the Fighting 5th District. I am Sandra Kleven from Hulet-Bravender 5587 Auxiliary in Holly, doing my second term as your District President. I am eligible under my husband, who served in Korea during the Vietnam Conflict. There are a lot of fun events planned for this year in our District. Michigan is also hosting the Big Ten Conference in Kalamazoo in October.

Congratulations to Jason Manke, Department President, and his Line Officers. Also to Department Commander Larry Thayer. We look forward to working with the Post and all the Districts to make this the best year yet. So far this year we have had our District 5 picnic; thank you to Post 7573, New Baltimore, for hosting. I also attended the POW/MIA ceremony at Oakland Hills Cemetery on Sept 18th. And then on Sept 25th, I attended a funeral for Cpl. Vester Hicks, Jr., who died in December 1950 during the Korean conflict and was MIA. Thankfully he was able to be identified through DNA and brought home for his final resting place at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Department Fall Conference is upcoming and looks to be a lot of fun with bingo and a costume party.



DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT, ANGELA WOOD

As I have attended Auxiliary Official Visits throughout the District, I have been warmly welcomed by each Auxiliary. It has been inspiring to see the dedication, hard work, and commitment that our members continue to demonstrate in support of veterans, their families, and our communities. Congratulations to all Auxiliaries that have achieved 100% membership. This accomplishment reflects your outstanding efforts and commitment to the goals and programs of the VFW Auxiliary.

Thank you to everyone who attended the recent District meeting, and a special thank you to the Brighton VFW for their hospitality and for hosting such a successful meeting. Your support and participation help make our District stronger and more connected.

As a reminder, please keep these important upcoming dates in mind: IRS Form 990 filings must be completed by November 15, and any officer who is an annual member must have their dues paid by December 31. Our next District Meeting will be held on January 9, 2027, at VFW Post 7309.

Thank you for all that you do every day to support our veterans. Your dedication and service are truly appreciated. Keep up the great work, and I look forward to seeing continued success across our District.



DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT, MICHELLE DECKER

Hello from the Great 8! I'm Michelle Decker, the current District 8 President. I'm originally from Northeast Indiana, where I was active with both my V.F.W. and American Legion. I am a proud life member of the V.F.W. Auxiliary, eligible through my father, who served three years in Vietnam with the Marine Corps.

When I moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, 5½ years ago, one of my first priorities was finding a V.F.W. to join so I could continue my passion for serving veterans and supporting my community. Like many of us, I attended my first meeting at my new Post and was immediately placed in an officer position. I served as President for three years before stepping into the District line. That journey has been one of my greatest joys. I've found incredible mentors and met wonderful people who truly embody the spirit of this organization.

I am now nearing the completion of my official visits to all 18 Auxiliaries in District 8. Every visit reminds me just how dedicated our Auxiliaries are to keeping veterans at the heart of everything they do. Their commitment, creativity, and compassion never cease to amaze me.

I'm looking forward to the rest of this year as District President and to continuing to support our Auxiliaries in every way I can. Together, we'll keep the Great 8 strong, active, and thriving.



DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT, CATHY SASSE

Greetings from District 11 Auxiliary. Congratulations to all the new officers for the 2026–2027 year. We are looking forward to a fantastic new year. At our first District Meeting we had 30 in attendance, and everyone was excited to start their projects. Currently, Mt. Pleasant Post 3033 Auxiliary has been very busy with assisting the Post with major renovations to the building and held a grand reopening on October 10, 2026. They are excited to share with everyone the building's new look. The Clare Post 5738 Auxiliary has been very busy with their community and assisting the VFW in promoting membership as well as youth and scholarship at many city events. Linwood/Kawkawlin Auxiliary Post 6950 held their annual Chop Suey Dinner on October 8, 2026. The Auxiliary holds a table at Home Depot to promote membership and youth and scholarship programs. These were the firsts of my official visits, and I look forward to checking in on the rest of District 11 Auxiliaries. We are sharing our events on the District 11 VFW & Auxiliary MI Facebook page. Please like and follow to see what the District is doing. Wishing everyone an awesome year, and I look forward to assisting Department President Jason Manke reach his Circle of Excellence.



