

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

July/August/September

Volume 83 Number 1



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

I would like to first begin by thanking "ALL" the Comrades throughout the Department of Michigan, who supported me and elected me, as your State Senior Vice Commander for 2015-2016. I am so very appreciative to each and every one of you. I will do my very best to serve "ALL" my Comrades throughout the Department of Michigan.

We have a great team this year under the leadership of State Commander Paul McIvor from District 10. I also want to welcome Matt David, our New State Junior Vice Commander from District 6 to our team. ALL of the members on our TEAM are here to serve you and help you in any way possible. Don't hesitate to contact any of us or stop us, wherever we are if there is anything we can help you with.

I want to Congratulate "ALL" of the Elected Officers, Appointed Officers and Appointed Chairpersons at every level throughout the Department of Michigan. No matter what position you hold, whether it is at Post level, Council Level, District Level or Department Level, each of you play a very important part for the success



**Jerry
Gorski**

**Senior
Vice Commander**

of "our" Department of Michigan. WE are a TEAM! To be successful, "every" member on the "TEAM" must do his/her part; otherwise, WE will "not" be able to achieve OUR goals.

I just returned from the 116th VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was held July 18-22, 2015. Our New Commander-in-Chief is John Biedrzycki from his native-Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. You can watch and hear his acceptance speech on the V.F.W. National website (www.vfw.org). Commander-in-Chief John visited Michigan, when he was our Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and attended our Fall Conference (Pow Wow) in 2014 at the Boyne Highlands Resort. He even dressed up for our "Mash" theme at our Department Hospitality Room and he also

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 3

I am honored to be writing this article to all of you as your State Quartermaster. Thank you for all the support that you all showed me. It means so much to my family and I. There are several topics that are at the forefront as we start out our new year.

There was a letter that went out about the Trustee's signatures on the Audits. Remember that this is part of the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure Section 218. Any negligence on the part of the Trustees may make them an accessory to the act of any misuse of Post funds by reason of not performing their duties as prescribed in the By-Laws and in accordance with their obligation. The Bonding Company liability is contingent with the compliance of VFW By-Laws by Post Officers. Meaning if they can prove that the Post was not performing due diligence then they can deny the claim.

The VFW passed a resolution to amend Article XI, Sections 1101-1104 of our National Bylaws at the 116th National Convention in Pittsburgh,

allowing male spouses and family members to join the VFW Auxiliary effective August 21, 2015. This is an exciting time for husbands, sons and fathers of Veterans to be a part of the VFW Auxiliary and to be able to continue to support their family members and other Veterans from all Eras.

We will be having VTS (Veterans Training Seminar) at Fall Conference where there will be a breakout sessions that I will be giving some training for Quartermasters. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call me or email me anytime. I do my very best to get back with you as soon as I possibly can. It was great to see you all at Department Convention and I can't wait to see you at Fall Conference.



**Lynn
Patterson**

**Department
Quartermaster**

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

I would like to thank everyone for their support and confidence in electing me as the state jr. vice commander for 2015-2016. It is truly an honor and very humbling. I will serve with honor. Thank you to Butch Ogden and Steve Meredith, my traveling companions on the campaign trail. I sincerely appreciate the time you took out of your lives to travel with me. Last but not least, thank you to my beautiful wife Ivette. Without her love and support I would not have been able to do this.

I had the pleasure of being invited and assigned to the Warrior Appreciation Day in Frankenmuth, MI on June 27, 2015 hosted by VFW Post 2725. It was a day of fun for veterans and their families with food and entertainment free of charge. The VA had a booth set up with information available if someone needed it. Also, various vendors were there that offered services to veterans. They had a shuttle taking people to Michigan's Military and Space Heroes Museum. If you are ever in Frankenmuth, it is well worth your time to stop in.

Congratulations to the new post and district jr. vice commanders. I look forward to going through the chairs with you. There is time set aside at the upcoming Fall and Mid-Winter Conferences us to get together. It is a great opportunity for us to meet each other and discuss plans and ideas for when we are in the hot seat. While this is primarily for district and post jr's, all VFW members are welcome to attend.

As always, membership must be a top priority. We have to pursue the new members. They are out there, we just have to go out and find them because they won't just come to us. However, do not forget about our current members. Each post quartermaster can download the unpaid roster for the post. Get this list and go visit these members that have let their membership lapse. Maybe they are on hard times and can't afford to pay their dues. If that is the case, you can use the relief fund to pay their dues. We should never leave a comrade behind simply because they can't afford to pay



**Matt
David**

**Junior
Vice Commander**

their dues.

Donations to the various department programs have been down over the last few years. We are blessed to belong to an organization that has many programs designed to support our veterans, their families, and the communities we live in. I do not think there is another charitable organization that you can donate a dollar to where 100% of your donation goes to what you donated for. With the Dept of Michigan, whatever amount you donate to one of the programs, 100% of your donation goes to that program. If you donate to the James N. Goldsmith Cancer Research Fund, 100% of what you donate goes to cancer research. So before you donate to any other organization please give to the programs of the Dept of Michigan VFW first.

I would like to encourage everyone to sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly. Simply go to www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/ and click on the "Join Action Corps" button that will be about half way down the page. Every Friday you will get a news letter of what went on in Washington that week. If a particular piece of legislation needs our support, you will get an email with an electronic petition. All you have to do is click a few boxes and it gets sent to your respective congresspersons. It is so easy to do and this really works.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their support and trust. I am looking forward to working as part of the VFW Team with State Commander Paul McIvor, State Sr. Vice Commander Jerry Gorski, and whoever may be coming up behind me next year. We must work together as a team because it is impossible for one person to do it all. If we work together as a team, we can accomplish anything.

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

STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Lots to write about, but you have an entire MOV yet to read [grin]. Instead, this article will briefly focus upon hope, diligence, and sustainability. Since we are called to serve others -- veterans, their families, troops, our communities, state, and nation -- hope is a terrific way to begin.

The desire and wish to keep our Veterans of Foreign Wars' Posts strong is evident within Michigan. For the Posts that have many active volunteers and are fiscally sound, may your strength prevail. For the Posts that have few active volunteers and are financial secure, may your bounty increase. For our Posts that have a handful holding them together and/or funds are tight, please do not despair. Rather, may you be reinvigorated by sound efforts that allow new membership and proactive ideas. Above all, may every Post remain hopeful and keep pushing proactively forward.

Diligence is a key component to Post longevity, regardless if you are struggling or thriving. We are not going to move forward or even maintain our Posts by stagnation, but we must also be wise. That means being careful with your resources (time, people, money, etc.) and driven by astuteness and virtue rather than ego. Success is often realized when we consider viable options that may work or have worked in other places rather than rushing to things that have not worked or simply doing nothing. Proverbs 21:5 ESV, "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty."

Last, sustainability is the goal that all Post Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents (and District, County, and Dept.) and all

Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain



members should be seeking to obtain. If we do not ensure that our Posts are healthy enough to last for years to come, they will likely not be such. From the perspective of a Past Post and District Commander (and Chaplain), it is certainly not an easy endeavor at times. Our volunteers are tired and we need others to help. However, we must attract new members and energize inactive members by remaining relevant, engaged, and an unmistakable force for good. The strategies for this will vary from Post-to-Post, but every effort helps, including submitting reports and undertaking efforts as you can.

If we endeavor keep hopeful, be diligent in our choices and efforts, and do our best to ensure we promote the worthy missions of the VFW for current and subsequent generations, we can prevail. Please rejoice and empower each other with the amazing things the VFW has to offer and the blessings of that service and fellowship, all by His grace. Hope is indeed a wonderful way to begin and to end. 2 Peter 1:5-7 ESV, "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love."

May God bless you.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

I want to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed officers for the 2015-2016 year. I'm looking forward to working with you to make this a great year. We just returned from National Convention in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and as of August 21, 2015, the Ladies Auxiliary will start taking men into their ranks and it will be known as Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary of the United States of America. There is still work to be done from National and I'm sure there working on it.

The new Podium Edition of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual will be out in November. There are new changes to the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure that you will need for reference. Order the 2016 edition now and National will mail it as soon as

Brian Coats
Department Adjutant



they are printed. Reference the Emblem and Supply Catalog or go online. Post inspection form Section 5(g) asks, "Does the Post Adjutant maintain a current copy of Department and National By-Laws?" Adjutants should order their new Podium Edition now to be in compliance for next year's post inspection. Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to be in this position. If anyone needs information on any of the operations of the VFW, please contact us at the headquarters in Lansing.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

STATE SURGEON GENERAL

Dear Comrades;

First let me thank you for allowing me to serve you for another year.

I will do my utmost best to ensure that you are not disappointed in your choice.

As the new year approaches I am noticing some problems, it seems that blood drive information is being sent to Community Service, Please include Blood drive information in your Hospital report.

I have noticed that some Comrades are using outdated Hospital Report Forms, if you need forms please either contact myself or Department so that we can get you the updated forms. I have been receiving forms that were printed that does not show the Post nor District Number, please check your reports before you send them In. As always if you are

Jerry Smith
Surgeon General



missing a report feel free to call me, or email me, my phone is 616 293 7544 and my email is jerrylsmith@chartermi.net . You may also use the Department Web site to contact me also.

I am in the middle of the rebuilding of my house the burned up so I may not get right back to you but if you leave a message I will get back to you.

I wish you all a wonderful and progressive year, We are moving forward, let us continue to do so.

I look forward to seeing you all at Convention.



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Advocating For Others



Paul Pirlot

Many of us are familiar with the VA program that allows a veteran to apply for structural alterations to a house if modifications are needed due to service connected disabilities. These alterations are usually approved for veterans who have suffered traumatic amputations or are blind or a combination of both. But what if a veteran suffered an accident after service that left him seriously disabled? Is he or she ineligible because the disability is not related to service? The answer is no, but there is a program that he or she is eligible for.

The VA has a program called Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA). This is a grant program that allows for medically necessary home improvements to a veteran's primary residence. Alterations may include: entrances and exits from the home, bathroom and kitchen renovations, entryway or driveway improvements to ease access to the home to include construction of a ramp, and improvements to plumbing or electrical systems when needed due to the installation of medical equipment.

The grant does have limits with respect to dollar amounts. There is a lifetime limit of up to \$6,800 for those who have a service connected disability or a non-service connected condition rated 50 percent or more. For those veterans who do not meet those criteria a lifetime benefit of up to \$2,000 may be provided.

So, you believe you may qualify for the grant. What is the first step? The best option is to start with your primary

care physician, preferably VA to ensure a smoother process. The physician must fill out a prescription that includes the specific items required, a medical diagnosis and justification for those items, and the veteran's name, address, social security number, and phone number.

Next is completing an application. This is done using VA Form 10-0103, VETERANS APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE In Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations. The applicant must also have quotes from at least three licensed contractors and include the contractors' name, address, telephone number, and Federal tax ID number or social security number. The veteran's name, address, and telephone number must be included as well. If the property to be renovated is rented or leased you must have written permission from the owner. The last requirement is a photograph of the work site prior to construction. To apply contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center.

VA also provides grants to veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities to help purchase or construct an adapted home, or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. Two grant programs exist: Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant and Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant.

In addition to the loss of limb or blindness referenced at the beginning of this article the VA also includes certain burn injuries and respiratory injuries. Like the HISA grant, the SAH and SHA have limits which are adjusted annually. No individual may use the grant benefit more than three times up to the maximum dollar amount allowable.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from 1

danced with "Miss Clinger", our State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle 2014-2015, and yes, we have pictures to prove it!

Membership was again the main topic at the 116th VFW National Convention this year. We heard from each of our National Officers speak about recruiting and retention of members. I attended a Membership Class put on by the Young Post Officers of VFW Post #1 in Denver, Colorado. Post #1 is increasing New members by leaps and bounds. These Young Post Officers & Post Members have completely turned Post #1 around, from wiping out a 6 digit deficit to having money in the bank. If each of us would just recruit (1) New or Reinstated Member, just one, we would help our Posts, our Councils, our Districts, our Department of Michigan achieve 100% in Membership. Today, we still have eligible Veterans from all Wars and all Conflicts, who do not belong to the Veterans of Foreign. Many eligible Veterans have never been asked to join the V.F.W. Yes, that's right, they have never been asked. Many eligible Veterans are returning home from Afghanistan. WE just need to ask these Young Veterans as well as ALL Veterans from ALL Wars and Conflicts to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Tell them about the VA Benefits and VA Healthcare, that they could be eligible to receive. Tell them about the "Best" V.F.W. Department of Michigan Service Office (Detroit) and the "Best" Service Officers throughout Michigan that will help them apply for VA Benefits. Don't be afraid to

ask any of these Veterans, where ever you see them. It could in a grocery store, at a restaurant, at a concert or even at a water aerobics class. Yes, a water aerobics class. I just signed up a New "Life" Member at my Friday water aerobics class, when I returned home from the VFW National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I went back to resume my water aerobics classes. I met the Veteran a month ago at one of my Friday aerobics classes. He was wearing a U.S. Air Force cap, so I started talking to him and at the end of the conversation, I gave him an application. I kept asking him every Friday, when I saw him with his son. He said he didn't want to be an Annual Member but wanted to be a Life Member. So, he paid his Life Membership Fee with his American Express Card. Oh yes, he is joining my Post 2645 Southfield.

I also attended the Membership Training Class conducted by Director Bob Crider and Assistant Director Rick Butler. Rick Butler attended our Department Convention in June 2014 and conducted an excellent Membership Training Class on Sunday, following the Department Convention. If you need any Membership Material for recruiting, please call Rick Butler at 1-816-968-2752 or email him at rbutler@vfw.org. Rick will make sure to get Membership Recruiting material to you that you need. Oh yes, many membership materials are FREE! All you have to do is pay the shipping charge. At this year's National Convention, anyone, who wanted the FREE membership material as well as ordering

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 8

Department Service Officers

SUCCESS STORY

Clear and Unmistakable errors (CUE) occur when the VA fails to follow procedural directives, overlooked material facts of records, and/or failed to apply or incorrectly applied the laws or regulations in place at the time the claim was filed. There are occasions when these errors are not discovered until decades later.

