

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

January/February/March 2014

Volume 81 Number 3



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Paul McIvor is our new State Jr. Vice Commander and in his first official duty, as Master of Ceremonies, did an outstanding job for the Voice of Democracy Program. Paul will be a steady hand on the helm for the membership and the Department as well. Stephen Bilan is the new Quartermaster and William "Butch" Ogden is our newly appointed Adjutant. Both of these comrades are quickly becoming acquainted with their duties to the Department and to you, the membership. Congratulations to you all as you learn the duties of your respective offices.

As I've traveled the length and breadth of this Great Department of Michigan, meeting all of the actively working members of our organization, what never ceases to amaze me is the amount of dedication put forth by our membership. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be working with you and for you.

Keep this in mind: the three R's of membership are retention, reinstating and recruiting. Just ask yourself "Am I doing all I can to help my Post be 100% in

Harry "Les" Croyle

Senior Vice Commander



membership?" Please do all you can to be able to answer this question in the affirmative. As of this writing, our state currently stands at 91.72%, some 4,291 members behind our goal of at least 100%. We have our work cut out for us comrades, but with a concerted effort we can make it.

The Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs went off without a hitch. As most of you know we had Patriot's Pen winners from every District in the State. This was the first time this happened in Michigan. To all of you that made this possible through your efforts to donate the needed funds, donated your time to help, attended the banquet and cheered wildly for our students, thank you.

Lastly, I thank you again for allowing me to serve as your State Sr. Vice Commander.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

What a weekend we had at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo, except for the weather. The young men and women from the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are the bright light of our future. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening. What went on during the C of A was not enjoyable, but it is done and we must move forward and finish the year on a high note. I know that every member will do their best to make the Department of Michigan finish on a high note. Being new at this position, it will take a little time for me to figure everything out. With the help of the line officers and the District Commanders, I will be up to speed before long.

Now let's get down to business, and that is membership. I am asking every Post Commander, membership person and District Commander to go out

and get at least one new member and reinstate, or as many as you can get. If every Post can get at least one new member, we will be getting a good start at being a 100% state. If you feel that you need any help with your Post, feel free to contact us at the Department office and we will send you help; whatever it is.

I will be visiting some Districts in the upcoming months. I look forward to meeting and talking with everyone. I know this is a short column, but as time goes on I will have more to say; so let's get busy and hit the road running.

Paul McIvor

Junior Vice Commander



STATE ADJUTANT

I, William "Butch" Ogden, was appointed Adjutant at our Mid-Winter conference in Kalamazoo. I look forward to working with you and for you this year.

At our Mid-Winter conference it was voted on by the C of A to purchase a new website and it should be up and running in June at the latest.

It is getting close to elections for Posts and Districts; make sure that all are done according to Bylaws, Section 217. If you

William "Butch" Ogden

State Adjutant



have any questions on Bylaws or procedures, feel free to contact me at Department Headquarters.

QUARTERMASTER

First of all, I want to thank all that gave me the kind words of encouragement last weekend at Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. I was humbled by all the comrades that pulled up their sleeves and helped me without me even having to ask.

As your new State Quartermaster, I want everyone to know that I work for you. I have been working long and hard for this organization and I want to tell everyone that my commitment for this organization is stronger than ever. I will stop working when the job is done. One of the first things that my team has started to do is take an inventory of all the shirt and banners from past years. I would like to inform all my fellow comrades that the department has replacement honor banners and shirts for those that need them. Just give me a phone call if you want to purchase a replacement shirt.

Second, I want all to know that the Department is going to work as a team. We at the Department have jobs to do but without everyone rolling up their sleeves, no work can get done. A special thank you to all the Ladies in the department; without your help my first few

months would have been much harder. From all the questions that they have answered already to all the questions they will answer in the future to help me adjust to the new position. I want all to remember that the first thing to correcting any problem is to know that one exists and without communication I cannot help with that problem.

And finally, I want everyone from around the state to know that I work for you and not the other way around. Those in the 5th District have already found out that I will help my fellow comrades in time of need. I want to make sure that others throughout the state know that I will give my all for anyone. All I ask in return is for you to help others in time of need, as well. If all of us in the VFW work together we can make this the best veterans organization and a shining star for National and others to look up to.

Steve Bilan

State Quartermaster



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

SUCCESS STORY

Quite often our staff at the VA Regional Office receives the lion's share of attention when it comes to receiving recognition for their efforts. This often overshadows the hard work our field staff does in gaining VA benefits for those who are far off from the VA Regional Office. Their contributions are no less important and are often the first contact the veteran or family member has with the VFW.

One of our field officers was conducting an outreach seminar in a northern Michigan community. These seminars are often done "after hours" and after a full day of work. After the seminar concluded, the service officer was approached by a woman who identified herself as the widow of a Vietnam veteran. The widow informed the service officer her husband passed away due to a cardiac condition. At this point the field service officer briefed the widow on what documents were needed to file a claim and then scheduled an appointment at a local county office.

The service officer reviewed the veteran's DD 214 and verified "boots-on-the-ground" Vietnam service and verified the cause of death on the death certificate. He then determined he had a very strong case on his hands. He gathered the necessary documents and assembled the claim to send to the VA Regional Office in Detroit. From here, the claim was entered into our VetrSpec database and packaged for shipment to the Pension Management Center in Milwaukee.

What our field service officer did

not know and neither did our Detroit staff was the widow had filed a burial claim subsequent to the veteran's death in 1986. This was well before ischemic heart disease had been included as a presumptive illness associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide. Because the condition was not able to be service connected at the time of death in 1986, the widow was denied death benefits at that time.

Three months after filing the claim our field service officer received a phone call from the widow. She had just been informed by the VA that her claim had been granted with a retroactive date back to 1986! The VA had determined the widow was entitled to benefits effective the date she initially filed for burial benefits. She soon after received a check in excess of \$216,000 and now receives a monthly payment of \$1,233! This award was especially gratifying to us because the widow's only income was a very modest check she received from Social Security.

This same field officer had filed a similar claim for a widow with three young children and limited income. She was also awarded survivor's benefits and her children will be eligible for education benefits under the VA's Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA) program when they reach college age.

These two examples highlight the tremendous impact our field personnel have in their communities and the invaluable service they provide to our veterans and their families!

STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

Since this is my first column as the Veterans of Foreign Wars State Director, I would like to conduct a review of 2013. The VFW along with other members of the Michigan Veterans Coalition (DAV, AL, MOPH and the MCL), the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and the State of Michigan saw policies enacted that greatly impacted the quality of life for Michigan veterans.

In March, Governor Snyder signed an executive order creating the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. This allowed the state to gather together and consolidate operations of various state entities under one roof, so to speak. This will allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness while ensuring Michigan's veterans gain all state and federal benefits that they and their eligible family members may be entitled to receive.

In May, Gov. Snyder signed bills that will put a special veteran designation on the driver's licenses of honorably discharged veterans. The designation will be available on driver's licenses and personal state IDs beginning May 2014. This will enable the veteran to take advantage of the many discounts offered by various businesses.

Other signed legislation involved waiving the road test for veterans applying for a commercial driver's license. To waive this requirement the veteran must furnish proof of heavy truck driving experience while serving in the military.

Another significant event occurred when the VFW partnered with other coalition members and the Detroit VA Regional Office to take advantage of the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) process. More informally known as "fast-track" this process allows for a greatly reduced waiting period from the time the claim is submitted to the time the veteran is notified of a decision. At one time we routinely informed our clients the wait time for a claim was one year or more. Using



the FDC process has reduced the waiting period by several months in many cases.

The VA had a goal to have 25 percent of submitted claims be FDC cases by 2015. We received word that the regional office with coalition participation reached that goal in December 2013. Not only that, but the Detroit VA Regional Office was third in the Nation in that category.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the great strides the Detroit Regional Office has made over the past two to three years. From being categorized as one of the worst regional offices in the nation, it is now one of the best! Under the administration of the current Director David Leonard, the Assistant Director Terri Tocco and the Service Center Manager Keith Sekuterski, the Detroit VA Regional Office has prospered and flourished and Michigan's veterans have greatly benefited. We have an atmosphere of cooperation between the VA and the service organizations that has not existed in years.

In closing, I would like to mention what an awesome staff you have in Detroit! We have a great group of professionals you can be proud of! Borrowing from the VFW National slogan, "Nobody does more for Veterans", our philosophy for our office is "Making the Best Better!"

Please feel free to contact the VFW Service Office any time at: VFW Service Office, 477 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1215, Detroit, MI 48226-2588; Phone: 313/964-6510; FAX: 313/964-6545; Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov

Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2014-2015 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
April/May/June	April 1	October/November/December	November 1
July/August/September	August 1	January/February/March	February 1

Please Remember!

- Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
- Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.
- Do not write on back of pictures. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. Try to limit number of people in photo to five or six, at most.
- Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
- We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
- Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.
- Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.
- DISTRICT COMMANDERS – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
- MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:

MOV Editor **Auxiliary Editor**
Matt David, editormov@yahoo.com Diane Ward, legalblaze@aol.com

There's no way to calculate fully the true cost of freedom.



COMING SOON!

Soon, you may receive a personalized VFW calculator in the mail. When you do, please consider making a donation to the VFW to help keep the programs available for our veterans, service members and their families when they are in need.

We can't do it without your support!

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



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STATE SURGEON

I would like to talk to you about ARTHRITIS. It affects many veterans and spouses. If you have been diagnosed with arthritis, you are not alone. More than 46 million adults in the United States have reported being diagnosed by their doctor with some forms of arthritis.

So what exactly is arthritis? Arthritis means "joint inflammation" and is common in adults 65 and older, but it affects people of all ages, races and ethnic groups.

The two most common forms of arthritis are osteoarthritis (OA) and the rheumatoid arthritis (RA), both of which are more common found in women than in men.

Arthritis: A Quick Overview

The word "arthritis" is used to describe more than 100 different diseases and

conditions that affect joints, the tissues that surround joints and other connective tissue. The locations, types and severity of symptoms can vary depending on the specific type of arthritis.

Unlike muscle pain, arthritis pain is primarily felt in and around joints. Symptoms of arthritis included pain, stiffness, swelling, redness and a decreased range of motion.

Living with Arthritis:

Climbing the stairs. Getting out of the car. Putting on socks. Sometimes arthritis pain can make it difficult to perform everyday tasks. Gradually, these difficulties can make you feel like doing less in your day-to-day activities, even though studies show that staying active can help ease arthritis pain.

That's why it's so important to talk to

your doctor if you start to notice signs of symptoms of arthritis, such as joint pain or stiffness. Your doctor can diagnose your arthritis and help you create a treatment plan to help minimize the impact that arthritis pain has on your daily activities. He or she may also recommend other steps that you can take to manage arthritis that may include diet, exercise or alternative therapies in addition to medication.

Osteoarthritis (OA):

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common form of arthritis in the U.S. Approximately 27 million adults have reported being diagnosed with OA by their doctor. While the cause of OA is unknown, it occurs when cartilage in joints breaks down over time. Often called "wear and tear" arthritis, OA is most commonly found in knees, hips, hands or spine, though it can occur in any joint.

Quick facts about OA:

- One in 2 people in the U.S. will experience some form of OA in their lifetime.
- OA is much more common in women than men.

OA accounts for more than 50% of arthritis cases in the U.S. (nearly 27 million of the 46 million adults who have reported doctor-diagnosed arthritis).

Symptoms of OA:

The most noticeable symptoms of OA is a feeling of pain in or around the joint. Other symptoms include:

- Tenderness and stiffness in the joint.
- Loss of flexibility or range of motion.
- Grating sensation or sound in the joint, also known as crepitus.

You might notice some of these feelings or sounds even when performing everyday activities like climbing stairs, getting dressed or going shopping. If you do, talk to your doctor about it.

Causes of OA:

While the causes of OA are still unknown, the risk of developing OA increases as you get older. You are also at risk if you:

- Have someone in your family who has OA
- Are overweight
- Repetitively overuse a joint
- Have previously injured a joint

Treatment of OA:

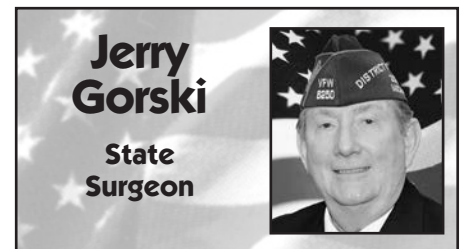
While there is no way to reverse the cartilage loss of OA, there are many ways to treat the pain. You may be able to manage OA pain effectively with an integrated treatment approach that includes positive lifestyle changes and anti-inflammatory drugs like NSAIDs.

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA):

Unlike osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease. An autoimmune disease is when the body's defense system malfunctions and begins to mistakenly attack itself. In RA, white blood cells, which normally fight infection, attack the lining of a joint causing inflammation (swelling). This inflammation leads to a release of proteins that thicken the joint lining. The proteins can also damage the cartilage, bone tendons and ligaments near a joint, eventually destroying the joint itself.

Quick facts about RA:

Typically, RA affects the smaller joints first, such as the ones in your hands and feet, and then may move on to other joints.



RA is 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men and can start developing as early as age 20.

In addition to symptoms of swelling and pain, RA can cause fever, fatigue and loss of appetite, which can lead to weight loss.

Symptoms of RA:

Like OA, the primary symptom of RA is pain felt in and around the joints. In addition to pain, other symptoms of RA found in joints may include:

- Swelling of joints
- Joints that are tender to the touch
- Red and puffy joints
- Morning joint stiffness that lasts at least 30 minutes but can continue for hours

RA can affect other parts of the body beyond joints. Firm bumps under the skin called rheumatoid nodules occur in 20%-30% of RA cases, often on the arms and elbows. Other parts of the body that can be affected by RA are the lungs, eyes and blood vessels. Only your doctor can diagnose RA.

Causes of RA:

The exact causes of RA remain unknown. Doctors think that it's probably the result of a complex combination of factors ranging from viruses and family medical history to lifestyle choices like smoking.

Treatment of RA:

While there's no cure for RA, there are ways to relieve its symptoms and slow or prevent joint damage. One way is to adopt an integrated approach to pain management that includes anti-inflammatory pain relievers like NSAIDs, a healthy diet, exercise and various treatment options.

Treatment Options for OA & RA:

There are many options available when it comes to managing arthritis pain. Widely accepted guidelines from both the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and the Osteoarthritis Research Society International (OARSI) suggest taking an "integrated approach" by combining a medication with other recommended therapies.

Learning about your options and staying up to date with new developments in medicine and treatments can help you take an active role in your arthritis pain management. But before starting any new treatment option, it's very important to discuss its value with your doctor.

NSAIDs:

NSAID stands for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, a class of pain relievers that come in both prescription and over-the-counter strength. NSAIDs are used to treat arthritis symptoms, including pain and inflammation.

Weight Loss:

Losing weight can make a difference when it comes to arthritis knee pain. In fact, for every pound you lose, you remove about 4 pounds of stress from your knees. Following a balanced diet while exercising regularly can help you lose weight and reduce stress on your joints.

Exercise:

Staying active can help keep your
— **SURGEON**, continued on page 4

Military Order of the Cootie

"Doing BIG Things for Veterans"

"What is a Cootie?"

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters and Men! We would like to welcome our newest member to our ranks, Department of Michigan State Commander Ronald Devereaux. Throughout our travels we are asked by our VFW Comrades and friends "What is a Cootie?"



The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization. We are known as "The Honor Degree of the VFW" and our members are comprised of the officers and leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is recognition of outstanding service to the VFW and its programs.

