

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

April/May/June 2015

Volume 82 Number 4



## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

As we come to the end of the year, I would personally like to thank everyone for all of their hard work on achieving all the goals that were set before you, not only from the State level but also from National. I know that we are still a little short on membership but there is still time, so please do not give up and push to meet our goal.

I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves at the Commanders and President Testimonial. It was a special time to thank them both for a good year under their leadership and to enjoy each other's company. It was good to see that the attendance was up from past year's and I hope that everyone finds the conference's more informational with new ideas that will help keep your posts up to date and in compliance with all the new state laws.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention. I would personally like to congratulate all the newly elected officers at the post and district levels for stepping forward

**Paul McIvor**

Senior Vice Commander



to lead their posts & districts on this upcoming year.

I have chosen three words that will help each and every one of us make it through this next year. They are Respect, Honor, and Integrity. If we use these three words in our everyday actions, in our posts, and in our communities, we can make our year a successful one. Let us try and improve our posts and districts in all standings and show our national organizational that we are a strong state, choosing to help veterans and their families.

As I close I want to thank all of you for all that you do and continue to do for veterans and their families.

It is about to get busy for all of us. State Convention is coming up and there are a ton of things to get done before we get there. Remember to get your election report in ASAP. It is due to National and Department by 1 June 2015. The sooner we get it the sooner you will get the new Commanders Roster.

Delegate fees must be into Department by 20 May 2015. The National Manual of Procedures states in Section 222 (b.) page 74. "Post delegates and alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty days prior to the Department Convention with one delegate and one alternate for each thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election." "Delegates and alternates of each Post shall be members in good standing in the respective Post within the Department." The delegate registration fee shall be forwarded by every Post regardless of the number of delegates

**Lynn Patterson**

Department Quartermaster



present at the annual Department Convention, and must be in the hands of the Department Quartermaster not later than fifteen days before the convening of the Department Convention. Post failing to forward the full delegate registration fee shall be considered delinquent and in arrears."

Bonds were a big issue this year. The Department Bond runs from 1 September to 31 August. Applications for the bonds will be sent out the beginning of August to the Post Quartermaster. If you have an outside bond PLEASE send us a copy of your bond. This needs to be done every year. There is a due date of 1 September to be back at Department HQs.

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

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

This is my last article for the 2014-2015 year, as your Department Junior Vice Commander. It has been a very busy year for me. I thoroughly enjoyed traveling throughout the State of Michigan visiting posts, councils, and districts and also their events. I met a lot of great comrades, sisters, and brothers throughout the year. I look forward to meeting more comrades, sisters, and brothers in 2015-2016 as your Department Senior Vice Commander.

By the time you read my article, the new officers for 2015-2016 will have already been elected and installed at our posts, councils, and districts. I want to first congratulate each and every new officer and chairperson. Please learn and understand your duties and responsibilities well, so you, your post, your council, your district, and your Department will be successful throughout 2015-2016. Please make sure your Election Reports are submitted to National, Department and your District Commander. Department will receive your Election Reports "electronically," once you submit them to National "electronically". If you have a Men's Auxiliary, they will also have to submit their Election reports to National, Department, Council, and their Post Commander. Also, please make sure, you send in your Delegate Fees for Department and National Convention. You must pay your Delegate Fees even if you do not send somebody to the conventions.

When I first started writing my article, I was sitting at home and watching the "March Madness" NCAA Basketball Tournament. I watched the #7 Seed Michigan State Team beat the #3 Seed Virginia Team 60 to 54. This was an Upset! There also have been other upsets. The Teams that were "not" ranked high "beat" the Teams that were ranked high. I kept thinking to myself, this is just like our Membership in the Department of Michigan. WE are also a TEAM. We are made up of many players, which are the Members of our Posts. WE, the Department of Michigan, will not WIN unless every Team Member at our Posts does their part. If any Post fails, this will affect their Council, their District and the Department of Michigan from WINNING. Please help your Post, your Council, your District and your Department of Michigan WIN!

**Jerry Gorski**

Junior Vice Commander



I would like to talk more about our Membership. I know you heard this phrase time and time again but I will continue to say it again and again, "Membership is the life blood of our organization." At the time of this writing, March 22, 2015, the VFW Department of Michigan is currently 36th in the nation at 93.54%. We were 28th in my last article. So, we lost some ground. WE are at 46,361 members and WE need to "beat" last year's 49,562 members. WE are 3,201 members "short" of achieving 100%. Our 1st Place District is still District 13 at 97.69%. The 2nd Place District is still District 10 at 95.22%. Our 3rd Place District is still District 5 at 94.52%. WE have Veteran Brothers and Sisters out there that are waiting to be signed up. WE need to let these Veterans know that WE are here for them and that WE need them. Before WE ask people why they should join us, WE need to be able to answer the simple question: "Why do you need us?" Each of you has a different way of recruiting members. Again, it does not matter if you sign up a new member for your Post "or" for another Post in Michigan. Just please sign up a New Member for the Department of Michigan. Thank You! Just think, if every VFW member throughout Michigan signed up just (1) New Member, the Department of Michigan would be well "over" 100% in Membership. Oh yes, I forgot to mention, I signed up another New Member, my Step-Brother Joel L. Milot, a Vietnam Veteran, who I have not seen in many years. I also took him to see Karen Greene, Detroit Regional Service Officer, at the VA Medical Center in Detroit, so he could apply for VA Benefits. Karen Greene did a great job helping him. I also felt very good helping him. I was also glad he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I want to thank the Post, Council, District and Department Officers for the year 2014-2015. I hope you have attained the goals that you set for yourselves. I enjoyed working with and for you.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 3**

## STATE CHAPLAIN

Three short messages for this edition. First, let us please renew our dedication to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars as we can — “To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.” Not sure when you will receive this publication, but we each understand the importance of Memorial Day. Let us please join in thoughtful recollection of service and sacrifice, uplifting those in mourning, and remembering always not only our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action servicemembers but also the families of all. As Isaiah 41:10 ESV proclaims, “[F]ear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Let us honor them by our continued service, gladdened hearts, steadfast patriotism, and solemn reverence noting that for some Memorial Day comes with each dawn.

Second, in a past MOV article a discussion regarding ritual protocol was mentioned. This was information discussed in a rather positive MI VFW Chaplains’ breakout session at Fall Conference. However, I will forgo most of that for this edition and instead merely reiterate our traditions regarding 1.) Uncovering if Chaplain dictates and 2.) The Cross of Malta is upwards during

**Jennifer Smith**

State Chaplain



prayer. Per VFW National Headquarters: “The VFW Ritual provides that all members will follow the action of the [C]haplain or presiding officer relative to the removal of caps during prayers. If uncovered, the cap shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.” Yes, most of you already know this, but we have some newer members that are excited about learning our rituals and becoming more involved; that is an added blessing.

Third, wanted to share that this past VFW year has been another gift. Although I was not able to travel to all the places (Posts) I would have liked due to time, etc., it was certainly enough to observe even more terrific dedication. Therefore, my thanks to all that have endeavored to uphold our worthy legacy of selfless service. Your efforts are indeed appreciated. Even though we sometimes struggle, please hold fast and remain optimistic. Romans 12:12 ESV, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

## FROM THE EDITOR:

### THANK YOU

**Matt David**  
MOV Editor



MOV Editor and I am sure that he will do a fantastic job. I hope you support him as much as you did me. Rest assured comrades, I am not going away. I will continue to be around serving the VFW.

Again, thank you and God bless.



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## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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Lansing, Michigan 48906-5136  
(517) 485-9456  
WEBSITE: [www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org)  
EMAIL: [vfwmi@vfwmi.org](mailto:vfwmi@vfwmi.org)**

### GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 11

April 2015

1. The Department Roser dated July 1, 2013, as printed and distributed, constitutes General Orders Number 1. Each Post Commander will be receiving two Department Rosters.
2. Please make sure that your Post number is on all checks that are sent in to Department Headquarters!! We cannot ensure your Post will get proper credit for a donation if the check does not have the Post number on it.
- Also, please notify your Post Quartermaster that checks for Camp Trotter camp fees, donations, maintenance, etc., need to be on a separate check from the regular Post donations and Camp Trotter Life Memberships have to be on a separate check from Camp Trotter fees or donations. Make the checks out to VFW Camp Trotter and earmarked for the specific donation and mail to Department.
3. Section 218(K) States. The Commander will assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings and County Council meetings (if applicable).
4. If post is looking to consolidate with another post you must notify Department HQ.
5. Please visit the Department web site at [www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org) for more information throughout the year.
6. If your post is missing two audits, the Department Commander has the authority to put the post on suspension for up to 90 days under SEC 211.
7. **INSTALLING OFFICERS:** Will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual or Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.
8. Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to National Headquarters. We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post-Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to Department Headquarters.
9. Attention to Post Commanders is directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee.
10. **LOYALTY DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:** Section 223 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.
11. **Change of meeting dates, time or location:**  
Department Surgeon Jerry Smith's new phone number is 616-293-7544  
VFW Post 3943: new meeting is Last Wednesday of the month at 7pm  
VFW Post 9973: Sr. Vice Mike Haykus has resigned but was appointed as the 3-year trustee (temp).  
Student Veterans Liaison Robert Odykirk new address is 839 Daria Drive, Flint, MI 48506  
VFW Post 422 has a new Commander. Thomas Kosier, 140 Mill St., Delton, MI 49046. Phone number is 269-623-2609.  
The Sr. Vice is Jose Orta, 10658 Stony Point Rd., Delton, MI 49046. Phone number is 269-623-6371.  
The Jr. Vice is Terry Morgan, 7734 E. D Avenue, Richland, MI 49083. Phone number is 269-629-4474.  
VFW Post 3672 changed meetings dates to the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30pm  
VFW Post 1794 changed their meeting night to the 2nd Thursday at 7:30pm  
VFW Post 2144 has a new Commander. Mark L. Bussinger, 370 152nd Avenue, Holland, MI 49424.

**OFFICIAL  
BRIAN COATS  
STATE ADJUTANT**

**BY ORDERS OF  
HARRY 'LES' CROYLE  
STATE COMMANDER**

**VFW**   
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**



## Advocating For Others

**Paul Pirlot**

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently made some major changes with respect to filing informal claims and the Notice of Disagreement (NOD). These changes were effective March 24, 2015.

Informal claims as we know them are a thing of the past. No longer will a veteran or eligible surviving family member be able to write or otherwise submit on any piece of paper their desire to file a claim for increase, reopen a claim, or seek service connection for a condition and expect VA to respond as in times past. The VA has replaced this program with "Intent to File".

Effective 24 March 2015, one of the following procedures must be adhered to for those who desire to file what was previously known as an informal claim:

1. File an "intent to file a claim" using VA Form 21-0966; or
2. Calling the VA National Call Center and requesting a Call Center agent complete "intent to file a claim" form for the veteran over the phone; or
3. Initiating and then saving an un-submitted claim using eBenefits.

