

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

July/August/September 2010

Volume 78 Number 1



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Here it is – a brand new VFW year that is off to a good start. We just returned from our last Summer Conference (July C of A). This last Saturday was our July Officers Training school and we had a fairly good turnout. Sunday was our Michigan Day at the National Home for Children and we had great weather, good food and comradeship.

I would like to take this time to congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers, directors and chairmen throughout the VFW Posts, County Councils, Districts and the Department of Michigan. I wish all of you a successful and prosperous year. I hope that you are in that position because you believe in what the VFW is all about, and you want the organization to grow and move forward. Our organization is so much more than a clubroom or canteen. The Posts that have those facilities for their members and guests to enjoy need to remember that the purpose of the VFW is to provide service to veterans, their families, service to the communities, support for our active duty service members and youth activities for our young people. If every Post follows the

Jack Pray
Senior
Vice Commander



program guides that are in the back of the roster and make sure their Quartermasters keep the Post books up-to-date and correct, they will not have any problems.

Now is the time to get your active duty members dues paid. Make contact with your unpaid members from last year if they did not pay dues by December 31, 2009. Try and find out why. They may be in distress and need help; once again, that is why we are here.

Our Membership Director, Gerald Hawkins, has put together a very good membership team and if you have an event coming up that you want a recruiter to attend, call Hawk at 810-241-7371 and talk to him about it. He is there to help, so use him.

In closing, the top 15% of the Post Commanders will wear the "White Hat" of an All-State Commander. If you do the necessary work, you can be sure your name and your Post is on the All-State Commander list.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

A new year for our organization is beginning; newly elected officers have taken their positions and have commenced the journey of leading their Post or District. We take that first step when we are sworn in. All officers have agendas or goals that they want to reach by the year's end, and we begin that journey now. Together as a team we will work towards the betterment of our Post, our District and our Department. District Commanders, your task is great. Given to you by our Department Commander, you are to see that the Posts under your control participate in all of our programs. With the help of our Department chairmen and your District chairmen this can be accomplished. Post Commanders; your task is to lead your post officers and chairmen to these ends. Teamwork, Teamwork, Teamwork. Working together we will accomplish our goals.

Most of us have been mentored by someone in our Post. These comrades are usually older than us. They have been in leadership positions in our organization before. The passing of these comrades saddens us all. The time they gave us cannot be quantified. Can they be replaced? I think not. Each individual that comes our way leaves indelible marks on our lives and our

Kirk Kennedy
Junior
Vice Commander



organization. All that we know and learn about our organization we usually learn from those who were here before us. So how do we carry on where they left off? If we learned our lessons well, it is a very simple and plain answer: SERVICE TO VETERANS. All that we do should lead us to this end. Take some time to mentor someone in your Post. Your time will not have been wasted.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all comrades who supported me in my candidacy for this office. To all comrades: I will do my very best to serve you and this Department. As I said previously, only through teamwork can we achieve success. With the comrades you have elected, you have a team that can work together and be successful. I hope all comrades will take the opportunity to let the leadership know how you stand on issues of importance, or if you have suggestions for the betterment of our organization. SERVICE, HONOR, COUNTRY.

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

The IRS has hired new agents to look into 501(c)(19) organizations reporting practices. The IRS is looking for **Unrelated Business Income (UBI)** which requires the filing of Form 990T. They are also looking for Form 730 and Form 11-C, which pertains to gaming tax.

If your Post has a mortgage on the building and you rent the hall, you may be subject to UBI tax because of the mortgage. They are also looking into how many non-members are being served at the Post canteens. If your Post puts up a sign and indicates that you are having a lunch or dinner on your marquee, and you do not indicate that it is for members only, you may be subject to UBI tax.

All Posts need to make sure that they have signs up in their entrance and on all

Rob Weiss
State Adjutant/
Quartermaster



machines (i.e. pool tables, pull tabs and any other machine in the building) that the use of machines is for members only. You also need to keep copies of the community activities and hospital activities that the Post does. This shows that you are maintaining the purpose for which the Post is a nonprofit organization.

We do not want to see Posts being fined for not following local, state and federal laws and regulations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me at Department Headquarters 517-485-9456 or vfwmi@vfwmi.org.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Greetings Comrades,

I would like to express my gratitude to Commander Lloyd Putman II for re-appointing me to this position for the 2010-2011 year. I will endeavor to do my best to surpass his expectations.

A few words about audits and then inspections:

By now, most Posts and Districts have submitted their June quarterly audits and are working on the next audit. Let's hope not many of you have had your audits returned by your respective District Commander. There are several reasons an audit can/will be returned. Some of the main reasons are listed below:

1. The beginning balances do not agree with the ending balances on the previous audit.
2. All accounts are not listed.

Rick Zellman
Department
Inspector



3. Reconciliation of accounts box is not completed.

4. The total of column 13 does not agree with the totals for column 10, plus column 11, minus column 12.

5. The numerical figures are illegible.

6. The audit lacks the signature of the Post trustees.

All of these are easily corrected and should be handled in a timely manner. Some of these are oversights that the Post trustees should have readily spotted during the audit. I thank you in advance

— ZELLMAN, continued on page 3



BREAK IT DOWN!

Marching was fun when there was someone who was good at calling cadence. Some comrades were even good at making up verses. In the verse would be a command to "Break It down!" Then you would shout back, "One, Two, Three, Four," to match your step. One evening at Ft. Knox, he made up a verse about the General's Wife, and he heard it...and we heard about it the next day.

I have often thought of that command when facing life's battles. If we look the whole picture of our problems of life and health, it is hard to deal with them. But if we break down the problem, it may be easier to deal with each one. Did you ever wonder why a lion tamer uses a chair to control the lions and tigers? They tell me that since the chair has four points, it confuses the animal as to which one to attack. In the same way in life, if we try to deal with several things at once, it is confusing. If we, "Break It Down," and deal with one issue at a time, we can deal with them better.

I find that the three greatest problem areas in life are physical (health), emotional and spiritual. Success is to have a balance in these areas. The first rule in a campaign is to know your enemy, his strengths and his weakness. We can do the same thing with the issues of life. The first thing is to take charge of our own health by keeping track of the medical advice given to us and of our medications. Too often we leave it up to others. It is good idea to keep a little notebook and jot down the dates of doctor visits

Elmer R. Liimatta

State Chaplain



and our medications. It is handy to keep a record of blood pressure and weight. Even to have a current list of drugs, in case of a medical problem. I find it better to write down a list, since I cannot even pronounce the names. About the time I learn to say the name, they change the prescription. Also, it shows the medical people that you take your health seriously.

Some time ago, a comrade was diagnosed with cancer. He was told that there was no treatment to extend his time. He continued to trust the Lord and sought advice on a healthier diet and changed some of his habits. The result was that he lived longer than they thought he would, and in the process, he gave all of us courage and inspiration.

We cannot always control what we are confronted with, but we can control how we deal with various issues. Attitude can be a great source of healing and strength. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." — Proverbs 17:22

I would like some response from you. What do you see as man's biggest problem? It may surprise you what the Bible points out. Let us join together to deal with "Life's Battles." Many of our veterans are looking for help and inspiration to face daily issues. We may not be able to change the situations, but maybe we can find better ways to deal with them.

Department Service Officer SUCCESS STORY

In the summer of 2000, one of our staff members was at a military reunion and had a conversation with another attendee who inquired what our staff member did for a living. After finding out that he was a Veterans' Advocate, he told a story of being diagnosed with a disability shortly after he was discharged from service. In fact, the veteran advised our Advocate that he had been put on medication and that he was sure that it was within a year of his discharged date.

38 CFR §3.309 Disease subject to presumptive service connection, states that a disease that is chronic in nature and manifests itself to a 10% degree of disability within the legal presumptive, normally 1 year, may be service-connected. Knowing

this information, the Advocate filed a claim in December of 2000 with the VA for the condition that the veteran was diagnosed with back in the early 60s.

In May of 2001, the VA denied the claim on the basis the veteran's service medical records were silent regarding any symptoms relative to the claimed condition. In the initial claim, medical statements from private physicians clearly showed that they remembered that the veteran had the condition shortly after service. The statements were very specific, but the VA stated that in light of the detailed statements provided by the doctors, they should be able to produce the actual chart that was being kept at the doctor's office.

The rating specialist, no longer employed by the VA, stated that the veteran's doctors have remarkable memories as to the date of the veteran's employment physical, but their memories are unsupported by documentation. Personal comments made by a VA employee regarding the integrity of a claim only makes an Advocate fight harder.

38 CFR §4.23 Attitude of rating officers, states it is to be remembered that the majority of applicants are disabled persons who are seeking benefits of law to which they believe themselves entitled. In the exercise of his or her functions, rating officers

— **SUCCESS, continued on page 4**

STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

For this article, we wish to help dispel some confusion regarding the reimbursement of private medical treatment that is not done by the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA). Currently, there are only two programs available in which the VA will reimburse a veteran for treatment at a non-VA facility. These are the Millennium Healthcare Act (MHA) and reimbursement of non-authorized healthcare.

Under the MHA, there are several key factors. First, the veteran must be enrolled into the VA healthcare system at the time of the treatment. Finally, there must be no third party payee to the bill. This means that no agency, program, insurance or persons has assisted in paying any part of the bill. In such cases, VA must be payer of last resort. Examples of this would be private medical insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. As soon as any portion of the bill has been paid, the veteran is no longer eligible under the MHA. VA may reimburse or pay eligible claimants for non-VA emergency medical treatment rendered to an eligible veteran on and after May 29, 2000. Claims must be submitted within 90 days from the date of care.

A veteran may also seek reimbursement for non-authorized private treatment at non-VA facilities. First and foremost, we urge veterans to obtain

prior authorization. Unfortunately, circumstance may not allow this.

1. The veteran is currently enrolled into the VA healthcare system at the time of the treatment, and
2. The veteran has sought treatment for a service-connected condition, and
3. Seeking treatment at a VA facility is unfeasible either by distance to be traveled or the nature of the treatment required, and
4. The hospital care or treatment was serious threatening to life or health, until the veteran can be safely transferred to a VA facility, and
5. The veteran or someone on his or her behalf notified the DVA within 72 hours of admission. Make sure you get a name of the person you talked to, a date and time when the call was made.

It is important to note that the reimbursement is for treatment to stabilize the patient for transportation to a VA facility. It is the VA who determines if the condition was life threatening, and when the veteran has been stabilized for transportation to a VA facility.

Claims must be filed with the VA hospital serving the area within two years of the date the services were provided.

Whenever possible, obtaining pre-authorization for private treatment is highly recommended.

POW-MIA Recognition Day Program



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Maple City Post 2406, Charlotte, Michigan and its Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a POW-MIA Recognition Day Program starting at 7:00 p.m.

on September 17, 2010 at the Post Home (695 Lansing Street, Charlotte, MI 48813).

All former Prisoners of War and their family members and the family members of those still Missing in Action are invited

to attend this event to recognize those that returned from their captivity and recognize the family members that are awaiting the return of their loved ones.

This is the fourth consecutive year we have honored former Prisoners of War and the families of those Missing in Action.

If you are a former Prisoner of War or a family member of a veteran still Missing in Action and would like to attend, please RSVP to Post Chair Wayne Ball at 517-526-2369 (if calling on a weekday, please call after 5:00 p.m.) or Ladies Auxiliary Chair, Nina Robinson at 517-543-2343.

VSO's Share Resources and Support

In response to the recent budget crisis negatively impacting service and outreach to veterans and their families in the State of Michigan, and in a tremendous display of camaraderie and teamwork, The American Legion (AL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Marine Corps League (MCL), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) developed a statewide teaming agreement with the goal of supporting each other, both at the VA Regional Office and in field operations.

As a result of this teaming agreement, any Service Officer from one of the organizations previously mentioned may attempt to assist you with your claim. While there still may be some legal restrictions on the level of detail in which they can immediately render service, these highly trained professionals will

ensure that someone from the organization you have assigned as your official power of attorney will follow up.

"Our Service Officers have a long and storied tradition of completing 'courtesy claims' for one another," said DAV Director Tom Wendel. "We have simply formalized what we have already been doing in practice for so many years in the State of Michigan."

Another benefit of the teaming agreement is that it allows already limited resources to be stretched a little further, thus affording even more veterans, dependents and survivors the opportunity to apply for benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "This is an unprecedented effort amongst veterans service organizations in this state," reports VFW Director Dan Crocker. "While it was born out of necessity, I think it can benefit us all in the long run."

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Military Order of the Cootie

"Tradition, History and Attention to Detail"



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

Robert Routhier, Jr. and Marie Smark were elected as Grand Commander

and Grand President in June 2010. Along with them were Don Martindale, Grand Sr. Vice; Harold Whittemore, Grand Jr.; Ernest Paulin, Grand Quartermaster; Robert E. Wilson, Grand Adjutant; Earl Tefft, Grand Judge Advocate; John Loeffler, Grand Surgeon; Lowell "Sam" Elston, Grand Chaplain; and William "Bill" Beacheau, Grand Historian. The installing officer was Past Supreme Commander Johnny L. Howard.

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.

77th Tomb Trek 2010 Arlington National Cemetery

The 77th Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 4, 5, and 6 November 2010. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier or on our Web site at LOTCS.org

Speaking of Web sites, you can now download information about the Grand of Michigan from either the Department's

Web page vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocmi.freedompage.com. If you use the Department Web page, you will have to max to the bottom and you will see MI Cooties. Click it and it will take you to our Web site.

82nd Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2010

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 10, 11 and 12, 2010. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members, both VFW and Cooties, to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids. If you have ever gone to one of these parties, you know the kids have a great time.

Please, when sending your contribution, make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forwarded to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050 or phone 810-735-7920.

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison

STATE POOL LEAGUE

The 2009-2010 VFW State Pool Tournament is in the history books. The staff and I would like to thank the Manistee Post for doing a great job of hosting this year's tournament. We also want to thank the following State Officers: State Jr. Vice Commander Jack Pray, Ladies Auxiliary State Jr. Vice President Mariann Hamann, State Commander Dave Hutson, State Sr. Vice Commander Lloyd Putman and Past State Commander Richard Redfern for adding a "touch of class" to our program. The State Pool League is very lucky to have the support and participation of our State Officers. Without them we would not exist.

This being my first year as your State Pool Director, I must tell you it was a

Denny Craycraft
State Pool Director



challenge. However, with the help of our staff, both past and present, everything came together. I want to thank all of our referees for the great job they did. We still have much room for improvement. I will be sending a financial report out to all District Chairmen when the Quartermaster has it completed. If there is a change in your District Chairman, please drop me a letter letting me know. It's very important I know who your Chairman is, as that is who I communicate with.

— POOL, continued on page 5

ZELLMAN, continued from page 1 —

for your assistance in making your audits "error free".

Speaking of trustees, many of the Districts have training seminars for the trustees, as well as other officers. Training seminars are also offered at the various VFW conferences and again at Camp Trotter. All Post Commanders are made aware of this information via monthly mailings. All Post officers, including trustees, should make every effort to attend these training seminars.

Inspections:

The Post inspection form is another tool for the State and District Commanders to assure Posts are being

operated according to the VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. It is not something that should be taken lightly. Your Post operation is a serious business and should be handled as such, so please, give your inspector complete cooperation and assistance.

Should you have questions or a problem, please call me. We are asking that all Posts be inspected by the Fall Conference; so again, please assist your respective inspector. Inspectors, please return all three copies of the inspection forms (club room and Post) to me at my home address (listed in the roster). Once they are reviewed, the Post and District copies will be returned to the District Commander for dissemination.

TROTTER TALES

Summer is just about gone! We are done with our third week at Camp and have averaged about 50 kids per week; a full load is 88 kids, so we have been a little short. I understand we have been having problems getting the applications in; some get lost or misplaced and even sent to the wrong people. We are going to fix that! I would like to get the applications on the Web and then have them sent directly to the Camp, so we eliminate the middle person. We are always looking for better ways to do things so if you have an idea on how we can make the process better, please let me know.

Talking about "fixing things." You need to visit your Camp Trotter or look at the Department Web site and see all the improvements that have been made. We have been painting, siding and building porches. The basements of Buildings 5 and 6 have been professionally cleaned and waterproofed. Now that we have put heating and air-conditioning in this cabin, we will have year round use of it for meetings, etc. Someone said it was starting to look like a resort instead of a camp, and I understand there were some requests for a hot tub to be put on the deck. I don't think so!

The new Pontoon was delivered and thanks to your generosity, our raffle paid for it! Our old speedboat brought in \$7,700.00, the little scooter \$751.00, and the go-cart \$1,200. The pontoon has been a very welcome addition to the Camp — the kids just love it. Our new dock system has also been installed and makes a safer containment area to protect our kids.

I am surprised at the amount of people that have inquired about Camp Trotter, and then say they have never been to the Camp. This is your Camp; please take the time to participate in our fundraisers, like our Golf Outing, Camp Trotter Days, etc. Or just stop by the Camp for a few days and fish. Once you get hooked, you'll wonder why you never went there! Please get your children and grandchildren to Camp and get their friends to go with them. You do not have to be a VFW member and/or Ladies Auxiliary member to have your child attend. If there is a chance that there is a child that wants to

Andy Conklin
Camp Trotter Director



go and their parents cannot afford to send them, then please contact the Department Headquarters and/or a Camp Trotter Committee member and we will place them into the "Scholarship Program". There will not be a child left behind.