Founded in New York City on September 17, 1920, the MOC is based on the principals of good humor and fun. Over the past ninety years, the Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an Auxiliary unit within the organization. Since 1923, our first year as a part of the VFW, the Cooties have worked hard to further the aims of the VFW while adding to it the frivolity known as Military Humor to the serious work of our parent organization. **What would ultimately become known as the VFW National Home for Children, a sprawling campus of homes located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan started out as the brainchild of the MOC.** We firmly believe in caring for the widows and children of our Armed Forces. Literally millions of dollars have been raised and donated to help "our kids" over our history; starting with the library, the swimming pool, the Fire Department and a host of other projects designed to make life fun and educational for the children during their stay at the National Home.

With the outbreak of World War II, the Cooties recognized a need to entertain hospitalized troops and veterans during their confinement and rehabilitation at Veterans Administration facilities throughout the country. Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volun-

teer thousands of hours of time worth over \$10 million to DVA Hospitals and domiciliary throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their

communities, and their fellow comrades in arms and their families. Our distinctive red hat and unusual uniform sets us apart and draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. We sacrifice a little of ourselves to bring a smile or a laugh during what is normally a difficult time for our heroes. We seek others like us to join and help us help them in their times of stress and anxiety. If you would like more information about the Cooties you can check us out at our national web page at <http://lotcs.org> or <http://mocmi.freehomepage.com>. You can also reach us at the Dept of Michigan web page at <http://vfwmi.org>, go to the bottom of the page in the right corner and click MI Cooties.

In June, we send the National Home Kids to Cedar Point Amusement Park for a day in the sun. We are always looking for donations for that trip. Please help if you can. Please send all donations to Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2012-20013

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

In closing, always remember membership. The lifeblood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cootie Ladies or Men's Auxiliary. **Sign a new member up today for both the VFW and the Cooties!**

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Jennifer L. Smith
District 6 Commander



I hope that by the time you read this, all the bad weather will have passed. As you know, our state has been hit with some meteorological obstacles the past four months and it has resulted in some alternative planning regarding our District meeting and even hampering attendance at our Winter Conference. Still, we have much to accomplish prior to the end of our VFW calendar year.

Among our goals, *membership, service and reporting* are priorities. First, membership is self-explanatory, though we might be having some challenges with the recent dues increase. However, it should not detract from our efforts as the more members we have, the more resources (volunteers, funds, ideas) we have to support the worthy goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As stated in the last *MOV*, I realize that few actually step up to take Post chairs and/or actively assist for a variety of reasons and so maintaining and renewing the roles is vital. Your Posts and our District really need your help to meet membership goals, so please continue to recruit and retain. Please strive for membership.

Second among priorities is service unto others. This is something Posts

(together or comrades individually) often do. It really does not warrant too much discussion aside from the request to keep up your good work and please consider undertaking efforts where opportunities arise. They need not be grand in nature to strengthen the team dynamic between your members. Please embrace service.

The third priority is reporting. Comrades, when you complete these wonderful acts of giving and fail to report it is a disservice to all in your Post that contributed. Reporting also includes completing audits in a timely manner as well as hospital, youth programs and community service reports. These forms are terribly important for your Post's tax-exempt status, etc. **Please complete and submit your reports in a timely manner.**

Lastly, Posts should be considering candidates for their Post chairs and also possible District positions. As you know, waiting until the last minute often results in chaos. So, let's not and keep working together as comrades, sisters and brothers on our three key priorities all towards the greater good – sustainability of our commendable legacy.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Sherwood Pea
District 10 Commander



I have a new e-mail address, my wife kicked me off hers; it's at marinesp64@gmail.com. The 35th Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet was held at the Mid-Winter Conference January 25, 2014. At this banquet the Voice of Democracy students, Patriot's Pen students and Teachers of the Year were awarded and selected to represent the Department of Michigan VFW at the National Competition held in March at the National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Brooke Mullins who finished in 1st Place in the Voice of Democracy Contest. Brooke will represent the Department of Michigan VFW at the National Competition in Washington, D.C. Brooke was sponsored by VFW Post 3720 Swartz Creek, 10th District. This makes a second win in a row, with a total of four all together, since the trophy has been presented.

Post Commander Eric Johnson will be presented the Voice of Democracy Traveling Trophy at the February District Meeting. The Post will have bragging rights for one year. Brook is an 11th grade student at Powers Catholic High School in Flint, Michigan. Audra Wisner was our Patriot's Pen Winner from the 10th District. Audra was sponsored by VFW Post 2777 Burton, Michigan. She is a 7th grade student from Gene-see Christian Middle School in Burton, Michigan and was awarded \$500.00.

The Mid-Winter Conference was enlightened to say the least. The Council of Administration elected a new State Quartermaster, Steve Bilan Post 6250,

5th District. State Commander Ron Devereaux appointed a new State Adjutant, Butch Ogden VFW Post 6464, 6th District.

State Inspector Fred Chambers is going to give a class for district deputy inspectors at the state convention. There is work to be done to shore up the filling out of the Post inspection form. Would you like to be a deputy inspector for our district? Then come to the class and learn how. Volunteer to be an inspector.

State director and state chairman reports were given. Reporting and donations are down in our District this year. The state audit director gave his report that the books and records of the Department of Michigan VFW are correct and in order and all monies are accounted for.

Two thank you cards for recruiting new or re-instated members were returned to me undeliverable, wrong address: Daniel Little VFW Post 4139 and Norbert Sargent VFW Post 2777. They read: Thank you for your recruiting efforts. Keep up the good work.

The Department of Michigan VFW State Convention will be held in Flint, Michigan this year. The Holiday Inn Gateway located on Hill Road and US 23 will be the convention site hotel. A golf scramble will be planned; more information to come, so golfers get your teams ready.

Until next article, a thought to ponder: I would get re-active in my Post and start going to Post meetings again, **BUT...**

"SEMPER FI"



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Colon Laney
District 11 Commander



Well at the time I'm writing this, this year is half. Mid-Winter will be over when you read this paper. As a District, we still have some business to finish. We are a long ways from 100% in membership, so that is the first thing we have to finish. I just need a little more help from you, comrades.

I would like to say thank you and congratulations to the Posts that made 100% in membership: Harrison 1075, Mt Pleas-

ant 3033, Weidman 4106, Tawas city 5678 and Barton City 8135.

I will say this; I'm proud to be your 11th District Commander. I always said this is a great District and always will.

Remember, anyone you sign up now their dues will be due on that date and dues are \$10.00 more now. I still say when you sign someone up, try to get them to go Life if they can.

Thanks again for all your support.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Joe Finch
District 15 Commander



As I am preparing our 2014 activities calendar, I am also beginning this article. The Kalamazoo Department Mid-Winter and our own District Conference in February will have already happened. I am very proud to be serving the mighty 15th and I am equally proud of our dedicated comrades and their families.

Moving Wall: The Houghton and Keweenaw Counties Moving Wall committee has been deep into the planning stage for better than seven months. The Wall will be in Calumet at Legion field July 10-14, 2014 which coincides with the class reunion of 1964. Members of this class are memorialized by their names etched in memory on the wall. I urge everyone within our District and beyond to come out for the festivities; this will be quite an event.

Property Tax Exemption: This past November Governor Snyder signed the Property Tax Exemption for veterans with 100% disability. A number of Houghton County vets have applied and received this benefit. Pass the word; this can be quite a boon for qualified veterans. There

is an abundance of info provided by the state treasury on the Internet. Anyone within our District can also contact me.

Membership: Every one of our Post membership teams must stay the course. Recruitment and renewals are such a gosh-darn necessity; more than ever before. Not easy! I need your continuous support in this major effort. We are the grass roots. Commanders, if your Posts need more envelopes, let me know. Reach out to delinquent members. Take the time to look around our communities and recruit those young men and women returning from active duty; explain the advantages that we offer.

Spring Convention: Our District Spring Convention will be in Calumet at the Michigan National Guard Readiness Center on April 26-27, 2014. I will be sending out a flyer on this and will encourage further ticket sales for the Saturday Banquet.

Remember comrades, we serve united for God and Country. We can make a better life for those who have and will serve in every branch of our armed forces.

SURGEON, continued from page 3

joints flexible, reduce pain and improve your ability to move. Low-impact activities like swimming or water aerobics can be good options because they put less stress on your joints. Stretching exercises, strength training and aerobic exercise may also help to ease arthritis pain. However, you should discuss any new routine with your doctor before starting.

Additional Treatments:

Recent studies have shown that many natural and alternative therapies can be beneficial in managing arthritis pain.

Studies on acupuncture have shown that it may relieve arthritis pain and improve physical function.

Nutritional supplements and natural remedies when taken correctly, may also be beneficial. However, some of these

may interfere with other medicines you are taking or even make your arthritis pain worse. So before you try adding a supplement, talk to your doctor.

A physical therapist may be able to help you find exercises specifically designed to reduce your arthritis pain.

Treatment Options for Acute Pain:

Common treatments for acute pain include nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) both in prescription and over-the-counter forms.

I hope I have given you a little bit of information about ARTHRITIS. If you think you have any of the symptoms listed above, please visit your doctor.

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



PSC Richard "Chic" LaFave and PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr. Board of Managers

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette



Greetings from the Board of Managers to the two State Veterans Homes of Michigan – Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette.

First, the board would like to say "Thank You" to the hundreds of volunteers that have made life so comfortable for the veterans that reside at the Homes. Without the volunteers, the attention that is given would not exist as it does today. The volunteers are the lifeline to these veterans that live at the Homes – these veterans are the extended family of over 2,200 volunteers at the two Homes. Some of these volunteers have been volunteering at the Homes for over 50 years. Unbelievable!

Second, do you know a veteran who needs nursing care? If you are a veteran you might be eligible for free nursing home care in a State Veteran's Home. Veterans with a service connected disability rating of 70% or higher or that require nursing care because of a service connected disability are eligible.

For information about this program call the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans at 1-906-226-3576 or the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at 1-616-364-5400.

Finally, a special tribute to Past State Commander Richard "Chic" LaFave, Col. Ret. USAF with 26 years of ser-

vice; serving in Korea and Vietnam as a B-29 Navigator and F100 Fighter Pilot. Chic earned his BSEE degree (Electrical Engineering) at the University of Wyoming and his MS degree (Management) at RENSSELLAER Poly Tech in New York. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Col. LaFave became a school teacher at Gwinn HS for 13 years.

Chic became active in the TOUSIGNANT-RAMILE VFW Post 5670 located in Gwinn where he went on to become our VFW Department Commander for the years 1992-1993. PSC LaFave was nominated and appointed by Governor John Engler of Michigan to serve on the Board of Managers to the State Veterans Homes in 1996 where he has served with distinction for the past 18 years and was also Chairman of the Board three times. Chic will retire from the Board of Managers this coming April and he will be missed, but not forgotten. Chic has brought the Board of Managers some great leadership and helped guide the Homes into the 21st century with a vision in Long Range Strategic Planning for the State Veterans Homes future.

Chic could not have completed such a journey without his "childhood sweetheart" Gloria Koski-LaFave of Gwinn, Michigan; they will be married 62 years in July. Chic and Gloria have two children: Louise LaFave-Ingalls of Gwinn and Richard "Rick" LaFave of Henderson, Nevada. They are the proud grandparents and great-grandparents of 11 children. Chic, I want to say "thank you" for your years of mentorship and your friendship.

Chic and I both want to say "Thank You" again for all that you have given and will be doing for the veterans (residents) at the two homes.

CAMP TROTTER TALES

Your VFW Camp Trotter for Children is on the move and sporting a new look alongside the shores of beautiful Bills Lake. Located in Croton Township in Newaygo County, just minutes from Grand Rapids NB US 131 at Exit 118 then WB M82 and just seven (7) miles east of Newaygo (M37) on M82.

Summer Camp 2014 is just around the corner and being readied for all of those young children that will be experiencing a lifetime of memories.

The Summer Director Denise Arnold, aka "Scrubs", is getting things ready for a completely new twist for this year's Summer Camp Programs. There will be some counselors coming back from Summer Camp 2013 and some new counselors coming onboard to have the best time of their young lives teaching and working with the young children coming to Summer Camp.

On Friday, June 20th, we will be hosting our Eighth (8h) Annual Golf Outing at the beautiful Village Green Golf Course in Newaygo. Then our Departments annual (VTS) Veterans Training Seminar will be held on Saturday, June 21st at our own VFW Camp Trotter for Children. I am sure that Past State Commander Roger Mays and Assistant Director Bob Lutz, the Directors for the VTS, will experience a very large turnout for the training. You had better get your reservations in early for there are only 80 beds available – contact the Department Office at 517-485-9456 or go online at www.vfwmi.org and register early. Check out the new VFW Camp Trotter Foundation website at www.vfwCampTrotterFoundation.org. Remember that your VFW Camp Trotter is a 501(c)(3) and is 100% tax-deductible.

All the cottages are equipped with AC/Heat with a whole bunch of happy campers looking forward to the coolness during the heat of the day. Check out the photos of the new Director's Cottage on the Camp Trotter website. Thanks to you this cottage was built! Send an email to the Director at emeyers76@att.net and ask about renting the cottage by the week or weekend. The RV hook-ups are available during the off season for rental donations. The Camp is a great place for a Post picnic, District picnic, family reunion, wedding or just for some family summer fun.

The sleeping quarters (cottages) have state of the art fire protection with newly installed emergency exit signs with emergency lighting in all buildings.

The shower building has the new rapid recovery hot water heating system installed. No more cold showers! The beachfront is completely redone with beach sand covering the entire lakeshore



of our Camp property line. No more weeds to deal with!

Ask about being a Life Member of your VFW Camp Trotter for Children (ONLY \$35.00). Camping costs for the children at Summer Camp 2014 is \$200.00 per camper – check out the local VFW Post in your town for more information regarding Summer Camp. The 2014 brochures are available – contact your District Commander/President and they will get them to you or contact the Department Headquarters and one will be mailed to you.

This Children's VFW Summer Camp is the only one in the free world that exists. The capacity is 88 children per week, so let's work together and make this happen. Let's fill up this next camping season with a whole bunch of happy children. The age group is 7 through 12 and you do not have to be a veteran to send your child.

The VFW Camp Trotter for Children is a licensed children's camp regulated by the State of Michigan Department of Human Services. The summer camping season has a Registered Nurse on duty 24/7, along with licensed certified Staff Employees.

Summer Camping Season dates

Week 1 – July 6, 2014 to July 12, 2014

Week 2 – July 13, 2014 to July 19, 2014

Week 3 – July 20, 2014 to July 26, 2014

Week 4 – July 27, 2014 to August 2, 2014

Week 5 – August 3, 2014 to August 9, 2014

Special Note: Saturday, August 23, 2014 is the designated "Family Day" at our Camp. Our Department is being honored by having our VFW National Ladies Auxiliary President Ann Pantelekos visit our beloved Camp Trotter. Come and have lunch with Ann, Candy and her staff of line officers. Lots of children's games with the new paddle boats and new canoes for all to enjoy! Committee Member Dave Reeves will be giving rides on the pontoon around the lake. Watch for flyers coming out to the Ladies Auxiliaries and Posts explaining what is happening on this fun-filled day! Camping will be available for those wanting to come up early. The Big Raffle will be drawn at 2:30 p.m. on this date!

Your continued support makes all of the above stated happen. Thank you on behalf of the entire VFW Camp Trotter for Children Committee.

Happy Trails,
Your Camp Committee

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

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Veterans of Foreign Wars

924 North Washington Ave. • Lansing, MI 48906

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Potential Service Officer Vacancy!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans Service Office is accepting resumes for the purpose of establishing a list of qualified candidates for the Veterans Service Officer position. The successful candidate must be eligible for VFW membership.