Not being computer savvy myself, step number three is rather confusing to me. My best advice is to contact one of our service officers for guidance. Failure to comply with one of the abovementioned steps will result in not only loss of valuable processing time, but also potential loss of a significant amount of monetary benefits. Once the

VA has received a claim under the new guidelines the applicant will have one year to gather evidence to support the claim and to file a claim for benefits on a standard claim form such as the VA Form 21-526EZ.

Another change involves the process of filing a Notice of Disagreement (NOD). Also effective 24 March 2015 the VA requires the use of the standardized notice of disagreement form, VA Form 21-0958, when an individual wishes to initiate an appeal of a VA decisions. In the past you could submit a Notice of Disagreement on a plain piece of paper or similar method. As with the informal claim, NOD's filed in any manner that the prescribed VA form will not be accepted.

The goal of VA is to streamline the claims process and lead to quicker rating decisions. We strongly encourage our veterans to contact our service office should you have any questions of concerns. Our contact information is as follows:

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

You may also contact the individual service officer by going to our website at [www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org). Click on "Veterans Assistance & Benefits" and scroll down to "Field Operations Schedule". This will give you a breakdown of our field staff's monthly scheduled stops located in your area.

### JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

I would like to thank our Commander Harry "Les" Croyle for his leadership this year; it has been a pleasure serving with you this year at the Department of Michigan V.F.W. I know that whatever future endeavors you pursue, you will have great success.

The next time we meet, we will be at our VFW State Convention in Flint. The Candidates for State Positions will be elected for the ensuing year. Our New State Commander Paul McIvor will take over leadership of our Department, as well as the New Commanders throughout

the State, we must work together for the success of all of us.

Thank you again for letting me serve all of you this past year. It has been a pleasure and honor. I look forward to seeing all of you at our State Convention in Flint. If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am here to serve you.

Thank you for all you do, each and every day for the Veterans of Foreign Wars! Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who now guard the Gates of Freedom for us!

## Michigan Overseas Veteran 2015-2016 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

**Issue**  
October/November/December  
January/February/March

**Deadline**  
November 1  
February 1

**Issue**  
April/May/June  
July/August/September

**Deadline**  
April 1  
August 1

### Please Remember!

1. Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
2. Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.
3. 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.
4. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
5. We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
6. Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.
7. Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.
8. DISTRICT COMMANDERS – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
9. MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:  
**MOV Editor**  
Matt David, [editormov@yahoo.com](mailto:editormov@yahoo.com)
- Auxiliary Editor  
Diane Ward, [legalblaze@aol.com](mailto:legalblaze@aol.com)

## 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 War  
McNamara Federal Building  
477 Michigan Avenue - Room 1215  
Detroit, MI. 48226

## Department Service Officers SUCCESS STORY

As I travel throughout the state and attend various department functions I meet and have discussions with a number of VFW members. Inevitably the conversation turns to VA benefits and compensation claims. What is also a popular and at times contentious topic is the appeals process. I am often surprised and disappointed in the number of VFW members who have chosen to have their claims represented by other service organizations.

Now please don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying the other service organizations are not competent in what they do. Quite the contrary. They attend specialized training and have vast experience and conscientious service officers, just like us. But allow me to justify my reasoning.

We have Gary Putinsky who has been in this line of work for almost three decades. He is our resident expert on Clear and Unmistakable Errors (CUEs) and has won many decisions in favor of veterans. Most recently he played a major role in a decision that resulted in a retroactive payment of almost \$350,000 to one of our veterans.

Then there is Martha Washington who worked for over two years with the VFW appellate division in Washington DC. She is my "go to" person when I have procedural questions concerning the appeals process. I personally have written over 500 appellate briefs to the Board of Veterans Appeals. Additionally, we have an outstanding staff, both at the regional office and in the field. I just don't

understand why our own membership doesn't take advantage of this pool of talent.

Case in point. One of our service officers assisted a veteran who was represented by another service organization. His original claim resolved after a year of waiting with all claimed issues denied. He then reopened the claim almost a year and a half later. The end result was not much better. This was a combat veteran who saw extensive death and destruction in Iraq. A lot of time and energy had been expended with very little to show for his efforts. The veteran was understandably frustrated.

This is where our service officer stepped in. She conducted a thorough review of the veteran's claim history and his efforts to resolve his claim. She quickly noted several shortcomings with the previous claims. Claim information was overlapping and some information was duplicates of what had been previously submitted. Our service officer developed a plan of action and explained the process to the veteran. This was the first time he was able to fully understand what was going on with his claim.

Over a four-day period she consulted with the veteran and a VA supervisor on a number of occasions. A little more than two weeks later and just six weeks after the veteran had come to her for help, the veteran received a very favorable rating decision. He was awarded 70 percent for post-traumatic stress disorder as well as a permanent and total disability rating.

When filing a claim why go anywhere else? No one does more for veterans!



**VFW** 

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**





## DISTRICT 6 REPORT

**Horace Frazer**  
District 6 Commander



I am grateful to have had the honor to be District # 6 Commander for 2014-2015. I am thankful for work by line officers of District #6 who served with professionalism, taking care of business for the department, district, and posts. During my term I have had the highs and lows of various challenges; trying to encourage post participation in VFW programs, district events, fund raisers, meetings, and training sessions. I feel self disappointment for not serving each post on a more personal level, visiting each one and passing on information more efficiently and following up in a timely manner. Also my computer skills are not where I need them to be, although I'm working to improve that and your patience is most appreciated.



## DISTRICT 9 REPORT

**Michael Fineis**  
District 9 Commander



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

For the outgoing officers, be there to guide and advise, not to lead. To many times posts make the mistake of "we've always done it that way." This concept stifles eagerness and innovation. The Iraq and Afghanistan vets are High Tech and full of energy and ideas. Allow them to flourish and bring their knowledge into your post. This is what we, as an organization, must do in order to grow. I know of one post in our district that has a half dozen active Iraqi and Afghani vets.

If you want info on their membership program, call me.

The District Bowling tournament was tons of fun. Nicole, thank you for a job well done. In addition I spoke to several bowlers about the possibilities of increasing the number of teams and increased funding for our VOD program... bowlers come out for the kids!!!!

To my President Julie, thank you. We did not have much time to become a team, but you made it easy. It was the bus ride that created the bond! I will always be there for you.

To Shane Houghton, my Sr. Vice, thank you for being my right-arm. Whatever I asked you to do, the task was accomplished.

To my Jr. Vice, Bradley, a full and speedy recovery. My prayers are with you.

To Commander Les, it was indeed an honor to serve on your C of A. The best to you in the future!



## DISTRICT 10 REPORT

**Robert Wilson**  
District 10 Commander



This is my last report as your District Commander. I have enjoyed meeting all our 10th District comrades, ladies of the Ladies Auxiliary, and Men's Auxiliary. This year has been a hard year for some of us, but we managed to make it through another year. To those posts who made ALL STATE, congratulations. It was not as easy as everyone thought it would be.

To be a successful commander you need a good staff. PSC Comrade Sherwood Pea, Jr. as a Chief of Staff did an excellent job. I learned a lot from him and my past district commanders, too. I want to thank Ron Lomasney for the great support in keeping the district funds in-check and Don Callaway for keeping the district communications open. Don also did a great job on the USO Fund Raisers this year. I want to thank the

ladies and men of our auxiliaries for supporting their posts. Without them, we would be in a different place.

Being a commander of a VFW Post is the loneliest job in town. There are always those who are quick to show you what you're doing wrong, but fail to step up to the plate to help when help is needed. I have noticed many of our 10th District post commanders put in long hours and are away from home a lot. You are the backbone of the VFW, keep up the good work.

Membership as of this writing is at 95.46%. As I have always stated, membership is the lifeblood of this organization. Without it, we will no longer be considered the place to go for help. Michigan has a lot of veterans out there. They will not come to you, so you will

*DISTRICT 10, continued above*

## DISTRICT 10, continued

need to go to them. National and Department have the necessary resources to help you.

Remember, you need to follow the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, and Ritual. If you follow this, you will never go wrong. Remember your 990's, your non-profit paper work, and any and all fees. The days of saying "That's the way we always did it," will not fly.

It's important our reports are done monthly. Stay current with your audits, election notices, and any fees due to District, State, or National.

In closing, I thank you all for allowing me this honor of being the 10th District Commander for the 2014-2015 year. My hope is that we, as a district, will continue the great service to our veterans and our communities. There is no I in Team Work.

"Fair winds and Following Seas"

## DISTRICT 12 REPORT

**Barb Locke**  
District 12 Commander



This year as being your District Commander is coming to an end and it has been a successful year all around. Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, Patriots Pen, and Day of Challenges shined a light on our District. I thank all those who were a part of this success. Without your participation none of this would be possible.

This year we have been pushing, EITHER YOU ARE A VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST, or YOU ARE NOT. If you want to just run a bar, don't put the VFW LOGO above it. Do the programs, helping veterans, helping veteran families; do your part as a post to build up this great organization so the younger veterans and their families can be proud to be members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States of America.

To make it easier on your incoming district commander, please do the following:

ALL posts MUST complete their election reports, sending them into the proper venues (National, Department & District). Make sure you send the district commander a copy of your election report so he or she will be able to contact your chairs when needed. In the past the posts have not been sending in their Men's Auxiliary election reports. This is a must. If your post has a Men's Aux., get them into Department and District ASAP after your elections.

I can't say this enough—POST Commanders, follow the rituals in your manual of procedures. Conduct your meetings by using the manual. All posts

must complete and send in their Activity and Hospital reports. When audited, the IRS will use this information either for or against you. We all do activities of some kind, so please help yourselves and get them reported each and every month. There is NO reason for not submitting. Either submit them by electronic filing or send in a paper copy. Get it done.

Your AUDITS must be completed and signed by your trustees and sent in quarterly. Your membership dues must be paid on time. You're NOT a member if your dues are not paid. Become a Life Member and this will never happen.

Each year, the district will inspect your post. This is when we as inspectors check to see how you are running your meetings and keeping your records. This report is then sent into Department. Make sure your officers are available when your post inspection is scheduled.

I want to thank all my line officers and chairs for the great job they have done. I want to give a special Thank You to my District President Della Petaja for all the hard work she had done to make this a successful year.

Thank You 14th District Commander Bernd Ekdahl for being such a great comrade and friend and making the conventions a success.

To a great Navy man, I extend a very warm Thank You to Department Commander Harry "Les" Croyle for his great leadership throughout this year. Leaders must earn your trust in all situations and Les has definitely proven that he has all the leadership qualities. I will have your 6 when you need me my friend.

## DISTRICT 15 REPORT

**Daniel Caron**  
District 15 Commander



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**DISTRICT 15, continued from page 4**

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I can't say this enough—POST Commanders, follow the rituals in your manual of procedures. Conduct your meetings by using the manual. All posts must complete and send in their Activity and Hospital reports. When audited, the IRS will use this information either for or against you. We all do activities of some kind, so please help yourselves and get them reported each and every month. There is NO reason for not submitting. Either submit them by electronic filing or send in a paper copy. Get it done.