A special "THANK YOU" to the Romulus Post 9568 for their generous donation of \$3,500.00 to purchase a brand new John Deere Z-425, 54" cut (0 turn) lawn mower for Camp Trotter. Thanks to the Borley-Hanel Ladies Auxiliary Post 3033 of Mt. Pleasant for their generous donation for the renovation of Cottage #1 which totaled \$1,500.00. Thanks to the City of Corunna Ladies Auxiliary Post 4005 for their generous time and donation for cleaning and replacing the window curtains in the Nurses Cottage. A big "Thanks" goes to the Celery City Ladies Auxiliary Post 6248 for all their support and hard work in getting the window treatments done in Cottages 5 and 6, along with the Main Building (Dining Hall). The City of Wyandotte Ladies Auxiliary Post 1136 gave a huge donation of \$1,000.00 for the Camp Trotter General Fund — kudos, Ladies! The Camp Trotter Committee is much appreciative of all your support and donations. Trust us — we will make your Camp Trotter an attractive camp for children and adults to enjoy for many years to come.

Please plan on attending the Fall Conference being held 7-10 October at Sault Ste. Marie for an update on your Camp Trotter. There will be elections of new Camp Trotter committee members. Check out the new photos of Camp Trotter on the VFW Department Web site at www.vfwmi.org and the Ladies Auxiliary Department Web site at www.lavfwmi.org

Thank you for supporting Camp Trotter!

Editor's Note: More pictures of improvements will be coming in the next issue of the MOV. Space constraints prevented more pictures in this issue.



Post Commander Ray Lopez of the Romulus Post 9568 riding the new John Deere Z-425, 54" lawn mower for Camp Trotter. The Camp Trotter Committee thanks each and every one of the members of Romulus VFW Post 9568 for their generous donation.



D & G Equipment of Charlotte delivering the John Deere Z-425, 54" to Camp Trotter. PSC Ernie Meyers (Camp Trotter Committee Member) and Ben Bonk (Camp Trotter Maintenance Person) graciously accepting the gift originating from the Romulus VFW Post 9568.



Michigan Freedom Academy 2010

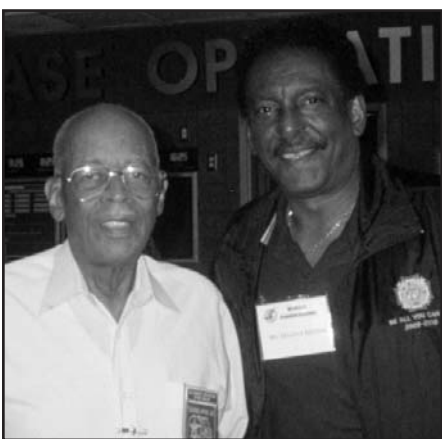
This year's Freedom Academy was one of the best ever. Accompanying me on this year's Civic Leaders Tour was Dept. Adjutant Quartermaster Rob Weiss and Ladies Auxiliary PSP & Freedom Foundation Board of Directors member Sandi Onstwedder.

The tour started at Capitol City Airport where we all boarded a MIARNG CH-47 Chinook. The Flight to Phelps-Collins ANG Base took about an hour. An interesting part of this year's flight was that all passengers, one by one, were allowed to get into a harness, attached to the floor of the aircraft and ride on the lowered tail ramp. It's quite an experience sitting with your legs dangling in space, at 150 mph, 1,000 ft. above the ground.



PSP Sandi Onstwedder debuts in her new vocation as a CH-47 Chinook Crew Chief.

We were next treated to coffee and cookies before attending a welcome brief at Base Operations. It was there I was introduced to Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson (Ret.). Mr. Jefferson was a Tuskegee Airman who flew P-51s out of Italy during WWII. He was shot down during the invasion of southern France, interned in a POW camp, and later released. He has published a book about his experiences, entitled, "Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free." In conversation with him I discovered that he knew my uncle, Capt. Thomas Patton, who was also a Tuskegee Airman.



Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson (Ret.), Tuskegee Airman and author of "Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free" with MI Freedom Academy Director Maurice Morton.

From Base Ops we went on a bus 'windshield tour' of the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC). This is an excellent facility which provides a year-round realistic training environment for military units from all over the United States. The Freedom Academy delegates and staff are housed in some of the 43 dormitories available onsite. They are capable of accommodating over 1,000 people.

Maurice Morton

Michigan Freedom Academy Director



Next we went to the Collins Center, where Lt. Col. Jefferson and Maj. Gen. William Henderson (Ret.) were giving a presentation on the Tuskegee Airmen. A fifteen-minute film on the Tuskegee pilots training and exploits during WWII was shown, and both gentlemen answered questions from the delegates. The delegates seemed to enjoy this experience immensely.

From there we were bused to the dining hall, where we had lunch with the delegates. We had an opportunity to talk with them and get a general sense of how they felt about the academy. They thought it was one of the greatest experiences of their lives. I spoke with a youth all the way from South Carolina who heard about the program, applied online and was accepted.

Then it was back to the flight line for a static display of military equipment and photographs. Among the more interesting pieces of equipment was a Soviet IL-39 jet trainer, with Czechoslovakian markings and an A-10 Thunderbolt II (Warthog). There were also Army snipers with their equipment, wearing their 'Ghillie' suits. The delegates were very excited by the displays.

Following the static display we held our quarterly Board of Directors meeting and then it was back to the CH-47 for the flight home. There were thunderstorms between Alpena and Lansing, so we detoured to the west and came in behind the weather.

This year, for the first time ever, the Freedom Academy received applications that exceeded its capacity. However, with no shows and cancellations, the final count was 141. This was the largest to date. The VFW referred 20 delegates, two of which cancelled. VFW Posts donated \$4,347. This was a significant increase over the past several years. Sandy and I are hoping we can do even better next year. It costs a lot to support the academy each year and all of the funding is through donations. So please help us insure that this valuable program continues. Send your donation or sponsor a delegate – or both. I will have more information at the Fall Conference.



Sandi, Maurice and Rob with 2009-2010 Voice of Democracy runner-up Erin Donohoe.



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Ron Allen
District 4 Commander



Comrades,

I am truly proud and it is a great honor to serve you as your 4th District Commander. I am looking forward to working with all Post Commanders in the District. Congratulations to all the Commanders who received their All-State Commanders awards at the Department Convention in Dearborn. Congratulations to all Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents that achieved 100% in membership in the year 2009-2010.

As we start a new year, with new goals and ideas for our Districts and Posts, we can achieve all of our goals by working together. As always, membership will be

our main goal. We need to keep our membership strong and moving in the right direction. In keeping our goals simple, we can do what we can to make sure that all reports, inspections, audits, etc. will be turned in on time and done right.

District Meeting dates are as follows:

• **September 12, 2010** Post 7310

Grosse Ile, 12 Noon

• **November 14, 2010** Post 6695

Plymouth, 12 Noon

• **February 13th, 2011** Post 345

Redford, 12 Noon

• **May 7th, 2011** Post 7546

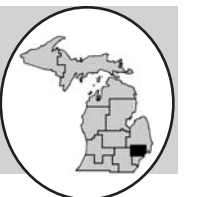
Lyskawa, 12 Noon

Remember: TOGETHER, WE CAN.



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

James Galen
District 4 Commander



Comrades of the 5th District,

Welcome to a new VFW year. I would like to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed officers in the 5th District. I am extremely proud and honored to be your District Commander. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you during the 2010-2011 year. I would like to thank Past District Commander Walt Clingan in having the District in excellent shape for the coming year.

We must take pride in our District, our Councils and our Posts. But most of all, we must have pride in ourselves to get the job done. Membership is our number one goal. It is the most important program of this organization. Now is the time to recruit new members. We need to reach out into our communities and develop a relationship with community leaders, media and local civic groups. A great tool is the District canopy. Call the District Chairman, Maurice Morton, and he will schedule the Posts for the use of the canopy. The District goal is to have 25 Posts in the District at 100% in membership.

It's that time of the year when the District inspectors will be calling, so have your information ready and we can

complete our inspections on time. We must continue our monthly reporting and donating to all VFW programs. Any Commander that has problems with reporting, call any District officer and they will help you. Remember reporting is very important to keeping your nonprofit status.

Now is the time to go to the schools for the VOD and Patriot's Pen programs. The teachers are in school preparing for the New Year. Let's have a great year on both programs. The year is going by fast. We already had our joint District 4 and 5 Training Seminar. We had 111 comrades attend and that's a great start for the year. A special thanks to Chairman Klee, Comrade Zellman, Past Dept. Commander Meyers and all the instructors for making it a great success. I would also like to thank Cpl. Walter F. Bruce Post 1146 for an outstanding job in hosting the seminar.

Our first District meeting will be on September 12, 2010 at Post 1008-Heart of the Lakes. Morning session is at 10:00 a.m. and regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. Looking forward to seeing all of you. Continue to Serve Our Veterans.

SUCCESS, continued from page 2 —

must not allow their personal feelings to intrude; an antagonistic, critical, or even abusive attitude on the part of a claimant should not, in any instance, influence the officers in the handling of the case. Fairness and courtesy must at all times be shown to applicants by all employees whose duties bring them in contact, directly or indirectly, with the Department's claimants.

Evidently this rating specialist fell asleep in the training class when this topic was covered.

Through the efforts of the Advocate and the veteran, they were able to secure actual treatment records from the 1960s forward that showed that the veteran did have the condition when he said he did. A VA rating of April 2002 granted service-connection under the presumptive provision with a 10% evaluation.

Everything was fine with the veteran until 2008 when his condition increased in severity and he contacted this service. The VA rating of August of 2009 then granted him an increase to a 60% evaluation. He was then counseled by our staff member that he met the basic criteria of Individual Unemployability (IU) and should apply. The Advocate walked the veteran through every step to insure that the claim was well developed. On May 28, 2010 the veteran was granted IU.

The veteran and the Advocate could have given up after the denial in 2001. The Advocate could have said we gave it our best shot. Today, as a result of the action and guidance by our staff, the veteran can relax a little more comfortably. He also has the assurance that if something should happen to him, his wife has been instructed to contact us and will be well represented.



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

George M. Wygant
District 6 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

We are now one month into the 2010-2011 VFW Year. In the past month I have visited 13 out of 27 Posts within the 6th District and we have had our planning meeting. I would like to recap our planning meeting. First, the Commander set the dates for his Post visits. Second, we set the dates for 6th District meetings for the year and they are as follows: Sunday, 19 September at 9 a.m., VFW Post 4357-Brighton. The Brighton Post will conduct a POW/MIA ceremony. The second 6th District meeting will be on Saturday, 4 December at 11 a.m., VFW Post 7309-Mason. The Mason Post will conduct the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service. The third is Saturday, the 19th of March, 2011 at 11 a.m., VFW Post 701. This will be the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Award ceremony for the 6th District. The 4th is Saturday, the 7th of May, at 11 a.m., VFW Post 9656-Lambertville. The Lambertville Post will conduct a Memorial Day Service. The 6th District Testimonial is under review, due to a conflict with the Department of Michigan 2011-2012 VFW Planning Conference.

As your District Commander, I have set goals for the 6th District. My first goal is that every Post in the District achieves 125 All-State Points. There is in excess of 300 points in the All-State Program and you can obtain the 125 without spending any funds. Funding is an issue with several of the Posts, and I understand this, but 125 points is obtainable without spending a dime. Do not look at the All-State Program as a competition, but as a measure to see if your Post is meeting the standards of a viable VFW Post.

The second goal is a 2% increase in membership. I have provided a spreadsheet that contains three different goals. The Department goal is 100%, which includes 2% new and reinstated members. The District goal is 102%. If we are not growing, we are withering away. Reductions in numbers are not acceptable. The National goal, All-American, is stiff; it varies based on the division code assigned. This goal previously provided is being revised due to a change from VFW National Headquarters. You will receive the new goals at the first District meeting. Depending on the size of the Post, you will need to increase your membership anywhere from 18 to 60 members.

The third goal is proper reporting of activity and hospital reports. These reports reflect the basis of the All-State Program. If you do not report, Department Headquarters does not know what you are doing to meet our objectives: "The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and education and are: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institution of American freedom; and to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies." This is what we are about. We need to accomplish the whole package, not just the ones we want to follow. Activity, hospital and

— DISTRICT 6, continued on page 11

POOL, continued from page 3

I want to thank Sue Mason for the great job she did on our history book that was passed out this year. Because of the ads in the book, we were able to pass it out at no cost. I hope more of our teams will participate in this next year. If any Post has lost any of their pool players due to death, please let me know so we can give them their proper recognition.

Congratulations to all our winners!

SINGLES

- 1st Place: John Wischmeyer
Shepherd, District 11
2nd Place: Jim Hutchins
Davison, District 10
3rd Place: Wayne Taylor
Manistee, District 12
4th Place: Paul Weiger
Saginaw, District 9

DOUBLES

- 1st Place: Terry Trainor & Steve Lee
Acorn, District 5
2nd Place: Eddie Meltz & Dan Cox
Alpena, District 13
3rd Place: Chet Rakowski & Wayne Taylor
Manistee, District 12
4th Place: Bob Huber & Phil Jennings
Shepherd, District 11

TEAMS

- 1st Place: Belding Team 1, District 9
2nd Place: Fenton, District 10
3rd Place: Manistee, District 12
4th Place: Acorn, District 5

I encourage all of you to use the VFW State Pool League Web site for tournament information such as 8-ball on the break, break and run, table runs, tournament totals, total time, total matches, total games, total forfeits, total stalemates and many pictures from the tournament. The Web address is www.vfwstatepoolleague.org.

I personally want to thank Val for being on the spot compiling all the above information – thank you very much, Val!

We are already preparing for next year's tournament, which will be held at Lincoln Park Post 552. As I get more information, I will be putting it on the Web site and informing the District Chairmen. We had many rule changes – some passed, some failed. Again check out the Web site for that information.

I'll be providing more information after our next staff meeting. Again, I want to personally thank everybody that made this year's tournament turn out so well.



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

George Paul Yung
District 7 Commander



Greeting Comrades,

By the time you read this, Summer Conference will be over, so will our first District meeting, and I hope our Post inspections. I want to thank all the comrades who have worked so hard to make this District what it is today. We have to keep up the good work and remember that we are all veterans and that we have to work together to keep it that way. Remember: our purposes are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational.

Again, as always, we have to start this year off by finding new members. I know that at times this can be very hard and frustrating, but we need new members.

The lifeblood of our organization is MEMBERSHIP.

Post activity reports and hospital reports are being turned in and I thank you. Some Posts have been having problems with their quarterly audits, and I have attempted to help them. If you are having a problem, please contact me and I will make arrangements to get with you ASAP. Make sure that you start with the right figures from the last audit and that you have the audit signed by the trustees.

Hope everyone had a good summer and I hope to meet most of you when I come to one of your meetings.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Linda Bacon-Kendall
District 9 Commander



Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

As we begin this New Year (2010-2011), I would like to thank you all for the wonderful work you have done, and will continue to do, for your Post, the Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary. At the District planning meeting, I was hoping for a larger showing, but we did get the planning of the upcoming dates done. Again this year, as last year, we need 100% attendance by the Post and county council Commanders at all District meetings. If the Commander is not able to attend, they need to have someone from the Post attend and be their representative.

I would like to have our District be 100% reported in all programs and equally important, be 100% in membership. We will continue to have schools of instructions prior to District meetings, at 10:00 a.m., lunch at 11:00 a.m., and the District meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Posts, Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries: you did an outstanding job last year. I

know you will continue to do so this year, too. Remember, we all do a great job in our communities, but if it does not get reported to Department or the Director of that program, then we did not do it. There are a great number of things we do in the communities that are not reported, i.e. report to Department the number of Post members flying the American flag, this also means the American flag we fly at our Post home. The same goes for flying the POW/MIA flag. Sponsor a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. Just remember, if you do something, report it. If you are not sure that what you did is reportable, report it anyway and let the directors decide if it is legitimate or not. If you do not report it, you will never know. If you have questions about a program, contact the relevant Dept. Director or District Chairman. They will gladly answer your questions.

God Bless everyone, especially our men/women now serving in harm's way.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

David Gay
District 10 Commander



Greetings and happy "New Year" Comrades and Sisters of the 10th District. I trust everyone is enjoying this warm summer. By the time you read this, the Summer Conference will be completed, as well as Michigan Day at the National Home. I am hopeful that this year will prove to be one 'sailing in calmer waters' then prior.

I would like to thank all those who have remained in their position as Chairmen for the ensuing year. It is my sincere desire that you continue the great work as you have done in the past. Also, congratulations to the incoming Post Commanders and their officers. I wish each of you a very successful year. Remember, reports need to be in by the 10th of each month to the appropriate Department Directors. This is necessary for you to achieve All-State status.

To all the past District Commanders, I will be seeking your counsel and experience to continue the traditions of the 10th and to obtain its goals of reporting and membership. Thank you all in advance.

Our schedule for District meetings is as follows:

The August meeting was held at Post 4164, Caro on August 8th.

The November meeting will be held on the 7th at Post 796, Port Huron

The February meeting will be held on the 20th at Post 4087, Davison

The May Convention will be held on the 15th at Post 3087, Flint

The District inspectors will be visiting Posts shortly for yearly review. They will also have both MAP and PAC pins for purchase. It is planned that all inspections will be completed prior to the end of September, in readiness for the Fall Conference.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention membership in this great organization. Membership is priority one in keeping our strength in numbers.

Thank you for all you do. Remember too, that all Posts are required to attend District meetings. Together, we CAN make a difference.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

John Harrow Jr.
District 11 Commander



Congratulations to all the new Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents in the 11th District. You now hold a job of great responsibility to your Post, your Auxiliary and its membership. Remember the Commander gets all the flack when things go wrong but little credit when the Post exceeds its goals. Please don't get discouraged; hard work is always rewarded in some way.

As your District Commander, there are a few things I expect beyond those found in the Bylaws. I expect every Post to be 100% reported by the end of September. The reporting year began in May so you have five months to get it done.