He or she should have, as a minimum, an associate's degree. Relevant work experience will be considered in lieu of a college degree. College coursework in sociology, anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, medical terminology

and microbiology would be beneficial. Additional coursework in legal research and writing would enhance the candidates standing. Public speaking skills are a must.

If interested, please send a resume with a cover letter to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars
McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Avenue, Room 1215
Detroit, MI 48226
ATTN: Paul Pirlot

Michigan Veterans Foundation

The Michigan Veterans Foundation, Detroit Chapter is a transitional housing facility for 110 previously homeless veterans. I proudly serve as a liaison between the VFW and their Ladies Auxiliaries, The American Legion and its Ladies Auxiliaries, as well as outside groups and the MVF to promote an awareness of the needs of these heroes. They thoroughly enjoy opportunities that gets them to locations beyond the confines of the Center.

At the facility, the veterans stay for 18 months. Employment training, job opportunities, 12-step programs, substance abuse rehabilitation and education are just a few of the classes they take during their stay. The mission of the center is to enable these once homeless men get back into society as independent wage earners and taxpayers.

The purpose of this article is to ask if your organization would be willing to sponsor these veterans at your Post for a luncheon. Or maybe your members come down to the Center and prepare and serve a meal to them? My VFW in Wixom has had them to our Post several times and, I have to say, it is a wonderful and heart-warming experience. The community of Wixom, such as the city employees and the senior center has gotten involved with these lunches. These veterans get invitations during the holiday season, but sadly,

interest wanes as the year goes on. My goal is to get these veterans invitations all through the year, not just during the month of December. I need your help in meeting my goal.

The center has two buses, so transportation is not an issue. If serving them lunch is something you may not have an interest in doing, then maybe you could help stock their *Warming Center* with things like coffee, Creamora and popcorn. The *Warming Center* is open to the countless other homeless people that don't have a warm bed at night. There is also a great need for thermal underwear as this has been an unusually cold and bitter winter. If you think this is something you might like to do, please call me. I have leaflets that contain additional information. If you'd like to peruse them and get familiar with the organization, I'd be more than happy to mail you the information.

I know everyone is being stretched to the limit with requests for donations, and I am sure you're being pulled in all sorts of directions, but I hope you'll see that these men are worth your effort.

Marian Belaire
Special Events Coordinator
for the Michigan Veterans Foundation
248-345-2442

Emergency Grants Help Michigan Combat Veterans Weather Financial Crises

Car repairs, medical bills and other emergencies can stretch a household budget to the limit. When the unexpected creates financial distress, Michigan combat veterans can turn to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for help.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTf) grants are available to veterans who have been honorably discharged and have served:

- 180 days during a period of war;
- 180 days of active duty with award of Armed Forces/Navy Expeditionary Medal; or
- Less than 180 days of wartime service due to service-incurred disability.

Dependents of an eligible veteran can also apply under certain circumstances. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate

need and show they are able to meet future expenses after the grant.

Contact the MVTf agent in the county where you reside to begin your application. He or she can explain the process and tell you what supporting documents you will need for your application.

Don't let a financial emergency snowball into a bigger problem for you and your family. A Trust Fund grant can help you weather an unexpected storm so your finances stay on course. If you know someone who may qualify for a grant, make sure they know help is available.

For more information on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund or to locate the MVTf agent in your county, visit www.michiganveterans.com or call 517-284-5299.

VFW Post 702 and Auxiliary



VFW Post 702 and Auxiliary received an award for their Community Service from WGVU Engage program, "I have made a difference" for veterans. Accepting the award for the Post and Auxiliary are Doug Broek, Joan Broek, Sonya VanValkenburg and Ron Oakes.

Charles Schoor VFW Post 796 Christmas 2013 Food Drive



The items pictured were donated to Harbor Impact Ministries with an estimated value of \$900.00. The folks at Harbor Impact Ministries were extremely happy to receive these donations which consisted of food items, socks and underwear, gloves, hats and scarves. The Post has supported them for the past three years. Pictured, L-R, are Sr. Vice Commander Tom Atkins, Ken Routhier, Club Manager Tammy Dodson, Fred O'Connor and Al Piper. These good people served as our "elves" that delivered the items.

Home Depot Helps Post 1370



More than 25 volunteers swooped down on VFW Post 1370 in Pontiac and put up new ceiling tiles and painted the walls the day after Veterans Day. Alicia Hazen, a classmate of local VFW Post Commander De La Modesta, whose goal is to make the Post a haven for veterans, asked Home Depot to help out as part of their effort to help veterans. Casey Dawe, former community captain of the Auburn Hills store and Eric Aube, former Auburn Hills store manager, applied for a \$4,000 grant and led the effort even after they moved to other stores. New carpeting was installed last week. Commander De La Modesto made lunch for the crew.

Thousands
of troops
are coming
home.

VFW will help them get justice.

Thousands of America's sons and daughters have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan: amputations, PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, the list goes on ...

And they are just the tip of the iceberg.

VFW Veterans Service is helping these heroes get the healthcare and benefits they earned with their blood and sacrifice.

We are fighting for them, when they cannot fight for themselves.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Do your part with a gift to the 2014 VFW Veterans Service Annual Campaign. Your support helps veterans right here in our state.



HOSPITALS PROGRAM

My article is about my instructions for entering your hospital reports "electronically". I have been working with and helping many Hospital Chairmen over the last six months via the telephone and using both of our computers at the same time. They have found it very easy to do. We continue to increase the number of hospital reports being completed "electronically".

I have made my instructions very easy to follow. It is much faster to do them electronically instead of completing them on paper, then either mailing them to Department or faxing them to Department. Before I made these instructions, I had five Comrades complete their hospital reports electronically using these instructions. I then gave these instructions out to our District Commanders at the Mid-Winter Convention in Kalamazoo and also emailed them, as an attachment, the following week along with the "paper" Hospital Report Form 2013-2014.

As I continue to attend your District Meetings and campaign for Department Junior Vice Commander 2014-2015, I will continue to give a School of Instruction on Hospital Reporting using the paper form and completing them electronically. Below are the Instructions for Electronic Hospital Reporting.

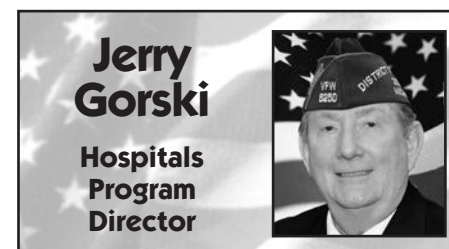
Instructions for Electronic Hospital Reporting

1. Log on your computer to www.vfwmi.org
2. Click your mouse on "Reporting" box located in the upper right corner of home page.
3. Click on the underline "Hospital Report".
4. Your Login Name is: "Your Post Number". Your Password is: "Pass13" (the P is capitalized and there is no space between Pass and 13)
5. Click on "Enter Hospital Reporting".
6. Click on "Begin" at the bottom of "Hospital report consists of:" page. You will be doing one or more of the five listed categories listed. Take your time, so you don't make a mistake or get an error message.
7. This page is your "Hospital Visits 101" page. You will be entering your Hospital Visits/Patient Visits. If you go to the "same" location (hospital, nursing home, etc.), then ADD your Workers, Hours, Cash, Patients Contacted and Total Miles. It is not necessary to enter multiple entries if you are going to the same location.
 - a. Click in the "Description" box and enter the location where you did your hospital or patient visit first.
 - b. Look for your "tab" key, which is located next to the letter "Q" on your keyboard. Tab "twice" and you will see your cursor go into the "No. Workers" box, where the black (0) will turn blue. Enter your "Number of Workers", then "tab" to the "No. Hours" box, where the black (0) turns blue. Enter the Number of Hours. Do the same routine until you "complete" the "Total Miles". After you enter the "Total Miles", you

will click on the "ADD" box in the upper right corner "or" hit the "ENTER" button on your keyboard. You will see the information that you entered on the "right" side of the screen. **If you do not see your information on the right side, then you did not follow the instructions correctly and will receive an error message.** Use your "back error" in the top left side of your screen to go back to "Hospital Visits 102" and start over.

- c. If you have a 2nd Hospital Visit/Patient Visit, you will enter on "Hospital Visit 102, Hospital Visit 103 and so forth. Follow the previous instructions.
 - d. When you have completed ALL your Hospital Visits/Patient Visits, you click on "Next Report" at the "bottom" of the left side of the Hospital Visit page.
8. This is your "Blood Donation" page.
 - a. You will either enter the number of "Blood Donations – Pints" in the box to the left of the "ADD" box, then either click the "ADD" box or hit the "Enter" key on your keyboard and your information will move over to the right side OR you will "skip" the pint blood donations and do nothing. Do not put a (0) zero in the box;; leave it blank.
 - b. You will do the same procedure for "Blood Donations – Double Reds" or you will "skip" the double red blood donations and do nothing. Do not put a (0) zero in the box; leave it blank.
 - c. Remember, if you enter any blood donations, you must hit the "ADD" box or hit your "Enter" button on your keyboard. You will see your information move over to the right side.
 - d. Click "Next Report".
 9. This is your "Hospital Equipment" page.
 - a. **Remember, you must enter "one" hospital equipment item at a time.** Enter your quantity inside the empty box first, then click on the "ADD" box or hit your "Enter" key on your keyboard. Each hospital equipment item and quantity will then move over to the right side of the page. Make sure each entry moved over to the right side before going to the next item. Do not put a (0) in the quantity box; leave it blank.
 - b. At the bottom of the page, you will see "399 Rented Value/Quantity". This line is for a Hospital Equipment item or items that are not listed on the Hospital Equipment page. You must enter the "total dollars" and enter a "Qty" of (1) one for the hospital item/items that are not listed. You will then hit the "ADD" box or hit the "Enter" key on your keyboard. You will then see "399", "Rented" and "1" on the right side.

- c. Click "Next Report" at the bottom of the left side of your screen.
10. This is the "Donations" page.
 - a. **Remember, you must enter "one" donation item at a time.**
 - b. You will enter "each" item listed, "one at a time" with the "quantity", then click the "ADD" box or hit your "Enter" key on your keyboard. You will see each item moved over to the right side with your quantity. If you make a mistake, use your "back arrow" key at the top left side of your screen to go back. Do not put a (0) zero in any box.
 - c. At the bottom of the "Donations" page, you will see "499 New Clothing". This is for items that you may have picked up at Salvation Army or blankets or lap robes that someone made. Enter the "dollar" value of the item/items that are not listed on this page in the box "below" the "\$" sign and click on the "ADD" box or hit the "Enter" key on your keyboard. You will see your entry as "499" "Clothing" "1" on the right side.
 - d. After everything is entered, then click on "Submit Report" on the right side at the bottom of everything that you have entered.
 - e. If you forgot something on any page, use your "back arrow" key at the top right side of your screen to get to the page to either add or delete an item. Follow the instructions again until you get to the last page, which is your "Donations" page, then click "Submit Report" on the right side at the bottom of your entries.
 11. This is your "Order Information" page. It lists your Name, Email Address and Post Information. You will have to correct this information later.
 - a. You will see "Month Ending" with "1-January" with a down arrow. You "must" click on the down arrow and "select" the month for which you are reporting. Too many Comrades are not selecting the "month" that they are reporting. Therefore it "defaults" to "1-January" and your report has to be deleted and you must start all over again. Use the back arrow at the top left side of your screen to go back to your "Order Information" page and "select" the correct month, then click "Submit Report" on the "LEFT" side of your screen. **Do Not Click on "Submit Report" on the "Right" Side of the Screen. You Will Not Get to the Next Screen. You Must Click on "Submit Report" on the Left Side of the Screen!!!!**
 12. This next screen lists the following information: Post Information, Month Ending, Post Number, District Number and everything that you entered. You must make sure that you entered the "correct" month



and entered "everything" on the four prior screens (Hospital Visits, Blood Donations, Hospital Equipment, Donations) correctly. If you have to make a correction, use your "back arrow" key at the top left side of your screen.

- a. At the bottom left side of the screen, you will see the words "If all items are correct, click Submit Report." Make sure all items are correct! Do not hurry and submit a bad report!
 - b. Hit "Submit Report" at the bottom of the page.
13. This is your "Report Confirmation – Order Submitted" page.
 - a. Print this page using the "Print This Page" box at the top left side and save it for your files.
 - b. Click on the "Log Out" box either at the top or the bottom of the page. Congratulations! You have completed your hospital report.
 14. The LAST THING you need to do is sign in again and go to "Edit Post Information". **You only have to do this one time or every time there is a "New" Hospital Chairman**, because I need to know who to contact if there is a question on your Hospital Report. I need to know the Hospital Chairman's Name, Hospital Chairman's Phone Number and the Hospital Chairman's Email Address. **Once you've updated your Post Information, you hit "Submit".**

I hope this Training Guide will help you do your Monthly Hospital Reports "easily" and "electronically".

These instructions are not on the Department Website as of this writing. I hope to have Department make them available under "Reports & Forms". If you would like me to email you these instructions as an attachment, please email me at geraldjgorski@aol.com

The "paper" Hospital Report Form 2013-2014 is on the Department Website under "Reports & Forms/Department Printable Forms/Hospital Report Form" and is also under "Programs/Hospital/Hospital Report Form".

Please throw away your old paper Hospital Report Forms and use the "current" Hospital Report Form 2013-2014.

I continually enjoy helping and training our Hospital Chairmen. If you need to contact me, my home phone number is 248-262-7313 and my email address is geraldjgorski@aol.com

I am here to help each and every one of you. Do not hesitate to ask me for help.

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

Jerry Gorski
Hospital Program Director

God Bless Our Troops

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Marilyn Malick

Around the world, at this very time, there are American men and women fighting to preserve our freedom and the freedom of others. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been proudly supporting these troops and our veterans and their families for 100 years. In the last issue of the *MOV* I suggested that if you are reading this, the chances of you being eligible to join this elite organization are very high! Ladies Auxiliary VFW members are wives, widows, mothers, foster and stepmothers (who have performed the duties of parent), grandmothers, daughters, granddaughters, foster and stepdaughters (who attained that status prior to age sixteen and for whom the duties of parent were performed), sisters, half sisters, foster and stepsisters (who attained that status prior to age sixteen) of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW. Members must be citizens of the United States and not less than sixteen years old. Women eligible for membership in the VFW shall be eligible for dual membership in the Ladies Auxiliary.

Please join us in our quest to ensure that our veterans will not be forgotten and that those who need assistance will get it. In my last article I wrote about three of the programs that the Ladies Auxiliary has: Americanism, Cancer Aid and Research, and Hospital. I will now take this opportunity to give a brief synopsis of a few of our other chairmanships.

Scholarships: The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars offers several Scholarship Programs for the youth

of our country. Those programs include the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest which are open to all high school students, a Junior Girls Scholarship Contest which is open to Jr. Girls members, a Continuing Education Scholarship contest for Ladies Auxiliary members, and the Patriot's Pen Contest which is open to all Grade 6-8 students.

Legislative: Ladies Auxiliary members support the VFW Priority Goals and contact legislators in person or via e-mail, faxes and letters to help secure and protect promises made to our military and their families.

Youth: Ladies Auxiliaries around the nation make it their business to see that the children in our communities learn to be patriotic and to respect the flag of our country. We also assist our youth in supporting the military community.

Veterans and Family Support: This program is the backbone of our organization. This is where we support our veterans and their families by ensuring a proper standard of living, by helping with needs such as rent, child care, food, clothing, utilities, household goods and transportation. Last year the Ladies Auxiliary donated over \$300,000 to VFW National Military Services and over \$6.4 million was donated to support veterans and military families.