Your AUDITS must be completed and signed by your trustees and sent in quarterly. Your membership dues must be paid on time. You're NOT a member if your dues are not paid. Become a Life Member and this will never happen.

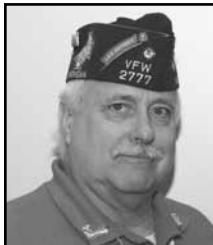
Each year, the district will inspect your post. This is when we as inspectors check

to see how you are running your meetings and keeping your records. This report is then sent into Department. Make sure your officers are available when your post inspection is scheduled.

I want to thank all my line officers and chairs for the great job they have done. I want to give a special Thank You to my District President Della Petaja for all the hard work she had done to make this a successful year.

Thank You 14th District Commander Bernd Ekdahl for being such a great comrade and friend and making the conventions a success.

To a great Navy man, I extend a very warm Thank You to Department Commander Harry "Les" Croyle for his great leadership throughout this year. Leaders must earn your trust in all situations and Les has definitely proven that he has all the leadership qualities. I will have your 6 when you need me my friend.

**Military Order of the Cootie****"Fight for What's Right"****2014-15****"Making a Difference"**

**"Grand of Michigan"**  
Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

The Grand Commander wanted to close the year by thanking all of you who participated in supporting the Grand this year. He also wanted to thank all of our fellow Cooties for their hard work and accomplishments throughout the year. Without you, the Grand of Michigan would disappear.

The Grand of Michigan not only supports their projects like the National Home. But we give our full support to the VFW and all its programs. You may not recognize us. We are the ones with the cootie bug on the back of their collard.

The Military Order of the Cootie is an organization within an organization. The Cooties are a part of the VFW. Being a Cootie comes with the distinction reserved for "active" members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; those who have succeeded as an officer on any level, or who have demonstrated ability as a leader of a major Post committee or function.

These Comrades-in-arms have a special place reserved for them in the MOC; a place of recognition for efforts made by those who want to make a difference in the world around them. In addition to the important work of the VFW, Cooties take on the added responsibility of support for the kids at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and in the spirit of taking care of our own, we follow our self-appointed directive to "Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White," and support the hospitalized veterans in VA Medical Facilities, domiciliaries, and hospitals around the United States, and throughout the world.

These efforts earned us the title of, "The Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars," a title that we hold as precious and one that we take seriously. Our local units or "Pup Tents" as they are commonly known, recruit thousands of new VFW members each year. Though small in number, we raise thousands of



Dollars for our local Post programs; thousands more for the National Home, and literally Millions of Dollars in volunteer credits at VA Medical Centers each year.

Our distinctive red hat is earned by effort and a sign of recognition. It is the badge of honor for those committed to the values of the VFW and the extra effort of being a Comrade, "Closer Than A Brother - Busier Than A Bee." You probably already know some Cooties, since nearly every officer on every level of the VFW is also a member of this elite society.

Our VFW National Home trip to Sandusky Ohio will have taken place by the time this goes to press. Please continue to support our Grand by sending a donation to our Grand Quartermaster Ernie Pauline. Send your contribution to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forward to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster 710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050 Phone: (810)-735-7920.

**"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2014-20015**  
The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along very nicely with the help of PGC Bob Routhier Jr. Proceeds from this project will help support the 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, remember membership. You have heard it before and will hear it again. The lifeblood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cooties Ladies or Men's Aux. Sign a new member up today!

**"Keep 'Em Smilin' in Beds of White"**

PGC Robert E. Wilson  
VFW-Cootie Liaison

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

Many posts have acquired credit cards. Please take heed; you must have permission from the post membership! It must be duly voted on and recorded in your minutes to do so; a corporate resolution must be made for submitting with the credit card application. It is a "debt," a liability that needs to be closely monitored. This is the easiest way for your post to get into a debt that may prove to be a quagmire of financial hardship and possibly your posts eventual demise. Limit its use and limit who gets to use it! Read the last paragraph of Section 709 of the National MOP and especially the last sentence.

There is no such thing as a Trustee pro temp. Trustee reports need three signatures. You cannot have another member sign for them or act in their place. It is a violation of the National By-Laws and can void your Bond. Maybe it's time for us to get serious and discuss submitting a By-Law change in this regard!

Elections are over and now it's time to belly up and take your position seriously at any level, attend Department training's and be proactive. If you didn't run for an office or take a chairmanship, support those that did. The first step to that would be to attend the meetings and be part of the solution, not part of the problem! Remember the posters "We need you" from the 60's? Well, it's the same thing now and the second time around is always easier.

**Andy Conklin**  
**Judge Advocate**



Please get your younger members to attend meetings and don't let procedural errors scare them off. Rather it should show the need for change. Where have I heard that before? Help them to get involved and know their rights as members, get them to read section 1001 in the MOP and properly participate in the meeting. Demeter's may look complicated, but it's not. It also has many useful scenarios on procedures; check out Chapter 23 on "Parliamentary Pointers." Please don't let a new member jump into offices without giving them a little time to catch on and don't be afraid to hear what they have to say. Then instead of, "this is the way we have always done it," try listening and step back. With all the stuff the world throws at us today, people are much less tolerable and will walk in a minute. We need to respect one another, give a little space, work together, and be happy to be a part in this great organization.

*"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."*

—Henry David Thoreau

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

By the time this is published, we will be reaching the end of our VFW year.

It has been an honor to serve as Legislative Director for the Department of Michigan VFW and I want to thank Commander Croyle for my appointment.

I would like to go over some of our accomplishments in the legislative arena that we have made and some of the challenges that lie before us.

At the state level we have seen more support for our veterans in the last few years. The establishment of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in 2013 has assisted in legislation being passed that has served our veterans here in Michigan. Several bills have passed into law that make occupational licensing take into consideration veterans military experience. Laws have been passed regarding some fees that are eliminated for disabled veterans, such as hunting and fishing licenses. Also, our disabled veterans now have expanded homestead property tax breaks due to legislation being passed. Resolutions have been reintroduced that would allow our veterans to receive in state or in district tuition rates at our community colleges. These are some of the bills that have been passed benefiting our veterans here in Michigan. Much of this success has been because of the involvement of the VFW and other VSO's here in Michigan advocating for our veterans.

Recently, Commander Croyle and our National Legislative Committee Representative Bill Dobbie attended the National Legislative Conference held in

**Steve Meredith**  
**Legislative Director**



Washington, DC. They were able to contact our legislators and urge their support for legislation affecting our veterans and our armed forces.

At the federal level we have seen important legislation passed this year. The Veterans Access and Accountability act was signed into law. This act put reforms into place within our VA system. Our Action Corps was influential in this process, with thousands contacting their representatives and pressing them to pass this legislation. Also, just recently the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act was signed into law. This act contains many provisions to treat and prevent suicides. The VFW testimony before Congress was key to the passage of this law.

Some of the challenges that we face at the federal level are still out there. Ending sequestration is one of our VFW top legislative goals. We must urge Congress to pass a budget that ends sequestration. Sequestration seriously impacts our militaries ability to perform their mission. Also, S1982 is still in committee. This important legislation has been called the most comprehensive veterans legislation in decades. This bill includes expansion of caregiver programs, mental health care and state tuition assistance. Once again our Action Corps has been involved with

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, continued on page 9**

# Auxiliary News

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT


**Candy Beatty**

This has been an amazing year and it's not over yet. As of this writing we still need 1,139 members for Michigan to be 100%. I know we can do it; we have until June 30th, 2015 to

meet this goal. Have faith that this will be the year that Michigan will meet this goal and stop the decline in membership.

Sisters, I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your voice as I traveled throughout Michigan and the United States, from the East Coast, West Coast, Florida Coast and Upper Michigan. You allowed me to fulfill my dream as one of the Veterans Angels, Protecting Those That Protected Us.

A big 'thank you' to the District Veterans Angels, (also known as District Presidents). You are the best. Thank you for all you do for your District, sisters and our veterans. My wish is that you enjoyed your year as much as I enjoyed serving with you.

To my Line Officers, Deb, Gloria, Jan L., Jan M., Bonnie, Sandy, Della and Cindy. I will forever be in your debt. Thank you for all your support and stepping up to help our auxiliaries when they needed you the most.

I cannot forget the sisters of this great State of Michigan. We tried some new things this year and you stepped up to the challenge. I am very appreciative and proud of all the work you do for our veterans, their families and our youth.

Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

To my department chairmen. What can I say that has not already been said. You were given the programs and you made them your own. I wish you the best at the National Convention where I know you will make Michigan proud as you have already made me proud.

My Commander Harry "Les" Croyle. You are the greatest Commander and it has been a pleasure to serve with you and for you. Thank you for always inviting me to join you as we honored our fellow veterans. Thank you, Comrades, for giving me this great man. You can be very proud of how he has represented you.

Les and I made this a team. We hope you enjoyed the themes in the hospitality rooms at the conferences, the testimonial, and your joint night on the town.

I cannot go without thanking the sisters and comrades of District 7. Athens VFW Post 5319 and Ladies and Men's Auxiliary. Thank you for all your support.

Sisters, remember the "WHY" you joined this organization as we move forward to the future.

This will be my last MOV article, so I would like to offer congratulations to Deb Hanes as she starts her year as our Department President. I know she will make us proud and will be an awesome president along with her line officers. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers on all levels. Work hard and enjoy your year.

Sincerely,  
Alice "Candy" Beatty  
President 2014 - 2015

## MEMBERSHIP


**Sue DeRousha**

**Have you ever considered joining the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW? Ever been asked? Veteran, is your wife, mother, grandmother, sisters, daughters, or granddaughters members?**

We are an Organization that is over 100 years old. We are proud ladies who work hard for our Veterans. Our community service hours are counted right with the VFW. We, the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, help make the VFW one of the strongest VOICES for Veteran's rights. We need your help to keep it that way.

Veterans, does your Post have an Auxiliary? If so, sign up your wife, mother, grandmother, sister, daughters, and granddaughters. As a VFW member you can recruit Auxiliary members and be eligible for awards for doing so.

We are thankful for all the things our Veterans have done for us. Now it is our turn to help them.

For more information, be visit our website at [www.lavfwm.org](http://www.lavfwm.org) or contact the Department Office at 517-487-3715.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT


**Sandra Borieo**

Congratulations to All Auxiliaries in the 4th District and my best wishes to the President Elect, Sandi Merrow and her officers for 2015-16.

All of the District 4 Auxiliaries met the challenge with pride and integrity and made everything happen to the best of their abilities. I could have not been more proud of everyone who made the 100% mark plus in membership and the Auxiliaries who met the challenge of cleaning up rosters by honoring the deceased and giving them the dignity of recruiting to replace them. Thank you one and all.