Beginning on October 1st, our main project will be membership. Our goal this year is to have every Post in the District be over 100% in membership. Remember, 100% is just equal to last year. To improve we must do more. By the time you read this we will have had at least four membership drives; Clare, Harrison, Mt. Pleasant

and Barton City. We may not sign up a lot of new members, but we let people know the VFW is in their area. If you need help with membership get a hold of me, Colon Laney or our Membership Chairman Rick Carrothers. We are all listed in the District Roster.

Hopefully at our first District meeting in Mt. Pleasant, we will be able to assist each Post in some manner.

If you have an idea how our District Meetings can be improved, please let us know. We may be able to incorporate them into our meetings. The next District meeting will be held in Standish on November 7th along with "Operation Help" on the Saturday night before. Please support and attend "Operation Help". You will have a great time with friends and comrades.

In closing, we would like to remind you again to remember our slogan for the year: "DISTRICT 11 MEMBERSHIP IS GOAL ONE."



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Stan Preidis
District 12 Commander



Congratulations to the 2009-2010 District 12 Commander Dick Rought and the 18 Post Commanders who achieved 100% in membership. The Posts were; 995 Bitely, 1329 Hart, 2053 White Cloud, 2335 Mecosta, 3195 Norton Shores, 3256 Montague, 3314 Arcadia, 3734 Fruitport, 4249 Newaygo, 4499 Manistee, 5096 Custer, 5315 Baldwin, 6017 Pentwater, 6842 Ludington, 6864 Cadillac, 7729 Muskegon, 8846 North Muskegon and 9388 Muskegon. Some Posts have already received their membership banners, the others will receive theirs at the September 12 District meeting in Muskegon at Post 7729.

Continuing with membership: let's not wait till the last minute to work our membership rosters. Find out early on why a member's address is undeliverable. Did he/she move into an assisted living home or maybe they are living with their family? At the same time, check to see if the veteran needs assistance with their membership dues. How many times has the family said the vet was a VFW member, and in

checking the last few years of membership rosters, you can't find his/her name because the bills are being paid by someone else and the VFW membership renewal slipped though the cracks? Use your relief fund to help these members.

The hardest membership issue to work is the vet that let his/her membership slip because they just don't care. Why did they choose not to renew? Can we do or offer something to get them excited and involved? If we start working these membership issues early, it becomes a whole lot easier for ALL posts in the 12th District to get 100% membership.

Lastly, continue to do your monthly reporting. The hardest thing I've found is getting the Post members to report to the Post Chairmen or Commanders what they are doing in the community. If you are like my Post, you're lucky to get 10% of your members to report what they do. Just think what your report could be if you had half or more of your members sending in information.

See you at September's District meeting.



DISTRICT 13 REPORT

Earle Davie III
District 13 Commander



Comrades,

The New Year is just beginning. The opportunities to serve veterans, their families and our communities present special challenges in these times of dwindling dollars. Still, if we all pull together and support each other, I'm confident we can succeed in our task of perpetuating our programs and pursuing the rights of veterans to a just and fair result.

The new veterans with multiple deployments, and looking forward to

more of the same, will have special needs. Support from us may save a life. We also have veterans in our communities from past conflicts who are falling through the cracks. Seek them out, help them along and explain the positive aspects of our great organization. Help make a difference in a veteran's life.

I'm looking forward to a great year and a chance to support and work with all the Posts in the 13th District.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen DeRousha
District 14 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Ladies Auxiliary of the 14th District,

By the time you read this, the Department Convention will be over and Lloyd Putman will be State Commander. Congratulations, Lloyd, and all new District and Post Commanders.

This year our main goal should be membership. Without membership our organization would not exist. Membership is how you keep your Post active, along with a good working relationship with the Ladies Auxiliary.

The first test this year will be Post

inspections. Inspectors make sure Quartermasters are bonded, all elected officers have a DD214 on file and the Post has an up-to-date 990.

The next thing is reporting community activities and hospital reports. Reporting protects your Post and its tax-exempt status if audited by the IRS. If you don't report your community service, donations, etc., your Post risks losing its non-profit status.

In closing, I hope to see all Posts and Auxiliaries at our District Fall Convention September 17-19th in Negaunee.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Dan Caron
District 15 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Sisters of the 15th District,

District goals: Let us start off this year by attending all District meetings with 100% attendance by Post Commanders or their designated representatives. The Posts are what make up this District and what you do reflects not only on the District, but the VFW as an organization.

The past District Commanders did a great job and those shoes will be hard to fill. So, with the help of the past District Commanders, my officers and committee chairmen, we will push forward to making this a banner year for all the Posts in the District.

The first place to start is at the roots, and that is adhering to our Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Rituals. By doing this, we will show both old and NEW members that we have a solid foundation and an organization that will be here for years to come.

Our Auxiliary members are an important part of our organization, so let us

support them as they support us.

Membership: Let us ALL do our part and show our new veterans that our VFW has been here for many years helping veterans and their families, and will continue to do just that with their help and support. Let us show our veterans that they are welcome, that they are a vital part of this great organization, and that we need their new ideas to keep the VFW the best organization America has for helping our veterans.

Let us all have a fun-filled year. Remember that this is YOUR District and Your Veterans of Foreign Wars. Be proud that you were a part of what made America FREE today. Wear your colors as often as you can. If you have a VFW hat or shirt, wear it everywhere. Show America that we are PROUD of what we are doing, what we have done and what we will be doing for years to come – Helping Veterans.

IN GOD WE TRUST. Thank You.

COMBINED 4TH/5TH DISTRICT OTS

On Saturday July 24, 2010, the 4th and 5th Districts held an Officer's Training Seminar (OTS). It was a daylong course that took place at Cpl. Walter F. Bruce Post 1146 in St. Clair Shores.

The combined OTS is not a new concept for these Districts. The joint seminars began in 2006 and were the brainchild of then 5th District Commander Ken Klee, and then 4th District Commander Lenny Milewski. They got together, formulated a plan and were off to the races. That seminar was held on August 5, 2006. There has been a combined OTS every year since then, with the exception of 2009 when scheduling conflicts forced its cancellation. Each year the two common denominators and driving forces have been Ken Klee, now Dept. Chief of Staff and Rick Zellman, now Dept. Inspector.

This year 4th District Commander Ron Allen and 5th District Commander Jim Galen collaborated to make this OTS the most successful yet. There were a total of 92 present (83 attendees and 9 instructors). Nineteen of the attendees were Men's Auxiliary members.

The Classes Started at 9:00 a.m. Ernie Meyer, PSC gave instruction in VDF protocol; Rick Zellman tackled Quartermaster and Trustee responsibilities and Audit and Inspection reports; Dept. Men's Auxiliary Liaison, Jim Niner, gave an update on Men's Auxiliaries; Dept. Teacher of the Year Director, Les Croyle, covered VOD,



Maurice Morton
Department Chief
of Staff District 5

Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year.

Then there was a break for lunch, where participants enjoyed complimentary sub sandwiches, salad, cole slaw and chips. Water and soft drinks were available for attendees during the entire seminar.

After lunch, Ernie Meyers reported on Camp Trotter, the VFW National Home for Children and the Michigan and Jacobetti Homes for Veterans. Ken Klee reviewed Membership and the All-State program. 5th District Chaplain, Leon Hinkle, covered the requirements for becoming a chaplain. Dept. Activities Evaluator, Benny Gaglio, outlined activity reporting; 5th District Inspector, Bob Lutz, summarized hospital reporting; and of course, yours truly, gave the spiel on the Michigan Freedom Academy. The OTS ended around 2:45 p.m.

This OTS was the culmination of the last four years of effort. I felt privileged to be a part of it. We are all looking forward to even greater participation next year. On behalf of District 5 Commander, Jim Galen, a grateful thank you to VFW Post 1146 and its Commander, Tara Perez, for providing a gracious and hospitable venue for this activity.

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Patricia Patterson

Dear Fellow Auxiliary Sisters,

It is my sincere pleasure and distinct honor to be addressing you as the Department of Michigan's Lady Auxiliary President for the 2011 fiscal year. My

ascension through the chairs has gone by very quickly and it has brought me in touch with so many of you – the hardest working VFW Auxiliary Sisters in the whole country. I'm proud of my role in this wonderful organization and I am looking forward to a fabulously successful year for... "Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America".

To those of you that were able to attend the Department Convention as well as the installation, especially in this economy, I wanted to personally thank you. I know that for many it was a long drive and for others, a financial hardship. Despite all the reasons for not being there, so many of you were able to make it and I couldn't possibly be more proud. I am constantly amazed at the level of dedication shown by my fellow sisters.

In the election, Deb Eernisse from District 8 was elected to Guard. Congratulations to her and I look forward to working with her and for her contributions during the coming year.

I am looking forward to working with Commander Lloyd and his VFW officers during the upcoming year. Both organizations will face many challenges, but I am confident that by working together we can successfully meet those challenges.

Pow-Wow will be at the Soo from October 7-10 this year. I hope to see all of you at the Schools of Instruction and that you will be able to join us for our last Pow-Wow at the Soo. The National Rep for our Fall Conference will be our own Sheryl Proteau.

Our National President, Cortina Barnes, will make her official visit to Michigan from October 19-21. Look for more details of her visit, along with her itinerary that will be sent out in future mailings and will be posted on the Web site.

This year's cancer pin sells for just \$2 each. I hope that you'll buy one. The pins have a white cross with the nationally recognized symbol for breast cancer – a pink ribbon. These pins are not only for the ladies out there. So make sure you offer these pins to all family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers.

In order for you to be eligible for the night on the town at our Mid-Winter Convention in January, you'll need to make sure that your membership attainment is at 90% or higher by December 31st.

As I've moved up through the chairs, I've also seen proof that, despite our successes of the past (and we've had many), we need to embrace the changes that our organization needs to make in order to remain a strong and solvent entity. I recognize that not everybody loves and embraces change. For most, change is difficult and uncomfortable. For others, change is a vehicle – a way to ride the wave toward success.

Look back over time at what technology brought us just a few short years ago. How many of us today can get by without a cell phone? What about the integrated circuit? What about the advent of digital media? DVD players? The list goes on and on. How many of these are practically impossible to do without in today's society? It took many of us a while to embrace these changes, but I bet there isn't one person reading this that hasn't been affected by these "changes".

As an organization, we need to be prepared for these changes as soon as possible. The changes our organization faces will be difficult for some, easy for others; scary for some, welcomed by others. The important thing is for those of us that are comfortable and welcome change, to help out our sisters and tell them that it's okay.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



Pat Akers

Sisters,

What an honor it has been to be appointed by our Department President Pat. As Department Historian, I will advise Auxiliary, District or County Council Historians that it is your responsibility to keep a written report of the activities and events of your Auxiliary, District or County Council in a bound book for future reference. In addition to the written report, a pictorial scrapbook that includes photos, news clippings and memorabilia pertaining to the year's events may be kept.

As your Department Historian, I am asking you to keep a folder with pictures of our President, Officers and Chairmen, along with any news clipping and memorabilia you may like to share of an event that involves the Department President, Officers and Chairman where I am not present (remember, a District President is also a Department Officer). It is up to you how many pictures and things you put in your folder, but make sure you explain fully: Who, What, When, Where and Why and send it to me at the end of the year with your year-end report.

This year, you will not be asked to send pictures of our National President's visit. It is my job to make sure that her visit is covered and submit the materials asked for by National.

Good luck to all and I hope you have a very good year.

DEPARTMENT GUARD



Deb Eernisse

I want to thank everyone that attended Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children. It was a great day filled with fun for all ages. It was an opportunity for your members to visit the National Home and see what wonderful service they provide for our Veteran's families. I hope you all had a chance to tour our beautiful Michigan homes.

I would also like to thank all the District Presidents and volunteers. Your hard work and dedication helped make this event a success!

This year, your Auxiliary is not required to sell MAP pins. I will not have pins for you to sell. We recognize what an important program this is, and we encourage you to purchase the pins from a member of your Post to support this important VFW program.

Remember to make a motion on your Auxiliary floor to send your Health and Happiness/Christmas Cheer donation based on your June 30, 2010 membership. This must be paid in full by December 31, 2010. This payment goes directly to National

Headquarters. Ladies, don't forget – all your donations to Veterans & Family Support can be made from your relief fund!

This year for the Veterans & Family Support Program, I will be referring you to the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Web site www.vfwdepartmentresources.org. At this site, you can download all the brochures and information for your program. Click on the Ladies Auxiliary Icon next to the item you are interested in. There are hints, posters and loads of other information to help make your program a great success!!

Our Buddy Poppy Contest will be at Mid-Winter conference this year. We will have a Patriotic Theme. Try and tie in President Pat's theme "Veterans – the Heartbeat of America." Remember, this is a great project to involve the youth.

Speaking of Buddy Poppies – I received notice from the National VFW Program Director that the 75th Anniversary Diamond Poppies and the 50th Anniversary Gold Poppies are currently out of stock. They expect them to be available again approximately by January 2011.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference.

Thank you for all you do for our "Veterans – the Heartbeat of America" while being "United by Love for Our Veterans and Country."

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN



Gloria Dobbie

The 2010/2011 theme for the Voice of Democracy Contest is "Does my Generation have a Role in America's Future?" and the theme for the Patriot's Pen Contest is "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" It is up to you and your VFW counterpart to ensure that the information for both contests is in the hands of the students in your community. Entry forms can be downloaded from our own Department Web site at www.lavfwmi.org. Present our program to teachers, school administrators, youth groups, church groups, home school associations, and any other venue where students could receive the information. Please publicize the contests in your local newspaper and

on community bulletin boards. Submit information to your schools for publication on their Web sites or in their newsletters. If your Post has a Web site, update the information for the current contests.

Entries must be to your Post for judging by November 1, 2010. Winning Post entries must be to your District Chairman by November 15, 2010. Please recruit judges from within your community. Consider teachers, school administrators, local legislators, business leaders or local media personnel. Please avoid asking Post or Auxiliary members to act as judges.

We are looking forward to working with Department VFW VOD/Patriot's Pen Chairman Patrick Patterson and Committee member Harry "Les" Croyle again this year.

Thank you for offering this important opportunity to the students in your community.

DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES/JUNIOR GIRLS CHAIRMAN



Bonnie Pray

It's time for students to get ready to go back to school. That means that there will be more classroom programs, and the students will be working together to do things for our troops, such as sending them cards, sending packages with goodies and nec-

essary items, and then it will be time for the holidays. That means more cards and letters, and usually, goodies. Students and youth groups will be visiting nursing homes and trying to raise money for families that are in need. When a youth group does any of these or other efforts, you can complete the "Youth Supporting Our Military" form and send it to me for my signature and I will send it to National. National will send a citation to

— YOUTH, continued on page 11



CANCER AID & RESEARCH



Sandy Medos

Let me introduce myself. I am Sandy Medos and I am honored to be your Cancer Aid & Research Chairman for the 2010-2011 year.

Deb Eernisse's performance as your Cancer Chairman last year will most certainly be a difficult act to follow. Over the years, this organization has certainly been blessed with so many dedicated and hard working chairpersons. In fact, I'd like to thank many of them, including Deb, for passing along their thoughts, well wishes and advice for making my year run smoothly.

If you haven't yet picked up your pins, please contact Lancea Daly. She is in charge of cancer pins this year. You can reach her by telephone, or by e-mail. Her contact information can be found in the monthly bulletins.

As a friendly reminder, this year we will be focusing on Education, Research, Assistance and Public Awareness where we hope to raise \$3,500,000 (yep, that's 3.5 million dollars) for the noble cause. We can do this! Remember that we are all "United by Love for Our Veterans and Country."

With the state of the economy having had such an effect on so many people, we'll need to ask the public to become involved to help support our Cancer Aid and Research Program. We can accomplish this, in part, through educating the public about our program. One great tool that all of us can use is the new Cancer Fact Sheet. It should be posted on the National Web site for you to download.

Another wonderful tool is the booklets I passed on to your District Cancer Chairmen. In this booklet, you will find the information needed to help your year be successful. I will make sure to bring some examples to all of our functions.

Let's remember to honor the passing of our fellow Auxiliary sisters in 2010 from cancer by bringing their picture with you and sharing that picture with the rest of the people at the Convention. How? By placing that picture on the beautiful board I have specially made to honor their memory and their service to this great organization. Gone, but not forgotten.

September is Prostate and Ovarian Cancer Awareness, Childhood Cancer, Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness and Thyroid Cancer Awareness month. The cancer incident rate in the United States is approximately 1,000 cases per 100,000 people, which is a sobering statistic. Although this number is dropping, there is still so much to be done to eradicate this horrible disease. So many of our veterans and Auxiliary sisters succumb to cancer every year; it is truly time to put all of this in perspective by recalling our state theme, "Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America." I pray everyday that we find a cure for this terrible disease, one that robs so many people, families and friends from a loved one. All we can do to help win that battle is to raise as much money as we possibly can to help fund our Cancer Aid & Research Program.

In closing, I just want to say if I can be of any help to you, please give me a call or e-mail me. If you do e-mail me, please put Cancer Aid & Research in the subject box. I do not open e-mails if I do not recognize the person sending it. Have a fun and safe summer.

LEGISLATIVE/PAC CHAIRMAN



Ruth Later

Our Founding Fathers gave us a Constitution that ensures each of us the right to elect legislators on all levels. The 1st Amendment establishes the Legislative branch of government; in other words, the Congress of the United States. This year is an election year. Start thinking of sponsoring or attending a "Meet the Candidate" event. Be an informed voter and remember that your vote really does count! As members of the Auxiliary, we need to participate in the legislative process, keeping both the community and our members informed of legislation relating to our veterans, active-duty, reservists and their families.

VFW-PAC makes available information on how our legislators handle veterans' issues. VFW-PAC does not tell us how to vote! With this being an election year, we must be vigilant when it comes to veterans' issues. For further information, visit the VFW-PAC Web site.

TRICARE's TAMP (Transitional Assistance Management Program) provides 180 days of transitional health care benefits to help certain uniformed service members and their families transition to civilian life.