Please take time to read the Chairman articles in this issue and find out what is going on in Michigan in each one of them.

As you can see, there are many ways to assist our veterans and their families and our communities. **To anyone who is reading this newsletter and is eligible to join the Ladies Auxiliary VFW, I am personally inviting you to join the wonderful Ladies of this organization and help us to support our brave heroes and their families!**

AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN/ PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR



Nanette K. Spaulding

America and our Veterans are why the Ladies Auxiliary is STRONG, Patriots. It is our way of giving and showing respect to those that sacrificed so much! There are many sacred days set aside to show this pride and respect to our America to our State and to our Veterans, living and deceased, and also to our Prisoners of War and to those missing in action. One such day is Loyalty Day!

Loyalty Day is a designated time to show our homage:

- To our Country by promoting Americanism in the schools and communities, along with promoting our Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem
- To our military as the defenders of freedom and protectors of our Good

Ol' Red, White and Blue

- To our "street soldiers" (firemen and policemen) who put their lives in danger to protect us
- Last but not least, we have the best opportunity to show Allegiance and Respect to our Veterans

Memorial Day is the time to Memorialize and so many times it is confused with Veterans Day! Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those who lost their lives and take the time to honor our POWs and MIAs.

Along with the two wonderful patriotic holidays talked about earlier – this is also the time to reflect on our American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag – a time to give the proper respect! Information can be found in the VFW Store (catalog) called "The American Flag Code Booklet." One question always stands out and that is: Can it be mended? By all means, YES! It can be dry cleaned and carefully mended when necessary. Another question is: Can the American Flag be cut up before it is

— *AMERICANISM, continued on page 9*

MEMBERSHIP

Why should you join the VFW Ladies Auxiliary? WHAT do they do?



Carrie Turner

Promote respect for the American flag, recognize those who fly the flag regularly and correctly and donate flags to schools and in their communities. Instruct youth and communities in the proper recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem. Conduct programs in schools to promote Americanism, including flag folding ceremonies and teaching respect for veterans. Conduct POW/MIA (prisoner of war/missing in action) ceremonies to remind Americans that all of our heroes have not yet returned home. The concepts of Americanism and patriotism are under fire in some areas of our country, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary will defend these concepts.

Provide support and encouragement for all kinds of youth groups – Girl/Boy Scouts, 4H, sports teams, school clubs and events...the list is too long! We work to stop bullying and teach youth respect for themselves and others. We involve them in volunteering and teach good old-fashioned values. Auxiliaries sponsor and support Jr. Girls Units to train the next generation of members. Michigan VFW is the only state to have its own children's camp in Newaygo; children are sponsored to attend camp that is safe and fun, and some would never have this opportunity without the VFW. Holiday parties, donations of coats and other needed items, support for local libraries, playgrounds and parks, donations of backpacks and school supplies – there are SO many ways the VFW Ladies Auxiliary supports youth!

Through the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Patriotic Art scholarship programs we enable students to use their talents to compete for scholarships for college or future endeavors. Hundreds of students each year participate and gain confidence as they are encouraged and recognized by these caring VFW members at the local, district and state levels. It culminates in a weekend event where the 24 District winners (12 VOD and 12 PP) are honored at a huge banquet and learn which cash awards they have earned and which one of them will go to Washington, D.C. to compete against students from all across the country. There are also scholarships open specifically to the Jr. Girls and two educational scholarships open to any Ladies Auxiliary members.

Volunteering at VA hospitals, the two Michigan run veteran's homes and local hospitals and nursing homes, Ladies Auxiliary members care for veterans young and old alike. Older veterans who may not have families of their own. Younger veterans whose lives have been shattered by IEDs, traumatic brain injuries and PTSD. Suicide prevention is extremely important. Supplying clothing and personal care items, entertainment, regular activities, special events and holiday parties, treats and outings. Our hospital volunteers are angels on earth!

Millions of veterans from the Iraq/Afghanistan War will need our support for decades

to come. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary assists these veterans and their families in SO many ways. Through the VFW National Military Services program we help with ANYTHING they may need – anything that can get them back on their feet and moving forward with their families. Helping them access the benefits they earned while in the military for their educational and health needs. Help with processing claims through the VA. Support for homeless veterans in shelters and at "Stand Downs". For those who need a supportive environment for them and their family while they pursue education and family stability, the VFW National Home for Children is there, as they have been for 89 years!

To ensure that all levels and branches of our government knows that ALL these purposes are valued and needed to be preserved, we work with the VFW Priority goals to communicate with our legislators on veteran and community issues. Members are in constant contact to show support or to discourage bills that affect veteran's lives. Most recently the cuts to military retiree benefits have received a lot of attention. Awareness must also be promoted in our communities so that others know the challenges our veterans face every day. We also promote voting at every opportunity – locally, regionally and nationally – we must all speak with our votes to support these worthy causes!

For over 100 years members of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary have been leaders in caring for veterans, active duty military, their families and their communities.

Our Americanism, Camp Trotter, Cancer, Hospital, Legislative, Scholarships, Veterans and Family Support, and Youth programs encompass all of the above and MORE! Please go to our MI VFW Ladies Auxiliary website at www.lavfwmi.org and look under Programs for more details.

Very often we hear "I have no time to volunteer or attend meetings". If you are unable to participate on a regular basis, that is okay, too – your membership dues provide support for the mission of the organization and assists us in those endeavors. Even helping at one event per year, making a cake or dish to pass, making handmade items for programs, attending one parade or writing one letter is a great help!

There are so many reasons we can share to encourage ladies to join our organization, but the best reason to join is to show honor, respect and gratitude for the veteran who makes you eligible. Every one of us has a loved one who served our country and helped provide the freedoms we ... we can serve in this small way to uphold the America they fought for...to ensure that their sacrifices continue to be supported and appreciated.

Ladies Auxiliary membership applications are available at your local Post or on the website listed above (under Programs, Membership, on the right hand side in the list of forms. You can also call our department office at 517-487-3715 for more information. **We invite you to please join us during our "march for membership" as we Band Together for Veterans in this 100th anniversary year of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary!**

VETS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN

Sports Clip's Help-A-Hero Scholarship



Della Steege

Sport Clips mission to provide active-duty military and veterans support for their post-military career goals was accomplished recently when the franchise announced 43 scholarships for the spring semester. Sport Clips locations across the nation raised funds totaling \$500,000 through its annual "Help A Hero" campaign, benefiting the Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars-administered "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program.

Through this contribution, Sport Clips and the VFW expect to provide more than 60 additional scholarships for the fall 2014 semester for which service members can now apply through April 30 at VFW.org/scholarship

Sport Clips is the Official Haircutter of the VFW, and its Help A Hero campaign is just one of the many ways it supports active-duty military and veterans. To find out more, visit your local Sport Clips or SportClips.com

DEPARTMENT YOUTH CHAIRMAN

Questions and Answer about Jr. Girls



Nicole Koutz

Q. What is Jr. Girls Unit?

A. Young girls, ages 5-16, that had a parent/grandparent, sister or brother that are eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars including step and foster children.

Q. What do they do as a unit?

- A. Community Service
- Promote Americanism
 - Make a Difference Day Project
 - Send cards to different people
 - Send packages to our service people over seas
 - Christmas Parties for the Community
 - Veterans Day
 - Earn awards
 - Promote Buddy Poppies
 - Much more

Q. How often do they meet?

- A. They have a meeting once a month and get together 1-2 other times a month depending on what's going on.

Q. What is the cost?

- A. There is a first-time fee of \$10.00 for the T-Shirt and then \$2.00 a year.

Q. Are there any trips or camps and can we go with you?

- A. Yes, there is a weekend camp in June and yes, we are always looking

for chaperones.

Q. Is there a lot of out of the pocket expenses for all the other events that they do?

- A. Some but not much; we will do some fundraising that will cover most of the cost.

Other Benefits of being a Jr. Girl

- Getting to know girls from all over
- Meeting people from all over Michigan
- Learning about different wars and talking to people that were there
- Scholarships
- Jr. Princess for the State of Michigan
- Awards as individuals and as a Unit
- Cancer Grants
- Helps girls stay busy and out of trouble
- They can take pride in what they have learned and feel good about themselves when they know that they have helped someone else.
- Historic things you learn without a textbook.
- We do a lot for our Community!
- We do a lot for our Veterans!!!

Nicole Koutz
Department Youth Chairman
989-681-3906-home
989-620-6425-cell
turtlelee@hotmail.com

AMERICANISM, continued from page 8

burned? NO...NEVER! It is to be *properly disposed of!* A fire is to be hot and after it is properly folded (triangle fold), the flag is then placed on the hot fire. Then the cold ashes are to be placed in the ground in a designated spot – like somewhere on Post grounds, as this is sacred! AND with Flag Day on June 14, this is the day to reflect on unity and the history of our Symbol of Peace that was either carried or flown in every battle – stood that battle, and in many conflicts, pieces come

back home and are memorialized.

Next time during one of our patriotic holidays, look into the eyes of a Veteran – or the active airmen, sailors, and soldier's eyes – one can only imagine what they have seen and why it is so important that we protect the patriotic symbol and values every day!

Thank you to everyone. Michigan once again joined the "Team 100-Keeping America's Veterans & Families Strong!" We did "Band Together for Our Veterans!"

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

DeeAnn Miller



It is hard to believe the year is almost over. It has been a great year, but there is still work to be done. We are always looking for new members. The more members we have, the greater

our voice is heard in Washington. Our voice is needed for legislation to assist veterans with their entitled benefits. The Ladies Auxiliary website at <http://www.lavfwm.com/> can assist you in finding an Auxiliary close to you. The Auxiliary programs consist of legislative, cancer aid and research, hospital, veterans and family support, youth and scholarships. As you can see, we have a variety of programs to

assist our members and their families.

I would like to thank all my Auxiliaries and sisters of the 4th District for all they have done this year. I would like to thank my family for putting up with me being gone so much. The Auxiliaries have worked hard and I appreciate everything you have done. Always remember the reason the Auxiliary exists is to help our veterans. Last but not least, I would like to thank the VFW members who have helped me this year. Without everyone's hard work and continued support, I would not have been able to succeed.

Finally, remember to thank a Veteran for the rights they have fought hard for. Always fly your flag to show you are proud to be living in the land of the free and home of the brave.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Joyce Tomaskovic



As I was enjoying this year's snow in "Michigan's Winter Wonderland", I was reminded of my youth. How great it was with my siblings making angels, snowmen, snowballs

and, of course, a snow fort to protect us from the inevitable snowball fight. Back then I never thought about the fact that we were working hard together binding each flake to another working towards a common goal, the goal of that strong fort. Our working together made the difference between success and failure.

In January, I was privileged to attend the VFW Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Banquet. It was inspiring to see so many exceptional young people. These youth exhibited the best America has to offer. Their intelligence, perseverance and patriotism coupled with their hopes and dreams and rolled and banded together with the help of dedicated teachers and the youth's families are building our country's strong future. They are our angels and our strong fort walls.

Additionally, I found myself wondering which of these wonderful youths might choose to serve in our country's military. What will/can I do to ensure that

those who grow up to serve our country, our future Veterans, receive the respect, honor, services and support to match the sacrifice they freely make. Then it struck me, just as I had done with my siblings playing in the snow all those years ago, I can work together with and through the LAVFW to build those strong walls of support. The LAVFW holds a 100 year distinction of being a diverse group of women working hard to ensure that our Veterans and their families receive just that. The people who have defended our rights to ensure our pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Have you considered how you can help recognize our youth's accomplishments? How can you help ensure and protect the freedoms we enjoy? What can you as one person do? If you are not already a VFW Ladies Auxiliary sister, I would like to extend an invitation for you to join us. Together, we really make a difference. You can check us out at www.lavfwm.org

We are all like a single snowflake; alone we are God's delicate beautiful creation and that is good. But just as the snowflakes, when they are gathered and banded together, can form angels and/or a strong structure; we can build structures able to provide warmth, strength, comfort and shelter from the storms of life.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Francine Herzog



We are getting close to the end of the year and what a wonderful and amazing year it has been. Membership stats have been going up and down and up again, so this shows

we are working very hard to increase and retain our membership. Our Auxiliary Presidents and Chairmen are sending in lots of reports and projects which means our District is working very hard to keep our title "Super Sixth".

Mid-Winter has come and gone and what a wonderful experience. We are very proud of all our VOD and Patriot's Pen students. At our February District meeting we honored our VOD and Patriot's Pen students along with our Teacher of the Year. This gave us a chance to meet each one personally

and hear them read their essays. How wonderful to see our youths have this much interest and pride in our country and veterans.

I am looking forward to the Department testimonial in April to honor and thank our Department Commander and Department President. Also, our own District 6 testimonial is on May 17th.

As we get ready to perform our patriotic duty this spring, let us remember to look around our communities and see who may need a new American Flag or a POW/MIA flag. During the month of May we can show our pride in our veterans and all our military in harm's way.

I am a proud daughter of a WWII veteran and I am proud to be involved in parades, memorials and school programs dedicated to our veterans.

Remember we must all "Band Together for our Veterans".

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Sandy Anderson



Greetings to Members of the Great District 8!

How the time has flown by this year. The year of 2014 is here and we have had our Mid-Winter Conference to celebrate the winners of the Patriot's

Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship program...and WOW! These students were absolutely great! The youth of today are our future and after spending time with them, we have some great winners.

Our 3rd District Meeting was in February and our District Convention in May brings the election and installation of new officers for 2014-2015. What a great time I personally have had meeting new people and learning new things, all the time knowing that we have all worked so very hard to meet all the goals we set for ourselves, our organization and especially all of our Veterans.

Our purpose as an Auxiliary is to help in supporting our Veterans and their families in any way that we can. We set goals to recruit new members to the Auxiliary and to the VFW. VFW Camp Trotter for Children, the Veterans Homes and VA Hospitals, and all our other programs are all with the Veterans and their families first and foremost in our minds.

As an organization we have set Golden Goals for each of our Districts to achieve and we are all working hard to get this done, not only for our Districts but for our Auxiliaries, ourselves and for each of you. Our youth is our tomorrow and with that in mind, we spend many hours in our schools and communities teaching our youth all we know about Patriotism and the history of the VFW. Be ever mindful of our love for our country as we teach all we know about the love and freedom that we enjoy in our country.

We will always Band together for our Veterans.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Laura Laney

As I attend sporting and racing events, I am saddened by the number of citizens who do not put their hand over their heart during the singing of our National Anthem or recognize and honor our flag as it passes by in a parade. We need to work together in teaching our youth and our community proper flag etiquette. Many resources are available on the **VFW.org** website that can aid us in this mission. We need to stand united and bring back patriotism and honor back to our America.

Our District Posts are busying hosting various events that may be of interest. Coleman 1071 in Coleman has all-you-can eat fish and chicken dinners on the first Friday of the month and VFW 3033 in Mt. Pleasant has an all-you-can eat soup, bread and dessert on the third Wednesday of every month, just to name a few. Please visit these Posts, make new friends and support them in their endeavors to provide assistance and aid to our veterans and their families.

Post 2233

James Europe VFW Post 2233's Honor Guard held a flag disposal ceremony on September 25, 2013. Two hundred fifty eight U.S. Flags were disposed of in accordance with flag disposal regulations. Torn, tattered and faded flags were received from the community and surrounding VFW Posts.



Pictured, L-R: Honor Guards Curtis Clark, Louis Thomas, Excell Moore, William Brown, Thomas Payne, Frank Maxwell, Eric Coleman and Bugler Cleveland Price, Sr.