We were a team this year and pursued training of district officers; having a resume writing workshop to brainstorm each auxiliaries' accomplishments and to educate the future officers with examples

**Sandra Borieo**

from their years. My District Officers were there at each inspection learning how to fill out forms, what to look for in the Treasurer and Secretary books and how to write a successful critique of the Auxiliaries. Our auxiliaries conducted clothing drives and fed the homeless veterans from the Michigan Veterans Foundation. Our veterans received Christmas gifts at one Post and on March 19, 2015 another auxiliary presented gifts to the homeless of personal care items and blankets to approximately 75 veterans from Michigan Veterans Foundation, Ann Arbor VA and John Dingell VA Hospitals. District 4 does care about our veterans and it has been demonstrated.

My District Chairmen learned how to be mentors and teachers this year and they did an excellent job being the best in their respective chairmanships.

Keep up the good work and I am confident that the experiences learned this year will be continued on in successive years. God Bless America and God Bless our Veterans.

## DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT


**Dianne Donan**

Greetings from the 5th District,

I would like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary from VFW Post 2358, known as the Fraser Post, for nominating me for the position of 5th District President.

A special thank you to my husband, Greg, for driving me to my inspections, especially those that I wasn't sure of how

**Dianne Donan**

to get to. My Jr. Vice, Kathy Hubbard, deserves a thank you for going with me on these inspections. I couldn't have done it without all of your support. The hospitality given to me during my visits and inspections was heart warming.

With the aid of a past District President, I was able to diffuse and resolve a potential problem that was nagging one of our auxiliaries.

In closing, I want to say to Kathy - I hope that you have just as good and exciting term of office as I did.

## DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT


**Shanon Meredith**

I would like to thank Department Commander Harry Les Coyle and Department President Alice "Candy" Beatty for being wonderful mentors for my year as District 6 President. The two

of them have been a wonderful team, helping all of us every step of our journey to help our VFW and Auxiliaries to reach the goals before us.

I would also like to thank my great chairmen, whom all have done a wonderful job. Most of them have done at least double duty as President of their own Auxiliary. We have worked very well together, and hopefully have had fun along the way.

The year has been a bit of a challenge for me because of a health issue along the way, but I thankfully was able to move forward and complete all inspections

and District meetings so far. I would also like to thank all of the District's Presidents and their Auxiliaries for all of the support, the cards, the prayers and all of the hugs I received from everyone all over the state. It helped me tremendously to know everyone was there for me.

This has been a very good year for membership. We have increased our members by having training, thanks to Marian Belaire, and membership drives.

I was blessed to have a great group of officers and chairmen, along with Department officers and staff. They have been a great source of help and inspiration this year, we all need a little help and they are always available for whatever we need, no matter how small it might seem.

I am so happy to have had this honor, and I was able to carry on the duties. I have so enjoyed meeting all the new people along the way, and of course love seeing all my friends. Thanks to all of you for making my year so special. Love to all.


**God Bless Our Troops**

**DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT**

As our year of 2014-2015 is coming to a close and I reflect back over this past year, I think how different this year has been. First, on May 1, I was elected president for District 7 and on the 25th of May I had an auto accident, which took me out of the picture for a short time.

As a district, we marched in several parades and took part in many programs honoring our veterans. Some of us went to Lansing for recruiter training, where we learned the ins and outs of recruiting. On the 24th of August our National President Ann Panteleakos visited our great state. We met her at the Marcellus post for dinner and a program on the Battle Creek VA Hospital.

January Mid-Winter was really great, honoring the Teacher of the Year, Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy students. If you have never been to Mid-Winter, try and make it there in 2016. These kids are amazing.

We had to cancel our February district meeting due to a foot of snow. I am looking forward to attending the Joint Testimonial for our State Commander and State President in April and the State Convention in June. All in all it has been a very busy year, both personally and with the Ladies Auxiliary, and a very rewarding one.

Many, many thanks to everyone who has advised and helped me this year. I truly couldn't have done it without your help.

**DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT**

Well, here I am again saying goodbye. However, I'm not really going anywhere, but want to thank you all for allowing me to be your District President again.

When I had my planning meeting last year, I said my goal was 100% membership. Well, we didn't make it, but we sure did try and I thank you for all that.

As my year began, I went to Traverse City for their Cherry Royale Parade; then it was on to Hillman for their VJ Day Parade with our Department President Candy Beatty. It was a fun time with our Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary members. Next on the calendar was the Nautical Fest Parade in Rogers City.

Camp Trotter was next on the calendar for a visit with our National President; such a lovely lady and a great time was

**Laura Monaweck**

every day we were there. November our third district meeting was held at my post in Athens. It was a nice opportunity to reconnect with my sisters from throughout our district. A time to make plans in the district to visit our shut-ins and to finalize plans for the many holiday doings, such as, Christmas parties for the children and adults and at the Battle Creek VA Hospital.

January Mid-Winter was really great, honoring the Teacher of the Year, Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy students. If you have never been to Mid-Winter, try and make it there in 2016. These kids are amazing.

We had to cancel our February district meeting due to a foot of snow. I am looking forward to attending the Joint Testimonial for our State Commander and State President in April and the State Convention in June. All in all it has been a very busy year, both personally and with the Ladies Auxiliary, and a very rewarding one.

Many, many thanks to everyone who has advised and helped me this year. I truly couldn't have done it without your help.

**DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT**

Hello to my sisters of the 15th District in the great U.P. It has been quite a year. A great year for meeting new people, involved in more and learning a great deal.

Starting with the trip to Flint, where I officially became your District President. Then my first trip to Lansing for training, also my first trip ever to Lansing, getting to see the Department Headquarters. Then on to Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. What a beautiful place, too bad it rained most of the weekend. Otherwise it was a great time. Then on to Lansing again, this time for Mid-Winter Conference. We were so lucky to have great weather on the way there and back. What a great time with our Teacher of the Year, VOD and Patriot's Pen winners with us.

**Della Petaja**

It was great visiting each Auxiliary, finding where you are and meeting your members. I really enjoyed these visits. All of our Auxiliaries work so hard in taking care of our Veterans and our Communities. I applaud all of you. In February the 15th District participated in the Day of Challenges. It was really interesting to watch the students as they ran through the challenges set up by the ROTC of Michigan Tech. It was great having Matt David and his wife, along with Jan joining us. Afterwards, the students and volunteers were treated to a chicken dinner, prepared by the Auxiliary of South Range #6165.

I want to thank all my sisters of the 15th for this great opportunity to serve my district, and also for your confidence in me that I could do this. A special thank you to Ruth Huuki for being a mentor, support person and a friend. Could not have done it without you. Thank you all.

*A Letter to the Editor:*

When I joined the VFW, I began learning about the various ways we can be involved in our community—a very important issue to me. One particularly interesting program caught my attention (the Voice of Democracy program) because I have been an educator as well as a pastor. As I read about it, I realized it could be a very useful means of training as well as recognizing patriotism in our youth.

The title, though, caused me to hesitate, so I contacted the National Leadership of VFW. Don't take this wrong: it has nothing to do with political party affiliation; in fact, I am an independent, and I realize that the Constitution was written PRIOR TO the existence of either the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. The US Constitution, Article IV, Section 4 reads: "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence."

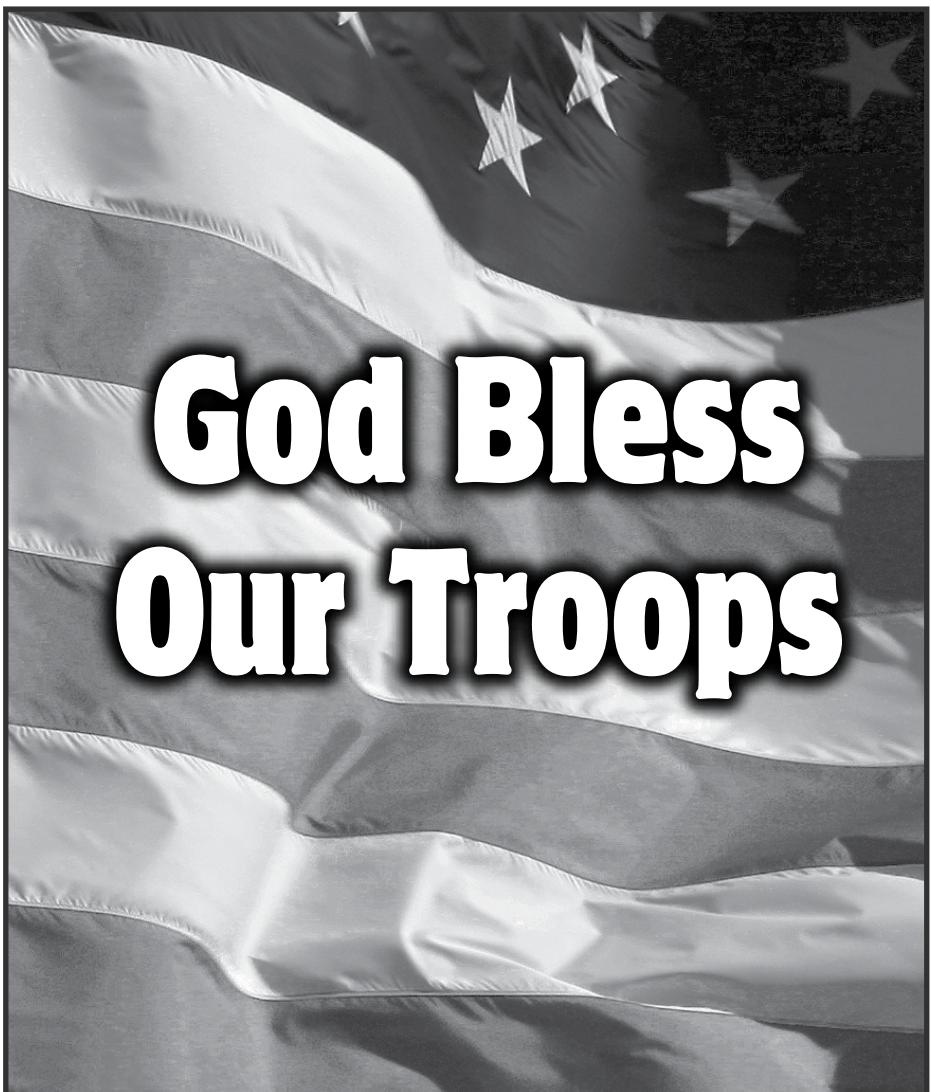
Years ago, when teaching a college class, I asked the students what form of government the United States are supposed to have. They incorrectly said "a democracy" and I handed one a copy of the Constitution, asking him to find that concept. He could not, so I directed him to Article IV, Section 4. His shock was obvious, as was that of the rest of the class. The reason is the basic structure of a republic, as opposed to a democracy. A republic is a nation governed by laws. A democracy is a nation governed by popular opinion. It is true, we have democratic elements in our republic: the choosing of our leaders and passing of legislation are two. However, the Constitution guarantees us a republican form of government.