The PAC booth at Fall Conference in Sault Ste Marie will be District baskets. The theme is "Michigan Treasures." These are items from Michigan that pertain to your District.

I've also set up two tours of the State Capitol on October 20, 2010. This is open to everyone. Deadline for reservations is October 10, 2010. Call reservations in to me at 517-676-3926 or e-mail me at ruthiel@cablespeed.com

The Security and Priority Goals are the official position of the VFW on veteran and national security issues. To view the 2010 Priority Goals, go the VFW Web site at www.vfw.org, click on "VFW Capitol Hill", then "National Legislative Service", and then "2010 Priority Goals". While you are there, you can sign up for the *Washington Weekly* and view the *Checkpoint* newsletter. For those who do not have a computer, I will have the 2010 Priority Goals at Fall Conference and subscription forms for the *Checkpoint* newsletter, as well. Subscription price for the newsletter is \$6 for 1 year, \$11 for 2 years and \$15 for 3 years. Make the check or money order out to "VFW" and send it to VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St. Suite 523, Kansas City, MO 64111. The *Washington Weekly* can only be obtained online.

Remember, we are United by Love for Our Veterans and Country. Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America!

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Lana Bourlier



Greetings to all our members in the "Great State of Michigan!" I hope this message finds all in good health and ready to help our Veterans and families, senior citizens and children. This year is filled with big changes and new beginnings and I for one am EXCITED to see it come.

Good luck to Lloyd and Pat for a wonderful year! You have all our support. We will help in any way to take you to the top.

I hope you were able to attend the Summer Conference in Lansing, July 30-31st. Workshops were held for Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees, Membership, Community Service and Presidents at all levels. This was a good time – not only to gain knowledge, but ask questions.

If possible, I hope to see you at Pow-Wow on October 7 through October 10th. This will be the last year at Sault Ste Marie. There will be Schools of Instruction given. You may also bring your transmittals during the Membership skit.

Let's not forget the ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom! I think about them every day. Take 10 minutes a day and thank a Veteran. After all they are "The Heartbeat of America"

If you know of a Veteran or a family member of a Veteran in need, and you are unable to help, please go to your Auxiliaries and/or Post and ask for help. This is what we do. This is our purpose and too often, some of us are forgetting why we exist, and helping out a family in need will help us get back on track.

"Our members need us and we NEED them." God Bless America and All Who Defend Her.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Joyce Hinkle



Ladies of the 5th District,

Congratulations to all who have accepted places in this wonderful organization, whether it is as an officer or a chairman.

We all work together as team members to accomplish the goals of the upcoming year. Membership should be everyone's number one priority. We have many veterans that are just coming home. Offer them their first year free, so they can see firsthand what we are all about. The younger members may be busy with family and work, but let them know we can always use their help when they can make it. Welcome them with open arms and guide them with what ways they can give back to their community. A kind hand and words can go a long way.

I hope those of you that attended the July summer conference in Lansing enjoyed the workshops and learned a few things. Michigan Day was a great time, as usual. That is just an incredible place and the work that is done there is just phenomenal.

I am looking forward to meeting a lot more of you either at your meetings with the upcoming inspections, the District meetings or even at some of the Conventions. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have. I will try to assist in whatever way I can.

Our first District meeting will be at Heart of the Lakes Post 1008 on September 12, 2010. Our December 5, 2010 meeting will be at Walter F. Bruce Post 1146 and we will be joined by our Jr. Girls in the afternoon. So just to let you know we are planning a fun-filled year that can be enjoyed by all.

Keep in mind October 7th through October 10th is our Fall conference Pow-Wow at the Soo. This will be our last year at the Soo. We won't have the National President there, but we will have our own Sheryl Proteau (C of A, District 23) as the National Rep. Our National President, Cortina Barnes, will visit Michigan from October 19-20. More information will be sent in the next mailing.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Carloyn Jenkins



Hello Sisters of the 6th District,

Convention is over and the new year of 2010-2011 has started with a new team of members. We are a team

bound together by our love for veterans and for our country. Remember our Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America!

I will be starting my inspections in August. I am looking forward to seeing old friends, as well as making new friends.

Our first District meeting will be September 18th at Brighton VFW Post 4357. We will have a School of Instruction, so please try to attend. We need to work on membership and fill the District boxcar to be attached to the Michigan Apple Blossom Special. Our starting goal to

start is to be 90% in membership and 100% reported in each community service category by December 31st. I know we can do it if we work together.

This is going to be our last year at Sault Ste Marie for Pow-Wow. The dates are October 7-10th. You will have a second chance to attend a School of Instruction, if you cannot attend the first District meeting. There will be a transmittal pick-up during the membership skit. I hope to see many sisters of the 6th there.

We need to work together with our VFW and Men's Auxiliary counterparts and function as a team. I'm here to help you in anyway, so if you have a question, don't hesitate to contact me.

We can reach our goals if you continue to strengthen the bond of love that unites us by supporting our programs. Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America!

DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Lou Ann Conklin



Greetings from District 7!

We are well on our way to a new year of serving our Ladies Auxiliary. Our District is well represented on the

Department and National level; we owe it to all our sisters and to our veterans to do the best job we can.

To achieve our goals we need to work together in harmony to promote our programs and get the word out about the opportunities our organization has to offer: supporting our youth, as well as

our active servicemen and women. We need to let all past, present and future veterans know that we are behind them and supporting them, while educating our children as to what it means to serve our country and the significance of the sacrifices that have been made, so we can enjoy the freedoms afforded us through these sacrifices.

May God bless us all with the ability to strengthen and continue the works of this great organization! So once again, climb aboard for another year of service. If you can't be an officer or committee chairman, please support the ones who are.

DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

Diana Ward



Greetings Sisters,

Well, a new year is beginning and we have our work cut out for us. The 10th District is notoriously known for starting out at the top in mem-

bership; however, after a couple of months, we quickly fall toward the bottom. This is because we have a very high percentage of Life Members in our District. One of my goals for this year is for our District to make 100% membership. We have not been able to do that since my mother, Vi Ward, was District President in 1995. It's about time that we show people that we have the moxie to do it again. My slogan the past couple years has been that the Ward Girls will be 2 for 2 – please, help me to achieve this goal. We need to kindly remind our continuous members to get their dues paid. In the economic climate we find ourselves, there are a lot of ladies that need help. If you know of members who are struggling, help them out and pay their per capita for them for a rehab cause – that is what the relief fund is all about – helping those that are in need.

Department is telling us that we are going to need to increase dues; for many, this will burden them even more. If we can get the numbers up and the dues in, this might be avoidable. Our members are getting older and we have to deal with loss through death, as well. I know firsthand; my Auxiliary has already lost five members – just since Convention. We have to make up for those losses. Consequently, recruiting new members is more important than ever. Remember to always carry a membership application card with you. You'd be surprised where you will meet

eligible ladies – the grocery store, the doctor's office and even local community programs. I have had ladies tell me that they are embarrassed or too shy. Why would you be shy about sharing one of the greatest veteran's organizations in the world with others? The VFW does more to assist and aid our veterans and active duty personnel than any other service organization. There's nothing painful in saying, "Hi, are you a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary?" and then telling them about it if they aren't. One of the easiest ways to sign up members is to go back through your old members and see who is out there to reinstate. Give them a call and see if they want to renew their membership.

We need to remember to make sure we have important dates highlighted on your calendar so that you are sure to get the proper paperwork in to Department on time. September is the deadline for getting the Treasurer's bond. We were very close to having all audits in on time – hopefully in January we can make this happen. You should all have your guide sheets by now. Presidents, you should be having a planning meeting to go over the programs for the year. Plan out a strategy to get all the points achieved. I know there are problems getting some of the Department bulletins and such. Everything should be accessible on the Department Web site, but if you are having difficulty and are not getting your mailings, please let me know.

Ladies, I'm here for you and want to help each of your Auxiliaries succeed. If you need any assistance with anything, please be sure to give me a call at 810-714-3568 or 810-629-3976 or drop me an e-mail at legalblaze@aol.com. I will get you what you need or have someone else available to help.

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Judy Schafer



Greetings Sisters of the Mighty 12th

Let me start out by saying that it is an honor to be your District 12 President. This first two and a half months

after being elected have been quite hectic with planning meetings and now, the summer conference.

I will be busy the next few months doing inspections. I hope to see many sisters at your Auxiliary meetings. By the time you read this, the first District meeting will be over. The second

meeting will be on November 7th at Post 4249 in Newaygo. We will be having a Veterans Day Memorial service. Please try to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

I will be attending the National Convention in Indianapolis at the end of August. Remember Department President's Pat's theme this year is "Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America." That is what we all should be doing – working for our Veterans.

Please, everyone – try to bring in one new member to your Auxiliary so we continue to grow as an organization to support our Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Nancy LaVigne



Greetings Sisters of District 13,

I would like to say how much I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you for all of our Veterans who are "Our Heartbeat of America."

Increasing membership is one of our top goals. Each Auxiliary sister is being encouraged to bring an eligible person into our Auxiliary. Make sure all requirements are met before you bring someone in.

Department wants all Auxiliary Presidents to attend District meetings or send a member to represent the Auxiliary. This is a time to review chairmanships and gather information that will help run our Auxiliary efficiently. The Summer Conference which was held in Lansing on July 30 and 31st, had lots of information

for your Auxiliary workings and chairmanships. For those of you that were not able to attend, I hope you are able to attend our District meeting where this information is available again. It is important for your Auxiliary to also attend the School of Instruction, which will be at Pow-Wow, October 7-10 at Sault Ste. Marie.

With November elections coming up this year make sure your candidate is Veteran-friendly in the true sense. Get Out And Vote!

With your continued support and work, we should have a successful year, as we are the true backbone of this organization.

With our two hands we can do anything when it comes to our Veterans and their families.

Our next District meeting is Saturday, November 6th, in Indian River and I hope to see you there.

DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES/ JUNIOR GIRLS CHAIRMAN

National Theme: United by Love for Our Veterans and Country

Department Theme: Veterans – Our Heartbeat of America

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

It's time for students to go back to school. Now is the time to notify the school, teachers and students about the programs we have. You can go online with National and make a copy of the Patriotic Art brochure and helpful hints. See about making several copies and distribute them to the art teacher at your area school for 9th through 12th grade.

You can make a poster like this sample to hang up:

Young American Creative Patriotic Art

- Go online to the ladiesauxvfw.org Web site
- Click on programs
- Click on resources
- Find: Patriotic Art Common Mistakes & Helpful Hints
- Patriotic Brochure
- Students grade 9 through 12 and Home-Schooled
- Win Awards from Department and/or National

Make this a large poster for display at school, church, group centers, etc.

If you aren't very good at writing an article, ask for one of the brochures to be placed in the town newspaper. The deadline for the art to reach you at your Auxiliary is March 31, 2011. Following that, you have a District judging; then the winning art has to be to the Department Youth Chairman by April 15, 2011. Mail it to me at my address or contact me and I can make arrangements early to get the art from you.

You can also do the same for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen if you have those programs, too.

GIRL SCOUTS

National has the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver and Gold awards this year. You must have the Girl Scout name and date of presentation and contact



Bonnie Pray

Jan Thompson at either 816-561-8655, by Fax at 816-931-4753 or e-mail her at jthompson@ladiesauxvfw.org

YOUTH GROUP SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

Do you know of any youth group that is doing a project to support our military? You can get a copy of the form online and get it to me for my signature and mail for you to National. The youth group will receive the citation from National. That deadline date is March 15, 2011.

JR. ROTC

Have you been thinking of how to have a Jr. ROTC assist you in any way? If you have, call me and I will be happy to include your idea in a bulletin so all of us can know.

JUNIOR GIRLS

I will be working on your Unit packets so I can deliver them when I come for your inspection. I will be scheduling with the leaders to start early in the school year. I will also have a meeting agenda according to the Bylaws, which will help the girls with their meeting process. If you have any questions, you can contact me any time. Be sure to keep track and have verification if you go to any hospitals, nursing homes or assist a senior or Veteran who is housebound. Next month, I will have more information for you. The Buddy Poppy display is sitting and waiting to take her trip to National. She is very good.

I hope you are all having a great fun and safe summer.



Boy Scout Troop Helps Post 2408 Place Flags

On Saturday, May 29, 2010, the Boy Scouts of Troop 290 helped VFW Post 2408 in Ypsilanti put flags on the graves of veterans buried in Highland Cemetery.

The Scouts had a special mission this year, which was to find the grave of the Medal of Honor recipient Byron M. Cutcheon. Byron M. Cutcheon received the Medal of Honor for bravery during the Civil War.



Pictured is Boy Scouts of Troop 290 by the grave of Byron M. Cutcheon along with Scoutmaster and Post Jr. Vice Commander Paul Tramp and Post Commander Chris Tramp.

Three River VFW Post 3019 and Scouts Place Flags on Veterans Graves



On May 28, 2010, Boy Scout Troop 414, Cub Scout Pack 444 and Girl Scout Troop 804 gathered at the Riverside Cemetery to place flags on Veterans Graves.



Clayton Levanduski of Cub Scout Troop 444 placing flags.



George Cole, Three River Post 3019 member for 65 years, is always on hand to help place flags on veteran's graves.

VFW Post 9656 Represents Michigan at Arlington Cemetery

Every year on Memorial Day there is a solemn and reverent ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery to honor our war dead. Arlington Cemetery was originally the grounds for Arlington House, to be built as a tribute to George Washington by his adopted son. There are currently over 250,000 graves and of these, 5,000 are the remains of unknown soldiers. The first interment occurred on May 13, 1864. The sarcophagus for the Tomb of the Unknowns is made of marble and there are three Greek figures sculpted into the marble that face Washington, D.C. These

figures represent Peace, Victory and Valor. On the east side of the tomb, carved into the marble panel are the words "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God."

The American soldier from World War I resting in the tomb received both the Victoria Cross and the Medal of Honor and the World War II veterans all received the Medal of Honor.

Therefore, it was with much pride that the VFW Post 9656 was able to represent the state of Michigan with our wreaths. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Post has been

laying a wreath for the past three years, and the Post itself has been doing so for the past two years. In addition to the wreath-laying ceremony, members of the Post also passed out 1,000 flags to visitors at the cemetery. Members of Post 9656 were also asked to lay the wreath for the District of Columbia, as their members were laying the wreath for the National VFW. This request came from the National Commander of the VFW, Thomas Tradewell. Post Commander Richard Schroeder and several Post members represented Post 9656 at this awe-inspiring event.



Pictured, L-R: Claudia Schroeder, Lillian Capouch, Patsy Hubbard, Thomas J. Tradewell, Rich Schroeder, Ray Capouch and Bob Landis.



The delegation from Post 9656 is escorted by the Honor Guard to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Meaning of Memorial Day

A message from VFW National Commander Tradewell...



It's a sacred day to all war veterans. None need to be reminded of the reason that Memorial Day must be commemorated. But what about the general public, and more important, future generations? Do most non-veterans really recognize the importance of the day honoring their fellow Americans killed in war?

Judging from what Memorial Day has become – simply another day off from work – the answer is a resounding no. Perhaps a reminder is due then, and it is the duty of each and every veteran to relay the message.

Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance. America's collective consciousness demands that all citizens recall and be aware of the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime.

Far too often, the nation as a whole

takes for granted the freedoms all Americans enjoy. Those freedoms were paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew. That's why they are all collectively remembered on one special day.

This should be regarded as a civic obligation. For this is a national debt that can only be truly repaid by individual Americans. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory and thus, their service and sacrifice in the memories of future generations.

They came from all walks of life and regions of the country. But they all had one thing in common – love of, and loyalty to, country. This bond cemented ties between them in times of trial, allowing a diverse lot of Americans to achieve monumental ends.

We remember the loss of loved ones, a sense of loss that takes group form. In essence, America is commemorating those who made the greatest sacrifice possible – giving one's own life on behalf of others.

Means of paying tribute vary. Pausing for a few moments of personal silence is available to everyone.

Attending commemorative ceremonies is the most visible way of demonstrating remembrance: Placing flags at gravesites, marching in parades, sponsoring patriotic programs, dedicating memorials and wearing Buddy Poppies are also examples.

Whether done individually or collectively, it is the thought that counts. Personal, as well as public, acts of remembering are the ideal. Public displays of patriotism are essential if the notion of remembering war dead is to be instilled in youth.

As America's older war veterans fast disappear from society's landscape, there are fewer and fewer standard-bearers left to carry the torch of remembrance. Such traditions will live on only if there is a vibrant movement to which that torch can be passed.

Now, more than in past years, the enduring relevance of Memorial Day should be clearly evident. With two wars underway, the public has no excuse not to remember.

This much is owed to the more than 5,400 Americans who have died thus far in Afghanistan and Iraq.

William J. Beal VFW Post 446 and Ladies Auxillary Mukeygon, Michigan Memorial Day Parade 2010



Past Post Commander David Hall and Ladies Auxiliary President Beth Plont and Post 446 members and Ladies Auxiliary.



VFW Post 446, L-R: Mike McGowan (Trustee); Ray Meloche, Jr (House Committee Member – soon to be deployed to Afghanistan); Leon Harris (Guard); Gary White (Adjutant); and Mike Black, currently in the Marine Reserves out of Grand Rapids.



Post 446 member and WWII P.O.W. George Hartman and his wife, Julia.

MACOMB COUNTY COUNCIL COMMANDER



Here we are at the beginning of a new year with new goals and new officers. It is very important that we all stay on the same page. The one thing that remains constant is membership. This year in District 5, Macomb and Oakland County Councils are taking the approach of getting an early start with several Membership Drives. We kicked off the first one at the UAW Region One Chili Cook-Off at the City of Warren Water Park. The results, for the size of the crowd, were very good. We gained members for the VFW, VFW Men's and Ladies Auxiliary. On July 24-25, two of the Macomb Posts had membership drives. They took advantage of

their communities' different activities to set up membership booths and again, the results were very good.