Pictured, L-R: Ladies Auxiliary members Ernestine Blair, Elaine Coleman and Ladies Auxiliary President Beverly A. Burton.

Fraser 2013 Teacher of the Year



Fraser, Michigan – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), State of Michigan announced that Susan Kove of St. Clair Shores is this year's recipient of the Michigan VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Susan Kove was selected from entries submitted by local VFW Posts throughout the state. She went on to compete at the national level where she failed to make the cut. In July, three national recipients will receive an award, a \$1,000 donation for their individual professional development and another \$1,000 to their school, as well as an all expenses paid trip to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in the VFW National Convention this year. Over 1,400 teachers were recognized by the VFW (with 50 departments participating, including the District of Columbia and overseas) with more than \$253,000 in awards being presented.

Susan Kove is a special education teacher at Howard C. Richards Middle School in Fraser. She has taught for 25 years, the last 17 years as a paraprofessional. The award was based on her resumé, awards from various groups and

her outstanding programs of patriotism in her role as a teacher.

According to VFW Michigan Department Commander, "We are very proud of Susan Kove and all the teachers that participated in the program. Their commitment to teach good citizenship will be of great benefit to their communities as these students grow into informed and involved adults."

Steve Van Buskirk, VFW National Director-VFW Programs and director of national competition echoed the Michigan Department Commander's remarks.

"These teachers are providing a great service to America. We hope this bit of recognition will encourage other educators to include citizenship activities within their curriculum. Their communities will be better for it."

The first year for the program, participation in the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards was exceptional. This year participation exceeded expectation and program administrators expect the number of participants to continue to increase in 2014.

Post 2725



VFW Post 2725 Members Wallace and Doris Mitchell were selected by the Saginaw Spirits Hockey Team to drop the puck at center ice on November 2, 2013. The game was between the Saginaw Spirits and the Ontario Greyhounds. Wally and Doris have been married for 66 years. They were both officers in the US Army in the Philippines during WWII.

2014: The Year Ahead A Message from the VFW Commander-In-Chief

January 09, 2014 – This year promises to be a momentous one for America's veterans and its warriors. Issues affecting those in and out of uniform will be on the front burner on Capitol Hill.

Two events in 2014 will no doubt put veterans and the armed forces in the national limelight: congressional elections and withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Afghanistan. The ending of a war is always a watershed in history, and this one should be no exception.

Achieving such a milestone will attract publicity that should be maximized to the benefit of the Afghanistan War's veterans and their families. While the media is focused on the political ramifications of the combat disengagement, we should draw attention to the needs of the young generation of war vets.

Recently, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told the 47,000 GI's remaining in Afghanistan: "I know more than occasionally you wonder if anybody's paying attention, or if anybody cares, but we do."

Hagel may have been speaking on behalf of the American people in general, but his words could have been our own. This is all part of our commitment to "fully support U.S. troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism."

VFW's Priority Goals include a host of issues – health care, housing, education, employment, transition assistance and military quality-of-life as a whole – that are perfectly relevant to those on active duty today. Each and every one of these goals is being pursued with vigor by our Washington Office staff.

As politicians seek public office during the mid-term elections, these and other issues important to all veterans will take center stage. Adequate and timely funding for the VA budget, top-notch mental health services, reducing the disability claims backlog and protecting compensation are among them.

When votes are being courted is also the time when the prospect for a public hearing of veteran concerns is greatest. Mid-year up until Election Day will be the opportune time to get elected officials to pay attention. And it is at the grassroots level that you can make the biggest difference. Leverage your Post and Department membership in the quest to preserve veterans' rights. State legislatures are often an overlooked and neglected battleground.

2014 is important for another more personal reason. Fifty years ago in August, Congress took a step that had far-reaching consequences. With the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, it opened the door to a wider war for Americans.

So beginning that month we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sacrifices made in Vietnam. To me and my fellow Vietnam vets – now the largest single segment of VFW membership – this is a date with genuine meaning.

Whether it be an anniversary commemoration, the highlighting of veterans issues in an election year or remembering the most recent generation of vets as they return home from Afghanistan – or a combination of all three – make 2014 a year worthy of your time.

Don't Be A Victim: Be Aware of Pension Poaching Scams

VA Pension Exists to Help Financially Disadvantaged Wartime Veterans and Their Survivors

January 24, 2014 – Be cautious if someone offers to move your assets around for you to qualify for VA pension. This type of scam is often directed toward veterans and family members who do not actually qualify for VA pension. You could be required to repay these benefits to the government.

Examples of possible pension poaching scams:

Organizations that cold call veterans, charge money for assisting with a VA

pension claim and take credit card information from veterans over the telephone.

People who charge as much as \$6,000 upfront to represent claimants before VA, with a percentage of any eventual back payment from VA as a portion of the ultimate fee.

For more information about VA pension eligibility requirements – which include special monthly pension benefits – go to www.benefits.va.gov/pensionor or call 1-800-827-1000.

Budget Uncertainty Forces Military Reductions

VFW again calls on Congress to end sequestration

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. met with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel yesterday morning to learn firsthand the impact of his department's fiscal year 2015 budget request on future readiness and modernization programs, and on those who serve in uniform and their families.

The VFW and other veteran and military service organization representatives in attendance also learned of the continued implications of congressional budget decisions that could reduce defense spending by almost \$1 trillion over the next decade.

"There are consequences to forcing the Department of Defense to first reduce its budget by \$487 billion over 10 years, then to double that amount due to sequestration," said VFW National Commander William A. Thien, a Vietnam veteran from Georgetown, Ind. "And no matter how some might perceive these lower troop numbers, weapons systems retirements and benefits reductions, the truth is these cuts will continue to grow deeper the longer Congress is unable to end the sequester."

Joined by his top leadership, to include Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, the defense secretary brought some of those consequences to light when he unveiled major provisions of his department's budget request.

Previously announced reductions to the size of the active Army were increased, as were reductions to the Army National Guard and Reserve, all of which could worsen with a continued sequester.

The budget plan had no new troop reductions for the other services, but the proposed loss of some major weapons systems could further lower Air Force and Navy personnel requirements.

The VFW national commander is especially worried about the proposed reductions to pay and benefits, because "in an all-volunteer force, the troops get a vote," he said, "and a resurging economy will impact individual decisions to

join and reenlist."

On the table for FY 2015 is a 1 percent pay raise for everyone below the pay grade of O-7; admirals and general officers would have their pay frozen for one year. Housing allowances would be gradually reduced from 100 percent of costs to 95 percent; payments would be grandfathered for troops in their current assignments. DOD is again recommending a TRICARE for Life enrollment fee, but this time it would be equal to 1 percent of retiree pay – not to exceed \$300 per person – plus additional increases to pharmaceutical copayments, which would impact military dependents as well as retirees. DOD also wants to merge the three TRICARE Prime, Standard and Extra programs into one, and reduce the current \$1.4 billion appropriated support of commissaries to \$400 million, which would force the Defense Commissary Agency to offset the difference either by raising prices, increasing the 5 percent surcharge, or both. DOD estimates that such decisions would lower overall commissary savings from 30 percent to 10 percent, which could close some smaller stores.

"Despite all the challenges of fighting a two-front war over the past 13 years, we know America will continue to field the world's most professional and lethal military," said Thien. "That's why the VFW will redouble our efforts to work with Congress and the administration to preserve the all-volunteer force, end the sequester, and help bring some financial stability to a military that will continue to operate in a very dangerous and unpredictable world."

"We are, of course, very concerned for our men and women in uniform, and for their families who serve and sacrifice, too, and that is why we are asking the Pentagon to provide more details on their people program changes," he said. "The VFW understands fiscal realities, but we also understand that it first takes people to make our military the world's best."

Help Veterans Make the Connection With the Support They Deserve

Find powerful stories of strength at MakeTheConnection.net

January 13, 2014 – Mike, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He spent years keeping his combat-related emotions locked up – and depression, anger and stress kept building in him. A hunting trip with fellow Veterans spent talking about combat experiences finally prompted him to reach out for help. Through counseling and with assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Mike was able to overcome his challenges.

Make the Connection is a VA campaign that highlights powerful stories of strength and connection like Mike's. At MakeTheConnection.net, Veterans from every military branch, service era and demographic group speak about their experiences during and after service in

the military, including how they faced adversity, found support and moved forward in their lives.

Hundreds of short videos of Veterans and their families are featured on this highly accessible online resource. The site also includes reliable information about mental health and resilience, common life events and experiences and a locator for Veterans' resources across the country.

As a member of VFW, you will discover hundreds of videos from Veterans like you and information about programs and resources in your community. You can also encourage other Veterans to explore MakeTheConnection.net, visit our YouTube channel and "like" the Facebook page. VA support helped Mike, and it can help you and other Veterans you know, too.



2013-2014 Voice of Democracy Contest and Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Programs

Department of Michigan VFW and Its Ladies Auxiliary

Voice of Democracy Winners



1st Place
Brooke M. Mullin
\$6,000.00 Ralph J. Seabold Scholarship
10th District –
Post & Aux. 3720



2nd Place
Sarah Chandler
\$3,500.00 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship
12th District –
Post & Aux. 4499



3rd Place
Sarah L. Wiltse
\$2,500.00 Hazel Park VFW Scholarship
4th District –
Post & Aux. 1888



4th Place
Schaefer E. Thelen
\$1,500.00 James N. Goldsmith Scholarship
8th District –
Post & Aux. 2326



5th Place
Noah C. Woods
\$1,000.00 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship
7th District –
Post & Aux. 10704



6th Place
Danny A. Haidar
\$1,000.00 Catholic War Veterans Dept. of Michigan Scholarship
5th District – Post & Aux. 4659



7th Place
Dana L. Spelich
\$1,000.00 Newberry Scholarship
15th District –
Post & Aux. 3900



8th Place
Garrett T. Dietz
\$1,000.00 Morley S. Oats Post 701 and Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship
14th District –
Post & Aux. 1887



9th Place
Cheyenne K. Suchek
\$1,000.00 Orvel Walter Memorial Scholarship
6th District –
Post & Aux. 701



10th Place
Silas C. Lee
\$1,000.00 Past Commanders Club Scholarship
13th District –
Post & Aux. 2051



11th Place
Kaleigh J. Kuhns
\$500.00 Dick and Vi Thorp Memorial and \$500.00 VFW Post 4644 Scholarship
9th District –
Post & Aux. 9809



12th Place
Jacqub A. Littlejohn
\$400.00 John & Shirley Sweebe, \$400.00 Donald Mrdjenovic and \$200.00 UAW Region I
11th District –
Post & Aux. 6950

Patriot's Pen Winners



1st Place
Cheyenne Wilfert
\$1,000.00 Bond, Wes Longenbach Memorial Award & Plaque
7th District –
Post & Aux. 2284



2nd Place
Blake M. McClellan
\$750.00 Bond, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan Award & Plaque
9th District –
Post & Aux. 4005



3rd Place
Mary M. Jackson
\$750.00 Bond, Ron & Cathy Devereaux and Harry & Pamela Croyle Award & Plaque
5th District –
Post & Aux. 2052



4th Place
Michael J. Moss
\$500.00 – 15th District Award & Plaque
6th District –
Post & Aux. 3925



5th Place
Kaylin L. Scott
\$500.00 – 9th District Award & Plaque
4th District –
Post & Aux. 9283



6th Place
Jillie A. Gretzinger
\$500.00 – Barry & Pam Walter Award & Plaque
13th District –
Post & Aux. 2051



7th Place
Anna M. Hassloch
\$500.00 – Michel DeBacker WWII Veteran and William Caloia Vietnam Veteran Memorial Award & Plaque
11th District –
Post & Aux. 3033



8th Place
Alena R. Cassel
\$500.00 – Julia Van Tiem Shonts Memorial Award & Plaque
8th District –
Post & Aux. 2406



9th Place
Avery A. Wildig
\$500.00 – Donald V. Nettler and Barbara Nettler Memorial Award & Plaque
12th District –
Post & Aux. 7729



10th Place
Ashley M. Huffmaster
\$500.00 – Post and Auxiliary 334 Award & Plaque
15th District –
Post & Aux. 6165



11th Place
Audra C. Wiser
\$500.00 – Post and Auxiliary 4406 Award & Plaque
10th District –
Post & Aux. 2777



12th Place
Elayna B. Clow
\$500.00 – MC1 Donald P. Rule USN "FR" Writers Award & Plaque
14th District –
Post & Aux. 3676

Teacher of the Year



Elementary School
Tracey Hall
Michigan Technical Academy
Sponsored by Post 2233 and District 4



Middle School
Brandon Wagner
Corunna Middle School
Sponsored by Post 4005 and District 9



High School
Michelle Anderson
John Glen High School
Sponsored by Post 4553 and District 4

**Congratulations
to our winners!**

Mid-Winter Conference, January 25-26, 2014

On January 25-26, 2014 the Dept. of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars held its annual Mid-Winter Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The Department held committee meetings, VFW training seminars, the Council of Administration meeting and the highlight of the weekend, the Voice of Democracy

and Patriot's Pen banquet, where the winners of this year's competition were honored.

This year was the first year that each District winner of the Patriot's Pen contest received an award. Also honored were the three winners of the Teacher of the Year award.



Buddy Poppy displays submitted by Ladies Auxiliaries from around the state.



Members of the Camp Trotter Committee take time out from selling raffle tickets and Camp Trotter shirts. All monies raised go to help fund the camp. Pictured, L-R: Butch Ogden, Ray Lopez, David Reeves, Dave Tester, Ruth "Raffle Ruthie" Barnhill, Camp Trotter Director Ernie Meyers and Richard Rought.



The Dept of Michigan raised \$23,164.00 for cancer over the 2012-2013 program year. Past State Commander Kirk Kennedy presented the check to Debbie Knowles, on behalf of Nick Karmanos of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. Pictured, L-R: Past State Commander Kirk Kennedy, Debbie Knowles, Dept. Cancer Director Jim Proto and State Commander Ron Devereaux.



The National Representative to the Mid-Winter Conference, Past National C-in-C Tommy Tradewell, addresses the C of A meeting.



Newly elected Dept. Quartermaster Steve Bilan and newly appointed Dept. Adjutant William "Butch" Ogden are sworn in by Past National Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell.



The State Honor Guard presents the colors at the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen awards banquet.



Elementary School Teacher of the Year Tracy Hall is presented her award by Jim Galen and Stephanie Krueger.



Voice of Democracy Contest winner Brooke M. Mullin of District 10 & Post 3720 with State Commander Ron Devereaux and State Ladies Auxiliary President Marilyn Malick.



Middle School Teacher of the Year Brandon Wagner is presented his award by Jim Galen and Stephanie Krueger.



High School Teacher of the Year Michelle Anderson is presented her award by Jim Galen and Stephanie Krueger.



Patriot's Pen Essay Contest winner Cheyenne Wilfert of District 7 & Post 2284 with State Commander Ron Devereaux and State Ladies Auxiliary President Marilyn Malick.





VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
HELP HOPE HONOR

VFW National Home Helpline Here to Help

BE HEARD ★ BE HELPED

800-313-4200

THE NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE

For our Nation's Military and Veteran Families.

help@vfwnationalhome.org

The VFW National Home Helpline at 800-313-4200 is a free service for the military, veterans, and their families who are facing challenges in the areas of housing, disability, benefits, and more.

The Helpline is staffed by caring professionals weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. Staff are able to assist callers nationwide with connecting to resources in their own community, with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Service Officers nationwide, and provide information and application to the Home's on-campus housing program.