Our service officer was reviewing the veteran's claim folder in preparation for an appellate hearing. While reviewing the military medical records an entry caught his eye. The veteran had suffered a serious gunshot wound during the Korean War and it quickly became apparent he had been seriously under evaluated. Additionally, the residuals of his gunshot wound were worse than his evaluation currently reflected. The service officer began to suspect the original rating for the gunshot wound was incorrect. The veteran was rated at 10 percent even though the muscle wound was through-and-through and severe. Upon further review of the veteran's service treatment records it was shown his gunshot wound required lengthy hospitalization, debridement of the muscle area, had become infected, and sustained weakness.

After a thorough review the service officer became certain the VA had erred in the original decision and submitted a claim for a CUE in regards to the original evaluation and for the residuals of the gunshot wound. According to the Code of Federal Regulations in effect at the time of the injury the severity warranted a much higher evaluation than a 10 percent rating.

During the subsequent hearing on a related issue the service officer was able to persuade the VA Decision Review Officer (DRO) to look into the matter of the CUE. As this was not normally a part of the appeal process he had to convince the DRO to take jurisdiction over the matter. It should be noted there are few rating officials who are trained or have the experience to deal with this kind of claim. The DRO's are raters with the highest level of experience and training and this certainly worked in our and the veteran's favor.

Upon review of the record the DRO agreed the VA had indeed committed a clear and unmistakable error. The DRO requested a Compensation & Pension examination so a VA physician could review the veteran's service medical records and formally describe the severity of the gunshot wound at the time it occurred. The DRO made the decision to retroactively increase the veteran from 10 percent to 40 percent disabled for the gunshot wound back to 1954. In addition, the veteran had filed for Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU). This issue had been previously denied and warranted another look. The veteran was granted TDIU back to 2002 and his appeal for an increase for the residual effects of the wound was also granted retroactively.

This resulted in a retroactive payment of over \$421,000! Persistence, attention to detail, and teamwork once again were at the forefront of the VFW service office. Though late, this veteran received what he had been entitled to for the last 60 years.

God Bless Our Troops

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2015-2016 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

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

Please Remember!

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

MOV Editor
Scott Gloger, mov@vfwmi.org

Auxiliary Editor
Cindy Peto, ccpeto@yahoo.com



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Ramiro Lopez
District 4 Commander



Greetings Comrades of District 4,

First I would like to congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers throughout the District. I look forward to working with each and every one of you during the year. Together we will be successful in achieving our goals in serving our great organization.

I also want to congratulate our newly elected Auxiliary President Sandi Merrow. I look forward to working with you and your staff.

I would like to thank our membership for your trust and confidence in electing me as your District Commander.

Your newly elected District Officers are here to serve and assist the posts in the District, please don't hesitate to call.

I cannot say enough about membership. Signing new members and retaining current members should be a priority.

We must all continue our monthly reporting and supporting our VFW Programs.

Upcoming District Events are as follows:

- District Meeting – September 13 at 12:00pm Post 1888 Trenton
- POW/MIA Ceremony – September 18 at 2:00pm Lincoln Park
- District Meeting – November 8 at 12:00pm Post 552 Lincoln Park
- District Voice of Democracy Banquet – January 9 at 5:00 pm

Feel free to Contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank You for Serving!



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Scott Gloger
District 5 Commander



Greetings Comrades:

First thing I would like to congratulate all the newly elected officers within our district. I look forward to working with everyone. Congratulations go out also to the new President Kathy Hubbard. I know we can have a good working year together for our district.

I especially want to thank all our members for having the confidence in me to represent you for our district; I will try and do my best.

I hope everyone's year is going as well as can be expected. It is that time of year the Post inspections are being done. Please be cooperative with the inspectors, they are doing the job which helps to determine if a post needs help or not. It is still for all of us to be working on membership now, instead of waiting till the last minute. We need to

recruit all year round.

Please do not forget to report, report, report, hospital and activities by the 10th of every month.

If an officer misses two consecutive meeting he/she can possibly be removed by the commander.

At our district meetings the post commander and or representative must be in attendance.

District Meetings:

- August 23, 2015 St. Clair Shores Post 1146
- November 8, 2015 New Baltimore Post 7573
- February 21, 2016 St. Clair Shores Post 1146
- May 15, 2016 Waterford Post 1008

Have a good year.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Mike 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 Denny Craycraft or me.

Your District Line Officers and Chiefs are traveling in mass thru the district. Our goal is to get all the post up to date on all paper work required per by-laws. So if your post has not been visited by us yet, you will see us soon.

Report, Report, Report. Maintain your nonprofit status and keep the IRS at bay. Membership: Get your "spark plug" by signing up a new or reinstated member. Send proof of signing to Denny Craycraft or me.

Support our raffles: reverse raffle, gun raffle, and others. For more information contact me or Sr. Vice Shane.

The District Bowling tournament; those interested contact Vic Simon at 989-763-3186 and/or Nicole Koutz at 989-620-6425.

Euchre, those of you who want to participate in a district euchre tournament,

DISTRICT 10, continued

contact Ed Davidson at 989-681-5862.

To my President Jan, thank you. It has been a joy working with you. We have helped each other thru tough times. This is what friends do. I am honored to have you as my "El Presidente".

To Shane Houghton my Sr. Vice, thank you for being my right arm. Whatever I asked you to do, the task was accomplished and more. That's what teamwork is all about.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Dan Renberg
District 11 Commander



I hope everyone enjoyed a very nice 4th of July weekend. The weather was great...lots of sunshine and no rain.

By the time this article is posted in the MOV, we will have had our district meeting at Houghton Lake Post 4034 Our next district meeting is at the Standish Post 3724 on November 1st. Please do not forget operation help dinner—dance also at Standish Post 3724 on October 31st at 6:30 p.m. until around 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. for more information regarding this, call 989-846-6533. So come out to operation help, have a good dinner, and dance the night away.

For those who will not make the District meeting August 2nd, a big change has been made as far as trustee's signatures on your post quarterly reports. All three trustees must sign it, "no" pro temps or your reports will be returned to your post. This has come down from National

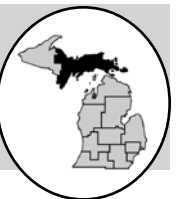
and is not debatable. If trustee cannot be there, a letter from said trustee and post commander to department explaining reason why trustee cannot sign report. This does not ensure an acceptance of report.

One last thought, we all know that our number one goal is to help the veterans, but we need members in the veterans of foreign wars to continue on with this mission. Comrades, our ranks are shrinking each and every day, we need to bring in new members and to bring back old members who have stopped attending post meetings and district meetings. We also need to attend the State Conventions and stand up like True Veterans of Foreign Wars. We also need to get out and bring in new veterans to our ranks. I am asking you to get out and sign up one, two, three or more new members. Make it your personal goal.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Joseph Frappier
District 14 Commander



Comrades and sisters, 14th district.

Hello from the Upper peninsula of Michigan!

Posts in the 14th are doing a good job, with reports. Just a note—please take a moment check reports for omissions and figures before mailing. Thank you!

Please send reports to chairmen or department headquarter, not to me. Also, all post quarterly reports must be signed by trustees, not anyone else, or reports will be sent back – per department rules, this year.

Now some news that is the news?

National veteran's service, do you need help filing a claim? VFW's national veterans service has a VFW department

service officer locator on its web site. To find a service officer near you, just follow these easy steps:

1. Visit www.vfw.org/nvs.
2. Select assistance from the menu
3. Select national veterans service from the pull down menu
4. Locate the find a service officer box on the right - hand side of the screen
5. Select your state and hit GO

That's all there is to it.

VFW's military services gets new name! Effective March 1, it's now known as veterans and military support . [VMS]

Thanks for the read!

Remember get them rolling out to sea!



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

James Pintar
District 15 Commander



Another new year is upon us. We got off to a good start with a well-attended planning meeting. For you Posts that were no shows you missed a lot of good information. Let's try to make this year a no hassle year. I don't want to hassle you about audits, post-election forms, delegate fees to Department, & delegate fees to National. Most of our Posts have had the same Post Commander for years now so we should know how to get it done

Our post inspections are underway. You will receive a letter from the inspector scheduling the inspection and what they will be looking to see. Make

sure your post quartermaster and adjutant are present for the inspection.

Our fall conference will be held on September 12 & 13, at the Bessemer Post. A schedule will be distributed to all posts.

Mid-winter February 8, 2016 Post 2891 Crystal Falls

I will schedule our District Convention once I get the State Commander's Testimonial dates.

Hope to see all post commanders or their designated representative at the meetings.

Thank you for all you do.



Military Order of the Cootie

"You Are Not Forgotten"



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! John Miller and Pat Thorsby were elected as Grand Commander and Grand President in

May 2015. Along with them were Eric S. Bell as Grand Sr. Vice; Mike Bayne Grand Jr. Vice; PGC Ernest Paulin Grand Quartermaster; PGC Robert E. Wilson Grand Adjutant and Historian; Don Sllee Jr. Grand Judge Advocate; PGC Harold "Doc" Whittemore Grand Surgeon; Lowell "Sam" Elston Grand Chaplain; Past 8th Supreme District Commander Mahlon Breese Chief of Staff and was also the installing officer.

The MOC would like to congratulate the new State VFW Department Officers. We look forward to working with you on both your programs and ours.

80th Tomb Trek 2014 Arlington National Cemetery

81st TOMB TREK 2015 ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY - This year the Trek to the Tomb of the Unknowns will be held on 30 October - 1 November 2015. HOTEL INFORMATION: Sheraton Hotel, 900 Orme St, Arlington, Virginia, 22204, (703) 521-1900. Room rates \$105.00 plus tax. Contact Hotel directly for reservations and mention Military Order of the Cootie for discount. Other information can be found on the web page lotcs.org. REMEMBER THAT ONLY COOTIES CONFORMING TO THE FORMAL DRESS REQUIREMENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO PLACE A WREATH AT THE TOMB. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

87th Grand of Michigan MOC VFW National Home Christmas Party 2015

Each year, the Grand of Michigan is host to the children of the VFW National Home. This year will be the 87th annual Cootie Christmas Party and all are invited to participate (VFW, auxiliaries, MOC, MOCA etc.) The dates for this event is 5 December 2015 and the host hotel is Quality Suites Hotel, 901 Commerce Drive off West Saginaw Street in Lansing, MI 48917. Telephone 517-886-0600 or 1-800-456-6431. Room rates are \$79/night. Banquet tickets remain at \$35/person. Harold Whittemore is the MOC Chairman and Joann Beachnau is the



MOCA Co-Chair. Naida Schelter is the Christmas Banquet Coordinator and can be reached at 517-626-6942. Continuing success for this bountiful Christmas Party for the children depends on how open your hearts are and how open your wallets are. Donations in the past few years have been down. The Cooties have been the spearhead of this program since 1925. We are still at it. Donations are accepted all year. Email: erniepaulin@aol.com for more information. Please send your contributions early, so we can buy the necessary gifts for the children, making this the biggest and best Christmas Party ever. Make your checks out to: MOC Grand of Michigan ONLY! Earmark: MOC Christmas Party. Do not make any checks payable to the VFW National Home for Children or to your State VFW or auxiliary Department. Send all donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050. Telephone: 810-735-7920. Your donations are necessary for this program to work! Thanks again! Merry Christmas!

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2015-20016

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. 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. Have you ask any of your fellow comrades if they would like to join this great organization. There are a lot of veterans out there who need our help. Show them what the VFW and the Military Order of the Cootie are all about. And after you get them help, ask's if they would like to become a part of our team. Remember, The life blood 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 Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Once again, I am asking all members and those who support our agenda as veterans, VFW members, our armed forces, and retirees to join our Action Corps. By doing so you will be informed and up to date on all legislative issues that affect us.

This is a grassroots effort whereby we can be informed and contact our legislators regarding pending legislation that affects us. The signup can be done online. Go to www.vfw.org. Click on the VFW in DC heading, and then click on Action Corps.

On the Action Corps page click on Join the Action Corps. Fill out the form and submit. You will then receive the Action Corps Weekly every Friday in your inbox. You will also receive legislative alerts that demand immediate action. By filling out a form it will be sent to your legislators automatically asking for their support.

"Sequestration is the most significant military readiness and national security threat of the 21st century, and despite almost universal congressional opposition to it, no member of the House or Senate has yet introduced any legislation to end it," said John W. Stroud, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. "Our military can beat any military in the world, but they can't fight a Congress that is essentially forcing them to operate for

**Phil
Patterson**

**Legislative
Director**



a decade on only eight years' worth of funding." We must end Sequestration now!

VFW's 2015 legislative priority goals are as follows:

VA HEALTH CARE, BUDGET, VA COMPENSATION BENEFITS, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT, DEFENSE & HOMELAND SECURITY AND POW/MIA VETERANS TRUST FUND ADMINISTRATION. For more information on each priority goal, Go to www.vfw.org. Click on the VFW in DC heading.

House Bill 4642 as introduced and sponsored: Rep. Nancy Jenkins. This is a lengthy Bill I hope that you will take the time to look at the complete bill and the changes that have been recommended.

SUMMARY:

According to the information from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the trustees of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund administer a discretionary fund that provides temporary financial assistance to veterans for emergency purposes. The program, through

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, continued on page 9

**FIFTH THIRD BANK
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STATE FAIR**

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You have been invited to attend the

Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair, A Private Entity, LLC Charity Preview,
which will take place at the Suburban Collection Showplace
on **Thursday, September 3, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

This **Invitation ONLY** event will honor the dedication of veterans and military members and their immediate family members, and in one small way recognize their commitment and service to the United States of America.

You and your family will enjoy a sneak peek of the State Fair, along with free unlimited Midway rides, and a special performance by the Detroit Shrine Circus. At registration, children will receive a ticket to redeem one hot dog, one bag of chips, and one soda. **Other attractions and select food vendors will be available to attendees at a charge. Any attending guests who would like to join in the fun and play games will be at a fee.**

To attend this exclusive event, please bring this invitation and a legitimate form of military identification with you. For more information on the

Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair, visit www.michiganstatefairllc.com.

Chapter #154

Post 1136

The Wyandotte 4th of July parade attendees at Post 1136 afterwards.