This is much more than semantics, and I ask my Comrades in the VFW: Isn't it time we changed the name to "the Voice of the Republic" in order to correctly represent it to our young people? We swore an oath to defend the Constitution.

Chaplain Jim Braden  
Post 10704, Cassopolis, MI

**The VFW Store  
is Coming to Michigan**

At the State Convention in Flint, the VFW Emblem Supply Store will have a booth set up with items for sale. This will be a small version of the store that is set up during the National Convention. For those that are unable to go to National Convention, this is your opportunity to actually see some of the items that the store offers. Special order items can also be ordered.



## Area veterans were seven of 21 boys in same Fowler High School freshmen class

Re-printed with permission, Tom Thelen, tthelen@lsj.com  
Lansing State Journal

**FOWLER** – Seven area men who were one-time classmates at Fowler High School came together recently to discuss another common bond; their military service during the Vietnam War.

The men, Jim Halfman, Ernie Myers, Bob Schafer, Jim Simon, Chuck Thelen, Paul Weber, and Joe Wohlfert, were part of the freshmen class at Fowler High School in the fall of 1962. Each of them went on to serve in Vietnam as a member of the United States military. Of the 39 members of that freshmen class, 15 would serve in the military.

The seven Vietnam veterans of the class recently met as a group for the first time at the E. J. Werner VFW Post 3733 in Fowler, to meet and share their experiences from serving during the Vietnam War.

“It was interesting to speak with each other,” said Simon. “After a lot of years you forget a lot of things. But talking with them brought back a lot of memories. Plus, it felt unique in a way because we were all from that same small freshmen class and we all served in Vietnam.”

Thelen said the fact that a large percentage from that class served during the Vietnam War is a point of pride.

“I thought we stood up tall,” said Thelen. “I think a lot of us would not have had to go, and had a chance to join the reserves. But instead, chose to be with the Army and go do our job, and my buddy felt the same way.”

Thelen served for one year in Vietnam as a member of a tank crew with the First Infantry. He was wounded in action twice; once by a rocket-propelled grenade while he was driving a tank, and a second time when a grenade landed nearby when he was outside the tank. He was awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Bronze Star with V device, which was given to honor an act of combat heroism.

Simon also served in the First Infantry for his 13-month tour of duty. He spent most of his duty driving an advisory unit, transporting personnel and supplies to various bases and local villages.

“At times we traveled through plantations and jungles so there was always a danger, but not as much as what some of the other guys had,” said Simon.

Simon’s first day in Vietnam coincided with the start of the Tet Offensive, a large-scale coordinated attack by approximately 80,000 troops of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army against the forces of South Vietnam, the United States and its allies.

“Our base faced a lot of small arms fire and artil-

lery during the first morning I was there,” said Simon. “I spent the first month of my tour in a bunker.”

Simon said it was good to sit down as a group and share stories from their time in Vietnam.

Wohlfert also enjoyed the opportunity to sit down and talk with his classmates.

“It took us back, like we were back in high school,” said Wohlfert. “It was kind of like time stood still because we were all friends in school and that was really nice. We would see each other now and then at reunions or some of us worked together, but not everyone would be there at the same time.”

Wohlfert served in Vietnam as an assistant machine gunner in the Army’s 7th Cavalry. He was injured six months into his tour.

“I was carrying my supplies, the spare gun barrel and ammunition, about 100 pounds total,” said Wohlfert. “We were moving up a mountain when I tore my knee. I spent a week in a hospital in Vietnam before I was transferred to the Philippines to have my surgery. I then spent time in Japan on rehabilitation.”

Weber also drew an assignment in armor, serving for one year on a crew of an M113 armored personnel carrier with the Army’s 11th Armored Cavalry. He said the service record of the class is something to be proud of.

“It is something that of about 23 boys in that class, that we had 15 serve in the military, and seven of us serve our country in Vietnam,” said Weber. “It makes me feel good to be a part of that group.”

Schafer spent his year in Vietnam as a radio operator attached to an infantry unit with the 1st Cavalry.

“That kept me moving a lot,” said Schafer. “Sometimes we went out from base for a month and other times we went out for a day or two to do some reconnaissance and then would go back to base. Then we would be sent off to a different area.”

Schafer said he was glad to have an opportunity to meet with his classmates as a group and discuss their experiences.

“It was great that we got together because some of us



**Seven members of the Fowler High School freshmen class of 1962-1963 served tours of duty in Vietnam. Those seven recently met as a group for the first time. They included, front row from left, Jim Simon, Jim Halfman, Chuck Thelen, back row, Bob Schafer, Ernie Myers, Joe Wohlfert, and Paul Weber. (Photo: Courtesy photo)**

haven’t seen each other in a while,” said Schafer. “It was kind of unusual that we all decided to go the same route rather than joining the Reserves, even though we didn’t talk to each other about it. It was just interesting that it turned out that way.”

“I also thought it was interesting that most of us ended up with artillery units, and that most of us also served in the same area.”

Myers had two assignments during his year in Vietnam. He served part of the year in the 5th Mechanized Division before serving the remainder of his tour with the 1st Infantry.

“I drove a Jeep for a sergeant up by the DMZ and then went and drove a tank for the 1st Infantry down in the south,” said Myers. “It was different because there were more mountains by the DMZ while there was more jungle in the south.”

Myers received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and four Battle Stars for his service. He said he enjoyed visiting with his classmates and sharing stories.

“It was nice to see all of the guys together all at once,” said Myers. “To have that many guys from one grade go and serve is something, let alone from a class as small as what we had.”

## Local Fallen Marine Honored

A local fallen Marine was given a final welcome home by residents of the village of Lake Orion, MI on Wednesday 3-25-15. Staff Sgt. Trevor Blaylock was killed on a training mission March 10th near the panhandle of Florida when his Blackhawk helicopter crashed in foggy weather. He was one of 11 service members who were killed in the crash. All members were with the 2nd Special Operations Battalion of the Marine Corps Special Operations Command.

Members of the North Oakland VFW Post 334 and other service organizations lined the street as the hearse bearing Trevor passed through town. The procession was led by the Michigan State Police, followed by the Marine Corps, and the Patriot Riders. There were several thousand people in attendance, some who

took their kids out of school to show their support of their fallen hero and his family. It was an emotional day for all involved.

This is another reminder for us that “Freedom is not free,” and we need to support our troops and give them the full measure of respect that they deserve. May God bless our troops and keep them safe wherever they may be.





## Chassell VFW Post 6507 Men's Auxiliary Youth Fishing Tournament

On February 28th Chassell VFW Post 6507 Men's Auxiliary and the Copper Country Walleye Association conducted their 7th annual Youth Ice Fishing Tournament. 78 youths participated. All youth's received various prizes, with the Grand Prize being a 2-person fishing tent. Largest fish were: Northern Pike 14 pounds and Walleye 6.5 pounds. Plans are underway for next year's tournament. Additional pictures are on the Chassell VFW Post 6507 Facebook page.



## Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 Blood Drive

Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 has a blood drive on the last Monday every other month. Since becoming the blood drive chairman, Joe (Larry) Tebor, has been responsible for the collection of 550 units of blood. He usually has all of the slots filled before the date, but walk-ins can be taken. There is a sign-up sheet on the board by the Lounge entrance. Joe contacts each person by phone ahead of the date. Volunteers that assist the Red Cross are members of the Post and the Auxiliaries. Many of the donors are from the surrounding area and gladly donate to the cause.

The American Red Cross honored Joe at our January post meeting with a "Certificate of Appreciation."

Please call the Post @ (734) 459-6700 for any information on the Blood Drives.



Pictured are from left to right: Red Cross Director Richard Tschirhart, Joe (Larry) Tebor, Red Cross Coordinator Diane Risko, Red Cross Director Frank Roche, and Post 6695 Commander Jerry Thomason

## VFW Post 9809 Presents Sea Cadet Award

On Sunday, February 22, Petty Officer First Class (PO1) Chase Slasinski, a Sea Cadet from the USNSCC - H.R. Doud Division in Saginaw, received the Veterans of Foreign Wars Naval Sea Cadet Award. VFW Post 9809 Commander Jerry Sonnenberg, along with 5 other post comrades, attended their drill and presented PO1 Slasinski with the award. Commander Sonnenberg said to qualify for this award, recipients must be in good standing academically, progressing satisfactorily in the Sea Cadet Program, demonstrate outstanding achievement in community service and NSCC naval education, demonstrate outstanding leadership in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, be of high moral character, display outstanding military bearing and conduct both in and out of uniform, actively promote Patriotism and Americanism and demonstrate growth potential. PO1 Slasinski has been active in the Naval Sea Cadets for 33 months. He is in good academic standings at Swan Valley High School and is currently a junior. He is the Leading Petty Officer for the division. He has received awards for community service, academic achievement and numerous other awards. He also has a very high moral character, upholding the Code of Conduct of the Sea Cadets both in and away from Sea Cadet Activities. The H.R. Doud Division meets at the Naval Operations Support Center 3500 Douglas St.in Saginaw. VFW Post 9809 located at 3265 Kochville Rd is the H.R. Doud Division sponsor.



*Sea Cadet Award 2015-1: H.R. Doud Division Sea Cadets, H.R. Doud Division Cadre, and VFW Post 9809 members.*



*Sea Cadet Award 2015-2: Commander Jerry Sonnenber, LT Patricia Altergott, PO1 Chase Slasinski, Chief Jeffie Pastalunan*



*LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, continued from page 5*

more than 10,000 messages sent to our legislators urging passage.

I would once again urge all our members to join our Action Corps. This grassroots program is essential for us to keep informed of legislation affecting our veterans. If you have not done so, please go to the National website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and sign up for this program. The process is quite easy to do.

In ending, I would like to thank all of our members who are involved in our Action Corps for their ongoing support of our veterans' issues. We must remain vigilant because we know that the government has never given us a thing. We have fought for every benefit that we receive and we must continue the fight or risk losing our hard earned benefits. We must never allow the federal government to balance their budget on the backs of our veterans and our armed forces.

## Day of Challenges

By Matt David, MOV Editor

On Feb 28, 2015 the Michigan Tech ROTC held their annual Day of Challenges in Houghton, Michigan. The Day of Challenges has been supported for many years by the Dept. of Michigan and the 15th District. When you donate to the Day of Challenges program, your donation goes to help provide support to the ROTC so that they can continue to put on this event. This year, I had the honor and privilege of attending the Day of Challenges to see the event first hand.

The day begins early for the cadets, with registration starting at 7:00am. Some of the cadets travel 5-6 hours by School Bus to attend the competition. Each cadet received a Day of Challenges T-Shirt provided by the 15th District and the Dept. of Michigan. The JROTC cadets competed both as teams and individuals in a variety of physical and mental events.