Callers and their needs vary in scope. Recent callers included:

- a disabled veteran who needed enough food to tide him over until his first benefit payment from Veterans Affairs arrived
- a Vietnam veteran needing treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms
- a recent veteran whose family, including three children, were at risk of becoming homeless

Helpline staff were able to get these issues resolved within hours.

Whether it is providing information about local resources or assisting with admittance to the Home's on-campus program, the Helpline staff are here to help!

VFW National Home Installs New Officers, Trustees



October 28, 2013 – The VFW National Home for Children installed new officers and members to its Board of Trustees during its Annual Meeting of Life Members on Oct. 26, 2013. Al Cantu of Texas was named President, replacing Jack McDermott of Florida, and Jim Mueller of Missouri will serve as Vice President.

Warren George of New Jersey and David "Dave" Ouellette of New Hampshire were formally installed as members of the VFW National Home for Children Board of Trustees during the meeting. Ouellette will represent District 1, which covers Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. George will represent District 2, which encompasses Europe, New Jersey, and New York.

"We are looking forward to working with both of you," said National Home Director Patrice Green.

Both George and Ouellette have extensive backgrounds in the military and the VFW.

George was in the United States Air Force 1959-1985, and was a master meteorologist. He sees his new position as trustee as "a chance to give back."

"I've had a pretty good life, now it's time to help our veterans," George said.

George joined VFW Post 6590 in 1996. He served two years as Post Commander, earning All-State twice and All-American District Commander. He also served as Chief of Staff for two All-American State Commanders. George took the position of State Judge Advocate, Jr. Vice

Commander, Sr. Vice Commander and State Commander 2012-2013.

George is a member of The American Legion, Life Member of the Military Order of the Cootie and the VFW National Home for Children. He is married to Iris Jean Duvall and has two sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

George's stated goals as trustee includes working to continue improvements in the homes and doubling membership at the District level.

Ouellette knew he wanted to be a trustee after a visit as Vice Commander about five years ago.

"I said to my wife that when there's an opening, I'm going to run," Ouellette said.

Ouellette served in the U.S. Air Force 1967-1971 and is a Vietnam veteran. He joined the VFW in 1986 at Post 10722 in Pelham, New Hampshire. He served on the National Council of Administration 2012-2013, and on the District and Post Commanders, National Aide-de Camp, National Resolutions and Programs committees. He was Department Commander in 2010-2011.

Ouellette is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent 1, currently serving as the Grand Commander NH. He belongs to The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans Association, the Air Force Association and the VFW National Home for Children. He and his wife, Kate, have three sons, two granddaughters and two grandsons.

New Sculpture – "I Love My Country" – Unveiled in the Tribute Park



The VFW National Home for Children unveiled a new sculpture installed in the Tribute Park at the Annual Meeting of Life Members on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013.

The group of trustees, guests, and staff braved cold winds to take part in the sculpture ceremony. National Home Director Patrice Green and outgoing Board of Trustees President Jack McDermott spoke during the brief ceremony.

"I Love My Country" depicts a young boy, holding the American flag, stand-

ing triumphantly on a small hill, while a young girl reaches out with one hand. A plaque inscribed with the following verse is attached to the sculpture's base: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13." The sculpture is a gift of Michigan residents John and Tara LaRose. John LaRose is a Vietnam veteran and Chief Executive Officer of Celink in Lansing.

"Thank you for joining us today to express our appreciation to the LaRoses and Celink and to celebrate this wonderful new sculpture that captures the true spirit of the mission of our National Home," McDermott said.

The LaRoses were unable to attend the ceremony; in a letter to the Home, Mr. LaRose wrote the following words: "Celink has a real and ongoing commitment to good corporate citizenship and the VFW National Home's effort to assist military service men and women and their families is noble and historic work. This is work that is near and dear to our service mission and which we wholeheartedly support."

The Tribute Park is a place of quiet and beauty, designed to honor the sacrifices of others while providing stone benches, bubbling fountains, and pathways for both the Home's residents and visitors to enjoy. The park is located on the National Home's campus, and was dedicated in 2012.

Gold Star Mothers

By Gerald Gorski

In this edition of the *Michigan Overseas Veteran*, I would like to tell you about the "History" of the Gold Star Mothers. Many of us do not know why, how and when the Gold Star Mothers started. By the end of my article, I hope to give you the History of the Gold Star Mothers.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, George Vaughn Seibold, 23, volunteered, requesting assignment in aviation. He was sent to Canada where he learned to fly British planes since the United States had neither an air force nor planes. Deployed to England, he was assigned to the British Royal Flying Corps, 148th Aero Squadron. With his squadron, he left for combat duty in France. He corresponded with his family regularly. His mother, Grace Darling Seibold, began to do community service by visiting returning servicemen in the hospitals.

The mail from George stopped. Since all aviators were under British control and authority, the United States could not help the Seibold family with any information about their son.

Grace continued to visit hospitalized veterans in the Washington area, clinging to the hope that her son might have been injured and returned to the United States without any identification. While working through her sorrow, she helped ease the pain of the many servicemen who returned so war-damaged that they were incapable of every reaching normalcy.

But on October 11, 1918, George's wife in Chicago received a box marked "Effects of deceased Officer 1st Lt. George Vaughn Seibold". The Seibolds also received a confirmation of George's death on November 4th through a family member in Paris.

On Sunday, December 15, 1918, nine days before Christmas Eve, the following obituary appeared in the Washington Star newspaper:

Lieut. G. V. Seibold Killed in Action, Battling Aviator, Recently Cited for Bravery in France, Is War Victim.

Lieut. George Vaughn Seibold, battling aviator, cited for bravery in action some time ago, lost his life in a fight in the air August 26, last. His father, George G. Seibold has been officially notified of his son's death by the War Department.

Lieut. Seibold was a member of the 148th U.S. Aero Squadron. He was first reported missing in action, through a number of circumstances led to the fear that he had been killed. Hope was sustained until now, however, by the failure to receive definite word.

George's body was never identified.

Grace, realizing that self-contained grief is self-destructive, devoted her time and efforts to not only working in the hospital but extending the hand of friendship to other mothers whose sons had lost their lives in military service.

She organized a group consisting solely of these special mothers, with the purpose of not only comforting each other, but

giving loving care to hospitalized veterans confined in government hospitals far from home.

The organization was named after the Gold Star that families hung in their windows in honor of the deceased veteran.

After years of planning, June 4, 1928, twenty-five mothers met in Washington, D.C. to establish the national organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

The success of our organization continues because of the bond of mutual love, sympathy and support of the many loyal, capable and patriotic mothers who while sharing their grief and their pride, have channeled their time, efforts and gifts to lessening the pain of others.

We stand tall and proud by honoring our children, assisting our veterans, supporting our nation and healing with each other.

On May 28, 1918, President Wilson approved a suggestion made by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense that, instead of wearing conventional mourning for relatives who have died in the service of their country, American women should wear a black band on the left arm with a gilt star on the band for each member of the family who has given his life for the nation.

"The Service Flag displayed from homes, places of business, churches, schools, etc., to indicate the number of members of the family or organizations who are serving in the Armed Forces or who have died from such service. Service flags have a deep Blue Star for each living member in the service and a Gold Star for each member who has died." Thus, the Gold Star and the term Gold Star Mother, as applied to mothers whose sons or daughters died in World War I, were accepted; they have continued to be used in reference to all American military engagements since that time.

Our Michigan Gold Star Mothers' President is Carol Johnson. If you know of a Gold Star Mother, who would like to join the Gold Star Mothers - Michigan Chapter or have any questions, please contact Carol at 517-712-4574.

If your Post would like to make a donation to our Michigan Gold Star Mothers, please make your check out to "Department of Michigan VFW" and earmark it "Gold Star Mothers" and send it to "Department of Michigan V.F.W., 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906". If your Post is going for All-State this year, All-State Director Larry Thayer will give you, one point for every \$25 donated, up to a maximum of four points or \$100. Your donations go directly to our Michigan Gold Star Mothers Chapter, to help them continue visiting our veterans in the VA hospitals.

If your District or Post is having a Gold Star Mothers Memorial and/or Gold Star Mothers Banquet, please email your information to me at geraldjgorski@aol.com

God Bless our Gold Star Mothers and all they do for our Veterans at the VA Hospitals.

Police Officer, Firefighter Honored by VFW



St. Clair Shores Firefighter Geoffrey Schmueser holds his VFW Public Servant Award for Firefighter, awarded to him by Gerald Gorski, the State Surgeon for the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars, July 1. Photos by Kristyne E. Demske

By Kristyne E. Demske,
C & G Staff Writer

Taking time to thank local police and firefighters for all that they do, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars were at City Hall this month to give out two prestigious awards to St. Clair Shores' finest.

Gerald Gorski, the State Surgeon for the Michigan VFW, said each of the more than 300 Posts throughout the state nominates a police officer, firefighter and emergency medical technician from their community for consideration for the VFW Public Servant Awards. This year, St. Clair Shores was home to two out of the three winners.

The VFW Public Servant Award for Firefighter went to Firefighter Geoffrey Schmueser for "his extraordinary commitment... high degree of admiration and respect from both his peers and the local public he serves," Gorski said at the July 1 City Council meeting where the awards were presented.

"I'm truly honored...especially coming from a group like the VFW," Schmueser said. "It should be all 48 of us standing up here. It is the best job in the world."

"It truly is an honor...coming from your group - the true heroes of America."



Mayor Kip Walby and former VFW Bruce Post 1146 Commander Tara Perez look on as Police Officer Lucas Balch receives the VFW Public Servant Award for Law Enforcement from State Surgeon for the Michigan VFW Gerald Gorski.

In presenting the VFW Public Servant Award for Law Enforcement to Police Officer Lucas Balch, Gorski said he is "truly an exceptional example of all who wear the badge."

Balch also said he was "truly honored" to be recognized.

"There's a ton of guys in my department that deserve this more than me," he said. "Thank you."

VFW Bruce Post 1146 Commander Tim Litz said it was the Post's former commander, Tara Perez, who submitted nominations for the awards.

Perez said she was proud to have St. Clair Shores represented at the state level.

"You guys are right up there with us veterans, serving every day," she said.

"It's a credit to St. Clair Shores to achieve," said Mayor Kip Walby. "We just have such fine departments. It makes this community better."

Acting City Manager Mike Smith agreed.

"It's nice to get attention from a national and statewide organization. A lot of times, residents take for granted that when you dial 911, people are going to come," he said. "You're served by the highest level of professionals."

VFW's Unmet Needs Program Provides Lifeline to Veterans, Military Families

Program awards emergency grants to help cover the cost of basic necessities

February 03, 2014 - The Veterans of Foreign Wars' Unmet Needs program continues to provide financial assistance to veterans, service members and their families facing unexpected financial difficulties.

The program awards emergency grants of up to \$2,500 to help cover the cost of basic necessities, such as mortgage and rent, home and auto repairs, insurance, utilities, food and clothing. Recipients do not need to repay the grant.

"Veterans and military families often face unique situations that can suddenly leave them in a bind financially. The VFW's Unmet Needs program gives them a hand up when they need it the most. The program has truly been a god-send to many," said VFW National Com-

mander William Thien.

The program launched in 2004, and thanks to generous supporters like BURGER KING® Franchises, has awarded more than 3,500 grants totaling more than \$4.8 million. All grants are paid directly to the creditor (such as the electric company), and not to the individual.

Participating BURGER KING® Franchises have held an Unmet Needs fundraiser each November since 2007, raising more than \$2.3 million to date.

"When you're facing financial difficulties, you feel like you're drowning, like you're suffocating. The Unmet Needs program allows people to catch their breath. It gives them time to get back on their feet," explained Thien.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Veterans Service Organizations Concerned About Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Groups Call for Advance Appropriations for All VA Accounts

January 16, 2014 – WASHINGTON – Today, the co-authors of *The Independent Budget* – AMVETS, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars – expressed concern with the funding provided for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill being considered in the House and Senate. The omnibus bill provides funding levels for FY 2014 and

advance appropriations for VA medical care accounts for FY 2015 that virtually mirror the recommendations of the Administration made in April 2013.

“Unfortunately, this budget agreement contains the same inadequate funding levels proposed by the Administration for infrastructure and medical and prosthetic research. Congress needs to dramatically increase annual appropriations required to repair, renovate and replace essential

VA medical facilities as well as boost funding for life-saving and life-changing biomedical research programs.”

AMVETS National Commander John Mitchell expressed the organization’s disappointment with the Omnibus bill: “It is very disappointing that we are fully three months into the new fiscal year and critical funding needed to maintain services in the VA has yet to be provided.”

While the veterans’ organizations doubt that the funding levels for medical care for FY 2014 and the advance appropriations for FY 2015 are sufficient to meet the continually growing demand on the VA, they expressed serious concerns with the reduction of funding particularly for Major Construction, as well as similar cuts in Medical Facilities. The Omnibus bill provides only \$342 million for Major Construction, nearly \$800 million less than what The Independent Budget for FY 2014 recommends, and billions less than the true need for construction funding. Additionally, the bill would slash funding for Medical Facilities, reducing that account by nearly \$500 million.

DAV National Commander Joseph W. Johnston urged the following: “Unfortunately, this budget agreement contains the same inadequate funding levels proposed by the Administration for infrastructure and medical and prosthetic research. Congress needs to dramatically increase annual appropriations required to repair, renovate and replace essential VA medical facilities as well as boost funding for life-saving and life-changing biomedical research programs.”

While the veterans groups appreciate the modest increases provide Medical Services and the Veterans Benefits

Administration, as well as Information Technology, they emphasized that more must be done. Specifically, the organizations have called for passage of legislation in the House and Senate (H.R. 813 and S. 932, respectively) that would make all of the accounts of the VA advance appropriations. Currently, only the medical care accounts are funded through advance appropriations.

Paralyzed Veterans’ National President Bill Lawson stated the following: “The last couple of years have clearly shown the benefits to the VA of having the health care system funded by advance appropriations. The VA health care system has been shielded from the severe negative consequences of political gridlock that ultimately led to a partial government shutdown last fall. It is time that the rest of the VA is afforded the same protection.”

The organizations will release the 28th edition of *The Independent Budget* – a comprehensive budget and policy document written by veterans for veterans – in February 2014. The document will once again call for sufficient, timely and predictable funding to be provided for all VA programs. Additionally, it will emphasize the need to end the partisan warfare that has jeopardized the health care and benefits of the men and women who have served and sacrificed for this country.

VFW National Commander William A. Thien expressed the following: “Our organizations and the millions of veterans we represent will no longer tolerate Congress leveraging veterans’ health and wellbeing to achieve unrelated political ends. It is time for Congress to put the interests of veterans and their families ahead of their own.”

Show Veterans and Service Members They Matter

January 13, 2014 – When it comes to supporting veterans and service members who face difficult challenges, we’re all in this together. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) urges everyone to stay alert for signs of crisis in veterans and service members and be prepared to help them access the support they have earned. It Matters: Because one small act can make the difference.

If a veteran you know is showing signs of crisis, such as expressing hopelessness, experiencing anxiety, or withdrawing from family members and friends, call on the Veterans Crisis Line. This VA call center is staffed by caring professionals – some of them veterans themselves – who are ready to listen, provide support and connect veterans to VA resources in their local area.

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that veterans and service members in need and their loved ones can access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can call on

behalf of a veteran or encourage the veteran to call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255 for free, confidential support.