L to R; Post Commander Cliff Harris; American Legion "New" State Commander Mike Buda; VFW Department Sr. Vice Commander Jerry

Gorski; American Legion Post 217 Post Commander Bob Salamon; American Legion Assistant State Chaplain Edward Gorecki; Military Order of the Purple Hart State Commander Leonard Milewski.



Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Deb Hanes

I am proud and humbled to have been elected the Department of Michigan Auxiliary President for 2015-16. I am a life member of Wayland Auxiliary #7581, District 8.

First, I would like to extend congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Officers and Chairmen at all levels. I know that each of you will strive to continue to fulfill our mission – serving our veterans, their families and your community. Our website contains a wealth of information that will aid you in fulfilling our mission; be sure to visit it at lavfwmi.org.

A special congratulation goes out to Sandi Onstwedder, who was elected National Guard at National Convention in Pittsburgh! I'm sure as she rises through the ranks toward National President she will make Michigan very proud with her achievements!

This will be a year of great change in the Auxiliary. The VFW passed a resolution at National Convention to allow male members who meet the membership eligibility requirements to

join the Auxiliary, beginning August 21, 2015. As of this writing, we do not know much more than that, but will keep you informed as we get more information from the National Office. It is VERY critical that you keep checking our website for that important information.

Many changes to the Auxiliary National Bylaws and Ritual is a huge reason we strongly encourage you to attend your Auxiliary and District Meetings. These meetings are where we can get information out to the most people at one time. Please make every effort to attend and catch up with friends and Sisters you may not have seen for a while.

With the elimination of the Cancer Aid & Research program, we have now named our fund raising pins "Auxiliary Program Pins". The money raised this year will be going to support our veterans programs. The pins are non-gender specific and very patriotic. These pins could be used as a jewelry on a lapel, awards for students, gifts to our hospitalized veterans; the list is endless.

I look forward to working with Department Commander Paul McIvor and his team to help Michigan have a great year!

Remember we are in this for our Veterans – "They Are the Stars on Our Flag".

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Dianne Donan



I'm very excited and honored to have been elected as 5th District President. Our District encompasses Macomb and Oakland Counties with

18 Auxiliaries.

I have been a member for 4 years being recruited by Past National President Sissy Borel, under my husband, James who served in Vietnam. We have been married for 46 years have 3 sons and been blessed with 6 grandchildren.

Upon joining our organization, I have served in various chairmanships. In 2013, I was asked to organize Auxiliary 334 and have served as membership chairman and President since. I have also been equally busy at the District level

serving as Chaplain to President. I can say my favorite program is membership recruiting; this is a way to share all the many wonderful programs we offer for our Veterans their families and our communities

The goal this year for 5th District includes working with our Auxiliaries in promoting membership and encouraging District attendance, by increasing our training with nuggets of knowledge, and filling their buckets with wisdom. By learning more this will strengthen our Auxiliaries in 5th district by strengthening the link from Department to our local Auxiliaries making Michigan stronger.

My mottoes this year will be to "Remember everything you've ever wanted, is one step outside your comfort zone." Also, "Look at life through the windshield, not the rear view mirror."

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Heather Shepherd



Sisters, Comrades, & Friends:

Welcome to another year from the super sixth. Let me introduce myself. My name is Heather Shepherd, your 6th District President for the 2015-16 year. I

am a life member of Jean R. Anderson Ladies Auxiliary 7309 in Mason. I joined in 2007 under the eligibility of my husband Rick. Within the Auxiliary I have held the positions of Jr Vice, Senior Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auxiliary President for two years where I earned several chairmanships as well.

The 6th District includes the counties of Ingham, Livingston, Jackson, Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Monroe. Our district meetings for the year are as follows: Aug 8th – Post 4187 Tecumseh, Dec 5th – Post 4357 Brighton, Feb 6th – Post 423 Ann Arbor, and May 7th – Post 4093 Carleton.

My family has a rich history of military service which includes my husband

Rick whom is still serving in the US Army Reserves, my father John, and father-in-law Rich. US Army, my grandfather Wilda, US Navy, and many uncles and cousins of whom are still currently serving.

My husbands, Rick and I have been married for 16 years. We reside in Mason and have two fur children Mocha Macy and Liberty Belle. We have two nieces that we are both very proud of. I am currently employed with the State of Michigan.

I was asked to indicate what my favorite program is with the ladies auxiliary. I can't really say I have a favorite. Each program has their own special way to help all veterans, their families and the communities. Each program is equally important in teaching patriotism and addressing veteran's issues.

My goals for this year are to grow membership, to have more members attend meetings by giving them the training and an understanding of the rich traditions of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. I look forward to serving the Auxiliaries of this district and this great organization.

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Sandi Merrow



Sandi Merrow

Greetings! I am Sandi Merrow. I am your District 4 President and I am proud to represent the mighty 4th District Auxiliary. I joined the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 8,

2008 under the eligibility of my husband, Past District 4 Commander Phil Merrow. My husband and hero, Phil, served with the U.S. Army during the Desert Storm Gulf War.

District 4 covers all of Wayne County and we currently have 16 auxiliaries. I have 3 District meetings scheduled and the first one will be September 13th at the City of Southgate Post 9283. A School of Instruction for chairmanships plus Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees will be held at this first District meeting. Our second meeting will be February 7th at the Lyskawa-Tutro Post 7546 and our last meeting will be held at the Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695 on May 7th.

I am currently a Life Member of the Auxiliary and a member of the Mayflower Lt. Gamble Auxiliary 6695 in Plymouth. Before I became a member of Auxiliary 6695, I was a charter member of the Lyskawa-Tutro 7546 where I served as the first auxiliary president then another 5 years as a member in various capacities

– Secretary, District 4 Color Bearer, District 4 Asst. Conductress, District 4 Credentials and several chairmanships at the Auxiliary level.

My favorite program is the Youth program and I can connect this with my employment with Dearborn Public Schools where I serve as a Parent/Community Liaison for the past 18 years. I am able to promote and teach Americanism and Patriotism throughout the school. I have also included the District 4 Honor Guard who has taught the children flag etiquette and the proper folding of the flag. During the Holidays, I have the students draw or write letters and cards to the veterans overseas and the VA Hospitals. This endeavor gives the children a sense of pride and how many sacrifices our veterans are making.

My family consists of my husband Phil Merrow and two beautiful daughters, Brittany and Alisha plus 3 Dachshund dogs who rule the house. We are looking forward to the marriage of both daughters in the near future.

One of my goals this year is to work closely with my Auxiliaries and help each one to improve membership and report, report, report. I would like to see more Auxiliaries receive the Auxiliary Achievement Award and will suggest a resume writing workshop again this year. We are here to serve and save our membership and educate everyone on the reason we are here – VETERANS. God Bless America and our Veterans.

DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Lou Ann Conklin



Thank you ladies for allowing me to represent our district! I have been a member since 1986 when I joined under the eligibility of my husband, Andy who

served in Vietnam and is currently serving as Department Judge Advocate. I have been through the chairs at VFW Auxiliary 6248, as well as the District and served as District President five years ago. I have served as treasurer, trustee, Americanism chairman, Historian, Legislative chairman, Camp Trotter chairman, secretary, and Department Banner Bearer.

I have completed recruiter training

and have already recruited two returning members who will now be life members, and one new member. My son, Kevin is currently serving as my cohort as District 7 Commander for his second term. Together we hope to keep District 7 on the right path.

Our first District meeting will be August 2, 2015 in Sturgis. Please join us; we will be having a school of instruction and a special treasurer, secretary, and trustee training. Lunch at 11:00, official meeting starting at 12:30. Each auxiliary is required to have their president or an appointed representative at this very informative meeting to hear what is going on in the auxiliary and the District plan for the new year - "Serving our Shining Stars, Our Veterans!"

God Bless Our Troops

**DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT**

Joan Broek



District 8 encompasses the counties of Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ottawa. This year our meetings are

scheduled as follows: August 1 at the CE Schumacher Post #3946, located at the American Legion #2; November 7 at Coopersville Post #5598; February 6, 2016 at Otsego #3030; and May 7 at Wayland Post #5598.

My eligibility is through my husband, Doug, who served in Viet

Nam. I am also very proud to say that my father was in the Navy and served during WWII in the Great Lakes area.

My husband and I both are members of VFW 702-Wyomig/Grandville and we spend many hours volunteering at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and always find our time with the veterans fun and very enjoyable.

My goal this year as the District President is to encourage auxiliary members to partake in more volunteer activities for our veterans. I also would like to lead by example and show how important it is for our posts and auxiliaries to work more cohesively together and enjoy serving our veterans and their families.

DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT

Jan Lawrence



Hello Auxiliary members of the 9th District. I am so excited to be your District President for the 15-16 year. I believe we are off to a great start. Our District Commander,

Mike Fineis and I are working together and envisioning us to be the Mighty Ninth as we have been known throughout the Department of Michigan.

I would like to congratulate Julie Garnica, District President 14-15 and her officers and chairman for an outstanding year. We finished June 30, 2014 in 1st Place with Membership and District 9 achieved 3rd Place District of the Year.

Now, let's work to achieve that goal again this year. We have had our planning meeting in July and our programs are set for the year. In August we attended Michigan Day at the National Home and our District was responsible for one of the raffles. Thank you to all that participated in the events and helped sell tickets.

Our first District Meeting is September 13th and will be held at the Durand VFW Post 2272. We will begin the day with Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee training at 9:00 AM with the meeting to follow at 10:00 AM. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Department Fall Conference will be October 1st - 4th at Boyne Highlands just north of Petoskey. I encourage you to attend this conference as there will be many wonderful workshops for you to attend.

Our second District Meeting is November 7th and will be hosted by the Owosso VFW Post/Auxiliary 9455. Actual meeting place for the Auxiliary is yet to be determined.

I will be beginning my inspections of the Auxiliaries in our District in September and plan to finish sometime in December. I look forward to having an opportunity to meet with each of you at that time.

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. My cell number is 989-292-0917 and my e-mail is janione@frontier.com.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Josephine Miller



District 11 encompasses the following counties: Bay, Midland, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Iosco, Roscommon, Crawford, Oscoda and Alcona.

Our district meetings are held the first Sunday in August, November, February and May. The locations for the next year have already been announced. In August the meeting will be held at Houghton Lake 4034. November at Standish 3724. February at Roscommon 4159 and finish up the year at Harrison 1075. At the August meeting there will be voting to have the February meeting or not.

I am a member of Gladwin County 7303 where I am currently Sr. Vice President and Historian. I also have the following chairmanships: Camp

Trotter and Scholarships. Previously I was auxiliary president. I became a member in 2006 under the eligibility of my father who served in WWII.

I am single and live in the home that was my late parents. I am a substitute teacher employed by PCMI and work in the Clare - Gladwin counties.

Some of the auxiliary programs that are special to me are: Hospital - taking clothing to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; Veterans and Family Support - Our veterans always need our assistance, especially the National Home. I became familiar with the National Home long before I ever became a member of this organization; and our Youth Program - working with the children is very important to me.

As the District 11 Auxiliary President I will strive to inform individuals of the programs that are available. I hope to make our District meetings more enjoyable and informative.

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Donna Miszewski



Hello, my name is Donna Miszewski and I am honored to be elected President of District 12. The counties in my district are: Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon,

Newaygo, Oceana, and Osceola a total of 18 Auxiliaries. On October 27, 2010 I became a member of the Gold Bar Post 5096 Ladies Auxiliary in Custer Michigan, being eligible from my father who was in WWII. In 2011, I was elected first Senior Vice President. In August of that same year I became President because the former President had to resign because of her spouse's health. I have held this position to the present.

My husband and I live on a five hundred acre farm growing corn, oats, wheat and hay. I have three daughters and a son and nine grandchildren.

For over twenty six years I have been working as a sub-contractor for five paramedical companies doing exams, phlebotomy and health fairs. I help out with my husband's farming operation and for my hobby I enjoy driving my horses for pleasure and in parades.

I like all the programs the VFW offers but I really enjoy helping with the family support issues. For example, going to

the homes and visiting the vets. I enjoy taking gifts and cards to them. They are very grateful and appreciative for the visits and I in turn appreciate all they have done for our country. I sign Christmas cards for our troops for the holidays. I also send "all occasion" cards to the troops so they can send them to their families.

Working with the youth in our community is another pursuit of mine. For example our Easter and Halloween parties at the post including the youth auxiliary programs. I am a board member of Circle Rocking S Children's Farm, Fixing Furry Friends-Second Chance Humane Society and the Mason Co. Family Events.

My main goal for the year:

- 100% membership for District 12
- Recruit new auxiliary members
- To increase attendance at the District 12 meetings

DISTRICT 12 MEETINGS FOR 2015-2016

1. September 12, 2015 at Post 446 Muskegon
2. November 8, 2015 at Post 4499 Manistee
3. March 13, 2016 at Post 5315 Peacock/ Baldwin
4. May 1, 2016 at Post 5096 in Custer

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Carole Morris



I am Carole Morris from District 15 and belong to Post 3900 Ladies Auxiliary. We are the most northern Auxiliary in the state. I joined the Auxiliary off my father's eligibility in the fall of 1991 in Tacoma, Washington, where I served as an Auxiliary and District President. Also, I have served as District Commander and a Post Quartermaster at Post 91. I have held numerous state chairmanships and was a VAVS representative at America Lake VA, which is part of the Puget Sound Health Care system.

In August, 2007, our family moved to Michigan and I began to become active once again in 2009. I have three daughters, two sisters, and one granddaughter who joined off my eligibility and we have done a lot of volunteering together.

District 15 covers many miles! We have members in Houghton, Ontonagon, Baraga, Iron, Gogebic, Dickinson, and Keewenaw Counties.

My favorite programs are Hospital and Veterans and Family Support. I find you can get a lot of family and friends involved in these two programs and you create many happy memories doing these. My husband and I did a lot together until his health failed. However, my family and I have found that with his passing, being part of the VFW family makes us feel like he is still actively with us.

Our first district meeting is September 13th in beautiful Wakefield at 9:30 a.m. CST. It will be a School of Instruction so I hope to see representation from all our Auxiliaries.