Things kicked off promptly at 9:00am in the pool area under the guidance of the Michigan Tech ROTC cadets. After a quick safety briefing, the cadets were told to hit the pool. The pool events included treading water with LBE (load bearing equipment) and M-16, followed by having to swim the length of the pool with the weapon held above water, if they could. There was also the jump off of the 5-meter platform. Cadets had the option to jump blindfolded if they dared. I too took the plunge. It certainly looked a LOT higher than 5 meters (approx. 16 feet) from the top. They offered me the blindfold. I told the attending cadet that I was brave, not stupid. To all future Dept. Reps for the Day of Challenges, the gauntlet is down. Follow my lead and jump.

After the water challenges, the cadets moved to the gym area. They completed an

Army Physical Fitness test that consisted of push-ups, sit-ups, and running. They negotiated an obstacle course that tested their physical fitness and agility. A new event this year was the rock-climbing wall. Set up in rooms off of the gym area were a couple of team challenges. In one room, the JROTC cadets conducted an armed room clearing exercise. This was the only truly military challenge. In another room, the cadets had to cross as a team to the other side of the room by bridging tires using boards of different lengths without touching the floor.

Around 1:30pm, the starving cadets finished the competition and headed for the ROTC building to eat and receive the awards from the competition. A hearty lunch of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, and other goodies was provided by members of the South Range VFW Post 6165 Ladies Auxiliary. The various full size candy bars that were provided by Ladies Aux. State Treasurer Jan Lawrence and Walgreens were a big hit with both the JROTC and ROTC cadets.

After all the awards were given out, the tired and now full, JROTC cadets boarded their buses for the journey home. There was enough candy left over that each cadet was able to take some for the road. Even with all the sugar in their blood, I suspect more than a few napped on the way home.

I would like to thank Day of Challenges Director Butch Paavola for requesting me as the Dept. Representative for the weekend. It was a truly fantastic event. I am proud to see that the Dept. of Michigan VFW and the 15th District sponsors and supports this event. It is a great showcase to the future veterans of our armed forces that the VFW will be there to support them now and in the future.



*ROTC Cadet SGT Tyler Grifka, Cadet 1LT Kelsey Coon, and Cadet MAJ Kyle Cory greet the incoming JROTC cadets at the registration desk.*



*JROTC cadets acclimate to the water.*



*Swimming with LBE and keeping the weapon dry.*



*The first brave soul to go off the high drive. He even went off blindfolded.*



*The sit-up event.*



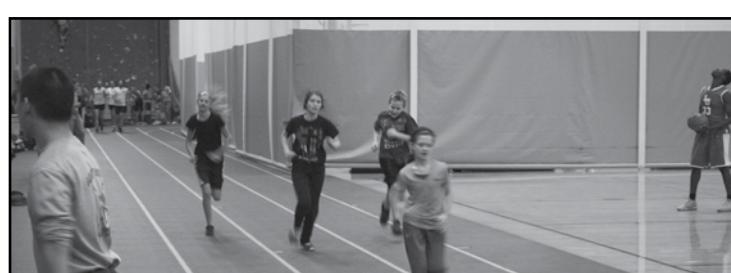
*The push-up event. Does it bring back memories for anyone?*



*JROTC cadet negotiates the obstacle course.*



*JROTC cadets climbing the rock wall.*



*The running event.*



*It takes team work and brain power to make it across the room.*



*Getting drinks ready for the cadets.*



*The food crew from the Post 6165 and Dept Reps. First row, left to right: Matt David, Ivette David, Jan Lawrence, Carol Lillar, Pat Patrick, Debbie Paavola, Sandy Jukkala, and Lee Gherna. 2nd row, left to right: Jack Lillar, Bill Cole, Sue Harry, Carol Morris, Doug Patrick, Butch Paavola, and Pat Lund.*



*Yeah, there was just a little bit of snow.*



*The first hungry cadet goes through the chow line.*



## Veteran Faces Red Tape and Thousands in Student Loans after Paperwork Error

**VFW's 1 Student Veteran Program helps when no one else could**

February 23, 2015

After being recently medically separated from the military, Mark Dressler, a 19-year Air Force veteran, planned to use his Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to continue his education. After participating in the Department of Veteran Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program, he was accepted at Diesel Driving Academy in Shreveport, La. for a commercial driver's licensing, or CDL, program.

Working toward the goal of being an over-the-road truck driver, Mark was a month into his training when the school's financial aid department delivered a devastating message. "I was informed by the school financial department ... the GI Bill would not cover my tuition and I had to take out loans for over \$8,000 and pay \$1,500 [in housing costs] out-of-pocket or leave the school," said Mark.

Out of options and having no other way to finish school, Mark was forced to pay his first month's housing bill using a credit card and take out thousands of dollars in student loans. Refusing to put another month's rent on a credit card, he contacted the VFW's 1 Student Veteran program for help after seeing an ad for the VFW's program on Facebook.

In less than 24 hours, George Burke, Special Assistant for Veterans Benefit Policy, responded to Mark's email.

Using his VA expertise and resources, George discovered Mark's paperwork request to transfer from the Vocational Rehabilitation program and enroll using his Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits had never been processed. In less than two weeks, George was able to cut through the red tape and work with a VA regional processing office representative to correct the paperwork issue and process Mark's enrollment for his CDL class. Not only did this eliminate the need for over \$8,000 in student loans, but it also processed Mark's housing and book allowances and allowed his school to refund his out-of-pocket costs.

"I would like to highly express my gratitude for Mr. Burke and this program," said Mark. "He worked on my case and was able to do what no one else could."

The 1 Student Veteran program leverages the VFW's decades of expertise in navigating the VA benefits system, offering direct assistance to student veterans like Mark who are experiencing problems accessing their VA education benefits or who have questions about other veterans' programs. Veterans who send a message to 1 Student Veteran will receive a reply from a VFW staff member who specializes in student veteran issues within one business day. For more information, visit [www.vfw.org/1StudentVeteran](http://www.vfw.org/1StudentVeteran) or email [1StudentVeteran@vfw.org](mailto:1StudentVeteran@vfw.org)

## VFW Releases Initial Report on the Veterans Choice Program

**VFW recommendations would improve delivery of health care options for veterans**

March 03, 2015

WASHINGTON—The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. will deliver to Congress this week its initial report on the implementation of the new Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Choice Program. The report is based on a survey of more than 2,500 VFW members over the first three months of the Veterans Choice Program, which VA launched on November 5, 2014.

"It is important that veterans have the opportunity to make informed health care decisions that best fit their own individual circumstances," said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud, who's in Washington along with more than 500 VFW advocates to deliver the report to every member of Congress as part of this week's VFW National Legislative Conference. "The Veterans Choice Program is an ambitious initiative that is supposed to offer more options to veterans who need it, which is why the VFW has an obligation to keep our pulse on the veterans' community to ensure the program works."

The VFW survey identified problems among many veterans who believed they were eligible for the Choice Program due to their geographic distance from a VA facility. For those who have waited 30 or more days for an appointment,

the VFW also identified communication and training problems that may have precluded veterans from being properly informed of their non-VA care options.

The VFW is now working closely with VA and the third party administrators responsible for the implementation of the Choice Program.

The VFW's report includes six specific recommendations to improve the delivery of health care options for veterans, as well as a detailed analysis of participation, wait-time standards, geographic eligibility, and non-VA care issues that must be addressed to ensure this important program succeeds in increasing access to health care for America's veterans. Read the VFW report here.

In an ongoing effort to hold the VA accountable for the proper implementation of this program, and to provide direct customer feedback, the VFW has now launched a second Veterans Choice Program survey, which is available via [www.vfw.org/VAWatch](http://www.vfw.org/VAWatch).

"As the Veterans Choice Program matures, the VFW will continue to issue reports about what is working and how VA and Congress can fix what is not," said Stroud. "This program is intended to be the solution to last year's nationwide crisis in care and confidence. The VFW will not let it fail."

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

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

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

**PLACE OF REUNION:** CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, BATON ROUGE, LA

**DATE OF REUNION:** 13-16 SEPTEMBER 2015

**CONTACT:** ROBERT G. McANALLY

**STREET:** 152 FRISSELL STREET

**CITY/STATE:** HAMPTON, VA ZIP: 23663

**TELEPHONE:** (757) 723-0317

**E-MAIL:** [yujack46709@gmail.com](mailto:yujack46709@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** <http://ussiwojimashipmates.cfns.net/>

**MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE:**

Submitted by: *[Signature]* (Name) (Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (City/State/Zip)

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_

My Membership ID Nr is: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

### Warrior Appreciation Rally 2015

Independence Village Grounds  
255 Mayer Road  
Frankenmuth, Michigan 48734

Saturday, June 27th, 2015  
12:00 to 5:00 PM Rain or Shine



This event is free to "All" Veterans and their families.

Sponsored in part by:



Frankenmuth VFW  
Post 2725



American Legion  
Post 150



Michigan's  
Military and Space  
Heroes Museum



Independence  
Village  
of Frankenmuth

A free, family friendly, carnival style event offering a free picnic lunch for all Michigan veterans and their families. Enjoy music, entertainment, activities and games for all ages. There will be informational booths and displays. Come rain or shine and don't forget a lawn chair.

Many businesses will be providing support to make this event a huge success. Please remember to support the businesses that support us!

All contributors will be listed on Facebook and in future flyers.

Warrior Appreciation Frankenmuth

Independence Village of Frankenmuth 989-652-4100 255 Mayer Road, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 SeniorVillages.com

## Auxiliary TAPS

**78-Dearborn Heights**  
 Barnwell, Virginia  
 Eldridge, Rose  
 Gallaway, Edith  
**4553-Detroit**  
 Lesniak, Jeanette  
**9283-Southgate**  
 Hyvari, Gloria  
 Jordan Resch, Sally  
**9363-Flat Rock**  
 Slage, Patricia  
**1407-Berkley**  
 Talanges, Elaine  
**4659-Shelby Twp**  
 Covey, Dorothy  
 Mathews, Betty  
 Mossey, Carlene  
**6691-Fraser**  
 Babcock, Shirley  
 Calabrese, Cleo  
 Powell, Barbara  
**6782-Eastpointe**  
 Kelly, Barbara  
**6802-Richmond**  
 Haslem, Stella  
**9021-Warren**  
 Gubin, Matrona  
**9914-Highland**  
 Marsh, Ruth  
**701-Lansing**  
 Clark, Roberta  
 Curtis, Myrna  
 Kline, Eileen  
 Mills, Maxine  
**1584-Adrian**  
 Yielding, Mary  
**3925-Erie**  
 Turner, Ruth  
**4093-Carleton**  
 Buckingham, Josephine

**4357-Brighton**  
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 Brighton Vieau, Hazel  
**6462-Dundee**  
 Kroeger, Roberta  
**7309-Mason**  
 Green, Jean  
 McClung, Evelyn  
**1355-Sturgis**  
 Grendell, Burnice  
**4054-Marcellus**  
 Datema, Ana Jo  
**5319-Athens**  
 Barkman, Helen  
**830-Grand Rapids**  
 Tawney, Jessie  
**2144-Holland**  
 Hegedus, Margaret  
 Oosterbaan, Janet  
 Ortman, Joni  
 Oudemolen, Cora  
 Schaafsma, Wilma  
 VanOmmen, Mary  
**2326-Grand Haven**  
 Anderson, Martha  
**2406-Charlotte**  
 Carter, Edith  
**3023-Grand Rapids**  
 Batog, Virginia  
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**3030-Otsego**  
 Brenner, Maxine  
 Ehlers, Pearl  
 Ellinger, Francis  
 Shearer, Peggy  
**5855-Portage**  
 Dorbin, Madeline  
**8260-Nashville**  
 Allen, Florence  
 Rice, Marcia