Help spread the word to veterans in your community by visiting VeteransCrisisLine.net/SpreadtheWord and downloading free Veterans Crisis Line materials. If your local VFW Post would like to sponsor an event on suicide prevention and invite someone from VA to speak, use the site’s resource locator to find your local Suicide Prevention Coordinator who can talk about VA resources and train people to recognize the signs of crisis.

To stay informed about this topic year-round, sign up for quarterly emails about the Veterans Crisis Line to be the first to hear about news and tools to help raise awareness of this lifesaving resource.

Tell the veterans and service members you know and love: Support is just a call, click or text away. It Matters.

VFW Announces Recipients of New Veteran Scholarship

43 veterans awarded scholarships for the 2014 spring semester

January 28, 2014 – KANSAS CITY, MO – The Veterans of Foreign Wars is pleased to announce the first-ever VFW “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” recipients. In all, 43 veterans were awarded this veterans-only scholarship, of up to \$5,000 each, to help cover the cost of school tuition and fees for the 2014 spring semester.

The VFW “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” program launched last fall with nearly 400 applicants. Both the VFW and Sport Clips Haircuts expect the program to grow as more veterans become aware of it.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall semester; the deadline to apply is April 30. For more information, including eligibility criteria, visit vfw.org/scholarship

“The VFW is here to support our veterans as they transition to civilian life, and we know education is a crucial element to ensuring they succeed. The GI Bill is fantastic, but it has its limits, and this scholarship will help fill the gaps for so many veterans,” said VFW National

Commander Bill Thien.

Sport Clips provides funding for the program through its annual “Help A Hero” campaign. In 2013, more than 1,000 Sport Clips locations across the nation raised more than \$500,000 to benefit the program. Donations were collected in stores and at local fundraising events in the fall with efforts culminating Veterans Day, on Sport Clips’ “Biggest Haircut Day of the Year.” Stores donated a dollar from every haircut service to the scholarship program.

“Our scholarship recipients’ post-military career aspirations may vary, but the drive to make our country proud and make a contribution – this time, as civilians – is something they all have in common,” says Sport Clips CEO and Founder Gordon Logan, a U.S. Air Force veteran and lifetime member of the VFW. “It’s an honor for Sport Clips to join the VFW in this effort to support our nation’s heroes, and we’re grateful to our franchisees, team members, clients, and others for their contributions to make these scholarships possible.”

VFW Applauds New GI Bill Comparison Tool

New one-stop resource helps student veterans compare schools

February 04, 2014 – WASHINGTON – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is applauding today’s roll out of a new comparison tool to help student veterans compare GI Bill-eligible institutions from one online site. The comparison tool was the VFW’s second major education reform priority over the past two years to help provide better information to college-bound veterans.

“By offering student veterans better comparison information, we help them to choose the right schools and programs that match their goals,” said VFW National Commander William A. Thien. “In the past, veterans who wanted to use their GI Bill educational benefits would have to search through three different government agencies to find all of the information they can now find in a few simple clicks on the new Department of Veterans Affairs comparison tool.”

The new online comparison tool allows veterans to logon, enter a brief description of their military service, then choose among more than 6,000 GI

Bill-eligible programs. The comparison tool then shows veterans what kind of reimbursement they can receive through the Post-9/11 GI Bill; how much they will receive in books and living stipends; how many GI Bill recipients currently attend the school; whether or not the school participates in VA’s Principles of Excellence or Yellow Ribbon Program; and how the school compares to similar institutions in graduation rates and financial assistance.

The new comparison tool is the second of two major consumer resources set into motion by a 2012 presidential executive order and codified through the Improving Transparency in Education for Veterans Act of 2012. Along with its partners from Student Veterans of America and the American Legion, the VFW worked closely with the White House and legislators to craft and implement both the executive order and the Transparency Act. Last week, the VFW applauded VA’s announcement of the first consumer resource, a secure, online complaint system to report fraud, waste and abuse.

VFW Calls GI Bill Complaint System A 'Game-Changer'

New system will allow student veterans to report fraud, waste and abuse

January 30, 2014 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is applauding today's roll out of a new consolidated complaint system to help the Department of Veterans Affairs and its partner agencies weed out fraud, waste and abuse among those organizations and educational institutions that serve student veterans. The new complaint system was a cornerstone of the VFW's education reform priorities over the past two years, and is a joint effort between VA and the departments of Defense, Education and Justice, as well as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission.

"For years the VFW was concerned that some in higher education were out to exploit our veterans and their lucrative benefits programs like the Post-9/11 GI Bill," said VFW National Commander William A. Thien. "This new complaint process will be a game-changer for student veterans, who in the past didn't have a standardized or secure system for reporting alleged abuses."

The centralized complaint system allows veterans, service members and eligible dependents – who use GI Bill benefits, military tuition assistance or other federal aid programs – to report fraud, waste and

abuse in a secure, online mode. Once a complaint is filed, VA and its partner agencies, to include law enforcement, can gather the information needed to identify and directly address unfair or misleading practices in higher education, as well as help ensure schools deliver quality academic, trade, and associated support services to student veterans. Veterans who file complaints may remain anonymous, but those who wish to leave contact information can be confident that the system adheres to strict federal privacy guidelines to prevent against retaliation.

The new complaint process was one of two major consumer resources set into motion by a 2012 presidential executive order and codified through the Improving Transparency in Education for Veterans Act of 2012. Along with its partners from Student Veterans of America and the American Legion, the VFW worked closely with the White House and legislators to craft and implement both the executive order and the Transparency Act. In the coming weeks, the VFW anticipates that VA will launch a second major consumer resource, a GI Bill Comparison Tool to help veterans compare GI Bill-eligible education programs before choosing to enroll.

Department of Michigan VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary 94th Department Convention Ad Book

Comrades/Sisters We Need Your Support

Deadline: April 1, 2014

RATES:

Full Page: \$100.00

Half Page: \$75.00

Quarter Page: \$50.00

Patron: \$10.00 (Name and Post or Auxiliary Number Only)

PLEASE PRINT – DO NOT WRITE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Department of Michigan VFW
(NO CASH)

MAIL TO:

Matt David, 10 Elder Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Deadline for all Ads is April 1, 2014

MESSAGE: (Print clearly or attach copy of your ad)

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan State Convention

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre

Wednesday, June 4 – Sunday, June 8, 2013

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION IS May 14, 2014

Mail or Fax Reservation to:
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5353 Gateway Centre, Flint, MI 48507
Fax: 810-232-9806

Make checks payable to: Holiday Inn Gateway Centre

A deposit of one night or a Major Credit card is required! (NO CASH).

Reservation will not be guaranteed without a form of payment.

DO NOT make reservation through the Holiday Inn 1-800 reservation number as we are contracted ONLY with this Holiday Inn for this special rate.

Please specify if a barrier-free room (handicapped) is required. If you need a Barrier-Free Room check here _____.

ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$80.00 +tax	\$80.00 + tax	\$80.00 + tax	\$80.00 + tax

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Phone: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

District # _____ Post # _____ Your office in VFW/Aux _____

Credit Card type _____ Card # _____

Exp Date _____ Date of Arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

ATTENTION:

If you want a Hospitality Room for the Convention, you must contact:
Convention Director Paul Patterson at 586-202-7776 or pattersond5@aol.com

If you are a current member of the VFW/AUX Council of Administration, please check _____

Please return completed form to:

Holiday Inn
5353 Gateway Centre
Flint, MI 48507



Holiday Inn

Front Desk: 810-232-5300
Fax: 810-232-9806

Please use your group code when making your reservation
GROUP CODE: VFW



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EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letter column and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

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TAPS

SEND TO:

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Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 485-9456

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for the Taps that you send in.

Send completed form to: VFW of Michigan, 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post #)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):

USA USAAC USN

USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):

WWI WWII Korea

Vietnam Gulf Other

Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY



345-REDFORD

HOLMES, JACK D., SR., 65, USA/VIETNAM
LOWE, LESLIE J. JR., 88, USA/WWII
MACGREGOR, JAMES R., 66, USA/VIETNAM
MCCOY, JAMES J., 93, USCG/WWII
THOMPSON, LYLE R., 90, USA/WWII

446-MUSKEGON

BARBER, LEONARD, 88, USA/WWII
MORROW, RAYMOND, 88, USMC/WWII
POLHAMUS, EUGENE, 86, USA/GERMANY

701-LANSING

THAYER, DAVID JR., 66, USA/VIETNAM

796-PORT HURON

GRAHAM, DONALD S., 89, USAAF/WWII
PRYOR, RONALD, 85, USN/WWII

1075-HARRISON

GILBERT, CLARENCE, 83, USA/KOREA
SMITH, EDWARD, 71, USA/VIETNAM

1136-WYANDOTTE

HUTSON, GARY, 63, USMC/VIETNAM
KNAPP, ERICH, 87, USA/WWII
WOJTKOWIAK, RAYMOND, 93, USA/WWII

1138-MONROE

BASILE, BARTHOLOMEW, 90, USN/WWII
CAPPUCCILLI, CORADO, 83, USAF/KOREA
KIRKPATRICK, LLOYD, 89, USA/WWII
MIGLIORE, JOSEPH, 93, USA/WWII
MONTGOMERY, RICHARD, 81, USA/KOREA
PALMITER, CALVIN, 88, USA/WWII
STROUD, LARRY, 69, USAF/VIETNAM

1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES

LEIJA, FELIX, 90, USA/WWII
STASHUK, STEVE, 91, USA/WWII

1452-CLIO

PITMAN, HARRY K., 95, USA/WWII

1519-DETROIT

PLETCHER, WILLIAM V., WWII
SVABIK, JOSEPH, 88, USA/WWII

1566-SAGINAW

JARECKI, JERRY J., 72, USMC/VIETNAM
MAINPRIZE, JACK E., 90, USAAF/WWII

1669-ROYAL OAK

BUJOLD, DONALD, 92, USN/WWII
GRIER, WILLIAM M., 69, USA/VIETNAM
WENTZ, CONRAD, 87, USN/WWII

1855-DOWAGIAC

ARTER, GLENN, 87, USN
STARRETT, LAWRENCE, 87, USA/WWII

1887-MENOMINEE

UECKE, JAMES, 86, USN/WWII

1888-TRENTON

COHOON, BENJAMIN S., 36, USMC/IRAQ
ZOUYRAS, GUST, 87, USMC/WWII/KOREA

2107-DEARBORN

RONEY, THOMAS, 84, USA/KOREA
SIERACKI, JAMES, 84, USA/KOREA
URDA, MIKE, 97, USA/WWII

2144-HOLLAND

GROTENHUIS, ANDREW, USMC/WWII
SULLIVAN, PHILIP, USA/VIETNAM

2358-ROSEVILLE

GALINSKAS, LEONDAS
YANDURA, DONALD, 67, USAF/VIETNAM

2409-OTTER LAKE

MC DOWELL, LELAND, 81, USA/KOREA

2725-FRANKENMUTH

COOPER, JIMMIE, 90, USN/WWII

2780-TRAVERSE CITY

MARQUIS, WILLIAM, 87, USAF/WWII/KOREA
WESTCOTT, CHARLES, 60, USAF

2891-CRYSTAL FALLS

BAUER, CALVIN, 89, USA/WWII

2964-REED CITY

THIREY, JACK, 87, USN/WWII

3030-OTSEGO

FREDERICK, JOHN, 86, USA/KOREA

3055-ST. LOUIS

MUSCOTT, LARRY, 64, USA

3293-GRAND LEDGE

DUBOIS, LEONARD A., USMC

3314-ARCADIA

BAKER, WILLIAM J., 80, USN/USAF/KOREA/
VIETNAM

3667-ALLEGAN

KIZER, ROBERT, 80, USA/KOREA

3676-SAULT STE MARIE

COUTANT, BLAIR L., 96, USN/WWII

3733-FOWLER

FEDEWA, HILARY J., 92, USN/WWII
SMITH, LAVERN D., 87, USA/WWII

3735-OSCODA

MERRIFIELD, JAMES, 87, USN/WWII

3736-GRAYLING

CAMPBELL, DONALD, 75, USA/KOREA

3897-L'ANSE

GAZELL, MICHAEL, 93, USA/WWII

3925-ERIE

GERWECK, WARREN, 82, USMC/KOREA

3941-LIVONIA

ALONZO, DAVID, JR., USA/KOREA
BRANDERMIHL, FRANK, 87, USMC/WWII
DALIAN, GEORGE, 80, USA/WWII
DANIELS, LEONARD J., USA/KOREA
DUTCHER, EUGENE, 85, USA/WWII
HILDEBRANDT, PHILLIP, 80, USMC/WWII
JANES, EDGAR, WWII
KOMOS, JOSEPH, 87, USA/WWII
LYNN, KENNETH G., WWII
MILAN, CHARLES M.
MONDO, CHARLES B.USA/WWII
PUSHIES, WARREN E., WWII
RAMIREZ, SAMUEL
VARNER, CARL, KOREA

4005-CORUNNA

FLORINCHI, JOHN, 88, USN/WWII
SCHOOLEY, FORD, 85, USA/KOREA

4034-HOUGHTON LAKE

PODESKI, JAMES, 82, USA/KOREA

4054-MARCELLUS

DONOHOO, WILLIAM, 65, USN/VIETNAM

4063-PERRY

CORDS, JAMES, 67, USMC/VIETNAM

4106-WEIDMAN

KREMSREITER, HERMAN A., 92, USA/WWII
SIMMER, PAUL H., 87, USA/WWII

4159-ROSCOMMON

CLARK, JOSEPH, 84, USMC/KOREA
COOPER, GERALD, 93, USA/WWII
DICKINSON, CLAUDE, 91, USN/WWII
MARTINAK, FRANCIS J., 84, USN/VIETNAM
STODGEL, WILLIAM, 68, USA

4164-CARO

URBAN, WALTER A., 69, USN/VIETNAM

4249-NEWAYGO

ANDERSON, ROLAND, 67, USA/VIETNAM
MYERS, ORSON, 88, USN/WWII
ROBINSON, KENNETH D., 71, USA/VIETNAM

4357-BRIGHTON

GRICE, JOHN G., 66, USAF/VIETNAM

4461-LAKE ODESSA

REESE, BOB, 75, USA/KOREA

4499-MANISTEE

FULLER, GRANT N., 86, USMC/WWII
GUTOWSKI, EDMUND, 93, USA/WWII
ROUSTER, LEROY J., 87, USN/WWII
SULLIVAN, PHILLIP H., 65, USA/VIETNAM

4624-HUBBELL

STRIETER, JAN K., SR., 66, USMC/VIETNAM

5065-SHERIDAN

CHISM, MORTON E., 90, USA/WWII
CHRISTENSEN, JOHN J., 93, USA/WWII
DOOLITTLE, GARY L., 65, USA/VIETNAM
MCCRACKEN, JOHN, 90, USA/WWII
SCHULTZ, NORMAN E., 88, USA/WWII
SECOR, JOHN D., 90, USN/WWII
SHINDORF, JOSEPH A., 92, USN/WWII
VAN OCKER, ERNEST J., 86, USAF/WWII
WANDEL, THEODORE J., 92, USA/WWII