I am committed to increasing membership this year and look forward to getting to all the Auxiliaries and seeing them again, as this is my second time being able to proudly serve this District.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Sue DeRousha

Exciting things are happening in the VFW Auxiliary (formerly the Ladies auxiliary to the VFW). Starting with a new name to go with a new direction for the Auxiliary. As of Aug. 21st 2015, men with an eligible Veteran can now join the Auxiliary. Now if you are: Father, mother, sister, brother, spouse, son, daughter grandfather, grandmother, granddaughter, or grandson. You are eligible for the VFW Auxiliary. The new changes to the Auxiliary make us a stronger group to do more for "Our Veterans-Now and Forever".

National Membership Week is Oct-ober 18-24th 2015. Now is the time to join and be part of an every growing group with one goal. Helping the Veterans that made this county great.

God Bless Our Troops

Auxiliary News Continued

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRPERSON



Linda Woda

"The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government." A quote by "George Washington" that is stronger than ever today.

Our Legislative program is challenged with providing a direct link between legislators and our Veterans. We are the advocates for all past and present, man or woman that served our country so faithfully. It is imperative that we take a stand to monitor all legislation that pertain to our Veterans and help to change it when needed.

Action Corps Weekly alerts you to all issues that are front and center to the VFW. It also allows you to send an e-mail to your Senator or Representative instantly. Here is a recipe for those of you who have yet to sign up for VFW Action Corps Weekly. Ingredients: *90 seconds of your time * A smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer Instructions: 1. On your smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer go to www.vfw.org 2. Go to the "VFW in D.C." tab at the top of the page. 3. Within the "VFW in D.C." tab, click on "Grassroots Advocacy." You will be taken to the Grassroots Advocacy page. 4. Click on the "Join Action Corps" button OR "Action Corps

Sign Up Now" image. 5. Fill out the form on your screen. 6. Click "Submit." 7. Click "Continue." You will now begin receiving VFW Action Corps Weekly in your inbox every week! Please copy this recipe and pass along to all auxiliary or post members. We need as many sign-ups as there are computers within our state.

Familiarize yourselves with the National VFW home page. You will find a wealth of knowledge within each category under the VFW logo. I encourage you to copy and share with your auxiliary as some do not have access to computers. VFW in D.C. is a good place to start. If you go to Grassroots Advocacy and look for the section that says "ARM YOURSELF FOR ACTION." Please use this information to contact your Representatives and Senators (letters, calls, e-mails) and ask them to support bills pertaining to veterans issues and keep our promises to the country's veterans. Added bonus here is to use the "Take Action" section. By selecting "send letter" button you can copy the letter for all of your Auxiliary to sign and send. It's such an honor to be able to participate in this. We have so many easy ways to make a difference.

Current Action Alerts: Modernize the Military Compensation system, Military Compensation and Retirement, Full Funding for VA, and Sequestration Must End. I strongly urge you to take action on these alerts.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from 3

other membership material, is getting the shipping charge FREE. I took advantage of the Free Shipping and ordered the free membership material. It will be shipped FREE to my home.

WE ended 2014-2015 on June 30, 2015 at 95.92%. WE were in 43rd Place out of 54 Departments. WE ended the year with 47,543 Members. WE needed 49,562 Members to achieve 100%. WE were short 2,019 Members. WE can do "better in Membership for 2015-2016. I know WE can!

I want to congratulate our TOP (3) Districts in Membership for 2014-2015. 1st Place is District 13 at 99.84%. 2nd Place is District 10 at 97.40%. 3rd Place is District 5 at 96.82%. Which District will be the 1st Place District this year?

I also want to congratulate our TOP (3) Posts in Membership for 2014-2015. 1st Place is Post 3293 Grand Ledge in District 8 at 146.30%. 2nd Place is Post 9914 Highland in District 5 at 112.07%. 3rd Place is Post 3701 Lakeview at 112.04%. It was a close race for 2nd & 3rd Place. Who will be the 1st Place Post this year?

Lastly, I want to congratulate our TOP (3) Posts in Recruiting "New" Members for 2014-2015. 1st Place is Post 5065 Sheridan in District 9 with "26" New Members. 2nd Place is Post 2780 Traverse City in District 13 with "23" New Members. 3rd Place is Post 1146 St. Clair Shores in District 5 with "21" New Members. Great Recruiting! Who will be the 1st Place Post this year?

I want to thank each and every Post

Member, Post, Council and District for your Hard Work & Efforts in Recruiting New Members, Reinstating Members and going after the Continuous Members. Everyone worked hard on Membership throughout 2014-2015. Thank You Again!

At this year's Fall Conference (Pow-Wow) at the Boyne Highlands Resort, I will be meeting with the District Senior Vice Commanders. I am asking the District Senior Vice Commanders, via this article, to bring their questions, ideas for recruiting, ideas for retention, ideas for programs, or anything else on their minds. I look forward to meeting each of you. You will be our future District Commanders next year.

I still have some Appointed Positions to fill for 2016-2017. If you are interested or know of a Comrade, that is interested in serving ALL Comrades throughout Michigan, please send me a resume, as soon as possible, to Gerald J. Gorski, 25277 Edgemont Drive, Southfield, MI 48033-2201 "or" email the resume to geraldjgorski@aol.com. I would like to fill these remaining appointed positions for 2016-2017 by Fall Conference (Pow Wow).

I look forward to meeting you in my travels throughout Michigan this year. I also look forward to working with ALL of our Posts, Councils, Districts and Department Team Members for the success of the Department of Michigan. WE are a TEAM!

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

SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRPERSON



Evelyn Avery

It's time to lend a hand and support are Veterans by helping promote and carry out The National Veterans of Foreign Wars two youth scholarship programs; the Voice of

Democracy Scholarship Program and the Patriot's Pen Scholarship Program. These are excellent opportunities for our young people to apply for, and earn, scholarship money for their educational pursuits. Please share the following information with the youth in your communities.

The Voice of Democracy Contest is open to all high school aged students in grades 9-12, it consists of writing an essay, followed by recording it on a CD or thumb drive NO TAPE CASSETTES WILL BE EXCEPTED THIS YEAR, THE ESSAY MUST BE ON CD OR THUMB DRIVE. This essay must be between 3-5 minutes in oration. The 2015-2016 Voice of Democracy Theme is: "My Vision for America". This entry is turned into a VFW Post for judging by midnight Nov. 1st 2015. The winner of the Post then goes to District for judging and then District winners go on to Department. The First Place winner in the Department of Michigan will earn a \$6,000.00 Scholarship, the winning Department entry may lead to being the winner of the National Veterans of Foreign Wars First Place Award of \$30,000.00.

The Patriot's Pen Essay Scholarship

Contest is open to students that are in 6th-8th grade. The 2015-2016 Theme is: "What Freedom Means to Me". This original essay needs to be between 300-400 typewritten words. Every word counts. Deadline for entry into this program is also midnight November 1, 2015 with submission to a VFW Post. The Post winner goes on to District, the winner of District then goes on to Department Competition. The First Place winner in Michigan will receive \$1,000.00 and the National First Place winner will be awarded \$5,000.00.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars also offers chances to achieve scholarship money. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship is open to students in grades 9-12. Entries should be submitted on paper or canvas. Sorry no digital art is accepted! All entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique along with creativity. Deadline for entry to a VFW Auxiliary is March 31, 2016. Entries to the Department of Michigan must be residents of Michigan. The First Place winner in Michigan will be awarded \$1,100.00 and will go on to compete in the National Competition where a \$10,000 Scholarship is top prize.

The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Continuing Education Scholarship is for members and their immediate family only. It can provide financial assistance. The screening criteria include the student's financial needs and a short essay. Application is due to National by February 15, 2016

All information on these scholarships is available at www.vfwmi.org or www.lavfwmi.org under programs.

VETS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN

Debbie Sheetz

Hi Everyone,

SUPPORT: to me this is why we all belong to the Ladies Auxiliary (now the VFW Auxiliary) and to the VFW, to SUPPORT our Veterans. Not only the Vets that have fought in WWII, Korea, Vietnam or the Gulf War, etc. but all the Vets that are still fighting for us now. We all must do our part as sisters and brothers of this GREAT organization to help every Vet we can. There are many ways we can do this.

The first way is through our national programs that we can SUPPORT our Vets. These programs are National Veterans Service, VFW's Veteran's and Military Support Program, VFW National Home and Buddy Poppy. We all should be pretty familiar with all of these programs. If you need any clarification on any of these you can find this on either the VFW site www.vfw.org or go to the Ladies Auxiliary site at www.ladiesauxvfw.org with more in-depth explanation of each program and how to donate.

You can also contact your local VFW or Auxiliary and participate in their fundraisers or events that they have to help the Veterans at their post or in their

community. You could also volunteer at your local VA hospital. I know firsthand that the VA has volunteers at the hospital doing numerous things on a daily or weekly basis, like visiting the Vets that are at the hospital permanently or there just for treatments or staying after surgeries. The volunteers play games and hang out with them keeping them company, showing that we still care for our Veterans no matter where they are in their life.

Another way you can support your Veterans is just by saying "thank you". When I am out in public like the grocery store or the bank and I see some in a military uniform or fatigues, I go up to them and just say "Thank you for serving". I have done it numerous times, mostly in airports, but anywhere is fine. Believe me you will make their day and yours, too! It feels good to thank someone for what they do for you. And we all know that the military is around to protect us and make us safe so SUPPORT our Veterans in any way you can, by donating money, volunteering your time, or just by saying "Thank you!"...it all goes a long way.





Auxiliary News Continued

DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF



**Stephanie
Krueger**

"IMPORTANT NEWS!"

Ladies Auxiliary To Become *The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary (VFW Auxiliary)*!"

This may very well be some of the most important information you will receive this year. At the recently completed National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, the Veterans of Foreign Wars voted overwhelmingly to change their By-Laws and allow the male relatives of veterans eligible to join the VFW into the Auxiliary. They also voted to change the name of the Auxiliary to The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary or VFW Auxiliary for short. This change will take effect 30 days after the convention so that means on August 21, 2015 we will begin accepting and voting on applications for

your male relatives to join your female relatives already in our auxiliaries.

To be clear the following relationships are now eligible: both parents, all siblings, all children (age 16 or older), all grandchildren (age 16 or older), and grandparents. If you are a veteran who is eligible for membership in the VFW, we need your help to get the word out to your relatives. Please contact your own local auxiliary or one nearby to sign up the newest members. We will need a DD214 for proof of their eligibility unless they are joining your own post's auxiliary. In that case we need the information on your service, but do not need to see a DD214.

This will be a learning process for all of us, so please be patient as the bugs are worked out in this new change of eligibility. Be ready to give us those members and we promise to put them to work for our Veterans! Help us make history, and show the Veterans of Foreign Wars that their decision was embraced by all of us.

HOSPITAL CHAIRPERSON

Marian Hamann

Do you have what it takes to become a hospital volunteer? Truthfully, all you need is a little time, transportation and a caring heart. Someone once said, "The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers." Won't you consider becoming a hospital volunteer?

Many Veterans in the hospital feel alone and forgotten. A few hours of your time could brighten their day, change their entire outlook and even speed up their recovery. Putting a smile on a patient or resident's face warms your own heart and you immediately know that you have made a difference.

"Summer of Service" is a new VA initiative to increase volunteers. VFW

Auxiliary members may choose to volunteer at Veterans Administration (VA) medical centers and clinics, local hospitals, Veterans' homes, nursing homes, and domiciliaries. Auxiliaries can sponsor non-members volunteers and youth volunteers.

For information about volunteer opportunities, contact the Voluntary Services Department at a medical facility or nursing home in your area. Tasks could be as simple as helping a patient play bingo or just being a good listener.

If you are already a hospital volunteer, share your heart-warming experiences with others and recruit them as new volunteers.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, continued from page 5

county committees, dispenses grants to veterans and their families to relieve temporary, emergent financial crisis or hardship. The trustees represent the interests of the veterans community in both an advisory and advocacy role.

House Bill 4642 would amend the Veterans Trust Fund Act to do all of the following:

Regional Committees

The bill would eliminate references in the act to county and district committees and replace them with references to regional committees. The board of trustees of the Trust Fund would be required to establish up to 10 regional committees for administration of the allocated money on the local level by October 1, 2016, and be required to report to the Legislature the structure of the regional committees no later than August 1, 2016. Membership of these committees is described later in the summary.

Eligibility

The bill strikes current language regarding eligibility for benefits and replaces it by specifying that an individual who satisfies any of the following criteria would be eligible to apply for benefits from the Fund:

- Is both a resident of this state and a veteran.
- Is a resident of this state and is either an unremarried spouse or an unmarried dependent of a deceased individual who met all of the conditions set specified in the bill.
- Is a resident of this state and is either an unremarried spouse or an unmarried dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action or who is missing in action. The Michigan Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars is against this bill as written.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have at: leg@vfwmi.org or (616) 755-3176

Department of Michigan Auxiliary Members:

Please allow me the opportunity to thank each one of you for endorsing, and supporting me to run for the high office of National Guard. In case you have not yet heard, I was elected into the position. This could not have been possible without your help. So from the bottom of my heart, I thank you and give you my word that the decisions I make will always be targeting what's best for Veterans and members.

I am so excited to be serving our organization on the national level. Many positive changes will be occurring for all of our Auxiliaries over the next few years. I fully understand that change is often hard for some of us. We each need to recognize it must occur. This will keep our organization strong and growing, thus assuring that we can continue to improve how to best meet the needs of our Veterans.

In closing, I promise to carry each of you in my heart as I learn year after year. When the time arrives for my year of leadership, I will lead with passion and commitment to all of you and the members across our country.

May God Bless each of you,
Sandi Onstwedder
National VFW Auxiliary Guard



The family of Past Department President, Faye Walter wishes to thank everyone for all their prayers and sympathies on her passing in August. We have lost a great Auxiliary Sister and Mentor.

Sincerely,
Jan

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT 2014-2015

Candy Beatty

I want thank the Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, Floor Officers, Chairmen and Auxiliaries, for the love gifts you presented to me at the State Convention. It was very thoughtful and kind of you.

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving you, our veterans and their families. The memories will live forever in my heart.