One thing that is for sure: as long as we do the things that we have done in the past, we are going to get the same results we have always got! The Officers of this County Council are here to help any Post in any way possible to work these membership drives. The tent we use can be reserved by contacting the District Commander or District Membership Director. Start early and you are sure to add to your membership rolls. Start late and you may just finish last.

Membership is the lifeblood of this organization. Without it, we all fail. So Comrades, let's do the jobs that we were elected to do. Make every effort to support the Department programs and have a very successful year.

Fort Custer National Cemetery/ Memorial Day Ceremony

On Sunday, May 30, 2010 the Fort Custer National Cemetery held its Memorial Day ceremony. The ceremony was attended by VFW State Commander David Hutson and State Ladies Auxiliary President Jan Meyers.



State Auxiliary President Jan Meyers pins a boutonniere on Medal of Honor recipient, Duane E. Dewey.



State Commander Dave Hutson and State Auxiliary President Jan Meyers bring a wreath forward and place it during the ceremony.



State Commander David Hutson and State Auxiliary President Jan Meyers with Goldstar Mother Diane Huhn. Ionia VFW Post 12082 is named in honor of her son, David A. Huhn, who was killed in action in Iraq.

YOUTH, continued from page 7 —

the group. This is for a youth group, not a separate or single youth.

The Young American Patriotic Art Contest can also begin now. You should begin with an article in your local newspaper and contact the schools in your area, especially the art teachers. Check to see if they would make this a class project. The deadline is March.

Then we have the Junior ROTC which can be any branch of the service. I sent out the Web site address, so you can try to find one in your area. These young people are taking the time in their units to begin learning and training for their possible future in the military. If you can contact one in your area, you can see the things they can do to assist your Auxiliary and Post. You can support them by making a small donation to the Unit.

Junior Girls is very interesting, as these young ladies are the future of our Auxiliaries. You need to have at least 10 girls to institute a new Unit. These girls are ages five through sixteen and they are learning correct flag etiquette, about fundraisers to earn money for their Unit to donate to some of the more important

programs, such as Cancer, hospitals and nursing homes, along with volunteering, patriotism, and mostly about helping our veterans, their families and communities. We have a scholarship program for ages 13 through 16, and the Department winner goes on to National for a chance at a \$7,500.00 scholarship. We have the Junior Girls Conference at our VFW Camp Trotter where the girls hold a business meeting. They elect officers and make decisions on things they would like to see done with some of their funds. The girls work on crafts, swimming, games, great food, and they receive the different awards their Units have earned through the year. A Junior Princess is also crowned.

We also have other activities to sponsor such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups and sports groups. Encourage all the groups to step up and promote patriotism, support our troops, respect the veterans and have their voices heard. You don't have to wait for school to begin; you should start on the day after the Department Convention is completed.

Enjoy and have a safe summer and thank you for all you do for our veterans and this organization.

DISTRICT 6, continued from page 5 —

donation reporting is how we report our progress towards our objectives.

In the past month, I have visited 13 Posts. We have a lot of new officers in our Posts. In some cases, we have a clean sweep of officers and we need to get them trained. If you missed the training at Camp Trotter and Lansing at the Summer Conference, the last chance you have is October 8th and 9th at Sault Ste Marie, Kewadin Casino. Please do not miss the training. I have talked training at the planning meeting, and to the 13 Posts I have already visited. I go every year and I learn something new every year. This also gives you points towards your goal of 125. Up to 17 points is up for grabs on July 30th and 15 points at Sault Ste Marie. This is not cumulative.

A lot of Posts do not have the current podium edition of the National Bylaws. You need to replace them as soon as possible. I would not order until after 1 October 2010, when the new edition will be available.

Whether or not we agree with federal, state and local laws, we must follow them. No smoking in our Posts is the current law causing strife. You cannot pick and choose what laws you follow. Follow them! We are nonprofit organizations, but we are not exempt from sales tax; if you owe any, get them paid.

Activity and hospital reports are due no later than the 10th of each month. Do not be late. I receive a lot of complaints that the Posts are not getting full credit for what they believe they deserve. For the Post that has sent me their confirmation copy, I have forwarded the report to the appropriate chairperson. You will get credit. All other missing reports I have not received, so I cannot help those Posts. In addition, manual reports have to be

received by Department Headquarters no later than the 10th. After that date, you are late and will probably get credit, but will lose one All-State point. You must take into account mailing time. Amanda date stamps all reports when she gets them. Failure on the Post to submit the report on time, not taking into account mailing time, is not the Department's or District's fault. Our first district meeting will be a School of Instruction. We will be taking two hours to cover these reports, so bring your reports with you so we can go over them and find out why you might not have been getting credit. We can only fix what we see. I will have Comrade Hawkins, the Department Membership Director, as a guest. Membership is the topic of the day.

Now, with all the seriousness completed, what is the state of our District? From my point of view, we are not in bad shape. After two months, we have 20 out of 27 Posts reported in hospital and activity reporting. All-State points range from 10 to 62 points, with the average being 23.6% for the 20 reported Posts. Donations for the District are \$1,242.00, mostly in MAP and PAC pins. Community Service projects 677, Community Service hours 8,786, Community Service value \$63,181.72, Americanism projects 454, Youth Activity projects 90, Youth Activity hours 702, Youth Activity value \$16,260.58, Drug projects 18, Safety projects 18, Legislative projects 11 and PAC projects value \$50.00. Hospital reporting: workers 215, hours 1,372, donations \$3,082.06, equipment \$4,319.00, patients 887, miles 3,576, pints of blood 5, and Cancer donations \$51.00.

As you can see, we are not doing badly after two months of activity and this usually increases after the summer months. Keep up the outstanding work.



Give Monthly to Help Our Heroes

Partners in Patriotism is a win-win monthly giving program created to make things more convenient for you ... and allow us to do the best job we possibly can for America's sons and daughters.

Partners in Patriotism is the most efficient way to help our brave troops and proud veterans. When you sign up, you support life-changing programs every month of the year. A great way to show you care!

Partners in Patriotism:

1. Keeps administrative costs down so more money goes to programs
2. Allows for better budget planning and program funding to help more veterans, service members and their families
3. Dramatically cuts down the amount of mail you receive

We will need either your credit card or checking account information to set up monthly donations. Your first donation will be processed on/or around the 20th of the month. Please provide the requested information below and return it to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Name _____ Phone # (____) _____

Address _____

For Credit Card Deductions

Credit Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Amount to be charged: \$ _____ (circle one) monthly quarterly annually
• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

Credit Card Type (circle one): Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Phone # (____) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

For Checking Account Deductions

Please send us a voided check along with the completed information below and return it to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Amount to be debited: \$ _____ (circle one) monthly quarterly annually
• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

Phone # (____) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

☐ I understand payments will continue automatically each month until I notify the VFW of any change. Notification must be received prior to the 1st of the month of processing.



Department of Michigan VFW State Convention

On June 23-27, 2010, the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars, held their annual Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan. Every year the Dept gathers from around the State of Michigan to honor those that achieved great success over the past year and to nominate and elect the new officers for the coming year.



The annual Golf Outing was held at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. Pictured, L-R: PSC Ernie Meyers, PSC Jim Warner, State Budget Director Charlie Abner and State Commander Dave Hutson.



It didn't take long for State Commander Dave Hutson to find the "rough".



PSC Rick Redfern tees off on the 3rd hole. Notice something missing from his hands after the shot. See the next photo to find out where it went.



The club ended up in the middle of this little swamp. He didn't need that ol' 5 Iron anyway.



Most of the golfers were dignified when having their picture taken on the tee. You just can't take some people anywhere.



Past National Commander in Chief John F. Gwizdak, addresses the Convention.



In a special event on the evening of June 24, 2010, three couples renewed their wedding vows in the Rotunda of the Hyatt Regency, which was opened for the special occasion. Dept. Chaplain Reverend Elmer Liimatta presided. Pictured, L-R: Rick and Dianne Zellman (34 years), Marv and Mariann Hammann (40 years), and Les and Paulette Van Der Will (45 years). Congratulations to the happy couples!



The Raymond G. O'Neill Award, presented annually to the most outstanding Post Service Officer in the Department, was awarded to Alan D. Opra, Post Service Officer to VFW Post 6756, Warren. Presenting the award is Assistant Service Office Director Gary L. Putinsky.



The Norman R. Bielak Award, presented annually to the most outstanding County Counselor in Michigan, was awarded to Carol Turner, County Counselor of Macomb County. The award is named after Norman Bielak who served the Department of Michigan Service Office as Assistant Director for many years. Presenting the award to Ms. Turner is Department Service Officer Dan Crocker.



State Commander Dave Hutson is presented with the PAC Golden Eagle Award by Dept PAC Director Garry Goff.



State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers is presented with the PAC Golden Eagle Award by Dept. PAC Director Garry Goff.



State of Michigan Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner, Alyssa McAlvey, is presented with a Voice of Democracy Certificate of Achievement by Past National Commander-in-Chief John F. Gwizdak and National Ladies Aux. Chaplain Leanne Lemley.



Newly-elected State Commander Lloyd Putman II takes the podium for the first time.



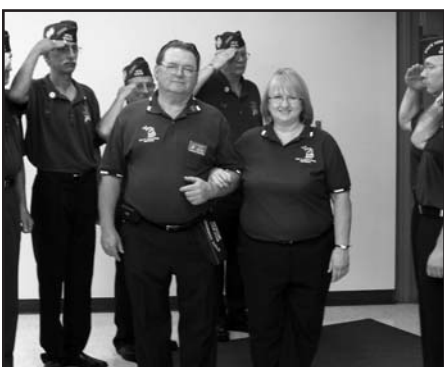
The newly-elected State and District Officers for the 2010-2011 year were installed by Past National Commander-in-Chief John F. Gwizdak.



State Commander is given the oath of office by Past National Commander in Chief John F. Gwizdak.



After the Convention was over, a reception was held at the City of Southgate Post 9283. State Ladies Aux President Patricia Patterson arrives with her husband, Patrick Patterson.



State Commander Lloyd Putman II with his wife, Denise Putman.



2010-2011 State Ladies Auxiliary Officers. Pictured, L-R: State Aux Jr. Vice Pres Mariann Hammann, State Aux President Patricia Patterson, State Aux Jr. Vice President Annabelle Furgason, PSP & Secretary Jan Meyers, State Aux Treasurer Jan Lawrence, State Aux Chaplain Marilyn Malick, State Aux Guard Deb Eernisse and State Aux Chief-of-Staff Judy Winnie.



State Aux Jr. Vice President Annebelle Furgason and her husband, Gene.



State Jr. Vice Commander Kirk Kennedy and his wife, Terry.

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 David Hutson and Past National Commander-in-Chief John F. Gwizdak. Ladies Auxiliary awards were presented by State President Jan Meyers and National Auxiliary Chaplain Leanne Lemley. This year the honorees were:



Ronald Devereaux, Captain of the All-State Team, All-State District and Post 4406 Commander, District 9



Jan Luttrell, 1st Place District Achievement Winner, representing District 4



Diane Ranger, 2nd Place District Achievement Winner, representing District 7



Arvella Peterson, 3rd Place District Achievement Winner, representing District 13



Robert Burlew, Shiawassee County Council Commander



Thomas Rossi, Post 78, District 4



Paulette Vanderwill, Auxiliary 78, District 4



Ernest Baker, Post 334, District 5



Michael Ball, Post 552, District 4



Gary Frayer, Post 701, District 6



Ron Oakes, Post 702, District 8



Richard Carothers, Post 1075, District 11



John Kowalczyk, Post 1136, District 4



Alberta Dorris, Auxiliary 1136, District 4



Patricia Thorsby, Auxiliary 1452, District 10



Bernie Brennan, Post 1519, District 4



Michael Sherman, Post 1669, District 5



Arvella Peterson, Auxiliary 2051, District 13



Michael Tkacz, Post 2272, District 9



Michael Donaldson, Post 2406, District 8



Holly Allison, Auxiliary 2406, District 8



Donna Stabrava, Auxiliary 2645, District 5



Sue Champlin, Auxiliary 2780, District 13



Lenny Borgman, Post 3030, District 8



Ruth Ayris, Auxiliary 3033, District 11



Edward Davidson, Post 3055, District 9



Sharon Connors, Auxiliary 3165, District 14



Gerald Hawkins, Post 3243, District 10



Diane Ward, Auxiliary 3243, District 10



Dennis Stewart, Post 3306, District 9



Wanda Boice, Auxiliary 3323, District 4



Kristine Griffith, Auxiliary 4093, District 6



Jearl Hoisington, Post 4139, District 10



Linda Perreault, Auxiliary 4139, District 10



John Bond, Post 4156, District 5



Linda Gloger, Auxiliary 4156, District 5



George Passage, Post 4249, District 12



Sue DeRousha, Auxiliary 4420, District 14



Stephanie Krueger, Auxiliary 4422, District 4



DeeAnn Miller, Auxiliary 4644, District 4



Philip Gannia, Post 4659, District 5



Linda Bacon-Kendall, Post 5065, District 9



William Wisner, Post 5315, District 12



Adrienne Connors, Auxiliary 5572, District 4



Joyce Butler (accepted by her Daughters), Auxiliary 5857, District 13



Julia Little, Auxiliary 6032, District 4



Carolyn Howse, Auxiliary 6464, District 6



Gerald Gorski, Post 6756, District 5



Philip Cushard, Jr., Post 6802, District 5



Joan Elenbaas, Auxiliary 6950, District 11



George Wygant, Post 7309, District 6



James Van Tiem, Post 7573, District 5



Jerry Smith, Post 7581, District 8



Billy Stancroff, Post 7729, District 12



John Gubin, Post 9021, District 5



Sharon Lewinski, Auxiliary 9283, District 4



Richard LaChance, Post 9363, District 4



Richard Kummerow, Post 9455, District 9



Richard Schroeder, Post 9656, District 6



Manny Garcia, Post 9809, District 9



Jack Clayton, Post 12082, District 9

Not pictured:

John Kinzinger, Post 423, District 6

Jane Henkle, Auxiliary 1887, District 14

Beverly Burton, Auxiliary 2233, District 4

Marian Reeve, Auxiliary 2358, District 5

Helen Everett, Auxiliary 6248, District 7

Ruth Huuki, Auxiliary 6507, District 15

Thomas Longueuil, Post 6579, District 9

Marilyn Malick, Auxiliary 6691, District 5

Sara Manke, Auxiliary 9411, District 7



City of Wyandotte and Fowlerville 4th of July Parade

Every year on or about the 4th of July, we as Americans celebrate the birth of our nation. It was on July 4, 1776 that we officially declared our independence from Great Britain. On Saturday, July

3rd, the Cities of Wyandotte and Fowlerville held their 4th of July Parades. Every year citizens line the street to see veterans groups, civic groups and local politicians commemo-

rate the anniversary of our independence. VFW State Commander Lloyd Putman II was on hand for both events. He was accompanied by his wife, Denise, and the State Honor Guard.

Wyandotte Parade



State Commander Lloyd Putman II with Mike Clabon, by Mike's extremely sweet ride.



State Commander Lloyd Putman II with his wife, Denise, waiting for the parade to begin.



4th District Honor Guard marching in the parade.



4th District Officers, L-R: District Sr. Vice Commander Phillip Merrow, District Commander Ron Allen, District Quartermaster Rick Zellman and Trustee 3 Jim Niner.



Past 4th District Ladies Aux Presidents: Front, L-R: Anne McBain and Betty Valentine. Back, L-R: Jan Luttrell, 1st place 2010 District Achievement Pres., and Michaelene Kowalczyk.



4th District Ladies Aux. Officers, L-R: 4th Dist Ladies Aux Pres Beverly Burton; Past 4th Dist Ladies Aux Pres Rhonda Niner; April Mann, Bill Bozzo, PFC US Army; 4th Dist Ladies Aux Pres Lana Bourlier; and 4th Dist Ladies Aux Sr Vice Pres Sharon Lewinski.



City of Wyandotte Ladies Aux Unit 1136 Officers, left to right: Americanism Chrm. Aux 1136 Barb Milewski; Legislative Chrm Aux 1136 Karne Przytula; Pres. Aux 1136 Ruth Barnhill; 2009-2010 Auxiliary 1136 Achievement President Abby Dorris; and Sr. Vice President Aux 1136 Shannon Barnes.



L-R: Ladies Aux President Ruth Barnhill, Post Cdr Albert Starzec, State Commander Lloyd Putman II and 4th District Commander Ron Allen. They are standing in front of a wall with Blue Star Flags that bear the names of each of their members that are currently deployed. The Post presents the member with their flag when they finally return home.



State Commander Lloyd Putman II is escorted in the Fowlerville parade by his Honor Guard. Pictured, L-R: Honor Guard Dennis Battle, State Commander Lloyd Putman II, Captain of the Honor Guard Richard Kummerow and Honor Guard Pat Sullivan.

Fowlerville Parade



The Honor Guard presents the Colors at the Fowlerville Parade during the singing of the National Anthem.



Livingston County Auxiliary Member of the Year Carolyn Howse. Pictured in the front of the car are Ladies Aux 6464 members, Lorianne Swails (driving) and Ivette David (passenger).



State Commander with the Honor Guard after a long march. In front, kneeling: State Commander Lloyd Putman II. Back, L-R: Pat Sullivan, Capt. Richard Kummerow, Lloyd Putman III, Terry Dowdell, Joel Pena, Denny Craycraft, Larry Thayer and Dennis Battle.

VFW National Commander Slams Massachusetts School Committee No Pledge Decision

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 30, 2010 – The National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is appalled over an Arlington, Mass., school committee decision to reject a 17-year-old student's request to allow others to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance because some educators are concerned "that it would be hard to find teachers willing to recite it."

Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wis., said the decision is particularly egregious while America is at war and preparing to celebrate Independence Day.

"I find it unconscionable that on the eve of our most patriotic holiday we are confronted with another reminder that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have largely receded from the collective public mind," he said. "Even worse is knowing that this school decision occurred just down the road from Lexington and Concord, where the opening battles of our Revolutionary War were fought. This is just another galling example of the total lack of respect some have for America's freedoms and values."

The decision by Arlington school officials to disallow recital of the pledge was made even though it would be strictly voluntary for teachers and students alike and in spite of receiving a petition signed by 700 people, along with letters of support from lawmakers including Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.)

"Flying the flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing our National Anthem are traditions worth maintaining and certainly worth passing on to our nation's youth – it's imperative that we do," said Tradewell. "The 1.5 million members of the VFW find this school decision extremely disrespectful to the members of our armed forces, to those who served in uniform before them, and to history, and we hope that the parents and the community rise up and force a change before the school decides that calling someone an American is now politically incorrect."



VFW Wants Full Life Insurance Disclosure

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 4, 2010 – “News reports about life insurance companies profiting off our war dead struck an emotional nerve at every level,” said Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., National Commander of the 2.1 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries.

“It may be a legal industry practice, but learning that a company is earning more interest than what they pay out to surviving families just reeks of corporate greed and irresponsibility.”

According to *Bloomberg News*, if beneficiaries do not request a lump sum payment or direct the money elsewhere, insurers are holding the funds in corporate accounts that provide ridiculously low interest rates, plus they are giving misleading guarantees about the safety of the funds.

For example, Bloomberg reported that Prudential in 2008 paid survivors 1 percent interest on their accounts, while the company itself earned a 4.8-percent return on the same account. Prudential is the nation's second-largest life insurer and manages the Servicemember and Veterans Group Life Insurance programs for 6 million military and military retirees. MetLife, the country's largest life insurer, provides insurance for all nonmilitary federal employees.

Prudential defended their practice by saying its Alliance Account “does not in any way take money from beneficiaries,” and that beneficiaries can withdraw the entire amount, plus interest, at anytime without penalty. Prudential admits the account is not FDIC insured – a fact disclosed in their material – but alluding to State Guaranty Funds protections is mis-

leading. State Guaranty Funds are non-government safety nets, similar to insurance to protect the policyholders of insurance companies that might fail. Only a fraction of the State Guaranty Funds provided in all 50 states and the District of Columbia would cover the top SGLI or VGLI amount of \$400,000.

“This entire issue is about full disclosure,” said Tradewell, a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wisconsin.

“I know that the interest rate my savings account is earning is far less than what my bank earns by virtue of them holding my money. The difference is I know that, the surviving families do not. They think their money is safe and earning a good rate of return, where in fact their money isn't fully protected and only the insurance company is earning the profit, which just isn't right.”

In the aftermath of the Bloomberg article, the Department of Veterans Affairs, who oversees the SGLI and VGLI insurance programs, announced last week it would investigate the holding practice. Rep. Deborah Halvorson (D-Ill.), the stepmother of an Army Special Forces soldier who was wounded in Afghanistan, introduced legislation to require companies to tell beneficiaries how their money will be invested, and how much the insurer stands to make from holding the funds. And New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo announced an investigation of the practice, which Bloomberg reported has allowed more than 100 insurance carriers to retain and earn investment income on \$28 billion owed to life insurance beneficiaries around the country. MetLife is based in New York.

VFW Announces New Web Site Coming Soon

KANSAS CITY, Mo., July 19, 2010 – The VFW is proud to announce the launch of its new Web site coming this fall.

After careful review and analysis of the user feedback submitted in recent years, the project began with three main objectives:

- to create a unique and interactive site that will better serve to educate members and nonmembers alike on VFW's history, mission and importance.
- to redesign the look, navigation and layout of the existing website to make it more engaging and user-friendly for members, friends and supporters.
- to condense numerous existing VFW websites into one while enhancing the unique functions offered by each.

Just a few of the new elements will include:

- An all new “members only” area
- A new “Member Profile” section
- A live VFW Twitter feed
- A showcased video player

- Topic-specific RSS feeds
- An interactive “Why Join” page

Members will soon have the opportunity to login to a new VFW Online Membership System (OMS) directly from the site. OMS will replace the current eMembership application and is stacked with role-specific information and tools to quickly and efficiently manage membership information for VFW members and officers.

Accessing department resources, chairman guides, proposed Bylaws amendments, Quartermaster tools, publications ads or simply paying monthly membership dues will be accessed by logging on to www.vfw.org

“We're very excited about the upcoming launch of the new site. This will give us the ability to really streamline news and information to our members and also introduce an entirely new generation to today's VFW,” says Allen “Gunner” Kent, VFW Adjutant General.

VFW Statement on Arlington National Cemetery

WASHINGTON, June 10, 2010 – “The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is both angered and saddened over the Army Inspector General's report that verified allegations of mismanagement and misplaced bodies at Arlington National Cemetery. We are angry that senior cemetery and possible Army officials permitted a climate of complacency not only to exist, but to exacerbate. We are angry about how long this condition would have continued unchallenged – lit-

erally in the backyard of Headquarters, U.S. Army – had it not been for one reporter who was doing his job. And the VFW is deeply saddened by the thought of all the family members who are just now learning that their loved one may, potentially, not be resting in peace. There is no excuse or apology great enough to erase their disappointment or anxiety.”

–National Commander Thomas J. Tradewell Sr., Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

Were You Stop-Lossed?

There are millions of dollars waiting to be claimed by service members and veterans who were stop-lossed, and time is running out!

Those eligible must submit their claim by October 21, 2010.

The DoD Web site links to service-specific sites, where you can get more information, or begin the RSLSP claim process.

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP), providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay. Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct

mail, veteran service organizations and the media.

But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. We're reminding all service members who are eligible to submit a claim for the benefit available to them. The average benefit is \$3,700.

Tell a Friend

We are also asking all current service members to ‘tell a friend’ – if you know someone who separated/retired and may be eligible for this benefit, remind them to submit a claim before the deadline!

Note on Eligibility: *Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-lossed service members who voluntarily reenlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.*

APPLY NOW FOR RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY
<http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>

Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation

Supporting our mission to improve lives

For over 100 years, the success of the VFW has been built upon millions of volunteer hours, strong support of our country's youth, major patriotic and educational efforts, and unwavering services to our military, its veterans and their families. Of all we do, our programs make the greatest impact on the lives of those we serve and honor.

Good intentions alone won't get the job done. Our success, like that of any worthwhile endeavor, is directly proportionate to the amount of financial contributions we can continue to receive. For many years, our programs were supported by VFW membership dues alone. Then they were supplemented by donations from our members and the public. But, our needs have long outgrown those resources.

To keep our programs healthy and viable, we are currently seeking financial support from various organizations, to provide assistance for existing and future programs.

Created as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, the VFW Foundation is

free to pursue the millions of corporate and foundation dollars across America. And, as a 501(c)3 foundation, we can also offer expanded advantages to individual donors who wish to support our programs financially.

Under this format, the VFW has become aggressive in the pursuit of funds from other foundations, corporate and wealthy benefactors. The hope, of course, is to grow our successful programs and create brand new ones so that we can continue our mission of improving the lives of our military, our veterans, their families, and the communities in which they live and work.

Bottom line: the VFW Foundation grows the VFW. This Foundation allows members and friends of the VFW alike across the nation to help support all the causes we so strongly believe in. In the end, the VFW Foundation will enable the VFW to grow, prosper and provide many years of service to this great country and those who have proudly served it.





LZ Michigan Welcomes Home Vietnam Veterans

As a direct result of the Veteran's Oral History Project, WGVU, Grand Valley State University, and the West Michigan Whitecaps presented the LZ Michigan Event on July 3, 2010 at Fifth Third Ballpark to finally welcome home Michigan's Vietnam Veterans. This event was long overdue, very successful and the community's expression of appreciation and support for the men and women who served in Vietnam.

Members of VFW Post 702 and its Auxiliary were honored to be a part of the committee, involved in the planning stages, and volunteers for this day of celebration for our veterans.

Sonya Van Valkenburg
VFW Post 702 Auxiliary
Veterans and Family Support Chairperson



VFW Post 702 and Auxiliary work the volunteer check-in booth. L-R: Larry Foster, Sonya Van Valkenburg, Kathleen Steele, and Joan Broek.



Steve VanValkenburg and Ron Oakes sign the Vietnam map.

VFW Foundation Sponsors NASCAR Truck Series Race VFW 200

On Saturday, June 12, 2010 the VFW Foundation sponsored the NASCAR Truck series race, the VFW 200 at Michigan International Speedway (MIS). MIS held an auction for the "Honorary Starter" position. The highest bidder received passes to the VFW Pit Road Suite and Cold Garage passes. All the proceeds were donated by MIS to the VFW Foundation to benefit the "Return the Favor" campaign. State Commander Dave Hutson, State Sr. Vice Cdr Lloyd Putman II, State Jr. Vice Cdr Jack Pray, State QM/Adjutant Rob Weiss, along with members of the 6th District, were on hand to help distribute cards where people could call or text to make donations to "Return the Favor."

VFW Foundation Launches Return the Favor Web site

The VFW Foundation on April 8, 2010 launched its "Return the Favor" Web site as part of an awareness and fundraising campaign to honor, celebrate and support

active-duty and retired military and their families. The VFW Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and official charity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), America's oldest and largest service group for combat veterans.

Return the Favor programs and services fill in governmental assistance gaps for troops abroad, deserving military families back in the U.S. or America's often forgotten veterans. Programs support all branches of the military, are provided at no cost to the recipients and require no VFW affiliation. Through "Return the Favor" programs and services, the VFW Foundation seeks to make military personnel and their families feel appreciated for their service to our country.

The VFW Foundation receives no government funding, and instead relies solely on public and corporate donations. For more information about the campaign, visit our Web site at www.returnthefavor.org



State Officers with Ron Hornaday in the VFW Pit Road Suite. Left to right: State Jr. Vice Cdr Jack Pray, State Sr. Vice Cdr Lloyd Putman II, Ron Hornaday and State QM/Adj Rob Weiss



Members of the 6th District enjoy the race.



Members of the Dept. of Michigan that assisted the VFW Foundation during the weekend got to meet Race Car Driver Kevin Harvick.



Aric Almirola wins the VFW 200 and is presented with the trophy in Victory Lane.

Men's Auxiliary

As I write this article, I am reflecting on the events of this past weekend. I had the opportunity to attend VFW functions that I had never been to before. On Saturday, I attended the Summer Conference at the Ramada Inn in Lansing. While I had only expected to be there for a short time, I ended up spending the entire day at the Officer Training Seminar. The day was filled with informative session after session. Having just become the Treasurer, in addition to already being Secretary, I was eager to sit in on the session with the Adjutants and Quartermasters. The session was very informative and I left the day feeling a lot better about my new responsibilities. Some of you may not realize that there are a lot of events and activities that we, as Men's Auxiliary members, are able to attend. This OTS was one of them. I did not know until two days before the event that I was able to go. I encourage all officers and members of the Men's Auxiliary to attend these meetings and seminars whenever able. The comrades are very willing to give advice and counsel to us.

One item of special interest from Saturday's sessions, that I want to let all of you know about, is an upcoming addition to the Dept. of Michigan's VFW website. The Men's Auxiliary will have their own section on the Department's Web site. The Department's Web site is www.vfwmi.org and there will be a tab for the Men's Auxiliary added that will link you to valuable information and documents that you may need. So take some time to check it out. Thank you to Department Commander Lloyd Putman II for allowing us to do this and Webmaster Dave Marin for setting things up. One of the other features will be the ability to Post your upcoming events on the Web site for everyone to see.

The second event that I attended was Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids. I have been to the National Home several times in the past, but never for Michigan Day. I had been there for business a couple of times, and once to help out in the kitchen for an Ohio Day several years ago. It was awesome to see all of the other members of this fine organization from throughout the state coming together in support of the National Home. If you have never had the opportunity to visit the National Home, please make an effort to get there as soon as you can. Talk to members of your Post that have been there and find out more about it. The National Home provides a great blessing to countless families and they need all the support that they can get from us. Some members of the Owosso and Saginaw Men's Auxiliaries were on hand helping with the dinner. A big thank you goes out to them for their time and efforts in supporting the Home.

I also want to let you know about an issue that the President of the Saginaw Post 1566 Men's Auxiliary, Brian Reiman, discovered recently. Here is a portion of an e-mail that he sent me.

"Our National Auxiliary representative informed us of a few changes coming over the next year, i.e. logo usage and legalities. Each Auxiliary must submit a form (which national will provide) and return it to national with the President's signature. This will grant formal and legal permission to use the men's logo. This form costs \$10.00 but is well worth the time and effort to keep things legitimate as changes occur in the future. Make sure that all unit presidents have a

AUX, continued on page 19

Veterans Radio

Veterans Radio is dedicated to all the men and women who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces of the United States of America. Our mission is to provide all veterans with a voice, to give them a forum where they are able to discuss their issues, and to provide information to all veterans regarding the rights and privileges they earned by serving their country.

Veterans Radio will include our listener's stories and experiences, not only while in the service, but afterwards as well. Interviews with guest speakers and authors will be a weekly feature. The content of the programs on Veterans Radio will ultimately be determined by our listeners.

Veterans Radio feels it is time for our communities to know who among their

neighbors was willing to pay the ultimate price to preserve and protect their basic freedoms. Veterans Radio will act as an advocate for veteran's issues. Politics has no place in determining what is fair for America's veterans. Veterans Radio just wants our politicians to keep their promises. We encourage our listeners to get involved in the political process and to make our voices heard.

So don't miss Veterans Radio every Saturday morning at 0900hrs Eastern on Ave Marie Radio. 990 AM WDEO, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1440AM WMAX Saginaw, Michigan and 98.5FM in Naples, Florida. If there isn't a radio station in your area you can check out their website at www.veteransradio.net where you can listen live on Saturday mornings or download and listen to past programs.

Fact: We Can't Help Our Heroes *Without You*



Next time you receive a mailing from VFW or Ladies Auxiliary VFW please don't set it aside.



Veterans, service members and their families need us desperately right now.

Your gifts stay right here in our state, supporting our programs. We need loyal members like you to make our state programs possible.

VFW Post 334 Top Distributor of Buddy Poppies



L-R: State Buddy Poppy Director Mike Lipka, Post Buddy Poppy Chairman Jim Trumble, Jim Hubbard and 5th District Commander Jim Galen.

VFW Post 334 sold more Buddy Poppies than any other Michigan VFW Post during the annual three day sales effort last May. At the Post's monthly meeting Thursday, July 8th, the VFW State Buddy Poppy Director, Mike Lipka, presented the State Champion recognition to Jim Trumble, who chaired the Post's Poppy effort that raised \$14,721.19. Jim Hubbard received the award for collecting \$1,903.00 in Poppy donations, more than any other VFW member in Michigan. 5th District Commander Jim Galen, participated in the presentation.

Both Jim Hubbard and Jim Trumble are Lake Orion residents. The VFW has been distributing Buddy Poppies since May 1922 and disabled veterans assemble the poppies. From its inception, the Buddy Poppy program has helped the VFW to live up to its motto, "To honor the dead by helping the living."

AUX, continued from page 18 —

copy of the men's Auxiliary Bylaws and SOP available through the department of Michigan. Also it is helpful if the Post Commander provides a copy of the annual VFW Bylaws and ritual. This gives each of us a chance to brush up and learn what procedures and protocols are to be used during our tenure as officers. It also makes a great reference when needed having it on hand." The SOP and Bylaws will be available on the Web site in the Men's Auxiliary section.

As always, if there is anything that you want the rest of the Men's Auxiliaries to know about please contact our Department Liaison Jim Niner at jimniner@sbcglobal.net, or myself at mkoutz@hotmail.com. We would be happy to pass the information along through this article or in any way that we can. Thank you and God Bless our Veterans!

Matthew Koutz
Secretary/Treasurer
Men's Auxiliary 3055

VFW Post 3941 Sponsors a Race Team

2009 brought a new and exciting year for VFW Post 3941. We have sponsored their first race team. Garrett Rons, grandson of member Marvin Rons, both of Livonia, Michigan, is the lucky race car driver. Garrett is a talented 10-year-old just entering the 5th grade at a Livonia upper elementary school. He has been driving since the age of six. He began in motor sports racing go-karts and he currently races his go-kart at Fremont Raceway Park, in Fremont, Ohio. In 2009, Garrett added a sprint car to his garage. Garrett races his sprint on a dirt track at Jackson Speedway in Jackson, Michigan.

Living and growing up in the Motor City (known for their love of cars), it only made sense to look for sponsorship locally. Garrett and his team "4rracing" along with Dad and Grandpa,

approached the officers of VFW Post 3941 in the hopes of sponsorship and the Post generously agreed. Their sponsorship was very kind and allowed Garrett to race the entire season. As of result, Garrett won a 2nd Place point championship for his first sprint season – an amazing achievement.

At the season end, Garrett and his Dad came to a meeting and presented Com-



mander Jerry Genette with one of Garrett's 1st Place trophies, as well as a collage of pictures representing the "4rracing's" entire season. Garrett and his family are very thankful and grateful for the generosity of their local VFW Post 3941. The Post generously decided to sponsor Garrett for his 2010 season. Garrett and his team can't thank the VFW enough. The VFW Post 3941 is decaled on the wing of the sprint car and showcased very prominently. Fans have taken notice and continue to inquire about the Post.

Garrett moved up to a new class at the start of the 2010 season. Every week brings new challenges and provides for many learning experiences. For more information on this race team, go to www.4rracing.com.