5114-ST. IGNACE

THOMAS, LEONARD, 89, USA/WWII

5189-VICKSBURG

HAZEN, CHARLES, 78, USA/GERMANY
SMITH, GERALD, 72, VIETNAM

5319-ATHENS

BOWMAN, MAX, 89, USN/WWII/KOREA
PHILO, RICHARD, 85, USN/KOREA

5602-SIX LAKES

CHUBB, STEPHEN, 65, USA/VIETNAM

5666-FLUSHING

GULLSTRAND, KENNETH, 93, USAF/WWII
ZVONEK, DONNIE, 64, USA/VIETNAM

5670-GWINN

BAUMANN, LEANDER, 93, USAAF/KOREA
VALENTE, JOHN G., 97, USA/WWII
WINTER, JACOB, 92, USA/WWII

5678-TAWAS CITY

BERRY, LEROY, 81, USA/KOREA

5977-MILAN

STAULTER, DONALD, 87, USN/WWII

6134-PULLMAN,

BRANT, RONALD D., 57, USA/VIETNAM

6248-DECATUR

FUSKO, GEORGE, 72, USN/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

6250-STERLING HEIGHTS

MILLER, ERIC, 90, USAF/WWII

6464-FOWLerville

HANCOCK, DANNY

6579-NEW LOTHROP

SHANNON, TIMOTHY L., 68, VIETNAM

6691-FRASER

BENNETT, HAROLD C., 87, USA/WWII
HELM, GEORGE G. JR., 68, USN/VIETNAM

6695-PLYMOUTH

ARCHER, KENNETH J., 93, USN/WWII
JOHNSON, DUANE, 87, USN/WWII
KUCHAREK, FLORIAN, 84, USA/KOREA
O'CONNELL, THOMAS, 86, USA/WWII
PETRINI, CHARLES, 89, USA/WWII
WARD, CARL, 86, USN/WWII

6754-SPRUCE

BUNDY, MYRON, 88, USA/WWII
GAUTHIER, JOSEPH, 88, USN/WWII

6756-CENTER LINE

ESTEP, CHARLES E. JR., 67, USA/VIETNAM
MORTENSEN, ROY, 84, USA/KOREA

6864-CADILLAC

HALL, DOUGLAS, 65, USA/VIETNAM
RICHARDSON, LOUIS, SR., 81, USA/KOREA

7302-HEMLOCK

DAMER, DONALD, 87, USAAF/WWII
JOHNSON, ROBERT, 84, USA/KOREA
NIERSEL, MARTIN, 63, USA/VIETNAM
OHMAN, WILLIAM, 83, USN/KOREA

7309-MASON

GLYNN, BENJAMIN, 68, USN/VIETNAM
HARRISON, JAMES, 67, USAF/VIETNAM
KILBOURN, ADOLPHUS, 94, USA/WWII
PHILLIPS, FRANCIS, 89, USA

7493-INTERLOCHEN

ANDERSEN, BRUCE H., SR., 87, USA/WWII
RHODES, DEAN D., 78, USA/KOREA

7542-BIRCH RUN

GUNNELS, DEAN A., 63, USA/VIETNAM

7546-DEARBORN HEIGHTS

TUROWSKI, STANLEY, 89, USA/WWII

7646-PELKIE, NOVEY

ERNEST, JR., 80, USAF/KOREA/VIETNAM

7804-POSEN

FLANNER, LEROY W., 90, USA/WWII
KONWINSKI, THOMAS F., 78, USN/VIETNAM

7979-EVART

KEYSER, LLOYD, 87, USA/WWII
PHENIX, LESTER, 96, USA/WWII

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8236-FLINT LA ROWE, WILLIAM, 88, USA/WWII	8872-PORT SANILAC DOWD, ALLEN, 90, USAAF/WWII SCHLICHTING, HAROLD, 87, USA/WWII	9084-WAKEFIELD GOETZ, ROBERT C., 85, USA/WWII RANDALL, ROGER, 91, USA/WWII 9568-ROMULUS PREIS, HELMUT, 69, USMC/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	10912-BLISSFIELD HACKER, DANIEL B., JR., 83, USA/KOREA
8372-ENGADINE DAILEY, FRANK, 84, USA/KOREA SHOEMAKER, HAROLD, 86, USA/WWII	9021-WARREN ADAMSKI, EDWARD, USN/WWII BRZOZOWSKI, THOS DENEWETH, JAMES, VIETNAM GODLESKI, LUDWIG KOPITZKE, RAYMOND MIKULA, GEORGE OPARKA, THEODORE	9656-LAMBERTVILLE CAPOUCH, RAYMOND, 69, USMC/VIETNAM MCDONALD, PETER, 79, USA/USAAF/KOREA	15023-LANSING ARENS, JOSEPH, 90, USA/WWII JOHNSON, MELVIN, 83, USAF/KOREA WALLIS, JAMES, 80, USA
8594-YALE HANSMAN, LEONARD, 92, USA/WWII WILSON, FREDERIC JR., 44, USN	9023-BRIMLEY PAULSEN, LARRY, 72, USA/VIETNAM	9885-WESTLAND KINGSTON, FRED W., 87, USN/WWII	
8846-MUSKEGON FULLER, CHARLES, 90, USN/WWII JORGENSEN, EARL C., 86, USAAF/WWII			

Auxiliary TAPS

1138-Monroe Ferguson, Elsie Zenz, Helen	2272-Durand Johnson, Geraldine Johnson, Jean Sites, Beverly	3033-Mt. Pleasant Abbott, Ruth Fussman, Leona Rice, Marguerite	3734-Muskegon Zufelt, Jean	4406-Belding Carlson, Delene Holt, Karen	7581-Wayland Inverso, Kay Terry, Charlotte
1146-St. Clair Shores Beaver, Ollie Breemeersch, Mary Brown, Goldie Going, Anita Ickes, Dolores Ann Swiontek, Dorothy Zanger, Mary	2284-Edwardsburg Bennett, Sandra	3039-Farwell Fick, Frances	3735-Oscoda Hook, Janet Speakman, Marilyn	4499-Manistee Gielczyk, Janice	7804-Posen Adamczyk, Clara
1452-Clio Davis, Barbara	2326-Grand Haven Kubicek, Irene Walczak, Alicia Weise, Betty	3165-Negaunee Burdick, Sharon, 66 Cote, Adeline, 88 Pleaugh, Ruth , 90 Ray, Marian L, 72 Wills, Edith H, 91	3775-West Branch Willett, Amelia	5315-Baldwin Dood, Pamela Metcalf, Letha Russell, Bessie	8260-Nashville Cardenas, Marlene
1519-Northville Ferguson, Dolores Joyce, Thelma Loeffler, Ann Tilney, Dorothy Trudell LaMee, Doris	2335-Mecosts Adams, Christine, 87	3195-Muskegon Holmes, Clara	3925-Erie Bonneau, Judith Grodi, Clarabell Roper, Elizabeth	5602-Six Lakes Brown, Arlene	8372-Engadine Adler, Florence Fraleigh, Nona Gunders, Shirley LaFond, Carol
1584-Adrian Boone, Berniece Sue Hawley, Mary O’Bryant, Mary Smith, Wilma Thieret, JoAnne	2356-Hillman Huff, Olga	3243-Fenton Borski, Celia Arbutice Deeb, Elsie, 93 LaBoskey, Catherine, 91 Phelps, Evelyn	4005-Corunna Flagg, Audrey	6165-South Range Pintar, Jenness Raisanen, Josephine	9023-Brimley Nayback, Irene
1887-Menominee Caylor, Dolores	2496-Alpena Little, Harriet Mae	3256-Montague Goerbig, Clara	4087-Davison Getty, Susan Holloway, Norene Hook, Rose	6248-Decatur Wintrolik, Myrtle	9283-Southgate Luttrell, Janice St. Pierre, Mary West, Marguerite
2144-Holland VandeVusse, Sharon, 64	2645-Southfield Meng, Mabel	3651-Midland Cross, Connie	4090-Portland Beard, Mavis Goodman, Betty Hoppes, Patricia McClung, Joyce Menold, Phyllis	6252-Comstock Benavidez, Cynthia	9455-Owosso Collard, Judy Ann Cummings, Kathryn
2233-Detroit Gillis, Beatrice Hawkins, Lucinda	2780-Traverse City Lanning, Francis Walter, Kathryn White, Marilyn	3675-Boyne City Brannon, Irene Watson, Carol	4093-Carleton Hause, Mary	6464-Fowlerville Ogden, Marie	9809-Saginaw Bazilsky, Viola
2269-Wixom Stafford, Joyce	2891-Crystal Falls Jackson, Helen, 91 Pivatto, Darlene, 89 Rosa, Helen, 88 Stanek, Mary, 92	3676-Sault Ste. Marie Elkins, Lorna	4126-Mio Handrich, Altna	6579-New Lothrop Clark, Bertha Engstrom, Carol	10704-Cassapolis Strong, Dora
	2945-Sandusky Spranger, Christine	3701-Lakeview Jorgensen, Barbara	4159-Roscommon Abel, Donna	6950-Kawkawlin Hubert, Dolores	15023-Member At Large Rogers, Nancy
	3023-Grand Rapids McDonald, Alma, 84 VanPutten, Patricia, 78	3727-Holt Glasovatz, Elizabeth Miller, Donna Moore, Elna	4249-Newaygo Wyman Meff, Elizabeth	7309-Mason Surateaux, Helen	51224-South Lyon Goodnuff, Theresa Skrlec, Nell
				7435-Hale Waynee, Evelena	54156-White Lake Mitchell, Sandra
				7486-Fairgrove Cramer, Donna, 83	

Support Our Troops

Stephen Bilan
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Quartermaster
2014-2015



Endorsed and supported by:
5th District
Macomb & Oakland County Councils
Post 6250
His wife and family

Jerry Gorski
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2014-2015



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Macomb & Oakland County Councils
Post 6250
His fiancé and family

Phil Merrow
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2014-2015



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Mayflower-Lt. Gamble Post 6695
His wife and family



Jennifer Smith
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
2014-2015



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Post 701
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Leon Hinkle
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
2014-2015



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Oakland County Council
VFW Post 9021
His family

Della Steege
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Guard
2014-2015



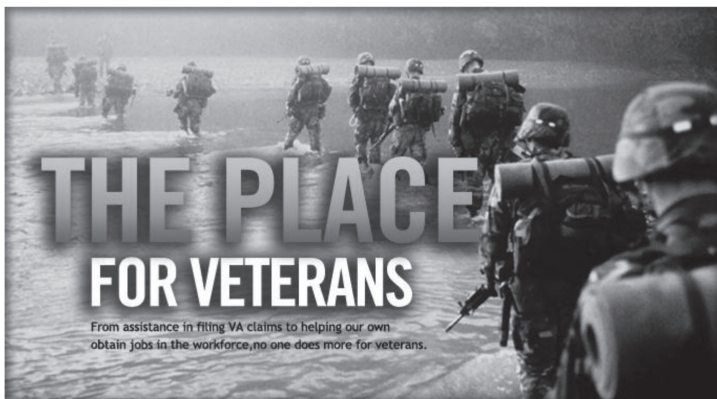
Endorsed and supported by:
9th District
Corunna Auxiliary 4005
Her loving husband and family

Jerry Smith
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Surgeon
2014-2015



Endorsed and supported by:
8th District
Post 7581
His wife and family

MAKE A LASTING GIFT



The VFW has been providing services to and for veterans for over 100 years. The original members who envisioned what this organization would be, and worked to build it, are long gone but their legacy remains.

You too have contributed to the legacy of the VFW during your lifetime. Consider continuing that legacy after you are gone. A simple way to do that is to include the VFW in your estate plans. For more information on how to make simple, smart gifts that benefit both the VFW and your family, contact our Planned Giving Office at 816-968-1119, by email at plannedgiving@vfw.org, or go to our website at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS



We Protect Our Own.

When you donate to VFW mailings, the money stays in our Department, helping veterans right here at home.

Our programs depend on members like YOU. Please be as generous as you can.



Devereaux/Malick Joint Testimonial Housing Form

WHERE:

Gateway Holiday Inn
5353 Gateway Circle
Flint, MI 48507
810-232-5300

WHEN:

April 25-27, 2014
ROOM RATE: \$89.00 per night plus tax.

To Make Your Housing Reservation, You Must Contact The Hotel Directly By Calling 810-232-5300.
(Please do not make your reservations online or call the 1-800 Holiday Inn and speak with Central Reservations as you will not receive the VFW Rate for this event)

If you are interested in a suite, please contact
Patrick Patterson at 586-202-7776.

JOINT TESTIMONIAL Honoring

RON DEVEREAUX
State Commander

MARILYN MALICK
State President

AD BOOK REQUEST

Full Page \$100.00 Half Page \$50.00
Quarter Page \$35.00 Patron Ad \$4.00

Deadline for Ads – April 5, 2014

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Devereaux/Malick Testimonial

Please send ad with check to:
Scott Gloger
6718 Academy
Brighton, MI 48116
Email: lingloscot@yahoo.com

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

Size of Ad Requested: _____ Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____
(name/phone number)

*Please attach message, special artwork
or list of patrons on a separate sheet.
Every attempt will be made to use special artwork if a
quality original is provided, and in a digital format.*

Joint Testimonial Banquet

Department of Michigan
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and Ladies Auxiliary

Honoring
Commander Ron Devereaux
President Marilyn Malick

April 25-27, 2014
Gateway Holiday Inn
5353 Gateway Circle
Flint, MI 48507

April 26th
Banquet 6:00 p.m.

Social Hour 5:00-6:00 p.m. with Cash Bar
Banquet will be open seating
Price \$35.00 per person/no tickets sold at the door

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING TICKETS – APRIL 10, 2014

Dinner Tickets will be picked up at the door

Entertainment in hospitality room following the banquet
Attire will be Casual (No Ties & No Jeans)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Dist # _____ Post # _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Number Tickets _____

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Devereaux/Malick Testimonial

Mail to: John & Kerry Spens
22634 Madison Street, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2330

Joint Testimonial Golf Outing

Where: The Jewel of Grand Blanc
5270 Perry Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-694-5960

When: April 26, 2014
Tee Off Time: 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$35.00 Per Golfer, \$140.00 Per Team of Four

Cost Includes: 18 Holes of Golf with Cart and
Hot Dogs and Chips on the Turn



Captain Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Player's Name: _____

Player's Name: _____

Player's Name: _____

POC: Scott Hoag 586-651-8228 / 586-727-1436

Please Make Check Out To: VFW Post 6802

Send the bottom portion of this flyer with check to:
VFW Post 6802
Attn: Golf Outing
34339 32 Mile Road, Richmond, MI 48062

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• *Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community* •
January/February / March 2014
Volume 81 Number 3


Every Hero Needs a Hero

The VFW knows that when many of our defenders return from battle they'll still have to fight. Fight for quality medical care. Fight for fair and timely benefits. Fight to ensure their spouses and children will be cared for, always.


Thankfully, they're never alone. They have VFW service officers on their side.

Please support the National Veterans Service. Your generosity helps so many veterans right here in our state.

You never know when you—or your closest comrades—might need a hero on your side.



**Helping
our
Heroes**



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



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STATE COMMANDER

I wish to congratulate all the participants in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs; it was a great joy to meet each of you. To the two state winners, good luck in Washington, D.C. at the national competition with the other Department winners.

Membership. We all know that membership is the life of this organization. We have to work harder to keep the members we have now and to recruit new members. The strength of this organization is with a strong Post that is working together for the common good of all its members, and all of the veterans in the VFW.

Comrades, soon we will be having nomination and elections of Post and District officers for the next year. I ask each of you to get involved and to take an active part, for each and every one of you are important to the success of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At the Mid-Winter Conference it was passed on



**Ron
Devereaux**
State Commander

the floor by the Council of Administration to fix the Department web site. We hope to have the new site up by April 1st, so that it can be tested and have the bugs out of the systems by June 1 when it will go online for the next year. If you have something that you would like see on the new website, please call Department Headquarters.

Remember, I am available at any time; my address, phone number and e-mail is in the department roster. But please, no more calls because you didn't get a full glass of beer.

And remember the snow will go away and the sun will shine again...I HOPE.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