I wish Deb and her Officers and Chairmen the best year ever as we start on a new direction for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America Auxiliary. Michigan will Rock again,

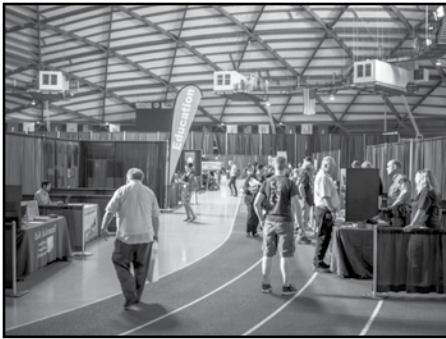
Again, a Big Thank You, to all my Veterans Angels.



We always watch out for our own. And right now, our fellow veterans need us. Membership dues alone cover only 15% of the cost of VFW programs. With two wars and an aging veterans' population, demand is unprecedented. Please donate to your Department mailings. They're counting on us.

Photo: DoD

Services, resources come together in one-stop Veteran Expos



The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency will again offer two Veteran Expos in 2015, where veterans can more easily learn more about resources and services available to them throughout the state. The first Veteran Expo will take place in Lansing in Sept. 11 and 12.

Throughout Michigan a variety of resources are available to veterans, but finding the right services spanning employment, education and health care can be difficult. At Michigan's Veteran Expos all these resources come together in one place, offering a convenient way to learn more about services, benefits and organizations at the federal, state and local levels.

Building on the success of last year's events, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is hosting another series of Veteran Expos in 2015 to help veterans and their families connect with resources and new opportunities across the state and within their local communities. Represented agencies will include service organizations, health care providers, recreation groups and more.

The first Veteran Expo will be held in the Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing) on Friday, Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 12. A second event will be held at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center (3501 Lapeer Road

in Flint) on Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7.

"Veteran Expos bring a wealth of opportunities directly to veterans," MVAA Director Jeff Barnes said. "This one-stop shop makes it easier for veterans to access the benefits they have earned."

A veteran from Morenci who attended one of the 2014 Veteran Expos found it useful to have many agencies providing different services in one place. Another attendee was excited there were "so many awesome resources for veterans." Many used the Expos to sign up for VA health care benefits, interview for jobs, receive a veteran designation on their driver's license and easily find other resources – all in one place.

Veterans and family members looking to utilize education benefits can learn more about how to get the most out of their G.I. Bill benefits. Representatives from institutions of higher education will be on-site with information about specific programs. MVAA can also guide veterans looking to transfer their military experience into education credits and a meaningful civilian career.

Hiring Our Heroes will again team up with MVAA to host a hiring fair for service members, veterans and spouses. Free resources for job-seekers will include resume workshops, on-site interviews, tips for success and keynote speakers covering a range of topics.

The expos will also feature a special display to commemorate the Vietnam War. The display pays tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and honors Vietnam-era veterans, including the more than 242,000 Michigan residents who served.

For more information about the 2015 Veteran Expos, call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) or visit MichiganVeterans.com/Expo.

Camp Trotter Tales



Ernie Myers

Summer Camp 2015 has been a huge success – can you believe there were over 400 young campers enjoy our beautiful Camp Trotter. A huge "thank you to you the VFW Post(s)

and Auxiliaries. Without the support of the Comrades and Sisters of this great Organization the Summer Camp 2015 would not have been this kind of a success. There were 77 scholarship requests this past year and yes YOU the Membership stepped up and became sponsors for these children. The benefits realized were shown on the Facebook nearly every day with the big smiles on those young Campers. I want to thank a couple of Ladies Auxiliary Sisters for going above and beyond the daily reach out for children – Ruth "Raffle Ruthie" Barnhill and Cheryl Moorhead the Ladies Auxiliary Department Chairman were all over the promotion of getting the word out to send children to Summer Camp. The Summer Camp Director Denise "Scrubs" Arnold and the VFW Department Quartermaster Lynn Patterson with the daily support of the VFW Department Secretary Amanda Helms were on top of the continuous influx of Camp Applications. A job well done for their tiring efforts! Simply amazing!

A generous donation came forth from the Grandville-Wyoming VFW Post 702 which a new John Deere Gator "people mover" was purchased for the easy movement of people to the lake front and around the camp site.... Thank you Comrades you will make many older veterans and the handicap a lot happier.

Many upgrades on the Camp facilities have been completed to include the irrigation drainage lines leading away from cottage 5 & 6 and the drainage catch basin and drainage line leading down the steep hill to the lake front. Our Summer Camp Director always has many new surprises for the new Campers each year. This last year was the "Arts & Crafts" tool boxes and bookends – what will be the surprise for Summer Camp 2016 – you must have a child attend to find out!

Summer Camp will start with the Staff Training on 5 July with the Camping Season to begin on Sunday, 10 July and ending on Saturday, 20 August. The Camping Season started a week later this past year to allow the children to be with their families over the 4th of July – plus, the lake water was warmer for the swimmers. This proved positive for the Staff and the young Campers for Summer Camp 2015.

FINALLY – The VFW Camp Trotter for Children has been officially designated by IRS as VFW Camp Trotter Foundation. The employer Identification Number is 46-1413579. Effective Date of Exemption is November 26, 2012. Yes, we are a 501 (c) (3) – This qualifies our new VFW Camp Trotter Foundation qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. The New WEBSITE: VFWCampTrotterFoundation.org or go to the Department Website: vfwmi.org and click on the words "camp trotter". Comrade Phil Merrow has taken on the task of being the website(s) Administer for both sites. This is a big task to undertake. Thanks Phil.

Contact myself at emeyers76@att.net and/or find the info needed to join the Team on our Website: vfwmi.org/CampTrotter. Orientation week starts 5 July thru 9 July 2015 for a full week of training for the Staff and then the children arrive on 10 July for the start of Summer Camp 2016.

The waterfront has been widened with more sandy beaches for the younger children with canoeing, paddle boats, kayaking and fishing and of course always swimming. Non-swimmers are taught how to swim by the private instructions by the Life Guards. Enjoy the summer camp fun with the evening bond fires and the hayride that will last a life time. Learning the sport of archery, the GA-GA Pit and the Nature Trail.

Comrades and Sisters – Your VFW Camp Trotter for Children would not exist if it was not for your continued support with not just financial but, getting the children to camp. The Camp can house 88 children per week so, let's chip in and get your children, grandchildren and your neighbors' children to camp. The VFW Camp Trotter for Children is open to all children ages 7 thru 12 and you do not have to be a veteran to send your child to camp.

If anyone would like to obtain the New Brochures, please contact me via email or by phone and I will mail you what you need for information regarding your Camp Trotter.


The new Summer Camp Dates will be:
10 - 16 July 2016
17 - 23 July 2016
24 July – 30 July 2016
31 July – 6 August 2016
7 - 13 August 2016

The Summer Camping Season has a Registered Nurse on duty 24/7 during camping season along with licensed certified Staff Employees. There is two (2) Life Guards on duty at all times when there is a camper in the water.

Thank you for your support to Camp Trotter – Become a VFW Camp Trotter Life Member which the forms are online.

Your, Camp Trotter Committee
 Happy Trails.....

**God Bless
Our Troops**



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Telephone 517 485-9456 924 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906

Effective 1 July 2015


Comrades,

The Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars will no longer be accepting Post Audits that are not properly completed. No credit will be given to the Post until the deficiency has been corrected.


If your Post Audit does not have all three Post Trustees signatures on the audit it will be returned to the Post. If a Trustee is not available to complete the audit we need a statement from the Trustee and Commander explaining why the Trustee was unable to complete and sign the audit.

The National By-Laws does not state that the Post Commander is allowed to appoint a Trustee (Pro Tem). If a Trustee is unable to fulfill their duties they should be removed from the position and a new Trustee be elected.

The Department Officers understand that this is a big change and we are willing to help in any way possible with this change. We are trying to see that, we, as a Department are meeting all requirements that the National By-Laws set before us.



Paul McIvor
State Commander
Dept. of MI VFW



Gerald Gorski
State Senior Vice Commander
Dept. of MI VFW



VFW National Home for Children Fishing Contest

21 children participated in the VFW National Home for Children "fishing contest" at Michigan Day. We had four top winners: Most fish caught, 15 for Annabelle Fulger, Largest Fish 12" Bullhead plus 12 fish, Kyla Mefford, Largest Bass 10 1/4" plus 6 fish, Tanner Clements, Largest Bluegill 7 3/4" and 8 fish, Abbie Davis, and honorable mention tying 3rd place winner with 10 1/4" Bass, Jack Daufsky. All participants received a participation prize and all had fun! We had some visiting veterans from the VA come out to fish and watch the kids compete, and there was even a Nemo sighting!

Thank you to all participants, and helpers for making this day possible!

Lou Ann Conklin
7th District President



**Tails-A-Waggin' Acres
Hunting Preserve**



**10th Annual Disabled Veterans
Free Pheasant Hunt
September 25th thru 28th, 2015**

*****Sponsors needed to help keep this annual
hunt free for disabled veterans*****

**For every \$70 a veteran will receive 5 birds, all day
lunch buffet and guides with some great dogs.**

**For Reservations Call: Chuck Connell
231-743-6483**

www.preservehunt.com

childrenscharters@gmail.com

Veterans: Check www.camp-liberty.org

Greetings from Ernie Meyers Sr., VFW Representative for the Board of Managers of your Michigan State Veterans Homes.

The Board of Managers consists of the following: 4 members that are recommended by their respective Veterans' groups and 3 independent members appointed by the Governor. The Governor of the State of MI appoints all members to the Board. The Board is responsible for the welfare of the Residents and oversight of both Homes. The following Veterans are the current members of the Board of Managers: Robert Johnson (American Legion) Chairman of the Board, Lino Pretto (Purple Heart) Vice Chairman of the Board, Marita Okerstrom (Independent) Secretary of the Board, Ernest E. Meyers, Sr. (VFW) Member, Jim Ausdemore (Independent) Member, Ron Schreiber (DAV) Member, and Paul Mead (Independent) Member.

As of October of this year I am stepping down after nearly 11 years of service on the Board of Managers representing the Department of MI VFW. I am humbled and honored to have served our Veterans of the two (2) State Veterans Homes over these past 11 years. I was honored to have served as the Chairman of the Board on 4 separate terms.

First and foremost, I want to thank both Sara Dunne (administrator for Grand Rapids Veterans Home) and Brad Slagle (administrator for the Marquette D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home) and all of the Volunteers who work tirelessly

every day throughout the entire year. Some of these Volunteers have worked well over 30 years of service taking care of the Veteran Residents of both the Grand Rapids Veterans Home (GRVH) and D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. Head Volunteer Representatives at GRVH include VFW VAVS Rep Steve VanValkenburg and for the Ladies Auxiliary VAVS Rep are Sonya VanValkenburg and Deputy Joan Broek. The Head Volunteer Representatives at DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans include VFW VAVS Rep Marvin Mains and for the Ladies Auxiliary are VAVS Rep Renae Petrocik and Deputy Pamela Jackovich. Comrades, remember to thank these dedicated Comrades and Sisters along with their many Volunteers that help them make things happen. I personally want to say a huge "Thank You" for what you do for the Veteran Residents at the Homes.

Some of the highlights that I am proud to be a part of are: the new construction of the beautiful canopy and entrance to the front of the GRVH, the addition of the large "smoke room" that shelters the Veterans out of the weather, the newly renovated residents rooms which were re-designated from four-bed to two-bed rooms (the privacy of the Veterans was the main concern), and the complete renovation of the clothing store, which brings a very high standard for the Veteran residents to enjoy a much





Commander Jim Hubbard of Post 334 Lake Orion. Is throwing out the first pitch of the Detroit Tigers Game. Jim Hubbard was given the honor of Veteran of the Year.

National President Francisca Guilford Official Visit Itinerary

October 19-21, 2015

Monday, October 19

Day with the Department Officers

Tuesday, October 20

Mt. Pleasant - Aux. #3033 11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
12:00 Tea

Wixom - Aux. #2269 5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner

Wednesday, October 21

Grand Haven - Aux. #2326 11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
11:15 Reception
12:00 Luncheon

Dewitt - Aux. #671 5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner

For those who may not be able to attend, but wish to honor our National President, please send your love gift to:

Ruth Later, Department Secretary
924 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

*Any questions regarding the visit, please contact
Cindy Peto, Chairman, at 517 331-2634.*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FRANCISCA GUILFORD

Please include this form with your gift:

Auxiliary Name _____ Auxiliary No. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Amount of Gift: _____ Auxiliary President _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Amount of Gift: _____ Auxiliary President _____

Auxiliary to Edwin J. Leyanna #671 Cordially invites you to a Dinner in honor of National President Francisca Guilford

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, October 21
5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Edwin J. Leyanna Post #671
12550 S. US 27
Dewitt, MI 48820

COST: \$15/per person
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 11, 2015

MENU:

Baked Chicken	Baked Ham
Au Gratin Potatoes	Vegetable Medley
Rolls	Dessert
Coffee/Tea	

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Ruth Later, 924 N. Washington Ave. in Lansing, MI 48906. **Make checks payable to Francisca Guilford.**

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Send reservations and payment to:

Marsha Cole, President
10613 Bond Road
Dewitt, MI 48820

Checks payable to:

Edwin J. Leyanna Auxiliary #671

Are you a Veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan?

Rock out, Chill out and enjoy a night out for IAVAs Summer

Vet-Together's at Freedom Hill



**Freedom
Hill**

Aug 9th The Beach Boys w/ The Temptations
Aug 21st Lewis & The News
Sept 20th REO Speedwagon
Sept 24th Tears for Fears

Come join us for a night out with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) at Freedom Hill. Freedom Hill is offering each veteran two **FREE** tickets to one of the above events through IAVA. Information is available at the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Vet-Together page. <http://iava.org/vettogether/>

Open to all Veterans

Freedom Hill is Located at 14900 Metropolitan Pkwy, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Further Information can be requested at IAVA.FreedomHill@outlook.com

Auxiliary to Lawrence A. Sims #2269
Cordially invites you to a Dinner in honor of
National President Francisca Guilford

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 20
5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Lawrence A. Sims Post #2269
2652 Loon Lake Road
Wixom, MI 48393
248-624-9742

COST: \$15/per person
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 10, 2015

MENU:

Fresh Vegetable Tray	Tossed Salad
Garlic Smashed Potatoes	Green Beans Almandine
Coconut Chicken	Roast Beef Au Jus
Assorted Breads	Desserts

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Ruth Later, 924 N Washington Ave in Lansing, MI 48906. *Make checks payable to Francisca Guilford.*

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Send reservations and payment to:
Juanita Skonieczny
1473 McCoy
Commerce Twp, MI 48390

Checks payable to:
Lawrence A. Sims Auxiliary #2269

Auxiliary to Sgt. Alvin Jonker #2326
Cordially invites you to a Luncheon in honor of
National President Francisca Guilford

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, October 21
11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
11:15 Reception
12:00 Luncheon
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Sgt. Alvin Jonker
20 N. First Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-842-6210

COST: \$6/per person
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 11, 2015

MENU:

Soups	Salads
Desserts	Coffee/Tea/Lemonade

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Ruth Later, 924 N Washington Ave in Lansing, MI 48906. *Make checks payable to Francisca Guilford.*

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Send reservations and payment to:
Debra Hallada, President
15881 Brucker Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Checks payable to:
Sgt. Alvin Jonker Auxiliary #2326

Auxiliary to Borley-Hanel #3033
Cordially invites you to a Tea in honor of National President Francisca Guilford

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 20
11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
11:15 Reception
12:00 Tea
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Borley-Hanel Post #3033
4841 E. Pickard
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-773-3396

COST: \$8/per person
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 10, 2015

MENU:

Finger Sandwiches	Vegetable Tray
Fruit Tray	Desserts
Coffee/Tea	

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Ruth Later, 924 N Washington Ave in Lansing, MI 48906. *Make checks payable to Francisca Guilford.*

Name: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Send reservations and payment to:
Luella Demski
9571 E. River Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Checks payable to:
Borely-Hanel Auxiliary #3033



Gold Star Mothers

**67th Annual Victory In Japan Day Service
World War II Four Freedoms Memorial
At
White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery
621 West long Lake Rd., Troy, MI 48098**

**Sunday August 2, 2015
All Marching Units Lineup at 11:00 AM
Memorial Service Starts at Noon**

President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms - jointly initiated with Winston Churchill in the historic Atlantic Charter - are immortalized in marble, creating one of White Chapel's most impressive memorials. It was dedicated on V-J Day, 1948, when 115 soldiers were returned from overseas and laid to rest in the then-largest mass burial in United States history. There are a total of 322 WWII soldiers who are

laid to rest in the special WWII Four Freedoms area. Forty-one soldiers were returned from overseas and laid to rest in 1947. A total of one hundred seventy were laid to rest in 1948. One hundred three were laid to rest in 1949. Six were laid to rest in 1950. One soldier was laid to rest in 1952 and one in 1956. The WWII Four Freedoms Memorial serves as homage to all of Michigan's WWII veterans.



VFW District 5 Gold Star Mothers Banquet

Sunday September 27th. 2015

At Cpl. Richard W. Menge Post 6756
25500 Sherwood, Warren MI. 48091
Doors Open 1:00 PM Dinner At 2:00 PM
Donation \$15.00 Per Person
No Charge For Gold Star Mothers
Program to Follow

Reservations Must Be Made In Advance
No Reservation After September 21st.
Any Questions Call Norman Mauldin 248-624-3185
Or e-Mail Norm unreper@mi.rr.com

Make Checks Payable To VFW District 5
Mail To Norman Mauldin -
214 Endwell, Novi MI. 48377

All Proceeds To Gold Star Mothers For Their Continued Hospital Work

If you cannot attend the banquet and would like to make a donation it will be appreciated. Please make checks payable to Gold Star Mothers

*We're an organization of mothers who have lost a son or daughter
in the service of our country.*

Name _____
Number Of Persons Attending _____ at \$15.00 Each
Total Amount _____
Post Number _____ District Number _____



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

www.vfw.org | info@vfw.org

August 10, 2015

William B. Coats, Adjutant
Department of Michigan, VFW
924 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906



Dear Brian:

This is to confirm Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr., has designated Past Commander-in-Chief John F. Gwizdak to represent the national organization at your Fall Conference, October 1-4, 2015, in Harbor Springs, Michigan. His lovely wife Christine will accompany him.

Please furnish John with information that will assist him in making their travel arrangements. His address is 501 Raleigh Road, Woodbury, Georgia 30293. John requested we provide you with his cell phone number 404-317-8668 and email address: john_gwizdak@yahoo.com for your use in contacting him. After their itinerary is established, he will advise you of their arrival and departure times. It is our understanding you will arrange their hotel reservations, king non-smoking, and they will arrive by private automobile.

John's photograph and biography are being emailed to you for your use.

With best regards.

Yours in comradeship,

John E. Hamilton

John E. Hamilton
Adjutant General

JEH:bf

cc: John F. Gwizdak, Past Commander-in-Chief
Harry Croyle, National Council Member
Paul Mc Ivor, Department Commander

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

National Headquarters | 406 W. 34th Street | Kansas City, MO 64111 | 1.816.756.3390 | Fax: 816.968.1157
Washington D.C. Office | VFW Memorial Bldg. | 200 Maryland Ave. N.E. | Washington, D.C. 20002 | 1.202.543.2239 | Fax: 202.543.6719

MAKE A LASTING GIFT



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

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

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

Official Publication of the Department of Michigan

Veteran of Foreign Wars
924 North Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

Subscription rate: \$4.00 per year

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
87TH ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE (POW-WOW)
BOYNE HIGHLANDS RESORTS
OCTOBER 1 – OCTOBER 4, 2015

AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015		
GOLF OUTING 9:00 A.M. – 7:00 PM	All golfers sign up for golf Hospitality	TBA TBA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015		
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Registration	TBA
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Directors Displays	TBA
8:30 A.M. –	Service Office Meeting	TBA
	Budget & Finance Meeting	TBA
	VA Ann Arbor Director	TBA
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:30 PM- Joint Meetings	Patroit’s Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the year, Scouting, Youth Programs, Camp Trotter, Legislative, Pool League, Bowling League	
7:00 PM	DINNER ON YOUR OWN Hospitality	TBA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015		
8:00 A.M. – Noon	Registration	TBA
8:00 A.M. – Noon	Directors Displays	TBA
8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.	Visit Directors Displays	TBA
	Activities, All-State, Americanism, Buddy Poppy, Community Services, Student Veterans, Hospital Legislative, Fundraising	
8:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	VTs Training	TBA
	Chaplains Meeting	
	Cmdr/Sr/Jr/ Group Meetings	
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	Council of Administration	TBA
7:00 P.M.	DINNER ON YOUR OWN Karaoke/Hospitality	TBA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015 HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME		

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES
87TH ANNUAL FALL POWWOW AD BOOK
COMRADES & SISTERS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

RATES:	
FULL PAGE	\$100.00
½ PAGE	\$70.00
¼ PAGE	\$45.00
PATRON (NAME AND POST OR AUXILIARY NUMBER ONLY ...\$4.00 <i>PLEASE PRINT DO NOT WRITE</i>	

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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

MESSAGE:



600 Highlands Drive Harbor Springs, MI 49740
VFW - Department of Michigan
September 30 – 4, 2015
Reservations: 1.800.462.6963
Online: www.boyne.com Group Code: 10B8JK or VFW

- Main Lodge Standard** - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
Choice of King, Two doubles, Two Queens
- Main Lodge Family Room** - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
King and two bunks, King and two doubles or two doubles and two bunks
- Main Lodge European Suite** - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
King bed and sofa sleeper, table and chairs and mini-fridge.
- True Suite King** - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
One bedroom suite with 1 king bed in a separate bedroom, living room with double sleeper sofa, table and chairs, electric fireplace and mini-fridge.
- True Suite Queen** - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
One bedroom suite with 2 queen beds in a separate bedroom, living room with double sleeper sofa, table and chairs, electric fireplace and mini-fridge.
- Bartley House Standard** - \$85.00 per night (\$100.66 including all taxes)
Choice of one or two queens. **NOTE:** Bartley House does not have elevators and flights of stairs could be required.
- Inverness Standard** - \$105.00 per night (\$124.34 including all taxes)
Two queen beds located in the Heather Highlands building, wet bar with mini-fridge, microwave.
- Inverness Loft** - \$142.00 per night (\$168.16 including all taxes)
Studio condo with one queen Murphy bed and sleeper sofa in living area, gas fireplace, one king bed in the loft, kitchenette and two bathrooms.
- Pleasantview Suite** - \$142.00 per night (\$168.16 including all taxes)
One bedroom condo with one queen in bedroom, one queen mурphy bed and sleeper sofa in living area, gas fireplace.

Boyne Highlands observes a 5:00pm check-in and a 1:00pm check-out.

Rates and a 7% Resort Services Fee are subject to a 6% Michigan State Sales and Use Tax. Rates are also subject to a 5% Local Lodging Assessment

Reservations must be booked prior to September 1, 2015 for group rates to be honored.



2015 FALL
CONFERENCE
GOLF OUTING



WHERE: CHESTNUT VALLEY GOLF COURSE
1875 CLUB HOUSE DR. HARBOR SPRINGS, MI
(231) 526-9100

WHEN: OCTOBER 1ST 2015

TEE OFF TIME: 9:00 AM SIGN-IN 10:00 AM SHOT GUN START

COST: \$55.00 PER GOLFER, \$220.00 PER TEAM OF FOUR

COST INCLUDES: 18 HOLES OF GOLF WITH CART AND
HOT DOGS AND POP ON THE TURN CLOSEST TO,
LONGEST DRIVE, LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW AT:
VFW POST 2051 599 W. CONWAY RD.
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI (231) 347-9589

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT:
(PURCHASING FLAGS FOR OUR NATIONAL CEMETARIES HERE IN MICHIGAN)

CUT-.....

CAPTAIN NAME _____ **PHONE NUMBER** _____

PLAYERS NAME _____

PLAYERS NAME _____

PLAYERS NAME _____

POC: SCOTT HOAG 586-651-8228 / 586-727-1436

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO: VFW POST 6802

SEND THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS FLYER WITH CHECK TO:

VFW POST 6802

ATTN: GOLF OUTING

34339 32 MILE RD

RICHMOND, MI 48062

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY



78 DEARBORN HEIGHTS
DUNCAN, DONALD D. 94 ARMY/WWII

116 BAD AXE
LONG, JOHN 73 NAVY/VIETNAM

334 OXFORD
COBB, FRANKLIN 82 ARMY/KOREA

345 REDFORD
BRIGHT, WILLIAM J. 92 NAVY/WWII
CID, SALVADOR SR. 94 ARMY/WWII
DUVALL, GEORGE A. 93 NAVY/WWII
FILIPEK, HENRY J. 91 ARMYAIR CORPS/WWII
HEADRICK, THOMAS W. 98 ARMY/WWII
HOPKINS, JACK C. 88 MARINES/WWII
KREUS, EDWARD J. 92 ARMY/WWII
MCCALLION, PATRICK J. 82 ARMY
MEINSHEIN, GEORGE V. 90 ARMYAIR CORPS/WWII
SCHROCK, GENE H. 90 ARMY/WWII
STIEBER, OTTO W. 99 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
STIPAK, JOHN A.90 ARMY/WWII

423 ANN ARBOR
SCOTT, THOMAS L. 90 WWII

446 MUSKEGON
TURCOTTE, LEO 87 NAVY/WWII

607 ROGERS CITY
JAEGER, CALVIN C. 81 ARMY

671 DEWITT
KELLER, ROBERT 89 NAVY/WWII

701 LANSING
BRITT, JAMES 82 KOREA

796 PORT HURON
CARTER, WAYNE 64 NAVY
MCDAID, RAY J. 90 NAVY/WWII
MOSHER, GEORGE92 ARMY/WWII
ORR, RICHARD E. 83 MARINES/KOREA
SPENCER, CLARENCE D. 88 ARMY/KOREA
ZMOLIK, JAMES J. 87 NAVY/WWII

822 FLINT
OSOWSKI, STANLEY 84 ARMY/KOREA

1075 HARRISON
ROGERS, LYLE 89 ARMY/WWII

1136 WYANDOTTE
BZURA, ANTHONY F. 95 NAVY/WWII
GRESSER, RALPH 89 AIR FORCE/WWII
HOLLER, RAYMOND T. 68 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
JEWELL, RICHARD J. 72 ARMY/VIETNAM
KONIECZNY, ANDREW 98 ARMY/WWII
NEWTON, ALFRED K. 89 NAVY/WWII
PIERPONT, ROBERT 80 NAVY/KOREA
ROZA, GEORGE 88 NAVY/WWII
WHITT, VERNON 87 AIR FORCE/KOREA
ZEMKE, JOHN J. 93 ARMY/WWII

1138 MONROE
DUSHANE, ALTON 86 ARMY/KOREA
GRAY, ROBERT 90 ARMY/WWII
GRUBBER, WARREN 93 ARMY/WWII
IMO, CHARLES 94 NAVY/WWII
MONDAY, PARIS 82 ARMY/WWII
PRESTON, JAMES 83 ARMY/KOREA
SKIDMORE, ELMER 85 ARMY/KOREA
TOBUREN, WILLIAM L. JR. 89 NAVY/WWII
UCKELE, CHARLES 91 NAVY/WWII

1146 ST CLAIR SHORES
ANANIA, JOHN J. 93 ARMY/WWII
ARIS, WILLIAM JR. 82 NAVY/KOREA
CARPENTER, BILL L. MARINES KEATING,
HENRY M. 89 MARINES/WWII
MORICI, PETER P. 93 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
MURPHY, RICHARD J. 88 ARMY/WWII
SPAFFORD, WILLIAM L. 71 ARMY/VIETNAM
TROESTER, WILLIAM R. 92 ARMY/VIETNAM
WHATELEY, JAMES 89 NAVY/WWII

1329 HART
CIHAK, RONALD 86 ARMY/WWII
EYESTONE, WILLIAM 76 ARMY/KOREA
GREY, DAVID 66 ARMY/VIETNAM
RAYMOND, D.S. 90 ARMY/WWII
SCHOPF, GEORGE 94 ARMY/WWII

1519 LIVONIA
BOYER, WILLIAM 92 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
BRYANT, ROY 92 ARMY/WWII
CORRADO, MICHAEL 81 ARMY/KOREA
LIETZAU, GEORGE 89 AIR FORCE/WWII
MOORE, HAROLD 86 NAVY/WWII
NEMETH, ALEXANDER 90 ARMY/WWII

1573 SAUGATUCK
DOUCETTE, WILLIAM G. 92 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

1584 ADRIAN
SEDELBAUER, HOWARD 85 NAVY/KOREA

1669 ROYAL OAK
BARTON, EDWIN91 ARMY/WWII
DALLEY, RICHARD 81 NAVY/KOREA
FRATT, ANTHONY SR. 96 WWII

1794 MT CLEMENS
LANGAN, THOMAS F. JR. 83 MARINES/KOREA

1855 DOWAGIAC
CLARK, KENNETH 90 WWII

1888 TRENTON
MOKRENSKI, WILLIAM 75 ARMY

2144 HOLLAND
BRESLIN, JOHN 88 NAVY/WWII
HAIMBACH, DAVID G. VIETNAM

KELLEY, THOMAS 82 NAVY/KOREA
RIEMERSMA, PAUL 84 AIR FORCE/KOREA
SANTORA, VERNON 93 ARMY/WWII
SMITH, JACK 90 NAVY/WWII
VAN DOORNIK, DONALD 94 ARMY/WWII

2269 WIXOM
GATTERI, ANGELO 93 WWII

2272 DURAND
BUCHANAN, LYLE J. 92 MARINES/WWII
DURLING, PAUL K. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
OUELLETTE, GARY 67 MARINES/VIETNAM

2292 EDMORE
BELLINGAR, PAUL 82 ARMY

2326 GRAND HAVEN
LEMKE, JOHN E. 88 ARMY/WWII

2780 TRAVERSE CITY
MERRITT, EDWIN 99 ARMY/WWII
SCHELLI, RONALD 71 MARINES/VIETNAM

2891 CRYSTAL FALLS
NANTELE, GEORGE 66 MARINES/VIETNAM

2964 REED CITY
DUDDLES, WILLIAM J. 88 ARMY/WWII
GLADISH, BILLY J. 80 AIR FORCE/KOREA

3023 GRAND RAPIDS
BROWN, BURTON 88 NAVY/WWII
ZICHTERMAN, CHARLES JR. 80 AIR FORCE/
NAVY/KOREA

3030-OTSEGO
LAMORANDIER, CECIL 90 WWII
NEESE, JOHN 85 WWII
WOOD, ROBERT 87 WWII

3039 FARWELL
ZAMORA, LORENZO 82 ARMY/KOREA

3087 FLINT
SEIDEL, VINCENT 94 MARINES/WWII

3195 MUSKEGON
BEECHAM, WILLIAM 91 NAVY/WWII

3243-FENTON
BOUCHER, NEIL F. 81 AIR FORCE/KOREA
BRABON, WILLIAM A. 86 ARMY/KOREA
CONLEN, ROBERT R. 90 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
DIAMOND, JAMES L. 68 MARINES/VIETNAM
DROUILLARD, FREDERICK W. 80 ARMY
ELDER, JOHN B. 91 ARMY/WWII
GEAN, ELMER E. 93 ARMY/WWII
GOULD, CURTIS B. 90 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
HAACK, ARTHUR L. 67 MARINES/VIETNAM
HOTCHKISS, HOWARD J. 64 ARMY/VIETNAM
JAQUES, JOHN R. 89 ARMY/WWII
LECKNER, BETH ANN 61 MARINES/VIETNAM
LINTZ, ROBERT N. 89 NAVY/WWII
MALL, JAMES L. 84 NAVY/KOREA
MARINO, GIROLAMO G. 89 ARMY/AIR FORCE/WWII/KOREA
O'BERRY, MICHAEL J. 66 MARINES/VIETNAM
POWELL, ALAN A. 70 NAVY/VIETNAM
SAPIANO, PAUL A. 92 ARMY/WWII
SCHMIDT, DALE A. 88 ARMY/WWII
SHIMMEL, JOHN E. 63 ARMY/VIETNAM
TORPEY, LEO JR. 84 ARMY/KOREA
WALTERS, JACK E.94 NAVY/WWII

3306 HOWARD CITY
GENUNG, WILLIAM 82 ARMY/KOREA
MARK, ARTHUR 87 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

3314 ARCADIA
LINDGREN, NELSON T. 92 NAVY/WWII

3667 ALLEGAN
CLARK, RICHARD 82 ARMY/KOREA

3676 SAULT STE MARIE
BARRETT, CHESTER V. 89 NAVY/WWII
COLLINS, HARRY E. 83 ARMY/KOREA
FOX, KENNETH J. 94 NAVY/WWII
PUSKA, RUTH M. 94 ARMY/WWII
STONE, JERRY H. ARMY/VETERAN

3724 STANDISH
VANDERLOOVEN, GUSTAVE 95 ARMY
AIR CORPS/WWII

3727 HOLT
BARRY, ROBERT 85 AIR FORCE

3733 FOWLER
FOX, CLARENCE 82 ARMY/KOREA
SEIBERT, ROBERT 79 NAVY/LEBANON

3753 PINCONNING
HUS, WALTER 92 ARMY/WWII
LA CLAIR, LEO 86 ARMY/KOREA

3900 CALUMET
HARRIS, PAUL 66 ARMY/VIETNAM

3901 ALGONAC
BOUCKAERT, RICHARD KOREA
EBERLE, DAISY 100 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
HUTCHESON, KEN 85 ARMY AIR CORPS/KOREA

3941 LIVONIA
EDWARDS, FREDERICK 86 NAVY/WWII

4087 DAVISON
DE JOHN, DONALD E. 88 ARMY/WWII

4090 PORTLAND
ASPIN, ROBERT A. 88 NAVY/WWII
BUGBEE, RAYMOND 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
HENDEE, ROBERT 88 NAVY/WWII

4113 ST JOHNS
BERKHOUSEN, CHARLES 89 ARMY/WWII

4115 SEBEWAING

BIELACZYC, CASMIR 91 ARMY/WWII
FLETCHER, CLIFFORD 66 NAVY/VIETNAM
GREMEL, KENNETH L. 79 NAVY
MILLERWISE, ROBERT D. 92 ARMY/WWII

4159 ROSCOMMON
COOKE, SIDNEY
NEEDHAM, ARTHUR 94 NAVY/WWII

4162 HAMTRAMCK
GIVEINS, DENNIS 74 ARMY
ZREBSKI, TADDAEUS 96 ARMY/WWII

4249 NEWAYGO
BARRETT, RICHARD 87 NAVY/WWII
DAVIS, PETER 82 ARMY/KOREA
MOORE, PHILLIP 71 ARMY/VIETNAM
PETERSON, ALLEN 72 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
TOWNE, CLARE 82 ARMY/KOREA
WYN, JOEL 92 NAVY/WWII

4461 LAKE ODESSA
RAFFLER, ARTHUR 87 NAVY/WWII

4499 MANISTEE
ADAMSKI, DAVID R. 90 ARMY/WWII
HOUSEMAN, DAVID C. 81 NAVY/KOREA
MICHALICKI, EDWIN 83 ARMY/KOREA
MILLER, PAUL E. SR. 92 ARMY/WWII

4659 SHELBY TOWNSHIP
CLARY, BENJAMIN 81 ARMY/WWII

5114 ST. IGNACE
HART, LEON 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
SPERRY, FRANK 89 COAST GUARD/WWII/KOREA

5315 BALDWIN
COOKE, EARLE 73 NAVY
FOSTER, GERALD82 ARMY/KOREA
FRYE, JERRY 97 NAVY/WWII
JOHNSON, WAYNE 69 ARMY/VIETNAM

5319 ATHENS
BOVA, WILLIAM NAVY

5585 EMMETT
DONAHUE, MICHAEL 91 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

5598 COOPERSVILLE
NOTTINGHAM, BENJAMIN 89 ARMY/WWII

5600 ONTONAGON
KEMPEN, WALLACE 94 ARMY/WWII

5666 FLUSHING
FLICKINGER, ALLEN 86 ARMY/KOREA

5670 GWINN
KODANKO, JOSEPH 92 NAVY/WWII
LAITURI, WILLIAM 88 NAVY/WWII
REIDER, BERNADETTE 93 ARMY/WWII/KOREA/
VIETNAM

6028 DOLLAR BAY
FOLEY, PATRICK 67 NAVY/VIETNAM

6165 SOUTH RANGE
RAPPLEY, DOUGLAS D. 93 AIR FORCE/WWII/KOREA

6248 DECATUR
JOHNSON, NARY 89 ARMY/WWII
RUPLE, CHARLES A. 83 ARMY/KOREA

6250 STERLING HEIGHTS
LEOW, SHURL 88 WWII

6464 FOWLerville
EISELE, LEONARD 85 NAVY/KOREA

6466 HARRISVILLE
KENNEDY, JAY 82 ARMY/KOREA
KIESELBACH, FRANCIS 88 ARMY/WWII
KRUTLLIN, TED 92 ARMY/WWII
PETERSON, DAVID 91 ARMY/WWII

6507 CHASSELL
HILL, DONALD 78 NAVY/VIETNAM

6579 NEW LOTHROP
COOPER, PHILLIP E. 85 ARMY AIR CORPS/KOREA
DEXTER, EUGENE H. 84 ARMY/KOREA
FALL, WAYNE D. 91 ARMY/WWII
GROSS, MAYNARD A. 88 NAVY/WWII
KELBEY, FRED E. 95 ARMY/WWII
LARE, CHARLES E. 82 ARMY/KOREA
SMITH, CHARLES L. 82 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

6695 PLYMOUTH
HULL, VAUGHN 64 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
SHIER, ROBERT 92 MARINES/WWII

6756 CENTER LINE
BRINKER, ROBERT 65 ARMY/VIETNAM
DEPA, STEVEN 65 NAVY/VIETNAM
EAST, DOSSIE 94 NAVY/WWII
HAJEK, LEONARD 87 ARMY/KOREA
JOSWIAK, RONALD 67 ARMY VIETNAM
KALTZ, LAWRENCE 93 NAVY/WWII
KEMP, WALTER NAVY/WWII
LISOSKI, JOHN 94 MARINES/WWII

6782 EASTPOINTE
RICARD, ROBERT 79 COAST GUARD/VIETNAM
WILLIAMS, RICHARD 89 NAVY/WWII

6842 LUDINGTON
PETROSKY, LEO 91 NAVY/WWII

6864 CADILLAC
ROBERTSON, IVAN 75 ARMY/VIETNAM

6965 UBLY
BEZEMEK, MICHAEL 75 NAVY/VIETNAM

7302 HEMLOCK
CARSTSEN, CALVIN 84 ARMY/KOREA
FRANCETIC, CHARLES 95 ARMY/WWII
KRUSKE, DAVID 79 NAVY/KOREA
NEWVINE, LLOYD 89 ARMY/WWII

7309 MASON
BURNHAM, CHARLES SR. 84 MARINES/KOREA
FAIDLEY, ROBERT 74 ARMY/VIETNAM
GLYNN, BENJAMIN 68 NAVY/VIETNAM
HADLEY, ROBERT 81 MARINES/KOREA
LEYKO, ROBERT 81 ARMY/KOREA/VIETNAM
MORRIS, GEORGE W. 84 ARMY/KOREA
PHILLIPS, FRANK 89 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
SHELDON, ROBERT 94 ARMY/WWII
SUPIRAN, RALPH 94 WWII
ZANGER, CHARLES 95 ARMY/WWII

7542 BIRCH RUN
DANIELS, DANNY 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
WEIGANDT, ROBERT 68 MARINES/VIETNAM

7546 DEARBORN HEIGHTS
GORALEWSKI, CHESTER 91 ARMY/WWII
KNEFFEL, THOMAS 90 MARINES/WWII
MALHALAB, GEORGE 89 WWII
MALYS, THADDEUS 91 MARINES/WWII

7806 MANTON
CASSADY, MARSHALL 88 ARMY/WWII
NYE, DOYLE 90 ARMY/WWII

7912 SAND LAKE
BUNCE, LEO W. 93 ARMY/WWII

8465 PORT HURON
HILLGER, GARY 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
INGRAM, VERN 78 AIR FORCE/KOREA

8594 YALE
BUSCH, FRANK 89 ARMY/KOREA
YOUNG, JOSEPH 67 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

8684 KALKASKA
SNYDER, HAROLD

8846 MUSKEGON
BUYS, PHIL 90 ARMY/WWII
DOCTOR, JAMES 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
MAKI, UNO 86 ARMY/KOREA

8872 PORT SANILAC
AKKERMANN, RICHARD 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

8964 OVID
CSAPOS, VINCENT 93 ARMY/WWII
SINICROPI, ANTHONY 90 NAVY/WWII/KOREA

9021 WARREN
MALGET, JAMES 89 WWII

9023 BRIMLEY
BALL, ALVIN 90 ARMY/WWII

9084 WAKEFIELD
DANIELS, JAMES F. 88 NAVY/WWII
PETERSON, VICTOR P. 76 AIR FORCE/KOREA/
VIETNAM

9377 PLAINWELL
ECKERT, GEORGE 90 NAVY/WWII
HANDLEY, DANIEL 94 NAVY/WWII

9656 LAMBERTVILLE
JEFFREY, EDWARD 85 AIR FORCE/KOREA
O'BRIEN, JOHN 86 NAVY/WWII/KOREA
TIPPETT, RICHARD 85 NAVY

10194 GRASS LAKE
GYGAX, FRED H. 89 WWII/KOREA
WILLIAMS, JAY C. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

10705 LAINGSBURG
STEPHENS, WILLIAM R. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

15023 LANSING
CAGLE, ROBERT E. 88 ARMY/AIR FORCE/WWII/
KOREA
CHEGER, MICHAEL 86 NAVY/WWII
GREGURICH, JAMES 89 WWII
HALL, KENNETH 94 NAVY/WWII
SMITH, JOHN E. 84 ARMY/KOREA
TANNER, RODNEY 64 AIR FORCE/PERSIAN GULF





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Jerry Gorski, Sr. Vice Commander
Matt David, Jr. Vice Commander
Scott Gloger, *MOV* Editor
Cindy Peto, Aux. Committee Member

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.