VFW Post 1518 Takes Part in Gaylord Alpenfest



The Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce held their Alpenfest, July 13th through the 17th. The five days of festivities included a parade. This is a true community celebration! During the Alpenfest, VFW Post 1518 set up a recruiting booth. Pictured, left to right are: Commander John Facchinetti, Dept. Surgeon Leonard "Lenny" Milewski and Post Chaplain Rex Wilson.

Six Decades Later Pearl Harbor Casualty F3C Gerald George Lehman is Finally Coming Home

Sixty-nine years after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, F3c Gerald George Lehman, USN, *USS Oklahoma* of Hancock, Michigan will be coming home. Lehman's remains were recently identified by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and he will be buried in the family lot at the Forest Hill Cemetery, 47240 Green Acres Road, Houghton, Michigan on June 12, 2010.

Lehman was one of 429 casualties of the *USS Oklahoma*. When the ship was righted in 1943, remains were taken off and buried in the Halawa and Nu'uano Naval Cemeteries. In 1949 with the creation of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), the graves were disinterred and the remains transferred to the Punchbowl. At the time, the American Graves Registration Service recommended that 27 of these remains be re-designated with individual identification. However, this was rejected because an anthropologist refused to sign the nec-

essary papers, so they were buried as unknowns. In 2002, Ray Emory, Historian for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association made this discovery and was able to provide enough convincing evidence to JPAC that they disinterred grave P-1002 which contained five remains. After five years had passed with no identifications made by JPAC, Emory contacted Bob Valley of the *USS Oklahoma* Family, Inc. in February 2008 and asked if he could begin a search for the families of the 27 men whose names could now be attached to their unidentified remains.

Contacting families was a challenge since most of the family members listed on the men's military records died long ago. However, relatives of 26 of 27 men have been found. With the assistance of family members and their representatives in Congress a letter campaign followed. Finally in July of 2008, JPAC identified three of the remains and they were returned to their respective families. The

first was F2c Lawrence A. Boxrucker of Dorchester, Wisconsin In September 2008. Next was Ens. Eldon P. Wyman of Portland, Oregon in October and then Ens. Irvin A.R. Thompson buried in Dixon, California in November. No further identifications were made until December 2009 with MMlc Charles H. Swanson, who will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in 2010. The fifth and final identification of the five remains in grave P-1002 was in January 2010 with Gerald G. Lehman.

Twenty-two of the twenty-seven unknowns are still buried in three graves at the Punchbowl. The *USS Oklahoma* Family, Inc. and the families of these men continue to push for their identification. The agencies responsible for the decision are the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the Department of the Navy and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Robert L. Valley
USS Oklahoma Family, Inc.



A Message From Your Department Commander

"These are the times that try men's souls."
— Thomas Paine

These past years have been some of the most challenging in our nation's — and organization's — history.

A crippling recession. Wars on two fronts. Rising numbers of injured veterans. And unfortunately, declining donations to our programs...even as the need is growing dramatically.

Today, VFW is being tested on an epic level. This situation is serious. You need to know about it, so together, we can fight back.

More than two million men and women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are returning home to a nation in crisis. Jobs are extremely scarce. The VA system is stretched to the limit. And these young veterans are turning to us for help in record numbers, as are veterans of wars past.

If we stopped sending mailings and relied solely on membership dues, the available

funds would cover only 11% of program costs. Without donations from generous members like you, VFW will fall short.

Right now, we are falling short.

I know we ask a lot of you, but that's because we need you. Without your contributions, we would be forced to turn away many veterans in need.

I want you to understand your donations to Department mailings stay in this Department. Your donations support the programs right here in our state. I know I've heard grumblings about donations going to National — they do, but then they come right back to us.

I encourage you to give as generously as possible to our Department mailings. Together, we can assist every struggling veteran or service member who looks to us for help. I have complete faith that we can overcome any challenge, this one included.

The time to help is now.

Thank you for never turning your back on the men and women of America's military and warriors who came before them.

Chassell VFW Post 6507 Continues to Adopt-A-Highway

Chassell VFW Post 6507 began their 21st Year of Adopt-A-Highway on April 28, 2010. They help pick up a three-mile section of US 41 North in Houghton County.



Pictured, L-R: Nancy Lassila, LaLa Huhta, Ralph Hietala. Back Row, L-R: Glenn Tapio, Carl Nordstrom, Gladys Tapio, Elmer Liimatta, Sarah Sohlden, Ken Laisila, Bud Huuki, Bill Cole, Ron Jestila, Harry Byykkonen and Robert Freeman.

VFW Talking Points

Supporting your department programs

- **Donations to our Department programs have severely declined, creating a crisis situation for our programs!**
- Membership dues alone cover only 11% of the cost of programs. Without ongoing support, we may have to turn away veterans. We cannot let this happen.
- More than two million men and women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. They are coming home to a nation in crisis. An unemployment rate as high as 30.2% (veterans 24 or younger). A surge in homelessness, especially among post 9-11 veterans. A shocking number of suicides.
- This is a watershed moment in VFW's history. How we respond to these incredible challenges will define us for generations to come.
- The economy is a concern for all Americans, but especially our service members.
- Demand for our programs is extremely high, with no end in sight.
- Your donations to our fundraising mailings are absolutely essential and underscore our work of "Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living."
- **Your donations stay in our state.**
- Please, I urge you to give as generously as possible. Calendars, labels, cards...these packages are how we keep our programs strong and available.

Introducing Your State Honor Guard for 2010-2011



Women's Auxiliary



Girl Scout Troop 569 of Dearborn, Michigan, was presented with an American flag that had flown over Iraq. The flag was presented to Lyskawa Ladies Auxiliary Post 7546 at the May 2010 meeting. Pictured is the Girl Scouts with their two troop leaders and Auxiliary President Joann Wojciak with her Chairperson, Bernie Brozowski.

PATRIOTIC AND PROUD OF IT!

John Q. Doe VFW Post No. 12345 400 W. 34th Street Kansas City, MO 64111	John Q. Doe VFW Post No. 12345 400 W. 34th Street Kansas City, MO 64111	John Q. Doe VFW Post No. 12345 400 W. 34th Street Kansas City, MO 64111
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Flag Display Days

New Year's Day — January 1st
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — 3rd Monday in January
Lincoln's Birthday — February 12th
Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) — 3rd Monday in February
Mother's Day — 2nd Sunday in May
Peace Officers Memorial Day (shall mail) — May 15th
Armed Forces Day (shall mail) — 3rd Saturday in May
Memorial Day (shall mail until noon) — 3rd Monday in May
Flag Day — July 4th
Forster's Day — 3rd Sunday in June
and all other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States

Independence Day — July 4th
Labor Day — 1st Monday in September
Patriot Day (shall mail) — 9th September
Patriot Day Recognition Day — 2nd Friday in September
Constitution Day (Citizenship Day) — September 17th
Veterans Day — November 11th
Thanksgiving Day — 4th Thursday in November
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (shall mail) — December 7th
Christmas Day — December 25th


Information outlined above is part of the Federal Flag Code or enacted by Federal legislation. The year 2010/2011 flag with your United States seal. *The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day unless that day is also Armed Forces Day.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Processing Center | P.O. Box 8952 | Topeka, KS 66608-8952
www.vfw.org

In appreciation of our 2009 Color Guard Club members who continue to show unwavering dedication to our comrades in need.

Watch the mail for your patriotic address labels and notepad. A great way to celebrate "Old Glory"—and support your Department's programs.

Coming Soon to You!



Matt David, Editor

Editorial Committee:
Lloyd Putman, Commander
Jack Pray, Sr. Vice Commander
Kirk Kennedy, Jr. Vice Commander
Matt David, Historian/*MOV* Editor
Marian Belaire, 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.

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Lansing, Michigan 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, Michigan 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post #)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):

USA	USAAC	USN
USMC	USAF	USCG

Served In (Circle One):

WWI	WWII	Korea
Vietnam	Gulf	Other

Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY



334-LAKE ORION
SALISBURY, CYRIL – 80 – USA/WWII/KOREA/VIETNAM

345-REDFORD
GALLAGHER, JOHN M. – 82 – USA

446-MUSKEGON
POMEROY, ROBERT – 60 – USA/VIETNAM

565-BATTLE CREEK
BARNES, FRANKLIN R. – 83 – USAAF/WWII
BRIEGEL, GAILLEN L. – 82 – USN/WWII
CRANE, CLARENCE – 87 – USN/WWII
CURTIS, JACK C. – 85 – USAAF/WWII
JAEGER, MARSHALL W. – 64 – USA/VIETNAM
PERKINS, JOHN P. – 88 – USA/WWII

607-ROGERS CITY
GLOSSER, GEORGE A. – 94 – USA/WWII
NEUMANN, ARTHUR J. – 81 – USA/KOREA
PLATH, EMIL JR. – 82 – USN/WWII
SCHALK, RALPH A. – 89 – USA/WWII
URBAN, CLEMENT J. – 88 – USA/WWII

995-BITELY
O'DELL, RICHARD C. – 81 – USN/WWII

1075-HARRISON
MAJEWSKI, BEN – 89 – USA/WWII
SKELLETT, REX J. – USA/WWII

1136-WYANDOTTE
HARRISON, RAYMOND G. – 62 – USA/VIETNAM

1137-BENTON HARBOR
MEISTER, EUGENE – 83 – USN/WWII

1138-MONROE
ELROD, CLAYTON – 91 – USA/WWII
KRUEGER, ROBERT – 84 – USN/WWII

1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES
ETHERTON, JAMES W. – 84 – USA/WWII
FOURNIER, GEORGE H. – 84 – USMC/WWII
HASE, ARTHUR – 87 – USA/WWII
KEENAN, THOMAS J. – 84 – USMC/WWII/KOREA
KOVE, WILLIAM J. JR. – 79 – USMC/KOREA
KOWALSKI, JOHN J. – 94 – USN/WWII
LAMB, LOUIS F. – 91 – USA/WWII
LIBA, JOSEPH – 68 – USAAF/WWII/KOREA
MODRZEJEWSKI, THOMAS J. – 61 – USA/VIETNAM
PROVENCAL, ROBERT E. – 82 – USA/KOREA
SMITH, JOSEPH H. – 89 – USA/WWII
STEINER, ARTHUR O. – 94 – USAF/WWII
TACK, JULIUS G. – 89 – USA/WWII
TACK, JAMES R. – 64 – USA/VIETNAM
TAYLOR, FREDERICK S. – 83 – USA/WWII

1224-HAMBURG
FINK, WILLARD R. – 91 – USA/WWII

1278-DETROIT
CLARK, JOHN F. – 90 – USMC/WWII
EDWARDS, JAMES A. – 82 – USA/KOREA
HOLOWICKI, FRANK B. – 83 – USN/WWII
KEARNEY, EMMETT R. – 86 – USN/WWII
TINNING, JAMES C. – 84 – USN/WWII
ZANG, WILLIAM L. – 88 – USAAF/WWII

1355-STURGIS
CREECH, STEVEN C. – 59 – USAF/VIETNAM
FAIR, ROBERT – 87 – USA/WWII
KRONTZ, FLOYD – 60 – USA/VIETNAM
MARCHAND, MAYNARD – 83 – USA/WWII
PIERSON, CHARLES W. – 67 – USMC/VIETNAM
THOMPSON, HERMAN – 80 – USA/KOREA
YODER, JAMES E. – 82 – USA/KOREA

1452-CLIO
DURHAM, CHARLES – 77 – USA
FRENCH, VERNON – 82 – USA/KOREA
TAIT, JOHN A. – 82 – USN/WWII

1669-ROYAL OAK
HOWEY, ROSS – USA/WWII

1794-MT. CLEMENS
KUCHENMEISTER, CARL R. JR. – 66 – USAF/VIETNAM

1855-DOWAGIAC
YODER, RICHARD – 84 – USN/WWII

1859-SAGINAW
MORDEN, SCOTT R. – 43 – USA/GULF

2144-HOLLAND
DUSSIA, JOHN – 64 – USAF/VIETNAM
ROBERTS, JAMES – 85 – USA/WWII
VAN VELLS, LOUIS – 84 – USN/WWII
WIERSMA, LESTER – 85 – USA/WWII

2269-WIXOM
COMPTON, WILLIAM B. – 86 – USA/WWII

2272-DURAND
NELSON, JANE – 75
SHAW, MARILYN – 78
SHELP, THEO – 83 – WWII
WINTERS, MAXINE – 90 – WWII

2406-CHARLOTTE
HOWEY, BARTON – 82 – USA/WWII

2409-OTTER LAKE
TODAHL, JEFFREY S. – 79 – USN/KOREA

2496-ALPENA
DIAMOND, RICHARD – 79
GOODRICH, EVERET – 90 – USN/WWII
MOUSSEAU, WILFRED – 89 – USAAF/WWII
YAKES, LOUIS J. – 84 – USN/WWII

2964-REED CITY
BLOCK, LEO – 83 – USN/WWII
SCHWAB, RUPERT – 86 – USA/WWII

2998-ESCANABA
LESICA, FRANCIS R. – 88 – USA/WWII/KOREA

3023-GRAND RAPIDS
KRESE, MICHAEL – 81 – USA/KOREA
WIER, MAURICE – 77 – USN/KOREA

3030-OTSEGO
HOLMES, MERLE W. – 90 – USA/WWII

3293-GRAND LEDGE
ROOKER, GENE A. – 85 – USMC/WWII

3314-ARCADIA
DOLPH, DUANE D. – 78 – USA/KOREA

3676-SAULT STE MARIE
PUSKA, CLARENCE SR. – 93 – USA/WWII
SHADNAW, DAVID F. – 60 – USN/VIETNAM

3733-FOWLER
HECKMAN, FRANCIS G. – 76 – USA
LEWEY, CHARLEY – 84 – USA/WWII

3735-OSCODA
HICKS, DANIEL D. – 60 – USA/VIETNAM
LEFEVE, LOUIS R. – 82 – USA/WWII

3791-FLINT
MCQUEEN, GEORGE S. – 86 – USN/WWII
WILLIAMS, JIM – 90 – USA/WWII

3900-CALUMET
FINK, DON W. – 79 – USA/WWII

4012-NORTHVILLE
CACIOPPO, JASPER – 88 – USMC/WWII

4034-HOUGHTON LAKE
VIDA, ERNEST – USA/WWII
WOZNITKI, EDWARD – USA/WWII

4054-MARCELLUS
BENT, FREELAND – 86 – USN/WWII
PANTALE, JOHN – 63 – USAAF/VIETNAM
ROMIG, GERALD – 83 – USN/WWII

4073-MARSHALL
COOK, RAYMOND – 87 – USA/WWII
YODER, EDWARD B. – 84 – USA/KOREA

4087-DAVISON
GODDARD, BOBBIE J. – 82 – USN/WWII/KOREA
LOKKEN, JEROME E. SR. – 75 – USN/KOREA
SCHRADER, ARTHUR E.
VANDESTEEEN, GUS E. – 88 – USAF/WWII

4090-PORTLAND
KOELZER, PHILIP E. – 88 – USN/WWII

1669-CARLETON
PICHAN, EUGENE – 87 – USA/WWII

4106-WEIDMAN
BEUTLER, CARL – 77 – USA/KOREA

4115-SEBEWAING
WILTSE, CHARLES F. – 85 – USN/WWII

4139-LAPEER
NASS, DONALD K. – 61 – USMC/VIETNAM

4159-ROSCOMMON
DONALDSON, DAVID T. – USA/WWII

4162-HAMTRAMCK
FARON, MICHAEL M. – 76 – USA/KOREA

4249-NEWAYGO
HUSS, WILLIE L. – 84 – USA

4420-MANISTIQUE
COOPER, LOWELL – 83 – USA/WWII
COWMAN, WILLIAM – 92 – USA/WWII
GRIFFITHS, FREDERICK – 83 – USN/WWII/KOREA
LOUIS, JOHN – 74 – USA/KOREA
NELSON, KERRY – 59 – USA/VIETNAM
TUFNEL, BRUCE – 84 – USN
WINKEL, ROBERT – 85 – USA/WWII

4434-BELLEVILLE
ROCHON, LEONARD – 85 – USN/WWII

4499-MANISTEE
HOLSTER, NORMAN E. – 91 – USA/WWII
OVERLA, GARY J. – 68 – USN/VIETNAM
ZATARGA, TED J. – 90 – USA/WWII

4553-DETROIT
LESNIAK, DENNIS – 60 – USMC/VIETNAM

4573-ISHPEMING
ALANEN, ROY L. – 84 – USN/WWII
KETOLA, WILLIAM E. – 90 – USAAF/WWII
MOODY, FRANK – 90 – USMC/WWII
NAULT, CHARLES M. – 60 – USA/VIETNAM
WALLBERG, GARNER – 69 – USAAF/USAF/KOREA

4646-LYONS
KLINE, ROBERT – 80 – USA/KOREA

5065-SHERIDAN
BAXTER, RODNEY K. – 87 – USN/WWII
RALPH, DAVID L. – 80 – USA

5096-CUSTER
EPPARD, GEORGE W. – 65 – USA/VIETNAM

5319-BATTLE CREEK
FREED, LARRY M. – 71 – USN/VIETNAM

5572-ALLEN PARK
KILBURG, MICHAEL – 40 – USAF/IRAQ

5600-ONTONAGON
CHAPMAN, ROBERT – 93 – USN/WWII
NIEMI, RAFAEL – 87 – USA/WWII

5670-GWINN
BURKE, CHARLES – 80 – USAAF/WWII
CARLSON, CLIFFORD – 79 – USAAF/WWII
KETOLA, RUDOLPH O. – 88 – USAAF/WWII

5738-CLARE
BLOW, DONALD – 78 – KOREA
HOBBS, JOE – USN/KOREA
RAMEY, ROBERT – 82 – USAAF/KOREA
TEAYS, FORREST – 79 – USN/KOREA
VAN BUSKIRK, LOWELL – 66 – USN/VIETNAM
WILSON, ALLEN SR. – 52 – USA/VIETNAM

5855-PORTAGE
CROY, DAVID M. – 78 – USA/KOREA
HARRISON, RON – 76 – USA/KOREA
LA VIER, WILLIAM R.