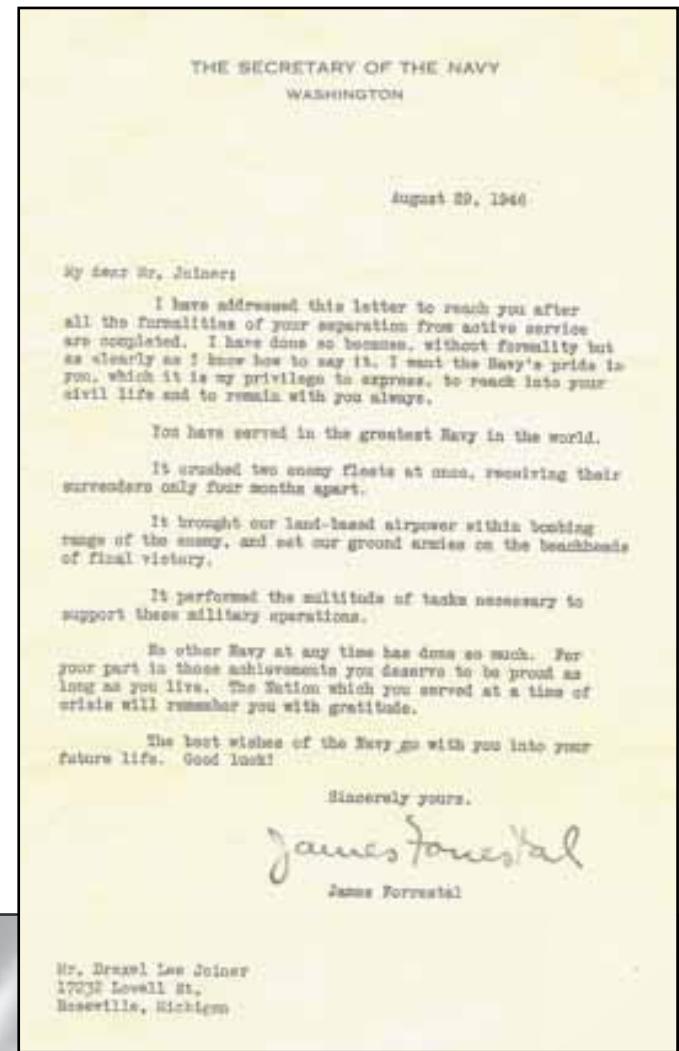
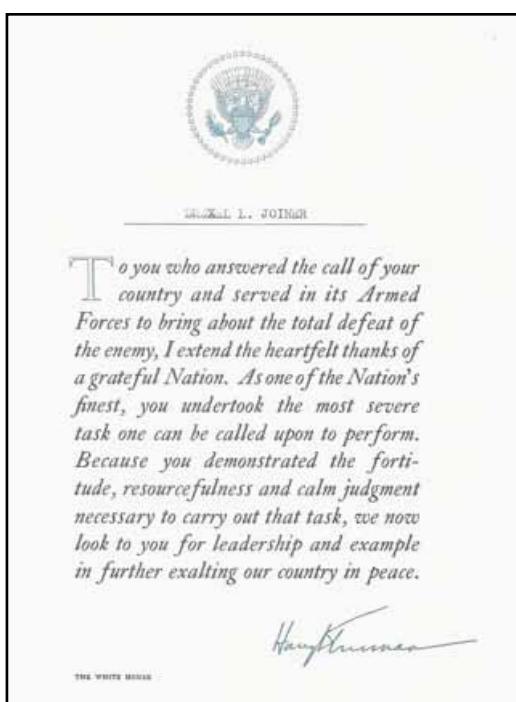
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**671-Dewitt**  
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**2292-Edmore**  
 Ross, Barb  
**4005-Corunna**  
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**4090-Portland**  
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 Bengel, Monica  
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 Rock, Charlene  
**4406-Belding**  
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**5065-Sheridan**  
 Ritter, Joyce  
**7542-Birch Run**  
 Johnson, Leota  
**9455-Owosso**  
 Frezon, Helen  
**9809-Saginaw**  
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**822-Flint**  
 Miller, Joyce  
**2945-Sandusky**  
 Kaczynski, Patricia  
**3087-Flint**  
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**3775-West Branch**  
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**4034-Houghton Lake**  
 Gage, Dorothy  
**4159-Roscommon**  
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**5738-Clare**  
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**6754-Spruce**  
 Buchler, Cheryl  
 Hutchinson, Margaret  
**6950-Kawkawlin**  
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**995-Bitely**  
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**4249-Newaygo**  
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**4499-Manistee**  
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**STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 16**



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OUR TROOPS**

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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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(Age)

(Date of Death)

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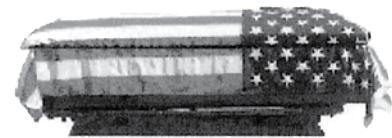
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 USMC USAF USCG

**Served In (Circle One):**

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 Vietnam Gulf Other

**Occupation Forces**

# OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY



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 GRAY, GARY 68 ARMY/KOREA  
 KOLO, HENRY 92 ARMY/WWII  
 LOMBARDI, RICHARD A. 94 ARMY AIR CORPS  
 WWII  
 ROSENTHAL, LAWRENCE E. 91 NAVY/MARINES  
 WWII  
 WIVELL, EDWARD 89 ARMY/WWII  
**552 LINCOLN PARK**  
 KUCHTA, CHESTER F. 87 ARMY/WWII  
**822 FLINT**  
 ETUE, JOHN 83 ARMY/KOREA  
**1008 WATERFORD**  
 ABLER, PAUL 82 ARMY/KOREA  
 AMOS THOMAS MARINES/KOREA  
 HEPLER, JOHN 89 ARMY/WWII  
 HINSBERG, ROBERT 81 ARMY/KOREA  
 KIMREY, ARLES 67 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 MAJOROS, RICHARD 89 ARMY/WWII  
 NICKLOW, JAMES 89 ARMY/WWII  
 OLSZEWSKI, RICHARD 70 ARMY/VIETNAM  
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 PIKE, DAVID 70 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 RUSSELL, CARTER 95 ARMY/WWII/KOREA  
 SAWYERS, THOMAS  
 THOMAS, DONALD 90 WWII  
**1137 BENTON HARBOR**  
 GRIFFITHS, JAMES 83 MARINES/KOREA  
 MILLIKEN, MELVIN 89 ARMY/WWII  
**1138 MONROE**  
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 SASFY, STEPHEN 95 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII  
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 VANCENA, VINCENT F. 93 NAVY/WWII  
**1146 ST. CLAIR SHORES**  
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 NICHOLSON, LEROY T. 90 AIR FORCE/WWII  
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 VALLIER, WILLIAM A. 92 AIR FORCE/WWII  
**1454 ALMA**  
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 BLAGBORNE, FLETCHER 90 NAVY WWII  
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**1855 DOWAGIAC**  
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 BEYERSDORF, RALPH 89 ARMY/WWII  
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 HULST, JOHN 87 NAVY/WWII

**2272 DURAND**  
 TYLER, ROGER D. 93 NAVY/WWII  
**2292 EDMORE**  
 NESTLE, BEN 93 ARMY/WWII  
**2645 SOUTHFIELD**  
 CRISSMAN, JOHN S. JR. 85 ARMY/WWII  
**2725 FRANKENMUTH**  
 EHRLINGER, HAROLD 85 ARMY/KOREA  
 LITTLE, JOSEPH 86 NAVY/WWII  
 MARINO, JOHN 90 ARMY/WWII  
**2777 BURTON**  
 CONGDON, ROBERT 80 NAVY/KOREA  
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 GANE, GEORGE 91 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII  
 SWANZY, JOHN D. SR. 87 ARMY/WWII  
**3030 OTSEGO**  
 KRILL, DONALD 67 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 SCHMITT, CHRISTOPHER 50 ARMY/KOREA  
 SERVIS, KENNETH 80 KOREA  
**3165 NEGAUNEE**  
 JOHNSON, ARVID G. 91 ARMY/WWII  
 MARCOTTE, ROBERT J. 86 ARMY/KOREA  
 MCCRACKEN, GERALD C. AIR FORCE/KOREA  
**3314 ARCADIA**  
 MERRILL, MERTON 91 ARMY/WWII  
 OLSEN, ROY D. 81 NAVY/KOREA  
**3676 SAULT STE MARIE**  
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**3733 FOWLER**  
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 TAMILYN, ARTHUR R. 72 NAVY/CUBA  
**4115 SEBEWAING**  
 DRASCHIL, JOHN 90 ARMY/WWII  
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 MULNIX, ROBERT 69 ARMY/VIETNAM  
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 DYER, PHILIP F. JR. 92 AIR FORCE/WWII  
**5315 BALDWIN**  
 CHASE, JACK 90 ARMY/WWII  
 MCCORMICK, JAMES 86 ARMY/WWII  
 SMITH, MARTIN 85 ARMY/KOREA  
 WHEATLEY, LINEUL 77 ARMY/AIR FORCE  
 WROBLEWSKI, WALT 66 ARMY/VIETNAM