Materials for Publication

Send to: Scott Gloger
6718 Academy
Brighton, MI 48116
mov@vfwmi.org
Graphic Design:
American Publishing LLC
Jenny DeBack, President
americanpublishing8482@gmail.com

TAPS

SEND TO:
Department of MI VFW
924 North Washington
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 485-9456

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

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

(Last Name)
(First Name)
(Age)
(Date of Death)
(Post #)
(City)

Branch (Circle One):
USA USAAC USN
USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):
WWI WWII Korea
Vietnam Gulf Other
Occupation Forces

78-Dearborn Heights

Arline, Vivian
Lee, Sandra
1136-Wyandotte
Dobrovalski, Tammi
Dominczyk, Cassie
Dryjer, Dolores
Farrugia, Annette
Macek, Florence
Speelman, Crystal
1519-Northville
Urton, Roydon
3323-Westland
Helka, Barbara
Marshall, Stacy
Stevens, Helen
4422-Taylor
Ciupka, Ruth
Marcellus, Linda
Przygocki, Roberta
Renaud, Patsy Lee
Whitfield, Gertrude
1146-St Clair Shores
Evacko, Olga
Farmer, Mary
Forsyth, Ethel
Honn, Dorothy
Jesse, Tracey
Legato, Evelyn
Marciniak, Lillian
1224-South Lyon
Warren, Agnes
Meyer, Viola
1370-Pontiac
Griggs, Viola
Thompson, Mary
1407-Berkley
Gobie, Marion
2269-Wixom
Matrice, Virginia
Pohl, Felycice
Rodebaugh, Irene
Summerfelt, Barbara
2645-Southfield
Cyr, Mary
Droz, Sylvia
Hrycay, Flora
Pazolka, Ida
Smith, Ann
Tagnin, Catherine
4156-White Lake
Brown, Betty
4659-Shelby Twp
Adragna, Grace

6691-Fraser

Townsend, Betsy
Losier, Marion
701-Lansing
Curtis, Myrna
Fuller, Betty
Kline, Eileen
McClain, Beverly
Mills, Maxine
Swartz, Mildred
584-Adrian
Jones, Irene
3925-Erie
Calengor, Leona
4093-Carleton
Crawford, Roberta
Mell, Geraldine
Nobles, Carol
Thompson, Joanne
4357-Brighton
Bronikowski, Stella
LaValle, Mary
Marshall, Kathleen
6464-Fowlerville
Hurst, Donna
Pennell, Georgiana
7309-Mason
Warren, Valdene
9656-Lambertville
Kubicz, Rose
1137-Benton Harbor
Schulke, Ella
3672-Albion
Gideon, Frances
Kennedy, Shirley
6248-Decatur
Barnes, Grace
Johnson, Helen
Joza, Lori
Kole, Betty
Romeo, Ruth
9411-Homer
Jenkins, Marian
LeBeau, Dorothy
2144-Holland
Irving, Mary "Arlene"
Lucas, Maxine
Mostrom, Patricia
2326-Grand Haven
Borta, Louise
Buron, Mae
DeWitt, Louise
Green, Evelyn
Katt, Audrey

Schwartz, Maryann

Snyder, Hazel
3023-Grand Rapids
Woody, Audrey
3030-Otsego
Beldon, Mildred
7581-Wayland
Feldwisch, Rose Marie
Smith, Ila
Ward, Vera
7956-Augusta
Frye, Rosanna
8260-Nashville
Eastman, Ann
Kellogg, Janet
1566-Saginaw
Kragenbrink, Jeannette
2292-Edmore
Ferguson, Beulah
Wolfgang, Leona
3701-Lakeview
Fitzner, Vena Mae
Griswold, Beulah
Lindsey, Helen
Scott, Letty
4005-Corunna
Schnepf, Mary
4090-Portland
May, Marcelene
4406-Belding
Bailey, Mary Jo
Bush, Betty
5065-Sheridan
Baxter, Marian
DeGraw, Mary
Christensen, Donna
Christensen, Doris
Harnack, Florence
Hessler, Beverly
Jenks, Lois
Kutzke, Margaret
Leach, Barbara
Shindorf, Florence
Stearns, Phyllis
White, Berniece
Wood, Maxine
4461-Lake Odessa
Nash, Suzanne
6579-New Lothrop
McGraw, Michelle
9455-Owosso
Current, Rose
Frezon, Helen
Gross, Phyllis

Grubaugh, Frances

Holbrook, Alberta
Manas, Eleanor
Moser, Maxine
Sodman, Alminia
Surik, Shirley
Turk, Kathy
203-Berville
O'Connor, Claudia
Wajnawski, Dorothy
796-Port Huron
Tesluck, Connie
Edwards, Wynona
822-Flint
Crepeau, Patricia
3243-Fenton
Elston, Pearl
Jacobs, Claire
4139-Lapeer
3720-Swartz Creek
Taylor, Geraldine
1071-Coleman
Wilson, Jean
4106-Weidman
Garrett, June
4139-Lapeer
Parker, Diane
5680-Clare
Anklam, Mildred
6754-Spruce
Bootz, Theresa
6950-Kawkawlin
George, Shirley
7303-Gladwin
Kramer, Virginia
Morrill, Fern
Peters, Beverly
446-Muskegon
Bouwman, Diane
2335-Mecosta
Lichtey, Jennie
Winkler, Nora Lou
2964-Reed City
Littlefield, Marian
3256-Montague
Hysell, Carol
Isley, Ellen
Korthase, Bernice
Kroll, Margaret
3734-Muskegon
Putney, Irma
Rocha, Barbara
5315-Baldwin
Thomas, Patsy Lou

Turner, Juanita

2496-Alpena
Piantkowski, Maxine
Szatkowski, Nellie
2780-Traverse City
Bowden, Elizabeth
Galla, Deanna
Groesser, Eunice
Kellogg, Virginia
Lake, Lorraine
Neldrett, Margaret
3623-Cheboygan
Therrian, Phyllis
7804-Posen
Sobek, Gladys
8684-Kalkaska
King, Jane
1887-Menominee
Beyer, Dorothy
Geltz, Kathleen
3165-Negaunee
Airaudi, Jean
Mitchell, Margaret
3676-Saulte Ste Marie
Kingham, Barbara
4420-Manistique
Dewey, Romayne
9023-Brimley
Albrough, Marian
Borowski, Marjorie
Johnson, Alice
Jones, Vera
4167-Mass City
Holmstom, Ida
7646-Pelkie
Ross, Joan

Member At Large

Brown, Burton
Skowronek, Bernice
Stokoe, Priscilla
Rolfe, Barbara



MICHIGAN STATE VETERANS HOMES, continued from page 11



broader selection of clothing in a store setting. I also want to make special mention of Sonya VanValkenburg who is the leader of a great staff that handles the daily operation of the clothing store.

I am equally proud of the new entrance and many renovations that have taken

place at the D.J. Jacobetti Home. (Please refer to the photos attached to this article).

I want to thank Bob Porter (retired financial person at the GRHV) who has spear-headed years of the Annual Memorial Day ceremonies that have literally involved thousands of the local Boy/Girl Scouts placing flags on the Grave Sites at the Cemetery at the GRHV.

Lastly, I want to thank Governor Granholm and Governor Snyder for their confidence in me for their appointment to the Board of Managers. Over the years I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge in regards to the State Veterans Homes and the needs for our Veterans that reside within the Homes. Making friends that I will never forget, especially the other

Members of the Board of Managers over these past 11 years. I am encouraged with the newly formed Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and how they interact with

the two Veterans Homes. The Director, Jeff Barns, Deputy Director Jim Dunn, and Senior Advisor Jason Allen have all done a tremendous job working with the Board of Managers and getting the much needed training that is vital for the future long range planning of the State Veterans Homes.

Attention Veterans – those of you that are 70% to 100% disabled can apply to be a resident at either home at no cost. Just call the GRVH @ 1-616-364-5000 and ask for Admissions.

In closing, I want to say thank you everyone for your many years of support and please continue to support the next Comrade representing the VFW that will help lead the State Veterans Homes into the future.



All State Commanders And Auxiliary Achievement Awards

Each year at the Department Convention the Department All State Post Commanders and Auxiliary Achievement Presidents are honored. These ceremonies are a highlight each year as our Department's most

outstanding Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents are recognized for their efforts. This year the VFW awards were presented by State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and VFW Commander in Chief Bill

Thien. Ladies Auxiliary awards were presented by State President Alice "Candy" Beatty and Ladies Auxiliary National Veterans and Family support Ambassador Leona Mc Dermott. This year the honorees were:



Post 2780 Carl Archambeau



Post 334 James Hubbard



Post 1008 George Navarrette



Post 2645 Don Kuffner



Post 3243 Fred Boettge



Post 3293 Stephen Klein



Post 3701 Mike Fineis



Post 4659 Michael Perusich



Post 6802 Scott Hoag



Post 9914 Vincent "Tom" Oltesvig



1st Place District 4 Sandra Borieo



2nd Place District 10 Diana Ward



3rd Place District Julia Garnica



Aux 78 Paulette Vanderwill



Aux 345 Chesterine Montanbeau



Aux 4422 Stephanie Krueger



Aux 6695 Shirley Caldwell



Aux 9283 Michelle Stafford



Aux 9885 Sandra Pinion



Aux 334 Kathy Hubbard



Aux 2269 Juanita Skonieczny



Aux 4659 Gloria Dobbie



Aux 6691 Deborah Sheetz



Aux 4093 Christine Mills



ACHEIVEMENT AWARDS, continued from page 19



Aux 7309 Laura Heuer



Aux 9411 Judy Henson



Aux 2144 Marlene Gaitan



Aux 6252 Jean Bestervelt



Aux 3055 Nicole Koutz



Aux 4005 Sharon Kickmott



Aux 9455 Karen Horn



Aux 4139 Linda Perreault



Aux 3033 Denise Arnold



Aux 3724 Kelly Benett



Aux 4106 Diane Kunst



Aux 6950 Joan Elenbaas



Aux 7303 Viola A. Tennison



Aux 7580 Elizabeth Downing



Aux 6507 Donna Byykkonen



Aux 3165 Linda C. Dillman



Aux 6802 Mary Beth Rodman



Aux 9914 Judy McGee



Aux 6464 Carolyn Howse



Aux 7956 Millie Gowers



Aux 822 Norma VanEtten



Aux 2051 Arvella Peterson

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
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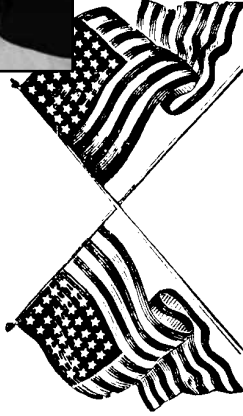
From the Editor

Greeting Comrades and Sisters,

Well, here we go two new things with the MOV. One we have a new editor, that's me and two this is the first issue going electronically. I hope everyone will realize this is a work in progress. Please keep an open mind and be patient. If we do, we will be able to make this work. All good things take time. I will try and do my best for this paper. Please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Yours in comradeship,

Scott Gloger
6718 Academy
Brighton, MI 48116
734-323-1188
mov@vfwmi.org



Judy Bolton
FOR THE
OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT
GUARD
June 2016

Supported by Post & Auxiliary 701



Mike Fineis
FOR THE
OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT
JR. VICE
COMMANDER
June 2016

Supported by Post & Auxiliary 3701



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

INSIDE

Officer Reports	1-2
Success Story	3
Advocating for Others	3
District Reports	4
Military Order of the Cooties	5
Auxiliary News	6-9
One Stop	
Cramp Trotter Tales ..	10
Veterans Expos	10
VFW National Home for Children Fishing Contest	11
National President	
Francisca Guilford	
Visit	12-13
Gold Star Mothers	14
87th Fall Conference .	15
Taps	16
Auxiliary TAPS	17
Achievement	
Awards	18-19
9th Annual Charity	
Golf Outing	15
State Commander	20
From the Editor	20

Coming Events

87TH ANNUAL
FALL CONFERENCE
October 1-4, 2015

STATE COMMANDER

Comrades and sisters, I would personally like thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your State Commander for this next year. It is an honor that means so much to not only me but my family as well. I hope that everyone enjoyed the State Convention, and I would personally like to thank Pat & Pat Patterson for all their hard work.

How did everyone like having the VFW store at the convention this year? I would like to thank everyone who purchased items during the convention and it has been decided that they will come back to next year's convention.

This first month as the State Commander has been a busy one, adjusting to everything. My wife & I enjoyed our time at the National Convention, it was a busy four days gathering information, attending classes, and meeting the other State Commanders. One of the downfalls of the convention that could have been done better was the Patriot's rally. Though Toby Keith was sick I still believe that a better location could have been found. Pittsburgh is filled with amazing neat old building and an incline railway. We have also been given many opportunities to march in parades and visit some of your posts.

Over this next year I am asking for all posts to be at 100% membership, I know this is not an easy task to achieve but I am asking for you to strive to do your best. My goal is to return to next year's National convention and hear them call out Michigan when announce the Big States have hit their numbers and achieved their goals.

Now I need to go over some business items... I have been busy attending district meetings and while I fell short of visiting ever district, I am on a mission to visit all of them this year. But it has come to my attention that there are comrades speaking negatively about other comrades. If you have an issue with someone please do not



Paul McIvor
State Commander

talk about them behind their back, but have the respect to speak to them directly about the issues at hand.

Also please have your reports in on time as well as having your fees paid on time. If your post's fees are not paid on time it will be unfortunate but the post will be put on suspension. One of my main focuses this year will be membership and to help with that it will be announced that National will be offering a chance at an ALL EXPENSES PAID trip to have some fun in the sun. So for any district that achieves 100% by June 1, 2016 will have their name entered into a drawing...I don't know about you but a week in the sun is something that I could use!!

I had the amazing pleasure meeting the senior editor for the VFW magazine. She was in Michigan doing an article on Camp Trotter. I would like to thank Ernie and his staff for all their hard work they have done this year with a record amount of kids visiting and enjoying the camp. The coaches do an excellent job with the kids and the camp looks great. Camp Trotter is amazing place to relax and enjoy the sites of the water.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and look forward to seeing everyone at the fall convention and please remember if you need any help or have any questions to please feel to contact me.