5966-DAGGETT
STIGLITZ, TONY – 87 – USA/WWII

6132-LANSING
OLIVER, RUSSELL – 86 – USA/KOREA

6466-HARRISVILLE
PANZICA, PAUL SR. – 79 – USA/KOREA
STOVER, RICHARD – 73 – USA/KOREA

6509-PETERSBURG
RACZKOWSKI, ALEXANDER – 88 – USA/WWII

6579-NEW LOTHROP
COOK, DAVID J. – 63 – USA/VIETNAM

6691-FRASER
HERNANDEZ, JOHN – USA/WWII
MOATS, ROBERT J. SR. – 85 – USA/WWII

6695-PLYMOUTH
RIPP, LEON – 91 – USAAF/WWII
SLAVIN, LEONARD – 91 – USN/WWII

TAPS, continued on page 22

Past State Commander Jack C. Stevens (1989-1990)

Jack C. Stevens, age 84, of Roseville, died at home July 6, 2010. Mr. Stevens honorably served in the Navy Air Force during World War II in the Philippines. Upon discharge from the Navy, Jack's father hired him at Chrysler Corporation, where he proudly worked as a die sinker for 30 years, retiring in 1979.

He loved America and her veterans and was devoted to the VFW Neil Reid

Post 2358. Jack was eventually elected the State VFW Commander for Michigan, later serving VFW at the national level.

He is survived by his wife, Mary (nee: Havern), of 60 years. Many loving nieces and nephews also survive, as well as sisters-in-law Ann Havern and Rosann Masacek. Visitation Friday from

4-9 p.m. at Kaul Funeral Home, 27830 Gratiot, Roseville. A Scripture service will be held at 7 p.m. and a VFW ritual will follow. Additional visitation will continue from 9:30-10 a.m. at St. Athanasius Catholic Church, with the funeral Mass at 10 a.m. Friends may share a memory with the family at: www.kaulfuneralhome.com.



TAPS, continued from page 21

6754-SPRUCE

HART, DALE – 77 – USA/KOREA
TRYON, WILBUR F. – 84 – USN/WWII
6864-CADILLAC
ERICKSON, GEORGE W. – 84 – USN/WWII/KOREA
SIMMONS, CHARLES L. – 81 – USA/KOREA
7170-DETROIT
KOPEC, EDWARD – 86 – USA/WWII
STEFANSKI, WALTER – 90 – USA/WWII
7302-HEMLOCK
KRICHER, AARON J. – 85 – USA/WWII
7493-INTERLOCHEN
ZIMMERMAN, A. JANE – 91 – USA/WWII
7581-WAYLAND
BENNER, CARL D. – 64 – USMC/VIETNAM
DETTAR, FRANCIS M. – 86 – USA/WWII
FRENCH, HAROLD – 83 – USA/USN/WWII/KOREA
HURST, LUFTON – 78 – USA/WWII
MC BRIDE, MARVIN D. – 77 – USA/KOREA
7731-LAKE LEELANAU
SCHRAMSKI, FRANK – 85 – USN/WWII
STEREFF, JAMES A. – 83 – USN/WWII
WILLIAMS, PHILIP C. – 78 – USN/KOREA
7805-ITHACA
BARTON, BERNARD L. – 85 – USN/WWII
7806-MANTON
JONES, ROBERT J. – 87 – WWII
MARSH, ADELBERT – 86 – USN/WWII
7979-EVART
BRUGGEMA, CLAIR C. – 67 – USAF/VIETNAM
OVERKAMP, GERRIT – 80 – USAAF/USN/WWII/VIETNAM
8135-BARTON CITY
BELLOR, BERNARD – 80 – USN/KOREA
8236-FLINT
NOLFF, DARRELL B. – 59 – USA/VIETNAM
8275-AU GRES
SOUTHWARD, ELLIS W. – 87 – USA/WWII
8372-ENGADINE
RINGQUIST, ROLAND – 85 – USN/WWII
8594-YALE
EDWARDS, ROBERT – 75 – USMC/WWII
8846-MUSKEGON
DAMM, ROBERT L. – 82 – USAF/WWII
9084-WAKEFIELD
GRASSO, JOSEPH T. – 84 – USN/WWII
HILL, RAY – 91 – USA/WWII
SALO, WALTER – WWII
URBANSKI, ZIGGY – 85 – USA/WWII
9345-BRUCE CROSSING
ABRAMSON, DAVID H. – 82 – USA/KOREA
HUHTALA, ARNE – 86 – USN/WWII
9411-HOMER
AUSTIN, MYLAN G. – 84 – USN/WWII
DORNOFF, LAWRENCE – 83 – USA/WWII
NAGEL, LESTER B. – 89 – USA/WWII
10329-MANCHESTER
HONE, WALTER – 82 – USA/WWII
10884-MAYVILLE
PARENT, EARL – 68 – VIETNAM
WERNER, GREG – 56 – USA/VIETNAM
12082-IONIA
HUBBELL, WINFIELD – 94 – USAAF/WWII
15023-LANSING
RIEGER, HARVEY – 87 – USA/WWII

78-DEARBORN HEIGHTS

HEIN, ELISE – 71
KARCHER, OPAL – 88
PEACOCK, DOROTHY
PIESTRAK, DIANNE
SNEFKEY, DOROTHY
422-DELTON
BOZE, KATHRYN – 83
HARRING, DORIS RAE
607-ROGERS CITY
ARNOLD, ALICE
BOYKE, CARYL LEE
FARMER, BONNIE – 66
MC FALDA, JANE – 60
MEYER, ALMA – 86
RYE, FRANCES – 87
701-LANSING
KEENEY, NELLIE
822-FLINT
LACINA, DORIS
823-JACKSON
BOLLINGER, ANITA
BREEDON, DORA
WEISMILLER, ELISE
830-GRAND RAPIDS
NISWANGER, SANDRA
1008-WATERFORD
SMITH, MARY LOU
STRUBLE, ELLEN
1075-HARRISON
LITZKOW, ELAINE
MC DONALD, MONETTE
MONTGOMERY, LEOLA
PACQUETTE, KATHLEEN
1136-WYANDOTTE
MATTHIES, CAROL
NEAL, SANDRA
PRIMEAU, BARBARAJEAN
1137-BENTON HARBOR
KOROCH, MARY
1138-MONROE
CHYTIL, HELEN
LA VIGNE, ETHEL
MC COLLEY, EDITH
STONE, MILDRED
1146-ST CLAIR SHORES
ALIOTTA, MADELINE
PAYE, PATRICIA
1224-HAMBURG
PARIS, LEONORA
1355-STURGIS
OXENDER, BONNIE
1370-PONTIAC
HOLLOWAY, MENETAH
HOUCK, MAXINE
JAMES, JOANN
MILLEN, FRANCES
MILLER, JOYCE
SAVAGE, MARY
1407-FERNDAL
HOFFMAN, OLGA
1452-CLIO
CHRISTOPHER, MARGARET – 83
1519-LIVONIA
BARRUS, CATHERINE – 81
HOLTHAUS, IMOGENE – 81
URBANIK, SALLY – 93
1566-SAGINAW
BAUMANN, JUDITH
1584-ADRIAN
TIMMERMAN, MARY
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2233-DETROIT
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2269-WIXOM
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2326-GRAND HAVEN
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2335-MECOSTA
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2406-CHARLOTTE
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2496-ALPENA

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PIERCE, MARIAN
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2780-TRAVERSE CITY
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PRESS, CAROL
2891-CRYSTAL FALLS
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3675-BOYNE CITY
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HOCQUARD, DORIS
3701-LAKEVIEW
BROCK, FRANCES
3727-HOLT
PERRY, VIRGINIA
3733-FOWLER
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3735-OSCODA
MAHLER, RUTH
3753-PINCONNING
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4087-DAVISON
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TAYLOR, PATRICIA
TAYLOR, SHIRLEY
VANDER MAAS, EVELYN
WESTBROOK, DOROTHY
4406-BELDING
MELENDEZ, KATHLEEN
RICKERT, VIRGINIA
4420-MANISTIQUE
FAGAN, LUCILLE
GARVIN, ANGELA
HUSTON, SHIRLEY
JOHN, BEVERLY
MARTIN, SHIRLEY
MICHEL, SANDRA
MINOR, MILDRED
WARREN, MARJORIE
4461-LAKE ODESSA
O MARA, MARIE
SARGEANT, VELMA
4499-MANISTEE
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4659-SHELBY TOWNSHIP
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LAMBERTSON, MARTHA
6691-FRASER
BEULOW, BETTY
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6756-CENTERLINE
AUNE, MARY
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9084-WAKEFIELD
KELLETT, DOROTHY
OBRADOVICH, ARLENE
9283-SOUTHGATE
KROLL, RITA
LEWIS, MARTHA
PSCHAK, BARBARA LEE
WILLIAMS, LYNDA
9363-FLAT ROCK
MASKELL, LOIS
9411-HOMER
YECK, FRANCES
9455-OWOSSO
HEMINGWAY, PAULINE
JONES, JACQUELINE
KLCO, ANN
QUINN, HAZEL
9507-MADISON HEIGHTS
SMITH, DOROTHY
9914-HIGHLAND
HAY, SHIRLEY – 83
15023-AT LARGE
MARKS, JUNE
SIEMBIDA, VERONICA

Thank You for a Final Salute

Recently my father, Stanley J. Wallison, a resident of Fraser, Michigan and a WWII veteran, passed away after a lengthy illness at 90 years of age.

At his funeral service, the members of the Roseville VFW Post Honor Guard provided my father with a final salute and presented my family the flag of the United States of America. We were all extremely pleased and surprised at the great honor that was paid to my Dad.

Thanks to all of the members of the VFW everywhere.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Robert Wallison and Family

Thank You from Barry Walter

Thank you for all the cards, letters, e-mails and prayers that I received during my recent hospital stay. I really do appreciate the thoughts and prayers of the members of Michigan. I am doing well, but miss you all very much. Thank you again and hope to see you all soon.

Barry Walter



82nd Annual Pow Wow
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliaries

Commander Lloyd F. Putmain
and President Pat Patterson Dinner Cruise

DATE: Saturday, October 9th, 2010
TIME: 5:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.
COST: \$40.00 per person
Bus Leaves Kewadin: 5:00 p.m.

Deadline for reservations is September 27th, 2010
(Please dress for cool weather, just in case.)

Meal:

Top Sirloin of Beef with pasta and meatballs, Baked Chicken with stuffing and gravy, variety of vegetables including red-skin potatoes in butter, tossed salad or potato salad and homemade bread. Dessert is included as well as coffee, hot tea and lemonade.

Name: _____

Number in your party: _____

Request: Boat #1 _____ Cash Bar. Boat #2 _____ No Bar.
(Due to limited capacity, the boat choice is first, come, first-served.)

Make check payable to the Department of Michigan VFW and mail to:

Harry "Les" Croyle
30086 Trailwood Drive
Warren, MI 48092-6303
586-747-2104

Department of Michigan VFW and Auxiliaries
82nd Annual Fall Pow Wow Ad Book
Comrades/Sisters: We Need Your Support

DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Rates:	
Full Page:	\$100.00
Half Page:	\$70.00
Quarter Page:	\$45.00
Patron (Name and Post or Auxiliary Number Only):	\$4.00

Please Print, Do Not Write.

Make check payable to the Department of Michigan VFW
(No Cash)

Mail to:

Harry "Les" Croyle
30086 Trailwood Drive
Warren, MI 48092-6303
586-747-2104

DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Message: _____

Billy G. Stancroff
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 12
Lt. Clement F. Derezenski
VFW Post 7729
His family

Ronald L. Devereaux
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 9
Olson-Kiste
VFW Post 4406
His wife and family

Gloria Dobbie
Candidate for
Department Guard
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 5
Ladies Auxiliary 4659
Her husband and family

**Please
Support
the
Candidates**

Sault Ste Marie Country Club
18 Holes
Open Driving Range Ready at 8:00 a.m.

\$25.00 Per Golfer
Includes: Golf-Skins-Cart
\$32.00 includes lunch at the turn
Burger or Brats with fries

VFW Department of Michigan
Let's Have Some Fun
POW/WOW Golf Outing

Thursday, October 7, 2010
10:00 a.m. TEE TIME

If you have questions or want to enter your foursome, call Harry "Les" Croyle at 586-747-2104.
Mail this application to: Harry "Les" Croyle at 30086 Trailwood Drive, Warren, MI 48092
Make Checks Payable to: VFW Department of Michigan

Captain's Name: _____
Phone: _____
Player 2: _____
Player 3: _____
Player 4: _____

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• *Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community* •
July/August/September 2010
Volume 78 Number 1

District Meetings

District 4:
District 5:
District 6:
December 4, 2010, Post 7309,
Mason, 1:00 p.m.
March 19, 2011, Post 701,
Lansing, 1:00 p.m.
May 7, 2011, Post 9656,
Lambertville, 1:00 p.m.

District 7:
November 7, 2010, Post 9411,
Homer, 11:00 a.m.
February 6, 2011, Post 2284,
Edwardsburg, 11:00 a.m.

District 8:
District 9:
District 10:
District 11:
District 12:
November 7, 2010, Post 4249,
Newyago, 1:00 p.m.
March 13, 2011, Post 2964,
Reed City, 1:00 p.m.
May 15, 2011, Post 4499,
Manistee, 1:00 p.m.

District 13:
District 14:
District 15:

Coming Events 2010-2011

October 7-10, 2010
Fall Conference,
Kewadin Casino, Sault Ste. Marie
October 15-17, 2010
Big 10 Conference,
Columbus, Ohio

November 11, 2010
Veterans Day
December 7, 2010
Pearl Harbor Day

January 28-30, 2011
Mid-Winter Conference,
Radisson Plaza, Kalamazoo
March 5-9, 2011
National Mid-Winter Conference,
Washington, D.C.

April 15-17, 2011
State Commander and President
Joint Testimonial,
Doubletree Hotel, Bay City
May 5-7, 2011
National Buddy Poppy Days
June 8-12, 2011
Dept. Convention,
Marriott Hotel, Troy



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Corrections:

Jan/Feb/Mar Issue, page 17:
James Europe VFW Post 2233 Celebrates 75th Anniversary
Picture captioned incorrectly. Published as, “50 year member Halbert Tillman with Honor Guard member C. Price.”
Should have been, “50 year member Halbert Vernon Tillman, Jr. with Honor Guard member C. Price”

Apr/May/Jun Issue, page 10:
Maple City VFW Post 2406 Honored by 351st ASB
Picture captioned incorrectly. Published as, “Brig. General Burton Francisco presents Post Commander Mike Smith and Ladies Aux Sr. Vice President Gayle Smith with the Outstanding Center of Influence award. Left to right: Ladies Aux Sr. Vice President Gayle Smith, Post Cdr. Mike Smith and Brig. General Francisco.”
Should have been, “Brig. General Burton Francisco presents Post National Military Services Chairman Mike Smith and Ladies Aux Sr. Vice President Gayle Smith with the Outstanding Center of Influence award. Left to right: Ladies Aux Sr. Vice President Gayle Smith, Post NMS Chairman Mike Smith and Brig. General Francisco.”

STATE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Thank you for the confidence you placed in me to be your Department Commander. I will do my best to live up to your expectations of me. Congratulations to PSC Dave and PSP Jan for a very good year. I know you both did the best you could do for the Department of Michigan.

Congratulations also to the All-State Commanders and Auxiliary Achievement winners. Great job, all! We have a great friend in Past Commander-in-Chief John Gwizdak from the great State of Georgia as our National Representative at the Convention. Everyone I talked to enjoyed his speaking ability, wisdom and levity. I, for one, look forward to his next visit to our state.

I want to welcome all the newly-elected officers at Department, District, County Council and Post level. Please contact us if you have a problem that cannot be solved and we will do our best to assist you. We will continue enforcing the Bylaws, and there is no reason that all Posts cannot comply with the VFW way. Posts not complying may create problems neither myself, nor the Post will find pleasant.

We continue to present great training, but we need to have attendance to learn from it. We had a great turnout at the OTS programs at Camp Trotter and in Lansing. There was also great attendance at the training that the 4th and 5th District conducted. We have one new program in the Department that is part of the membership program. I have asked all the District Commanders to appoint a “She Serves” chairperson to assist the Department Chairperson, Lynn Patterson. This is a new program that National started, so we may be a bit slow coming out of the blocks with it, but I have the utmost confidence in Lynn.

As everyone who has talked to me knows, I am a



Lloyd Putman II
State Commander

membership person. Without new members, we will soon be an extinct organization without the ability to help our veterans and their families. I know the membership of this organization will not allow this to happen. We all know potential members are out there and it is our job to get out there and find them. I have a great membership team in place, so if you need assistance, please call them. Last year, the goal was set for the Department to be 95% by the end of December. It seems that once that goal was set, a lot of Posts decided they had done their job and quit recruiting. So this year, the goal is 100%+ by December 31. I know that goal can be reached with your help. One person cannot do it, but all of us working together can. I’m working on another incentive for the membership program; however, at this time, I’m not at liberty to discuss it. So stay tuned and work on recruiting and making our organization stronger.

All of the other programs are an integral part of this organization and we will still continue to keep them at the forefront. Read your programs and keep working. I know that with your help this Department can return to the higher standards we once enjoyed. Make sure you report all the things you do and get the community involved in our great work.

I want to thank the Southgate Post 9283 for their hospitality in hosting the reception for the new State Ladies Auxiliary President Pat Patterson, and myself, after the Convention. A big thank you to Marv Hamann and his crew for a great meal. I also want to thank the members and the families that attended; I believe everyone had a great time. Remember to “HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING.”