VFW AGENDA

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
99th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
COMFORT INN & CONFERENCE CENTER, MT. PLEASANT, MI
OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Thursday, Oct 29		**ROOM**
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	**Department Hospitality**	**Stadium Room**
Friday, Oct 30		
Friday	**Dress Code: Department Officers & Council Members in CofA uniform** **Post Members, Navy or Gray slacks & Commander's polo shirt**	
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Conference Registration** (closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)	**Conference Room Foyer**
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Committee and Vendor Tables**	**Conference Rooms F&G**
8:30 a.m.	VFW Service Committee Meeting(PSC Griffith)	Conference Room A
9:00 a.m.	VFW Budget Committee Meeting (PSC Miller)	Conference Room A
9:30 a.m. – 10:15	VFW Bylaws meeting – review of amended Department and National Bylaws (PSC Conklin)	Conference Room A
10:30 a.m.	**Joint VFW / Auxiliary Opening Meeting**	**Conference Rooms A, B, C, D**
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Lunch on your own**	
12:00 p.m.	**VFW Council of Administration Lunch**	**Stadium Room**
1:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Conference Room A
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Auxiliary Bingo Cash Bar	Conference Rooms A, B, C, D
7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	**Department Hospitality, Raffle**	**Stadium Room**
Saturday, Oct 31		
Saturday	**Dress Code: Officers and Members** **Navy or Gray slacks & Commander's polo shirt**	
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	**Conference Registration**	**Conference Room Foyer**
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	**Committee and Vendor Tables**	**Conference Rooms F&G**
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Department Program Director Presentations	Conference Room A
12:00	**Lunch on your own**	
1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Department Program Director Presentations	Conference Room A
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	**Riders Group (Auxiliary) Meeting**	Conference Room E
6:00 p.m. - Doors open, Cash Bar	**Dinner & Halloween Costume Party**	
6:30 p.m. - Dinner	**Raffles, Musical Entertainment**	Conference Rooms A, B, C, D
Sunday, November 1	**Safe Travels Home**	



AUX AGENDA

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
20256 VFW & AUXILIARY 99th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
Comfort Inn and Convention Center, Mt. Pleasant
October 29 – November 1, 2026
AUXILIARY AGENDA

Thursday, October 29

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Department Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting	- Suite 2400
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Auxiliary Pre-Council of Administration Meeting	- Suite 2400
6:00 pm	Department Auxiliary Line Officers Dinner with the National Auxiliary Representative	
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	Stadium Room

Friday, October 30

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Conference Registration (closed for lunch 11:30 am – 1:00 pm)	Conference Foyer
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Auxiliary Hospital Table Fundraiser tables VFW Camp Trotter and VFW Committee and Vendors	- Room F-G
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Sec. / Treas. Training	- Room B,C,D
10:30 am	VFW/Auxiliary Joint Presentations	-Room A,B,C,D
1:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting	- Room B,C,D
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Auxiliary Training	- Room B,C,D
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	District Sr. Vice Presidents Meeting W/ Jan Gelder, Dept. Sr. Vice President	Stadium Room
6:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Doors Open for Bingo -	-Room A,B,C,D
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open	Stadium Room

Saturday, October 31

8:00 am – 10:00 am	Conference Registration	Conference Foyer
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Auxiliary Hospital VFW Camp Trotter Fundraiser Table/Vendors	- Room F,G
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Dept. Chairmen's Meeting W/ Dept. President Jason & Program Chairman	- Room B,C,D -Sara Manke
9:30 am –10:00 am	Parliamentary/Bylaws	- Room B,C,D
9:30 am – 10:30 am	District Jr. Vice Presidents Meeting W/ Kris Griffith, Dept. Jr. Vice President	Stadium Room
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Dept. Auxiliary Program Chairmen Presentations	- Room B,C,D
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Auxiliary Past Presidents Luncheon @ VFW Post 3033 Mt. Pleasant	
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Member Applications	- Room B,C,D
6:30 pm	Fall Conference Dinner & Halloween Costume Party	-Room A,B,C,D

Nov. 1st 2026 Have a Safe Trip Home

DESIGNER / EDITOR
ALYSSA MCELFRESH

Hello! I hope everyone is doing well as summer comes to an end and we enter my favorite season, fall. October is the best month (yes I am biased as a Libra) and I always look forward to Halloween, which is also my wedding anniversary. Since 2026 MI Fall Conference falls on Halloween weekend this year, I am hoping it will be a spooky good time and will see you all there!

Since the next MOV issue will be just after the holidays, I wish everyone a safe and warm holiday season to be surrounded by friends, family, and loved ones. I would like to remind everyone I am available for any questions you may have regarding the MOV. I encourage any one who would like to submit an article for consideration to do so.

Lastly, please be sure to check the Department Website for upcoming MOV deadlines!

Next deadline = December 15, 2026
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.



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



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

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

Branch of Service :
ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :
WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

_____
(Last Name)

_____
(First Name)

_____
(Age) (Date of Death)

_____
(Post)