**5666 FLUSHING**  
 FARNEY, THOMAS 89 NAVY/WWII  
 OCENASEK, STANLEY 85 ARMY/KOREA  
**5670 GWINN**  
 CHASE, LOUIS 74 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM  
 ONTO, ARTHUR 92 NAVY/WWII  
**6013 ELKTON**  
 RENN, HAROLD 90 WWII  
**6756 CENTER LINE**  
 HERNANDEZ, RIGOBERTO 92 ARMY/VIETNAM  
**6782 EASTPOINTE**  
 SERA, EDWARD 93 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII  
**6864 CADILLAC**  
 KANE, DANIEL L. 98 ARMY/WWII  
 KOLLAR, FRANK J. 84 ARMY/KOREA  
**7302 HEMLOCK**  
 PETERSON, ARVIN 82 NAVY/KOREA  
**7486 AKRON**  
 STEIN, LAWRENCE 64 MARINES/VIETNAM  
**7542 BIRCH RUN**  
 LANGWORTHY, ROY 87 NAVY/WWII  
**7546 DEARBORN HEIGHTS**  
 HOUGHTAILING, EDMUND 90 AIR FORCE/WWII  
 LUCY, ROBERT 65 ARMY/VIETNAM  
**7804 POSEN**  
 MCFALDA, FRANK 96 ARMY/WWII  
 MORGAN, WAYNE 66 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 WOSNIAK, LEONARD 89 ARMY/WWII  
**7806 MANTON**  
 NEWLAND, ROBERT 92 AIR FORCE/WWII  
**7979 EVART**  
 MCCLACHLAN, ARCHIE 88 ARMY/KOREA  
**8465 PORT HURON**  
 COVERT, HERBERT 86 NAVY/WWII  
 GARDOCKI, JOSEPH 87 NAVY/WWII  
 MILLER, CHARLES  
 TETREAU, CHARLES 79 ARMY  
**8594 YALE**  
 MANDEVILLE, DELMAR 83 ARMY/KOREA  
**8846 MUSKEGON**  
 CHARLES, WAYNE 89 ARMY/WWII  
 EVANS, LEO 93 NAVY/WWII  
 JURECKI, JOSEPH 68 MARINES/VIETNAM  
 KRAAI, VERN 85 ARMY/KOREA  
 PURCHASE, VICTOR 88 NAVY/WWII  
 WORKMAN, FREDERICK 86 ARMY  
**8872 PORT SANILAC**  
 BOPRA, LAUREL 88 ARMY/WWII  
**8964 OVID**  
 DARLING, HARVEY 91 ARMY/WWII  
**9023 BRIMLEY**  
 SHERLUND, RUDOLPH 95 ARMY AIR CORPS  
 WWII  
**9283 SOUTHGATE**  
 DURHAM, BRYON M. 90 WWII/KOREA  
**15023 LANSING**  
 JORDAN, DARWIN 82 NAVY/KOREA  
 MILLER, K O 91 ARMY/WWII  
 PATRICK, MICHAEL 69 ARMY/VIETNAM

## 2014-2015 National Membership Statistics

As of Thursday, April 2, 2015

District	Percent	Place	No. 100% Posts	Posts With 0 new & 0 Reinstates	New & Reinstates Needed For 100%	Available Reinstates in each District
4th	92.59%	11th	3	6	402	1378 (pages of names 14)
5th	94.75%	3rd	7	6	376	1748 (pages of names 18)
6th	92.97%	10th	3	4	362	1096 (pages of names 11)
7th	93.42%	8th	3	5	141	586 (pages of names 6)
8th	93.50%	7th	4	8	262	1045 (pages of names 11)
9th	93.22%	9th	4	4	313	1275 (pages of names 13)
10th	95.59%	2nd	7	15	207	1137 (pages of names 12)
11th	92.19%	12th	2	9	240	841 (pages of names 9)
12th	94.22%	5th	3	8	222	1062 (pages of names 11)
13th	98.14%	1st	7	9	49	674 (pages of names 7)
14th	94.05%	6th	2	2	112	491 (pages of names 5)
15th	94.31%	4th	1	7	102	569 (pages of names 6)
Totals				83	2788 needed	11,902 available

**Carrie Turner**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Guard  
2015-2016*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**VFW and Auxiliary District 8**  
**VFW Post and Auxiliary 2406**  
**Her Family and Friends**

**Harry "Les" Croyle**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
National Council of Administration Representative  
2015-2019*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**5th District**  
**Oakland County Council**  
**Macomb County Council**  
**Cpl. Richard W. Mengen Post 6756**  
**His wife and family**

**Matthew David**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Jr. Vice Commander  
2015-2016*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**6th District**  
**Graf-O'Hara Post 423**  
**His wife and family**

**Jan Lawrence**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Treasurer  
2015-2019*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**Districts 5, 6, & 11**  
**Post & Auxiliary 4005**  
**Her Family and Friends**

**Sherwood Pea**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
National Council of Administration Representative  
2015-2019*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**10th District**  
**Dr. George Washington Carver-Leo R. Crow**  
**VFW Post 8236**  
**His wife and family**

**Lloyd Putman II**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
National Council of Administration Representative  
2015-2019*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**9th District**  
**VFW Post 9455**  
**His wife and family**

**Lloyd Putman III**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Quartermaster  
2015-2019*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**9th District**  
**VFW Post 9455**  
**His wife and family**

**John Murphy**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Chaplain  
2015-2016*



**Endorsed and supported by:**  
**His wife and family**

**Lynn Patterson**

*Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Quartermaster  
2015-2016*



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**4th District**  
**VFW Post 6695**  
**Her husband and family**



**Jennifer Smith**  
Candidate for Department of Michigan  
Department Chaplain  
2015-2016



**Endorsed and supported by:**

**6th District  
Post 701  
Her husband and family**

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES  
96TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION  
COMRADES & SISTERS-  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS MAY 18, 2015**

**RATES:**

FULL PAGE .....	\$100.00
1/2 PAGE .....	70.00
1/4 PAGE .....	45.00
PATRON (NAME AND POST OR AUXILIARY NUMBER ONLY).....	4.00

*PLEASE PRINT - DO NOT WRITE*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN V.F.W.**  
(NO CASH)

MAIL TO: Scott Gloger  
6718 Academy #5  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Phone: 734-323-1188  
Email: lingloscot@yahoo.com

**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS MAY 18, 2015**

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**God Bless  
Our Troops**

**VFW Camp Trotter for Children  
Ninth Annual Charity Golf Outing**

*Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars*

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015**

8:00 a.m. – Registration  
9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

**VILLAGE GREEN GOLF COURSE**

8130 Bingham Avenue  
Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513

**Cost \$60.00 Per Person / \$240.00 Per Team Includes:**

- 18 Holes with cart
- Lunch at the Turn
- Grilled Steak Dinner
- 4 person scramble
- Team Placement Prizes
- Door Prizes



**GOLF ENTRY FORM**

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 12, 2015

Captains name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hole/Tee Sponsor (Minimum) \$55 \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$**

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

**Checks payable to:**  
VFW Camp Trotter for Children

Mail to: PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.  
925 Forest Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813-1264

**Questions? Call Ernie Meyers, Sr. at 517-490-1221  
Email: emeyers76@att.net  
www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc**

**VFW AND LADIES AUXILIARY**  
Department of Michigan State Convention  
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint Michigan  
**Wednesday June 3 – Sunday June 7, 2015**  
**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION IS May 14, 2015**

**Mail or Fax, Reservation to: Holiday Inn Gateway Centre  
5353 Gateway Centre, Flint Michigan 48507  
810-232-5300.**

*Make checks payable to: Holiday Inn Gateway Center - A Deposit of One Night or a Major Credit card is required! (NO CASH). Reservation will not be guaranteed without a form of payment. 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
\$85.00 +tax	\$85.00 + tax	\$85.00 + tax	\$85.00 + tax

\*\*\*\*\*

Please put your e-mail address or phone number to receive confirmation numbers from hotel.

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ phone no: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

:

ATTN District Hospitality Chairman if you want a Hospitality Room for the Convention:  
You must contact the Convection Director:

CONVENTION Director  
Pat Patterson 586-202-7776 [pattersond@aol.com](mailto:pattersond@aol.com)

*If you are a current member of the VFW/AUX Council of Administration please check \_\_\_\_\_*

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW  
LIFE LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE**

Yearly drawing of 3 prizes:

1st prize - Gold legacy Life Membership = \$1200.00

2nd prize - Silver legacy Life Membership = \$800.00

3rd prize - 1 Bronze legacy Life Membership = \$400.00

You don't have to be present to win. Each ticket is \$10.00 to purchase. You must be a VFW life member in good standing to receive a legacy Life Membership. If you are not a life member and win 1st prize, you may use a portion of the \$1200.00 legacy Life Membership toward a VFW Life Membership and the remaining money will go toward the 2nd or 3rd place prize. Drawing will be held at the VFW State Convention on June 6, 2015 at 12:00pm at the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint, MI. The winning number will be available on the VFW Department website ([www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org)) on June 7, 2015.

We are in need of ticket distributors. Please call:

Larry Coleman: (home) 734-671-5134 (cell) 734-818-6677

John Coleman: (home) 734-771-8935

VFW Department Headquarters: 517-485-9456

Please mail all purchased ticket stubs with money or any unsold tickets to:  
VFW Department of Michigan, 924 N. Washington, Lansing, MI 48906



# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community

Volume 82 Number 4

April/May/June 2015

## INSIDE

**From the Editor**  
**THE MOV will be Delivered Electronically. DON'T PANIC!!!**



The C of A at Mid-Winter Conference in January voted to change the delivery method of the MOV. We will now be delivering the MOV electronically via email as the default method of delivery. What does this mean to you? It means that you will no longer receive a copy through the mail unless you specifically request it with the July/August/September edition. We understand that there are some members that do not have access to a computer or email and that's ok. If you want a hard copy mailed to you, then that is what you will get. **A HARD COPY OF THE MOV IS FREE TO VEW MEMBERS.** All you need to do is send me your name, address, and post number. Please write clearly so I get your information correct. You can email your information to [mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org) or through US Mail to:

Matt David  
10 Elder St  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Those that want the MOV electronically, you have 2 choices. You can receive it via email or you can view/download it off of the Dept. website. If you want the MOV delivered via email, please email me at [mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org) with your name and post number. If you elect to get the MOV through the website, you don't have to do anything. Ladies and Mens Auxiliary members, electronic delivery of the MOV is open to you free of charge. The \$4.00 per year subscription still applies if you want a hard copy mailed to you. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me via email at [mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org) or by phone 734-883-1506.

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## STATE COMMANDER

**Harry "Les" Croyle**  
**State Commander**

My article is a tribute to a member of the Greatest Generation. His name is Drexel Lee Joiner and he now serves as father, grandfather, great grandfather and father-in-law in one of the nicest families I know. He is a man that everyone knows and everyone likes. A life member of VFW Post 6756.

He entered active service on May 10, 1945, two days after his 18th birthday. He enlisted under V6 program (victory plus 6 months). He served on two ships, the USS Triana (IX-223) which arrived in the Marshall Islands on August 11, 1945 where they received and discharged fleet freight and lubricating oil. After developing a leak in its cargo hold it returned to San Francisco on January 15, 1946 to the Ships Graveyard. After a 3 or 4 day wait at Treasure Island, he boarded the USS Winged Arrow AP-170 a troopship and returned to the Marshall Islands, where they transported troops back and forth between the islands. He returned home in August of 1946 and was discharged August 18, 1946.

When talking to him about his time in the service he often says "There are a lot of things I don't remember, after all it was a long time ago. But I do remember the guys I served with, you never forget the guys you served with."

He is very proud of his service and saved some of the letters he received after his discharge, located on page 12 of this paper. I am proud to say that I know and love this man, my father-in-law, Drexel Lee Joiner.

—*STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 12*

## The VFW Store is Coming to Michigan

At the State Convention in Flint, the VFW Emblem Supply Store will have a booth set up with items for sale. This will be a small version of the store that is set up during the National Convention. For those that are unable to go to National Convention, this is your opportunity to actually see some of the items that the store offers. Special order items can also be ordered.

### Coming Events

STATE CONVENTION  
June 3-June 7, 2015



# VFW

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS