

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

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## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

The year is coming to a close and all election reports should be in to National and Department. Please remember you may only hold one elected position at the Post. Also delegate fees for National and Department Convention should have been sent in; you must do this, even if you do not send somebody to National and Department Convention. If you think your Post is All-State, please get the paperwork into Larry Thayer by the deadline.

Membership, comrades, is down about 2,000 members from last year; we still have until the end of June to get this to 100%. We cannot keep losing members at this rate without replacing them, and we must do more to keep the members that we have. At the end of last year the Department of Michigan Membership stood at 49,809 members. Now let's break that down by age: 12.195% is below the age of 54; 19.181% is 55 to 65 years of age; 20.237% is 66 to 70 year of age; 5.971% is 71 to 75 years of age; 6.553% is 76 to 80 years of age; and 35.042% are 81 and over. We need to all be working on this before it's too late.

Commander Kennedy will be holding the Joint Testimonial on May 17-19 and

**Ron Devereaux**

Senior Vice Commander



Department Convention is June 6-9. If you can make it, please come out and join in the fun and business of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. June 21-23 is VTS Training at Camp Trotter and the golf outing. If you have new officers or would like to join us at this training, we would like to see you there. There will be a lot of information presented for you to take back to your Post or District.

We also have a bookkeeper job open at the Department. If you are interested in this job, please get a hold of me by May 11; the job will pay \$28,000 a year. If you have some Quick Books and accounting expertise, it would help.

It has been a pleasure serving you this year and my door will be open to all who show up at it next year, so come on down and say hi. If you have any comments or anything else that will help keep the Veterans of Foreign Wars a great place, call me at any time.

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

This is my last *MOV* article for the 2012-2013 year as your Department Jr. Vice Commander. I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for the honor and privilege of serving as your Department Jr. Vice.

Now more than ever, membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars is needed to continue the fight to take care of he who has born the battle. As our elected officials look for ways to cut budgets, they always look our way. Last March the VFW was in Washington D.C., visiting our representatives. It was a very simple message that we tried to convey to them, "We gave at the office". Our Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton made it very clear that our sacrifices for this nation were already paid in full. Each and every member of this great organization has done his or her part in all the wars this nation has sent us to. The only way to keep this organization strong is through membership. If each one of us recruits just one member, we will be a hundred percent. If each one of us recruits two members, we can grow by leaps and bounds. Let's get growing!!!! To every Post, Council and District that has attained one hundred percent in membership – thank you.

I hope all the newly elected officers are ready for their next year of service. Commanders at every level should have their officers elected or appointed as the case

**Harry "Les" Croyle**

Junior Vice Commander



may be, all election reports sent in to State and National, a membership plan ready to implement, an outline of the goals set for your year and a burning desire for success. The Department of Michigan will be holding VFW Training Seminars all across the state to assist you. The dates, locations and times should be announced very soon. Every member needs to learn how the organization operates, so please attend one of these seminars.

The next time we meet will be our VFW State Convention in Troy, Michigan. Candidates for state office will be elected for the ensuing year; our new Commander takes over the leadership of the Department, and the new Commanders statewide take charge. Never forget we must work together for the success of all. If we do not work and if we do not work hard, no one will meet the goals we set for ourselves.

It looks like a sure thing that we will have a full twelve scholarships for the Patriot's Pen Contest this year. That means that every District will have a Patriot's Pen contestant at the Mid-Winter Conference.

*JUNIOR VICE, continued on page 5*

## QUARTERMASTER

State Convention is just around the corner and approaching quickly. We have lots to get done before then. Elections and the All-State program have both come to an end for another year. Remember that you need to have your election reports in to National and Department by 1 June 2013. Also due are your

delegate fees for National and State Conventions. You need to elect delegates for your Post and have to send in National delegate fees, even if no one from your Post is going to the National Convention.

Audits are due at the end of the month following the end of the quarter. So for this last audit (Jan/Feb/Mar), your audit would be due the 30th of April. If you have more questions on this, please talk with your District QMs. I don't think that we use the District QMs to their full potential. I would like to get them more involved with the Posts in their District and help train new QMs in the duties and

**Lynn Patterson**

State Quartermaster



responsibilities of a Post Quartermaster. Bonds for the New Year will be coming due shortly. When you are trying to figure out your bond, please use the highest amount of money that the Post has for the year. This is for the Post's protection. If you are under bonded and something happens, you will only be covered for the amount that the Post has a bond for; the rest would be a loss for the Post.

State Convention registration closes Saturday, June 8, 2013 at NOON! We will be trying to have caucus rooms so that all the candidates will have time to visit the Districts for any last minute questions you

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## STATE ADJUTANT

The year is almost over and time has flown by. It has been an honor to serve the Department and all of you. I thank you for a wonderful year and all of the new comrades that I have met along the way. It has truly been a pleasure.

By the time this article is published, a lot will have transpired. Post Commanders, please remember to review Section 200 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure to make sure that you have completed everything before the State Convention. One in particular is Section 213-Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions. This includes election reports, all audits and list of delegates. Also remember that all election reports are due to

National and Department by June 1.

Please make note that the proposed Bylaw amendments and resolutions that will be voted on at the Convention are included in this edition of the *MOV*. There have been some complaints this year that Posts were unaware that the Department raised their per capita on dues last year. That amendment to the

*STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 5*

## STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Concerns as to whether our Posts are tax-exempt still continue to surface. Our organization is a 501(c)(19); this does not entitle us to tax-exempt status from the State of Michigan. Many Posts have confused this issue with a tax ID number, and have filled out the exempt certificate for purchases and not paid the tax. There are a few Posts that actually applied for tax-exempt status years ago and received it; I understand the State of Michigan will still honor them. Check out your Post's status and stay legal; it will make all of our jobs easier.

In this issue of the *MOV*, many Department Bylaw changes are listed. Take the time to review them; some are merely verbiage issues or minor corrections. Also read all of the proposed resolutions. Look these over so we can knowledgeably discuss and get through them in a timely manner at the Department Convention.

As we start a new year, it's going to get pretty redundant being reminded to get all your forms, 990s, rosters, audits and other required documents in to the District, Department, National and required government agencies. Part of our job at the Department level is to make sure everyone stays in compliance; this will make all of our terms harmonious and enjoyable, so we can focus on what our main objective is – "Veterans serving Veterans". Please do your part and our terms will be a breeze. Many training opportunities are coming up; see which is the most convenient for

**Andy Conklin**  
State Judge Advocate



you or your officers to attend. If not, please notify the Department so we can do a better scheduling job! Also when you attend these training classes, please do not hesitate to give input, whether it's negative or positive. It helps make the training classes much more interesting and beneficial if we are getting the proper information out to help you. In my opinion, nothing can help our newly elected officers better than full cooperation and support from the membership and drawing on the expertise of its past officers. If you are a past officer, please help out in this respect. It may seem to go unnoticed, but you will get a warm and fuzzy feeling knowing you were contributing to the well being of our great organization and a successful year. All Department officers, past and present, stand by to assist you in any way they can, and you can always feel free to contact me with any questions or to research anything.

So with that, let's all get together and face the challenges next year holds. As usual, there will be many changes you may like or not like, but some are necessary for the efficiency and the survival of the Department!

## CHAPLAIN

Once again, thanks to all the Posts and Auxiliaries I was able to visit this year for your hospitality. Department Convention is right around the corner and this will be my last submission for a while. Please know that serving as the VFW Department of Michigan Chaplain has been a tremendous blessing and I am profoundly thankful. I hope, perhaps, to be honored with the position again in the future. Until then, I will continue serving as a local Chaplain for veterans and their families through my church and helping the VFW as I can. Therefore, please join me in offering the 2013-2014 Department Officers, especially the new Chaplain, great support and a very warm welcome. Please show them, as you have me, why Michigan is such a patriotic and dynamic state.

Moreover, I ask you to remember that when working together, as members of Posts, Ladies Auxiliary, Men's Auxiliary, and/or Riders, we can find great strength

**Jennifer Smith**  
State Chaplain



and comfort during both joyous and troubling times. Let us strive to be kind to each other and lead by example, even when personalities and other obstacles make it difficult. As *Matthew 5:16 ESV* conveys, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Last, please be encouraged, be strengthened and be well. *Numbers 6:24-26 ESV*, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

May God bless you.

## STATE SERVICE OFFICER

### Advocating for Others

One of the new and innovative ways for the Department of Veterans Affairs to help reduce the backlog in claims is through the Fully Developed Claims (FDC) Program. It is the fastest way of getting one's compensation or pension claim processed. Participation in the FDC Program allows for faster claims processing, while preserving great quality of service and your right to appeal a decision. The FDC Program is unique because we know exactly what evidence is needed to substantiate an eligible claim when you apply, without having to wait for further instructions from the VA.

VA has shortened application forms to reduce paperwork and established priority channels to process your FDC claim. This means the VA is able to process these claims far more quickly than claims going through the traditional process.

In addition, Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ) help support the Fully Developed Claims Program. DBQ's are valuable for claims processing because they provide medical information that is directly relevant to determining a disability rating. When submitted with a Fully Developed Claim, DBQ's ensure the VA's ratings specialists have precisely the information they need to start processing the claim.

With DBQs, veterans now have more

**Dan Crocker**

State Service Officer



control over the disability claims process. Veterans have the option of visiting a private health care provider instead of a VA facility to complete their disability evaluation form.

Veterans can have their providers fill out any of the more than 70 DBQs that are appropriate for their conditions and submit them to us for preparation and presentation to the VA.

Caution! Once the claim has been submitted as a FDC, no other information can be submitted. This means that if a veteran submits anything after the FDC has been submitted, the claim will be reverted to the standard method. Of course, we all know how long that takes. By participating in the FDC Program, the veteran will send us the required evidence with his/her claim and certify that no further evidence will be forthcoming. By doing this, one dramatically reduces the processing time of a claim process.

It is our intent to submit as many FDCs as possible because it is a "win win" for everyone involved in the claims process.

## Success Story

On November 12, 2012 our advocate met with a "boots on the ground" soldier in Vietnam who served in the United States Army from March 1966 to March 1969 and worked as a vehicle mechanic.

The veteran was originally receiving a 10% service-connected disability and was basically surviving off his Social Security Retirement. Unfortunately, he had no other sources of income and neither did his wife who was with him the day that would change his life forever.

After an extensive review and discussion with the veteran and his wife, it became apparent that a friendship had been forged. In fact, our advocate took ownership of the veteran's case and found that listening to a veteran's concerns and issues was paramount to the ultimate outcome of the case. The veteran developed a trust in our staff member that only comes from a heartfelt sincerity on behalf of our advocate.

On February 11, 2013, the veteran was awarded an increase in his service-connected condition from 10% to 100%. In addition, he met the criteria of Liberalizing Legislation pursuant to 38 CFR 3.114, which awarded him a retro payment up to one year because of a change in the law.

After all the dust settled, the veteran received a retro payment of \$65,128 tax free and regular monthly payments from the VA at \$2,973 per month.

The veteran's income went from \$16,500.00 a year to \$52,000 in just a few months. Needless to say that his visit to the VA Medical Center, a day after Veterans Day in 2012, was a life-altering event, especially for this veteran and his spouse who are now living a much more fruitful life. Finally, the veteran is receiving the care he deserves after his tour in Vietnam and exposure to Herbicide, most commonly referred to as Agent Orange.

The veteran came by the VA Medical Center to see our advocate in person a few weeks after he received his retro money and he looked like a new man. He handed our staff member a card thanking him "for all his help with the claim and explaining things to him when he didn't understand the many letters he received from the VA". The "thank you" card went on to say, "it was nice to have someone who was really willing to help".

The bottom line is that the "VFW Service Office here in Michigan is in the business of changing lives" and that's what our advocates do every day!

### QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

might have. Installation and the first C of A meeting with follow the elections on Saturday afternoon. That evening, there will be a reception for the new State Commander at Fraser Post 6691. There will be free bus transportation available.

Thank you for all the support you have all given me this year! It has been an honor and a privilege! I hope to serve you as your State Quartermaster again next year! Hope to see you all at State Convention!



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## LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

As many of you are aware, I have been encouraging all Posts/Districts to allow members to bring children in their meetings. This may be the only way that a comrade is able to attend the meeting and we do not want to turn away members. I spoke with National (Kevin Jones) about allowing children to attend meetings, and with the help of Department Adjutant Stu Billey, they instructed us to look at Sec 203 of the National Bylaws, which states:

**Guests.** With the approval of the Post Commander/Committee Chairman, any visiting member or guest may attend a Post/Committee meeting. Such visiting member or guest shall have no voice unless recognized by the Post Commander/Committee Chairman, and shall have no voting privileges. I would like to emphasize that the main reason for this much-needed change is to allow our young children to attend. If a GUEST would like to address the body, then the Bible should be closed; in the case of our young children, it can remain open. This means that anyone, with permission from the Post Commander/Committee Chairman, may attend the meeting. Members that have children can still attend the meeting with their children. After all, we are a family organization.

**Protect Combat Medals – Support Passage of H.R. 833 and S. 470.** The Pentagon recently announced the creation of “The Distinguished Warfare Medal”, which would recognize service members with special training and capabilities that directly impact military operations, regardless of distance from the battlefield. The newly created medal would outrank the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. The VFW immediately came out in opposition of the placement of the medal. This medal would leapfrog more than five dozen combat medals and ribbons – to include valor and combat injury awards. Contact your representatives and senators today and urge them to support H.R. 833 and S. 470. Tell them that medals that are earned for valor or wounds in combat must outrank any new medals earned in the rear for combat support.

**The Military Tuition Assistance** amendments passed both the House and Senate as part of the Continuing Resolution bill (H.R. 933) that will now fund the federal government moving forward. Thanks to all of you – *our advocates*.



**CBS apologizes:** The CBS reality show *Amazing Race*, “Apologizes for parts of an episode that were filmed in Vietnam, were insensitive to a group that is very important to us: our nation’s veterans. We want to apologize to veterans – particularly those who served in Vietnam – as well as their families and any viewers who were offended by the broadcast. All of us here have the most profound respect for the men and women who fight for our country.”

**Healthcare for Iraq/Afghan Veterans:** Iraq and Afghanistan veterans discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, may be eligible for five years of medical care. The Department of Veterans Affairs is trying to reach out to eligible veterans who served “in a theater of combat operations” to let them know that they may be eligible for complete health care coverage for five years post service. To determine eligibility, visit the Veterans Health Administration website at: [http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/eligibility\\_check.asp](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/eligibility_check.asp). The VHA website provides comprehensive health benefits and includes a link to their fully developed Veterans Health Benefits Guide. For more information, visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

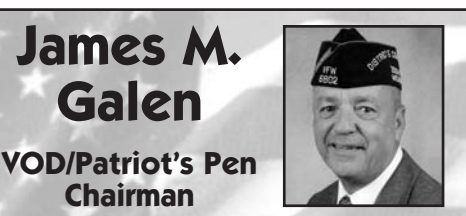
**DOD to End Tricare Prime for 172,000:** Starting Oct. 1, the Pentagon will eliminate Tricare Prime for some 172,000 military retirees and their eligible family members, forcing them to either enroll in the more costly Tricare Standard, Extra programs or exit altogether. Why? Because they reside 40 miles or more from a military treatment facility. The VFW views the change as a further lessening of earned benefits, especially since Tricare Standard and Extra have more out-of-pocket expenses, which could influence personal healthcare decisions. To see if you will be affected on Oct. 1, enter your Zip Code at <http://tricare.mil/Welcome/MediaCenter/CurrentTopics/ChangestoPSAs/PSALookup.aspx>

## VOD/PATRIOT’S PEN

The VOD, Patriot’s Pen, Teacher of the Year Committee would like to thank the comrades and sisters for their hard work in making the program a great success. A special thanks to all the Post and District Chairmen for all your help in making the deadlines and having all the forms completed.

An update on our students: VOD winner Catherine C. Seibert, sponsored by Post 2777, District 10, placed twenty-second place out of fifty-four students and received a \$2,000 scholarship at the National level. Our Patriot’s Pen winner, Emilia R. Gnida, sponsored by Post 6950, District 11, came in fifth place on the National level and received a \$2,500.00 award. Congratulations to both of our outstanding students.

Next year’s theme for Voice of Democracy will be: “Why I’m optimistic about our nation’s future.” The Patriot’s Pen theme will be: “What Patriotism means to me.” Next Year Patriot’s Pen program will be adding



seven new students for a total of twelve, one from each District. Any Post or Auxiliary that would like to sponsor an award of \$500.00, please contact James Galen at 586-784-9914 or email at [jmgalen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmgalen@sbcglobal.net)

**James M. Galen, Director**  
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## DISTRICT 4 REPORT

**John Kowalczyk**  
District 4 Commander



While visiting all the Posts in the 4th District this past year, I noticed that many of the new recruits are members from Iraq, Afghanistan and Desert Storm; both male and female. This is very good. Membership and growth will keep the VFW alive.

Post elections have been completed. My request to you, as your District Commander, is that all comrades who have just relinquished their office become a mentor to the comrades that have taken up your former positions. This is especially true for those members who are new to these elected or appointed positions. They are to be commended for stepping up and being willing to give of their time and talents for the good of the Post. They deserve your help.

**Current Post Commanders:** All Quarterly Audits and reports must be submitted on time. Delegate fees should be submitted to Department and all monies due to Department and National should be paid.

**Past Commanders:** You have an obligation to guide and give assistance to the incoming officers and chairmen to help them understand and complete their duties.

**Newly Elected Commanders:** Your obligation is to know and follow the Post, state and national Bylaws. Your duties include confirming all reports and quarterly audits are submitted on time, delegate fees are paid to Department and District and monies owed to Department and National have been paid. Your Post election report must be submitted with all of the correct contact information included. I do not want to see any Post unable to vote because VFW Bylaws have not been followed.

**OTS (Officers Training Seminar)** is a valuable tool for all new and continuing officers alike. You do not have to be an officer to attend. All members are welcome to take part to gain knowledge about the VFW. I encourage all newly elected officers to attend these important

training seminars.

**Membership:** As of April 1, 2013, District 4 has five Posts that have reached 100% in membership. They are Wolverine Post 171, City of Melvindale Post 6032, Mayflower/Lt. Gamble Post 6695, Gen. William Knudson Post 7310 and City of Southgate Post 9283. Four Posts have reached 100% retention. They are Sgt. Walter Blankertz Post 134, Wolverine Post 171, Gen. William Knudson Post 7310 and Moroz/Pietrowski Post 9973. Well done!

We also have eight Posts that are four members or less from reaching their 100% goal. I am very confident that at the reading of this article they also will be at the 100% mark. To all Posts that were successful in recruiting, and to those that made an honest attempt to do so, I thank you.

**Farewell:** It has been a great pleasure this year to have District 4 Ladies Auxiliary President Beverly Burton as my counterpart. I enjoyed the many activities, projects, stories and time spent together. It was indeed a pleasure to work with such a remarkable lady.

Thank you to all of my District officers and committee chairmen for all they have done over the past year. Thank you also to the 4th District Honor Guard for your dedication and awesome presence when called upon for support.

Thank you to the Post Commanders who’s leadership, example and hard work this past year have helped better their Post and make 4th District successful in achieving their goals.

Last, but not least, I would be in the doghouse if I forgot to thank my wife, Janet, for her loving support over the past years and for all of her help.

I hope to see many of you attending the State Convention in Troy this June.

Have a great summer. May God bless you, your families, our troops and the United States of America.



## DISTRICT 5 REPORT

**Gerald Gorski**  
District 5 Commander



I am writing you my final article as your District 5 Commander. Many of you know me and know that I am never short on words and this being my last article, this one will not be short, either.

There are so many people that I would like to thank for helping me during my term. I cannot list everyone because it would take up three to four pages. So, I want to begin by first thanking my District Line Officers, Senior Vice Pamela Young and Junior Vice Phillip Cushard, Jr. Both of them have been great to work with. I don’t want to forget Leon Hinkle, who was also our District Junior Vice Commander. Leon did a fine job until he resigned to pursue his candidacy for Department Chaplain 2013-2014. I wish Leon the best of luck. Whenever I had to assign any of these three district line officers to a Post because of an issue, problem or a Post meeting, they did it without any reservation and did it professionally. I was very lucky to have them on my team. Our Quartermaster, Su-Jen Mauldin...what can I say about Su-Jen? Su-Jen has been doing an excellent job as our District Quartermas-

ter. Not only has Su-Jen kept the District books straight, but both Su-Jen and Pamela Young have visited many Posts throughout the District or met many Post Quartermasters outside of their Posts to help them straighten out their Quartermaster books, Quartermaster reports and/or their quarterly reports throughout my term. Both are excellent trouble shooters, trainers and teachers. Thank you Su-Jen and Pamela!

I had a great Chief of Staff, Past District Commander Jim Galen. I also had great Assistant Chiefs of Staff: Past State Commander Don Nettler, Past District Commander Bob Lutz and Past District Commander Benny Gaglio. All of them were my mentors, problem solvers and friends. Thank you for all the help each of you have given me!

I would also like to thank Macomb County Council Commander Jim Van Tiem and Oakland County Council Commander Joe Ihle. Both of these County Council Commanders did a lot for me throughout my term of office by following up on many

— **DISTRICT 5, continued on page 4**

**DISTRICT 5, continued from page 3**

Post Issues. Thank you, Jim and Joe!

I would also like to thank the Appointed Department Trustees: Don Nettler, John Gubin, Bob Lutz and Ken Klee. They played a very important role in helping me with Posts that got in serious trouble. Tough decisions had to be made and they were not afraid to make them. They are very talented individuals and complemented each other very well.

I want to thank my District Trustees and Appointed Chairpersons for their Outstanding Work during my term of office. We could not have accomplished as much as we did together, working as a TEAM. Each of you played a very important role to make our District 5 successful. Thank you!

I want to thank our District 5 Service Officer Kenneth Aune. Ken has been training VFW, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary Members at both Macomb County and Oakland County Service Officers Association Meetings from September 2012 through May 2013. I cannot thank him enough for the valuable training that we received. Thank you, Ken!

I want to thank Stephen Bilan from Post 6250-Sterling Heights. Stephen is the Post 6250 Quartermaster and a Certified Public Accountant. Stephen has helped many Posts and Post Quartermasters throughout the District on various issues. Thank you, Stephen!

I want to thank Post 4659 Shelby Township Color Guard and Captain Phil Gannia for being my District 5 Color Guard during my term of office. They were great and very professional at our District meetings and events. Thank you, Color Guard!

I also want to thank my Bugler, Rudy Wade from Post 2645-Southfield. Rudy did an outstanding job playing the bugle and making sure the District Flags were placed correctly at every District Meeting and District Event. Thank you, Rudy!

I would like to thank District 5 President Donna Stabrava. Donna has been great to work with throughout my term of office. We worked on many projects and problems together. Also, thank you to the District Ladies Auxiliary Senior Vice President Joyce Tomaskovic, Junior Vice President Diane Domanowski and Chaplain Kathy Hubbard. I got to know them better throughout my term. I don't want to forget the other District Ladies Auxiliary Officers, Chairpersons, Post Presidents and Post Ladies Auxiliary Members. The VFW needs the Ladies Auxiliary and I am so proud to have worked with them over the years and in the future. Thank you, Ladies!

I want to thank our Men's Auxiliaries. They play a very important role by supporting their Post Commander in meeting their goals. I got to know many of them throughout my term.

I would like to now say a few words on MEMBERSHIP. Our Membership is at 97.13% as of March 28, 2013. We have twelve (12) Posts that have achieved 100% or higher. They are 334 North Oakland at 115.38% - Commander Jim Hubbard; 1008 Waterford at 101.75% - Commander George Navarrette; 1407 Ferndale at 100% - Commander Tom Coombe; 1669 Royal Oak at 100.47% - Commander Brandon Payne; 2645 Southfield at 102.02% - Commander Al Stabrava; 4156 White Lake Township at 100.86% - Commander Scott Gloger; 6756 Center Line at 101.05% - Commander Bob Slavko; 6802 Richmond at 102.91% - Commander Phil Cushard, Jr.; 7573 New Baltimore at 103.33% - Commander Lisa Scudder; 9222 Berkley at 102.68% - Commander John Fulks; 9507 Madison Heights at 102.80% - Com-

mander Charlie Mullas; and 9914 Highland at 110.23% - Commander Vincent "Tom" Oltesvig. Congratulations to these Posts, Post Commanders and Post Members for this achievement. I know we will have many more Posts throughout the 5th District that will reach 100% before the end of my term. I would also like to recognize the Bruce Post 1146-St. Clair Shores, Commander Tara Perez and Post 1146 Members. Tara and her Post Members have signed up (29) new members so far. This is quite an achievement; keep up the great recruiting!

District 5 only needs 216 New, Reinstated and Unpaid Members to reach 100%. We have 564 "UNPAID" Members "alone" as of March 28, 2013. Your District 5 can become a 100% Membership District with an extra 347 Unpaid Members. I know we can achieve 100%. We can do it! I know we can by working together. Thank you to each and every member throughout the 5th District for recruiting New, Reinstated and going after the 564 Unpaid Members.

District 5 is in 3rd Place in the Department of Michigan at 97.13%. District 7 is in 1st Place at 98.19% and District 8 is in 2nd Place at 97.74%. I know District 5 can become the 1st Place District in the Department of Michigan. Please help District 5 become the 1st Place District in the Department of Michigan by achieving 100% in Membership. Thank you!

By the time you read my article, Post Commanders who achieved ALL-STATE status would have been contacted by State Commander Kirk Kennedy. They had until April 30, 2013 to accumulate at least 125 points with 100% Membership. Congratulations to all the Post Commanders and Posts that became ALL-STATE Posts. I look forward to seeing these Post Commanders receive their White Hats at the State Convention in June.

Also, by the time you read this article, the "Outstanding Post Commander of the Year" would have been announced at our District 5 Meeting on April 28, 2013 at Post 2269-Wixom. This is a very prestigious award. Congratulations to this year's District 5 Outstanding Commander of the Year!

We had some Posts in 2012-2013 that had difficulties. Most of the problems were due to Posts with Canteens. Some Posts had to merge because they could not fill the elected positions. Some Posts did not want to follow the VFW National Bylaws & Manual of Procedure. Some did not send in their Quarterly Reports in on time. Some had their Quarterly Reports returned back to me by the State Inspector because they were incorrect. Some had Post Inspection issues. Some were not sending in their Activities & Hospital Reports. Some did not get involved in their community. I want to thank District Senior Vice Pamela Young, District Junior Vice Phil Cushard, Quartermaster Su-Jen Mauldin, Chief of Staff Jim Galen, Past District Commander John Bond, Appointed Department Trustees; Don Nettler, John Gubin, Bob Lutz and Ken Klee and both Macomb County Council Jim Van Tiem, Oakland County Council Commander Joe Ihle, Macomb County Junior Vice Commander Dave Tester and Past Oakland County Council Commander Norm Mauldin for helping me with these Posts throughout my term. Thank you very much!

We have Great Posts throughout District 5 that continually do whatever their County Council, District, Department and National Headquarters ask them to



## DISTRICT 6 REPORT

**Steve Meredith**  
District 6 Commander



As we approach the end of our year I would like to go over some of our accomplishments in the 6th District.

At our February District meeting we held our VOD-Patriot's Pen award ceremony. Jule Hodson was our Patriot's Pen winner, sponsored by Newport Post 3943. Our Voice of Democracy winner was Kurt Richardson, sponsored by Ann Arbor Post 423. Kurt also finished in 4th Place in statewide competition. Thank you to all the participants and Posts in the District that sponsored VOD-Patriot's Pen programs. In our Teacher of the Year program, Dr. Angela Lawson was the K-5 winner and Kimberly Jean Rector was the Middle School 6-8 winner. Thank you to Heather and Rick Shepherd for their work on VOD-Patriot's Pen and Don and Nan Spaulding for their work on Teacher of the Year.

In membership, the District is doing well, but I know we can do better. At this time we have 10 Posts at 100%. We have 5 Posts that are within 5 members of being 100%. Comrades, our membership year goes through June. Let's work hard and get to 100%. We are currently in 4th place among the Districts at 96.01%. If you have members in your Post that may be having difficulty paying their dues, remember the Post Relief Fund can be used to assist these comrades. As we all know, membership is the lifeblood of our great VFW.

In our other programs, we are 100% reported in community service. In Buddy Poppy, we have slipped significantly this year. Many of the Posts who purchased Poppies last year have not this year. Comrades, I don't understand this. If you get out and distribute your Buddy Poppies, any donations go to your Post relief fund. Many donations and dues can be paid from this fund. I know many Posts are struggling financially. When we get out and distribute our Poppies, we get great exposure in our communities to show the good work we in the VFW do.

Cancer donations are also down. If you have not donated to Cancer this year, please do so. All of us have been touched by this disease, and the Karmanos Foundation does great work in battling cancer in our state.

We have lost three Posts in District 6

do. They follow the National Bylaws & Manual of Procedure. I am so very proud of these Posts and I thank you for what you do, each and every day for your Post and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. You make us very proud!

Last year at the State Convention in Troy, District 5 was recognized by Department as the only District that had every Post complete everything required. I would like District 5 to be recognized again this year. I am asking every Post to complete their Quarterly Report on time and send them to Department Headquarters and a copy to District Quartermaster Su-Jen Mauldin, send in their National Delegate Dues form to National Headquarters either electronically or by mail, and complete their Post-Election Reports and send them either electronically or by mail to National Headquarters, Department Headquarters and Incoming District 5 Commander Pamela Young. I would like "every" Post to once again be able to vote.

We are so very proud of District 5, that this year at the Department Convention

this year. We currently have 24 Posts in the District. Jackson Post 823 turned in their charter in June. Manchester 10329 and Chelsea 4076 consolidated, keeping Chelsea 4076 as their name. Hamburg Post 1224 consolidated with South Lyon 2502, now known as South Lyon Lovewell-Hill Post 1224, and are now in the 5th District. While it is regrettable to lose these Posts, I think the consolidated Posts are now stronger and able to serve our veterans and their communities with a larger membership.

As we know, we opened nominations in March for our 2013-2014 officers and we nominate and elect at our April meetings. Comrades, as soon as you have your election, get your election reports turned in to National. Post rosters go to the incoming District Commander. By the Convention in June, all Posts must have election reports turned in and District dues paid, which have been mailed to all Posts in the District. You must have delegate fees paid to Department and your March audits need to be turned in. If you have not done so, you will not be eligible to vote at the Convention. We need to be represented at the Convention by every Post so we have our voting strength, to elect our Department officers who will lead our VFW. If you do not have these requirements taken care of, I will contact the Post Commander and personally come to your Post and collect these items.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank all of the 6th District officers and program chairs for their dedication to our veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This District has so many great people in it. It has been a privilege to be 6th District Commander. I also want to thank President Judy Bolton and our Ladies Auxiliary for all their help and support this year. What a great group of ladies this District has.

Our next meeting will be at Lansing Post 701 on May 4th. We will have our District Convention and nominate and elect our officers who will lead the District next year. We will have a memorial service to honor our comrades and ladies who we have lost this year and also commemorate Memorial Day, where we will honor those who gave the supreme sacrifice for our great country. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

In June, our own Department Junior Vice Commander Harry "Les" Croyle from Post 6756-Center Line will be elected Department Senior Vice Commander 2013-2014, Leon Hinkle from Post 2358-Roseville is a Candidate for Department Chaplain 2013-2014 and I am from Post 6250 Sterling Heights and a Candidate for Department Surgeon 2013-2014.

I am so very proud to have been able to serve you as your District 5 Commander for 2012-2013. I am also so very fortunate to have a GREAT TEAM helping me. WE accomplished a great deal together. I could not have done it alone. I want to thank each and every one of you for helping me!

I wish District 5 Commander-Elect Pamela Young the very best for 2013-2014. I also wish the very best to all the elected District, Council and Post Officers for 2013-2014. Each and every one of you has a tough job to do. I hope to continue to serve you in the future.

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



## DISTRICT 8 REPORT

**Jim Hansen**  
District 8 Commander



As we in the District start to finish our business and projects of the 2012-2013 term, we must not turn our heads away from the goals we have set. Of course the main goal was membership. We haven't quite ended this term and we are over 97% and in 2nd Place in the state. We need about 100 more members to reach that top goal. There are still a lot of unpaid members, so this is the main project of this term and with a team effort from each Post, this can be done.

The Posts in the District have done a wonderful job in taking care of any problems that had occurred and I personally give you all a big thank you. As was

stated at the beginning of this term, please read your Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. I have noted that many Posts did order new books and some are still awaiting their orders. There were some things done I wish could have been avoided, but the Bylaws were broken and action was required.

I wish John Bestervelt and his staff the very best in the coming new term. John is well qualified and I know he has the District at heart and will do a great job. I know the Posts in the District will do their best to support him. I hope to be working with John in membership and wherever he needs help. Once again, thank you District 8.

### JUNIOR VICE, continued from page 1

For many of these young Americans, it will be their first contact with the comrades that have kept them free. This may require some Districts to adjust their budgets to cover this added expense. Never forget these young people are America's future and the future needs to know what patriotism is, and who better to teach than

those that know patriotism intimately.

To all the Post, District and Department officers, thank you for your year of service. Hopefully you all have attained the goals you set as you started out your year. It is now time for you to assist your replacements and help them attain success in their year of service.

### STATE ADJUTANT, continued from page 1

Bylaws was published in the *MOV* before the Convention last year. The vote was made and passed on the Convention floor. Please inquire into all of the changes that are being made throughout the Department. Remember, you do not get a vote if you do not attend the Convention.

With new members taking offices, please familiarize yourself with the National, Department, District and Post Bylaws. Not only will it make us better-informed members, but it will help to eliminate the, "that's the way it's always been done," mentality. Some of the sections to note are: Sec. 109, which deals with appeal rights. It states that any aggrieved member may submit a written appeal to the next higher authority using

the following chain of command: 1. Post and/or Post Commander; 2. District Commander; 3. Department Commander; 4. Commander-in-Chief; 5. National Council of Administration. Sec. 218 gives the list of the duties for the Post officers. Sec. 1004 mandates the order of business for a Post meeting. A quick review of the current edition of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure will help ensure that not only Post meetings, but also the Posts themselves, are run smoother and more efficient.

If anyone has any questions about the VFW, the Bylaws or procedures, please contact the Department Headquarters. We will be more than happy to help in any way possible.

### Michigan Overseas Veteran 2013-2014 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

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

### Please Remember!

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



## DISTRICT 9 REPORT

**Wayne Ball**  
District 9 Commander



I think the last article is harder than the first article. As I reflect upon this past year, I am humbled by the great comrades that we have working for our veterans and our communities every day. I thank you for this opportunity and the privilege to have served as your Commander. It feels impossible to thank all of those that supported and worked for the District this year. I want to thank the District officers, District chairs, Past District Commanders, Shiawassee County Council, Post Commanders and the entire membership for all that you have done within the District, at your Posts and also what you do individually. I know you will continue your support for our incoming Commander. I pledge my support and wish much success to the incoming Commander and his team.

I also would like to thank the following Posts for hosting our District meetings and functions: City of Corunna Post 4005, Saginaw Valley Post 9809 and Fred E. Richards Post 3055-St. Louis and also to Edwin J. Leyanna Post 671-Dewitt for hosting our planning meeting, Fred E. Richards Post 3055 for hosting our Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Banquet and Mint City Post 4113-St. Johns for hosting our Past Commander/Past President Banquet. I also want to thank Madam President Nicole Koutz for a great partnership and your demonstration of teamwork. I was fortunate and honored to work with you. You demonstrated great leadership and dedication in leading the Ladies Auxiliary in support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and District 9 and I want to extend a big thank you and offer my sincere appreciation to the entire Ladies Auxiliary for what you do for our veterans and our communities. Ladies, you are great partners and are extremely valuable to the Post, District, State and National levels. Thank you to the Men's Auxiliaries for all of your dedication and support to our Posts and our organization overall. You are an important part of our organization and I truly appreciate and respect what you do.

I have shared my thanks and appreciation for all of your efforts; however, there are still a few things to complete prior to the end of the year.

Membership should still be worked on until the end of the year and we have until April 30, 2013 to meet 100% in membership (must be reflected on the National Membership Report) for All-State requirements. As of March 31, 2013 this District is at 95.79% and has six (6) posts that are 100%. Congratulations to Buena Vista Post 2622-Saginaw, Fred E. Richards Post 3055-St. Louis, City of Corunna Post 4005, Portland Post 4090, Olson-Kiste Post 4406-Belding and David A. Huhn Post 12082-Ionia! As you will see below,

we have many Posts that are close to that pinnacle. **We have 17 Posts that need five (5) or less members to reach 100% in Membership.** Let's make that charge!

Commanders, make sure you continue reporting until the end of the year. Your reporting will end in May; however, make sure you show the incoming Commander what and how to report. Incoming Commanders, you need to make sure reporting is taken care of for the month of May. May reporting will be reflected on your year, even though you are not the Commander at that time.

Commanders, you need to make sure all of your audits are submitted, the election report is submitted, all delegate dues are paid and that all debts to the Dept. of Michigan are taken care of. If these obligations are not fulfilled, your Post will not be eligible to vote at the State Convention.

Commanders, your responsibility does not end at the end of your Commander year; it is your responsibility to mentor those that come after you.

The elections will be held by now and the installation needs to be completed before the State Convention. Nominate and elect the best candidate, not necessarily your friend. We must elect strong leaders who will listen to new ideas and who are here for the good of the Post, District and organization.

The State Convention will be held June 6-9, 2013 in Troy. I encourage every Post and each delegate to show up and exercise your vote. Comrades, we have a member of our District, Comrade Phil Patterson, running for State of Michigan Junior Vice Commander. He is a strong and quality candidate. I am not saying support him because he is from District 9, but if you believe he is the better candidate to lead us in the future, he should get your vote. I support Comrade Phil Patterson!

For the Posts that have a Men's Auxiliary, you are the first line of support to the Men's Auxiliary. The Men's Auxiliary can be a very strong element and support for your Post; however, your Post needs to make sure they are communicating, supporting and working with them. Communicate and work with your Men's Auxiliaries – they want to help and support your Post and the organization. It is your responsibility to ensure they meet their requirements (quorums for meetings, all officers elected, officer roster submitted, etc.). Do not be a bully, be a mentor!

I am still here to serve until the end of the year and I will still be available in the future to anyone. Should you need assistance, I may be contacted at 517-526-2369 or e-mail me at [proudamerican63@gmail.com](mailto:proudamerican63@gmail.com)



## DISTRICT 10 REPORT

**Jim Harris**  
District 10 Commander



After what seems to have been a long cold winter, we are now on the last stretch of our 2012-2013 year. It is time to sit back and see where we are and what we need to focus on to finish out as strong as we can.

Let's start out by looking at membership. As a District, we are ahead of last year's percentage and have 13 Posts at or above 100%. We have a number of Posts within a few members of being 100%. But let's not kid ourselves; everyone knows

# God Bless Our Troops



## DISTRICT 11 REPORT

**David Patrick**  
District 11 Commander



Comrades, this will be my last article as your District Commander. I would like to thank you for showing confidence in me to serve you in this capacity. I have visited all Posts in the District and am grateful for the warm reception afforded me at each Post.

I would like to thank those from the District, Department, and fellow C of A members who have wished me well and sent prayers my way during my recent surgery and recovery. I would like to thank my Sr. Vice Commander Colon Laney for filling in for me during this time period.

Congratulations to the seven Posts in our District that have obtained 100 percent or more in membership. We have a few more Posts that are very close and only need a few more members to obtain 100 percent. Please review your unpaid member list and see if you have members

that may be experiencing financial problems or longtime members that may have just forgotten, and pay for these members and ask them to pay the Post when times are better.

By the time you read this you will have already held Post elections. I hope that you elected comrades who are willing to fulfill the duties to the position to which they were elected. Be sure to send election reports to National, Department and the incoming District Commander. Please send a copy of the election report that shows the day, time and location of your Post meeting to the incoming District Commander.

I hope to see all of you at the next District meeting in Clare on May 5, 2013 and at the Department Convention in June.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Commander for VFW year 2012-2013.



## DISTRICT 12 REPORT

**Stanley Preidis**  
District 12 Commander



This will be short as the *MOV* just came out this past week and other than winter, there has not been a lot going on to report. We are now up to eight Posts that are 100% or over; 5096 Custer is at 101.60% along with 995 Bitely, 2053 White Cloud, 2335 Mecosta, 2964 Reed City, 3314 Arcadia, 6333 Laleva and 10770 LeRoy that were mentioned in the last *MOV*. Congrats to all. Two Posts are so close; 6842 Ludington just needs one more member and 6848 Cadillac just needs two to be at 100%. Throughout the whole District, we are about to lose 186 members; we need to contact them to see why they have not paid and offer assistance if needed. District 12 has not been at 100% since Dick Rought was the Commander and Dave Hutson the State Commander in 2009-10. We

can do it again.

It is never too late to donate to the Department programs. There are still very few Posts donating, surely each Post can pick one or two to give to.

Get your election forms filled out and sent in; Posts won't be able to vote at the June Department Convention if one is not on file. Also make sure you have all your audits in, your Quartermaster is bonded and you have paid your Convention fees. It is embarrassing to your representative to get to Troy and find out he or she cannot vote because one of these are missing. Let's have a good turnout at the Convention.

I would add that this is my last article, but if I said that in 2011, I was mistaken; so I'll just say "for this reporting year". It has been a pleasure serving District 12 (again).

### DISTRICT 10 REPORT, continued from page 5

the more members we lose, the easier it is to make 100%. The fact is we have 240 unpaid members as of this date. A loss of 240 current members that have not paid their dues will represent a 65% loss of all our new and reinstates for the past two years. Retention of our current membership should be the easiest way to maintain members. Let's find out why these members have not sent in their dues. If it's financial, help them out; if it's personality, talk them back in. Let's strive for at least a 95% or better retention rate! Let's get your Post officers together and have an informal discussion on what can/needs to be done; audits in on time, reporting on a regular basis, review income vs. expenses. Discuss the impact your Post is having on the veterans in your community and look for ways to improve.

For some of our Posts, the midnight hour is approaching; all that waits is the decision as to when it will happen. Have you heard or made these comments, "We can't fill all the chairs"; "Our audits are

late because the Quartermaster is in the hospital"; "We don't sell Poppies"; "No one wants to be Commander" and on and on. It is time to start a discussion with another Post and merge resources and create a more viable Post. The choice seems to be to liquidate, donate your assets and turn in your charter or have your charter taken away from you. The only way a new Post is chartered is with at least 35 members, of which 25 must be **new** members. The reason behind this is it takes that many members to successfully run a viable VFW Post.

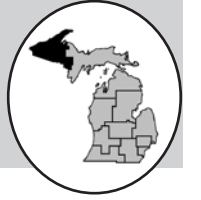
At the last District meeting I challenged all the Posts to make sure they reported across the board and have their audits in on time. I would like to see twice the awards handed out this year than last. Our next District meeting is in Flint at Post 3087; we will have elections and would like to see all Commanders and their Commander-elect attend.

Good Luck and thank you for your service.



## DISTRICT 15 REPORT

**Arnold "Bud" Huuki**  
District 15 Commander



Comrades and Sisters, it's hard to believe this will be my last article as your District 15 Commander. Where did the year go?

The District is plodding along in membership; as I write this our District is at 94.38%. We have six Posts that are 100%. Congratulations to 4167 Mass City, 6028 Dollar Bay, 6507 Chassell, 8945 Covington, 9084 Wakefield and 9345 Bruce Crossing. Believe it or not, there are nine Posts that need eight members or less to attain the magic 100%. Please check your unpaid lists again and start making those phone calls to your unpaid members. As always, membership numbers are our strength when we converse with our legislators on veterans' issues.

The Days of Challenges at Michigan Tech University was very successful; there were twenty seven teams registered. Two teams from the Lower Peninsula cancelled out, due to inclement weather. Department Chairman Butch Paavola did another outstanding job of coordinating the activities, and as usual Michigan Tech's Army and Air Force ROTC's did a fantastic job of running the various events. Without their help, this program would be nonexistent. This program received wide media coverage by two television stations. Also the lunch prepared and served by Rangers Post 6165 Ladies Auxiliary and ably assisted by

the ladies of VFW Post 3900 was wonderful! Thank you, you did a fantastic job!

The District annual Daily 3 fundraiser in February was very successful. A total of 809 tickets were sold, with the proceeds going primarily towards the VOD/PP programs. If the Department implements bringing all District Patriot's Pen winners to the Mid-Winter Conference, our costs for this program will increase considerably, so it will be paramount that we continue this fundraiser. Thanks to all the sellers; you all deserve a pat on the back.

Congratulations to all the newly elected District and Post officers. I know you've chosen the comrades who will continue to make the District prosper. The cooperation between the Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries is very important. If you work together, it's amazing what can be accomplished. As the old saying goes, "Behind every successful District and Post is a fine Auxiliary pushing them forward".

Hopefully by the time you read this article, our "white" stuff has melted. This has been a record year for "Heikki Lunta"; it might be July before we see the green stuff.

Thanks for the wonderful support this year. I look forward to another great year in the 15th District under the leadership of the newly elected officers.

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

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



properly marked for you on directions of travel. Safety is our primary concerns during this construction phase and safety for our residents a major priority.

During the summer months (June) the replacement of the windows in the McLeish Building (GRHV) will begin and should be completed towards the tail end of the summer months.

The hot water system and security upgrades are forthcoming and targeted for fiscal year 2013. The main driveway coming up in front of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is being completely redone and should be completed shortly after the canopy project is completed.

During this timeframe the main entrance at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette will be renovated and sport a new look for 2013.

Chic and I, along with Bob Johnson (new board member) from The American Legion Home in Traverse City, will be working with the administrator and the DMVA and DMBT (Department of Management and Budget) to find and fund a new State Veterans Cemetery in the Upper Peninsula, possibly at the decommissioned K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in the Gwinn area. This is in the primary stages of committee meetings!

Please welcome the two new members to the Board of Managers – Bob Johnson of Traverse City representing The American Legion and Lino Pretto of Holt, the independent. The Board of Managers want to welcome both new members and they have already rolled up their sleeves to go

Project Start has arrived for the long awaited canopy that will cantilever out from the main building directly in front of the administration offices. Commencement date was given on 29 March 2013 for the actual construction to begin – the Contractor has 212 days to complete the Project, which is 26 October 2013. The contractor has given the State of Michigan 1 August 2013 for his targeted completion date. The new canopy is currently being built in Kansas City, Missouri and will actually be the last piece of the puzzle to be installed. The main entrance to the Home will sport a completely new look with a double entrance/exit electronic door opening with a wider opening to easily fit wide wheelchairs and gurneys for the emergency equipment. The driveway load/unload area will be heated (snow melt) along with the sidewalk area for our residents in wheelchairs to get around in the winter weather. This has been a long 18-month battle to make this project a reality! Please use the temporary entrance on the south end of the Mann building where every area will be

**VETERANS HOMES, continued on page 7**

# Auxiliary News

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



**Annabelle Furgason**

the change of no year-end reports, assisted Auxiliaries and, most of all, recruited. This administrative year may be coming to a close, but our mission to serve and assist our veterans never ends. I

As I write this article, it is April and we are working hard to get membership and reporting to 100%. I want to thank *Team Michigan* and all our members for their hard work and dedication this year as we worked through

am confident that you will continue to do the programs and get new members for our organization.

Congratulations and welcome to our two newest Auxiliaries: Hubert-Forties-O'Grady Ladies Auxiliary 345 located in Redford and William Negake Ladies Auxiliary 1329 in Hart. This Department stands ready to assist you and looks forward to your service.

I would be remiss if I did not shout from the sky, my deep appreciation to District 12 and Newaygo Sportsman Post and Auxiliary 4249 for your loyalty and support. It won't be long and I'll be back home. The members of this Department made my dreams come true, and this has been a great seven years. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to *Support our Veterans Always*.

## MEMBERSHIP (2013-2014)



**Carrie Turner**

mote membership in our organization and "march" through our communities to attract new members. With some thoughtful planning, we can meet these goals easily.

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary Bylaws (2012 Bylaws Sec.810A) directs us to have a committee of five members (including the Treasurer) to perform the duties of the membership program. This committee is very important, so that the responsibility for maintaining and growing your Auxiliary's membership does not fall on just one person. The committee can work together to plan your dues mailings (1st done by July 31st), plan public recruiting events (1st done by August 31st), create a display in your Post Home and then follow up with phone calls and personal contacts to get all annual members paid on time. The committee shall report their progress at each monthly meeting until 100% has been achieved. Districts should also have this committee work with each Auxiliary and help them succeed. The first District to reach 100% will earn \$100!

Ideally ALL Ladies Auxiliary members are part of the membership team. Every sister reading this article and every sister attending regular meetings CAN recruit ONE new member this year! We all know that a small percentage of each Auxiliary's full membership regularly attends and participates in the activities of the Auxiliary. But if each one of them

recruited JUST ONE new member, their Auxiliary would grow. Send an application in your dues mailings and ask ALL your members to recruit ONE new sister. Every one of us has another lady in our family who is eligible or a friend or lady we see every day at work and around our community. We are asking that each and every Auxiliary in Michigan recruits at least five new members – this alone would bring over 1,000 new members!

We must reach out to families of currently serving military personnel and the ladies related to all those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our organization has so many programs that can benefit these families. We need to contact local Family Readiness Groups (ask to attend their meetings and make a membership presentation) and be aware of these families in our communities – take notice when you see blue star flags and other signs of service and reach out to them. Let them know we are here for them and invite them to your events.

Your membership committee can start planning now for public recruiting events to be held during August, which will be our "Membership Month" this year. Have a recruiting table at your local fairs, farmer's markets, sporting events – anywhere there will be lots of people. Bring lots of applications and fliers highlighting your Post/Auxiliary events, projects and contact information. Make it fun, take pictures and report your activities through online reporting OR send me the paper reporting form.

Please use the Membership materials and information available on the Dept. of Michigan webpage at [www.lavfwmi.org](http://www.lavfwmi.org) and the National webpage at [www.ladiesauxvfw.org](http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org) to help you be successful.

By maintaining and increasing our membership we will continue our 100-year tradition of *Keeping America's Veterans & Families Strong*.

## VETERANS HOMES, continued from page 6

to work for our veterans at the Homes.

Finally we, the Board of Managers, want to say to Bill Coffey of The American Legion and his 26+ years of service and Garrit "Gary" Veldman representing The American Legion and his 20+ years of service to the two State Veterans Homes and

the Board of Managers "WELL DONE" and thank you both for your years of service. You have made the Veteran Homes and The American Legion very proud.

Thank you for all that you have done and are doing for our resident veterans at the two Homes.

## DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

**Beverly Burton**



their hard work, devotion and time in helping me. I couldn't have made it without *You* in the Flaming 4th!

Our year is about over and soon our new officers will take their position. I would like to say **Thank You** to my Officers, Chairmen, Auxiliary Presidents and members for all

Ladies, just because the year is ending doesn't mean we stop recruiting. This is a year round activity and I trust you will step up to the plate and recruit, reinstate and retain members for the good of our organization.

It's been a pleasure representing District 4 this year. It's been inspirational, informative, unforgettable and full of memories I will never forget!

As always, thank you for what you do for our veteran!

## DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

**Donna Stabrava**



Thanks for the memories. We have a wonderful group of dedicated ladies and our veterans are very lucky to have you working on their behalf.

The best part of serving as your President is all the knowledge that I gained from this experience. Everyone should have an opportunity to 'walk a mile in these shoes'. It is so much easier to be sitting in front of the podium than standing behind it! When we sit in the comfort of our own Auxiliary, we feel safe and secure; however venturing out into the real world is an eye opener. You see the organization from a whole different perspective – the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good is that we do have a wonderful group of dedicated ladies working to get our veterans the benefits and acknowledgement that they deserve. They work to keep patriotism alive, teach our children that freedom is not free and that we have the right and duty to take care of those brave enough to fight the fight on our behalf.

The bad is that in ways we have lost our purpose; a lot of time and effort is spent on fundraising to 'keep the canteen opened and the bills paid'. We need to work more on our own agenda – **our programs**. It amazes me how we struggle to fund some of these programs yet the money is there – waiting to be used – for what?

Then there is the ugly. I consider the ugly as all of the other organizations that are popping up to help our veterans and troops. Wreaths Across America, Soldiers Angels, Snowball Express, just to name a few. These are veterans and family support issues. Don't get me wrong, these are all wonderful organizations and many of us support their efforts too, but why are people starting up new organizations instead of joining a VFW/Auxiliary and working through us? Isn't this what we do? We need to get back to basics and reestablish ourselves as the 'organization of choice' for our veterans.

And, of course, it wouldn't be me if I didn't tick someone off – so here's the plan:

Thanks to Cheryl Martin – Auxiliary 2052, our District Cancer Chairman, for taking on this challenge! Thinking outside the box, Cheryl is putting together a 'Cancer Awareness Program' and has invited all District Auxiliary Cancer Chairmen to help with this program. The concept is: one program that all Auxiliaries in the entire District can participate in and pos-

sibly profit from, while meeting one of our Key Goals – "Promote cancer awareness through public media".

"High Tea 4 Two" is scheduled for April 13th at the Post 6756-Menge. It will be a traditional English High Tea with scones, tea sandwiches, etc. and several speakers have been lined up to discuss cancer awareness. This is **NOT** a cancer aid and research fundraiser; it is an awareness program.

To participate, each Auxiliary is being asked to sponsor a table (8 tickets). Tickets are \$25 per person – no tickets sold at the door. There is a \$5 profit built into the cost of the ticket, so for each ticket sold the **selling** Auxiliary will get the \$5 profit. So if the Auxiliary sells the 8 tickets, it will make \$40. We're trying to make this a win-win situation for everyone. Each week our District Commander – who we all know is a man of few words – puts out the 'Around the 5th' email, listing all of the fundraisers going on throughout the District. Well, of course, everyone wants YOU to participate in THEIR fundraiser, but how many of THEM participate in YOUR fundraiser? So to encourage Auxiliaries to participate in this **program** it is designed so that every Auxiliary that does participate will have an opportunity to profit from it. How much they profit depends on how willing they are to sell the tickets and how many tickets they sell.

There are other ways of making a few dollars, too. Each Auxiliary can put together a basket (like the ones we do for Mid-Winter Conference) and we will have a Chinese Auction. Tickets will be sold (fifty cents each or 10 for \$5) and the Auxiliary will receive fifty cents for every ticket put in their auction bucket. So the nicer your basket, the more people may bid on it! So what happens to the other \$20 from the ticket sale you ask? This money will be used to pay for the expenses of the program: food, tea, tableware, goodie bags, speaker gifts, etc. Everything and anything that will make this an extraordinary program! We will skimp on nothing because her majesty the Queen, Hazel Ruehle, Auxiliary 6756 Cancer Chairman, will be there – hats and gloves and all!

Many thanks to Sandy Huffman, President Auxiliary 6756 and her Auxiliary sisters, and Sue Fields, Auxiliary 6802 Cancer Chairman and her Auxiliary sisters for allowing us to use their fine bone china sets and for all their help and guidance in this effort.

Thank you to Commander Bob Slavko and Post 6756 for their support and donations to this program. We would also like to thank those Auxiliaries that have

**DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT, continued on page 8**

## DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Dee Manke



First of all, congratulations to all Auxiliaries for being 100% reported in all Chairmanships before April 1st. You are the best.

The 7th District Scholarship banquet was held on March 23 in Marcellus with Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year winners and many other participants and families. I wish to thank Dale and Evelyn Avery and the Marcellus Post and Auxiliary for a great banquet.

I wish to thank the Auxiliaries in the

7th District for all their support for the last two years. I have met many new and wonderful Auxiliary and VFW members. Thank you to the District Officers and Chairmen for all their hard work.

I extend my sincere appreciation to those Auxiliary members who have stepped up to the plate and will be taking offices for the incoming year. I am here to support you all the way.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the two men in my life – my father, who made it possible for me to be a member of this great organization; and my husband, George, for your total support the last two years. I love you both and thank you very much.

## DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Christine Juenemann



Well, we have done it! It has been another year already and the time has gone by so fast. I can't believe it's time to turn over the reins. It has been a wonderful year I have met

a lot of special ladies and learned so much more. Every place visited, I saw things done differently and I have to say

I learned a lot from each and every one of you. I truly enjoyed my year and I hope that I was able to be of assistance in one way or another.

Ladies, we all have had to struggle some, but what we have to remember in the long run is that we are all here for the same reason and that is to help our veterans. So let's not just give up, let's try harder to make an extra effort to go that extra mile.

My sincere appreciation to my District for all their hard work and support.

### DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT, continued from page 7

embraced this concept and are willing to try something outside the box; they understand insanity – “always doing the same thing the same way and expecting different results”! We have some Auxiliaries that are using this program not only as a cancer awareness program, but they are using it as a membership drive, inviting ladies they know are eligible to join but are not convinced that they want to belong to a “stuffy

old ladies” group (this program will nip that rumor in the bud!); and other Auxiliaries are incorporating their youth groups in the program. The opportunities are as big as your imagination and creativity.

Again, I applaud Cheryl Martin for taking on this project. She is a real Together Everyone Achieves More player doing her part to give Unwavering Support for (our) Uncommon Heroes.

## Post 4499 Manistee, Michigan Investigate the Israeli Attack on the *USS Liberty*

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1967, the *USS Liberty*, while operating in international waters in the eastern Mediterranean, was the target of an attack by Israel war planes and torpedo boats; and

WHEREAS, this attack killed 34 members of the *USS Liberty's* crew and wounded 171 other United States personnel on board in addition to causing extensive damage to the ship; and

WHEREAS, the crew was threatened with prison if they spoke of the attack, and previous investigations were manipulated and controlled, and many new witnesses have come forward; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars passed a resolution on

August 17, 2009 supporting an investigation of the attack on the *USS Liberty* and the United States Congress refuses to

address this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the men of the *USS Liberty* have filed a war crime report on June 8, 2005 as per Department of Defense Directive #5810.01B with the Secretary of the Army; and

WHEREAS, the report has been ignored and has languished there with several Secretaries of the Army; and

WHEREAS, the sailors and Marines and their families should have closure of this tragic attack and its aftermath; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that we call upon Congress to immediately investigate the attack on the *USS Liberty* that was perpetrated by the armed forces of the State of Israel on June 8, 1967, in order to determine the truth behind the attack.

## Department of Michigan Bylaw Amendments

**Amendment MI-1** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws by including the title “PURPOSE” to Article I and the title “ELIGIBILITY” to Articles III.

**Amendment MI-2** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article I by replacing “three (3)” with “230102” after the word Section.

**Amendment MI-3** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article II, Section 3 by inserting “48906” at the end of the Section.

**Amendment MI-4** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article IV, Section 1 by adding “and VII” after “II”.

**Amendment MI-5** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article IV by eliminating Sections 2 and 4. The remaining section numbers of this Article shall be adjusted accordingly. All remaining Articles of the Bylaws that make reference to this Article shall be adjusted accordingly.

**Amendment MI-6** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article V, Section 1 by replacing “201” with “301”.

**Amendment MI-7** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VI Districts, Section 3 by adding the words “Redistricting Committee:” after “Section 3.” And moving paragraph (A) to the next line.

**Amendment MI-8** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VI, Section 3(d), by replacing XVI with XVIII.

**Amendment MI-9** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VI, by eliminating Section 4 in its entirety and changing Section 5 to 4.

**Amendment MI-10** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VII, Section 3(A) by adding “VFW National Home for Children” to the list of standing committees.

**Amendment MI-11** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VII, Section 3(C) by replacing it in its entirety with, “Each committee shall make a report of its activities to the Department Convention.”

**Amendment MI-12** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VII, Section 5 by eliminating everything following the first sentence to include paragraphs B and C as well as the distinction of paragraph “A”.

tion of paragraph “A”.

**Amendment MI-13** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VIII, Section 9 by adding, “except for the State Commander and State Quartermaster who, by virtue of their office, are members of all committees,” at the end of the section.

**Amendment MI-14** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article X Section 1 by deleting, “but not before the requirements of Article VI, Section 4 of these Bylaws have been fulfilled.”

**Amendment MI-15** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article X, Section 3 by deleting, “Starting with the year 1966 and each year thereafter,”

**Amendment MI-16** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article XI Steering Committee, Section 1, by deleting the entire section and adding the following:

“Starting with the 2014 Department Convention, the delegates of the Big Ten Steering Committee shall be composed of the State Commander, State Senior Vice Commander, State Junior Vice Commander, immediate Past State Commander, plus two (2) delegates, elected by the delegates assemblies, for a two (2) year term. At the Convention following the end of the delegates' terms, two (2) delegates shall be elected for two (2) year terms.”

**Amendment MI-17** – Amend the Department of Michigan's Bylaws Article VII by inserting the following:

Section 7. All contracts that are deemed to be of a routine nature by the State Commander must first be approved by the State commander, State Senior Vice Commander, and State Junior Vice Commander prior to entering into the contract. All contracts that are deemed to not be of a routine nature by the State Commander must have the approval of the Department Council of Administration prior to entering into the contract.

### Camp Trotter Bylaw Amendments:

**Amendment CT-1** – Amend Article VI, Section 1, paragraph C by keeping the first sentence and omitting the remaining paragraph and adding the following:

“Annually, on July 1, all monies received as Life Membership fees shall be distributed in equal parts to the “Life Membership Fund” (Long Term Investment Account) and to the “VFW Camp Trotter for Children general fund”.

## MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

Official Publication of the Department of Michigan  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

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## 3-Digit Lottery Ticket Fundraiser

I have taken the task of distributing the Department Fundraiser lottery tickets. We need the help of the Posts to distribute these tickets. For the past few months, I have sent two tickets to Posts around the Department. Each ticket costs \$10. We are asking that the tickets be offered to your members to purchase. Alternatively, Posts (after a motion is made and passed by the members at a Post meeting) may purchase the tickets using money from the general fund. If those numbers are drawn, the winnings would be paid back into the Post's general fund. This is a way for Posts to help increase their accounts.

The Department has made a list of the amount of payouts that must be made each month for the entire year versus the amount that is taken in. We estimate that if each ticket is purchased, the Depart-

ment will raise between \$50,000 and \$55,000, depending on postage. To put that in perspective, the amount of money raised by the Department for the \$3 increase to the Department per capita has generated less than \$20,000 since it took effect on October 1. Last year, it would have only generated \$41,994 in extra revenue for the entire year.

If Post members help purchase these tickets, we would be able to continue to support the programs that help our veterans and their families without the worry of increased dues. For more information on the 3-digit lottery and how to participate, please contact the Department of Michigan Headquarters. Tickets are limited to 1,000 each month.

*Submitted by Larry Coleman*

## VFW Commander-in-Chief to Visit Camp Trotter During VTS Training in June

**John E. Hamilton, Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**



John E. Hamilton was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 25, 2012 at the VFW's 113th National Convention, held in Reno, Nevada.

Mr. Hamilton served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968-1970, including a tour in Vietnam. His decorations include the Purple Heart and two Gold stars, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color, Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation Civil Actions Color (First Class) and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the VFW in 1974 at Post 7909 in Jacksonville, Florida, where he maintains his Legacy Life (Gold Level) membership. He has served the VFW in many leadership positions, including the National Council of Adminis-

tration from 1989-1991, and as State Commander from 1987-1988. He served on the board of the VFW National Home from 2002-2008 and as its president from 2004-2005. He also served as Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie from 1992-1993.

Mr. Hamilton graduated with honors from Georgia Military Academy in 1967. He worked as a professional wrestler throughout the United States and the world for 15 years as Johnny Montana (also known as "Dr. Death"), along with other names and identities.

Mr. Hamilton was named Florida's Young Veteran of the Year in 1981. He has been honored by Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush for his outstanding community service and leadership.

Mr. Hamilton is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, The American Legion and the Semper Fidelis Society.

He was a longtime resident of Jacksonville, Florida and currently resides in St. Augustine, Florida.

## Camp Trotter Tales

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

Summer Camp 2013 is just around the corner and being readied for all of those young children that will be experiencing a lifetime of memories.

The Summer Director Denise, aka "Scrubs", is getting things ready for a complete new twist for this year's Summer Camp Programs. There will be some counselors coming back from Summer Camp 2012 and some new counselors coming onboard to have the best time of their young lives teaching and working with the young children coming to Summer Camp.

On Friday, June 21st, we will have the honor of having the National Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton playing golf in our Seventh (7th) Annual Golf Outing. The Chief will then attend and take part in the Department's annual Veterans Training Seminar (VTS) on Saturday, June 22nd at our own VFW Camp Trotter for Children. I am sure that Past State Commander Jim VanHouter, the Director for the VTS, will experience a very large turnout for the training. You had better get your reservations in early for there are only 80 beds available – contact the Department Office at 517-485-9456 or go online at [www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org) and register early.

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

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

The shower building will have the new rapid recovery heating system installed

before the middle of June. No more cold showers! The beachfront is completely redone with beach sand covering the entire lakeshore of our Camp property line. No more weeds to deal with!

Ask about being a Life Member of your VFW Camp Trotter for Children (ONLY \$35.00). Camping costs for the children at Summer Camp 2013 is \$200.00 per camper – check out the local VFW Post in your town for more information regarding Summer Camp. The 2013 Brochures are available – contact your District Commander/President and they will get them to you or contact the Department Headquarters and one will be mailed to you.

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

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

The Summer Camping Season dates are:  
Week #1 – July 7, 2013 to July 13, 2013  
Week #2 – July 14, 2013 to July 20, 2013  
Week #3 – July 21, 2013 to July 27, 2013  
Week #4 – July 28, 2013 to Aug. 3, 2013  
Week #5 – Aug. 4, 2013 to Aug. 10, 2013

**Special Note:** Saturday, August 24, 2013 is the designated "Family Day" at our Camp. Lots of children's games with the new paddle boats and new canoes for all to enjoy! Committee Member Dave Reeves will be giving rides on the Pontoon around the lake. Watch for flyers coming out to the Ladies Auxiliaries and Posts explaining what is happening on this fun-filled day! Camping will be available for those wanting to come up to camp early. The Big Raffle will be drawn at 3:00 p.m. on this date!

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

Happy Trails,  
**Your Camp Committee**

## Fallen Soldiers March

Back in 2004, 1st Sergeant Jim Williams organized Tennessee's first Fallen Soldier March in Lebanon. 1st Sgt. (then Sgt. 1st Class) Williams had recently returned from a year long deployment to Iraq with the 168th Military Police Battalion and wanted to honor not only the Tennessee National Guard Soldiers who died in the War on Terror, but all Tennesseans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their state and nation.

1Lt Richard Dunkley, a member of the 237th BSB in Bay City, Michigan wants to continue this great tradition. He had organized the first Fallen

Soldiers March in Michigan that took place on April 9, 2011. Soon after, he was deployed to Afghanistan with many of the Soldiers who walked in the first march. Now back from overseas he is planning the second Fallen Soldier March to take place on April 20, 2013. We will step off from the VFW post 4642 in Linden, Michigan and proceed 13 miles to the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Step off will be at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Participants are asked to arrive early to attend a safety briefing that will take place at 8:30 a.m.

All active, reserve, retired service

members and civilian supporters are invited to participate in this event. Uniform for active and reserve service members is ACU's with patrol cap for Army or the appropriate field uniform for other services. Civilians should wear appropriate casual attire. It is recommended that everyone bring some source of water with them for the march. For the soldiers, a 30 lb. rucksack is optional. Arrive motivated to march the entire 13-mile route or participate in any portion of the march.

Donations will be accepted, but not required to participate in the march. All

monies raised will be equally divided amongst two charities that directly support fallen Soldiers and their family, the 1-125IN BN memorial for fallen Soldiers and the Helping Heroes of America – Joe Johnson Scholarship.

Show your support for the men and women defending our freedom. Support the Fallen Soldier March in Michigan.

**1Lt Dunkley  
810-240-8061**

**Mary Dunkley  
810-348-8513**



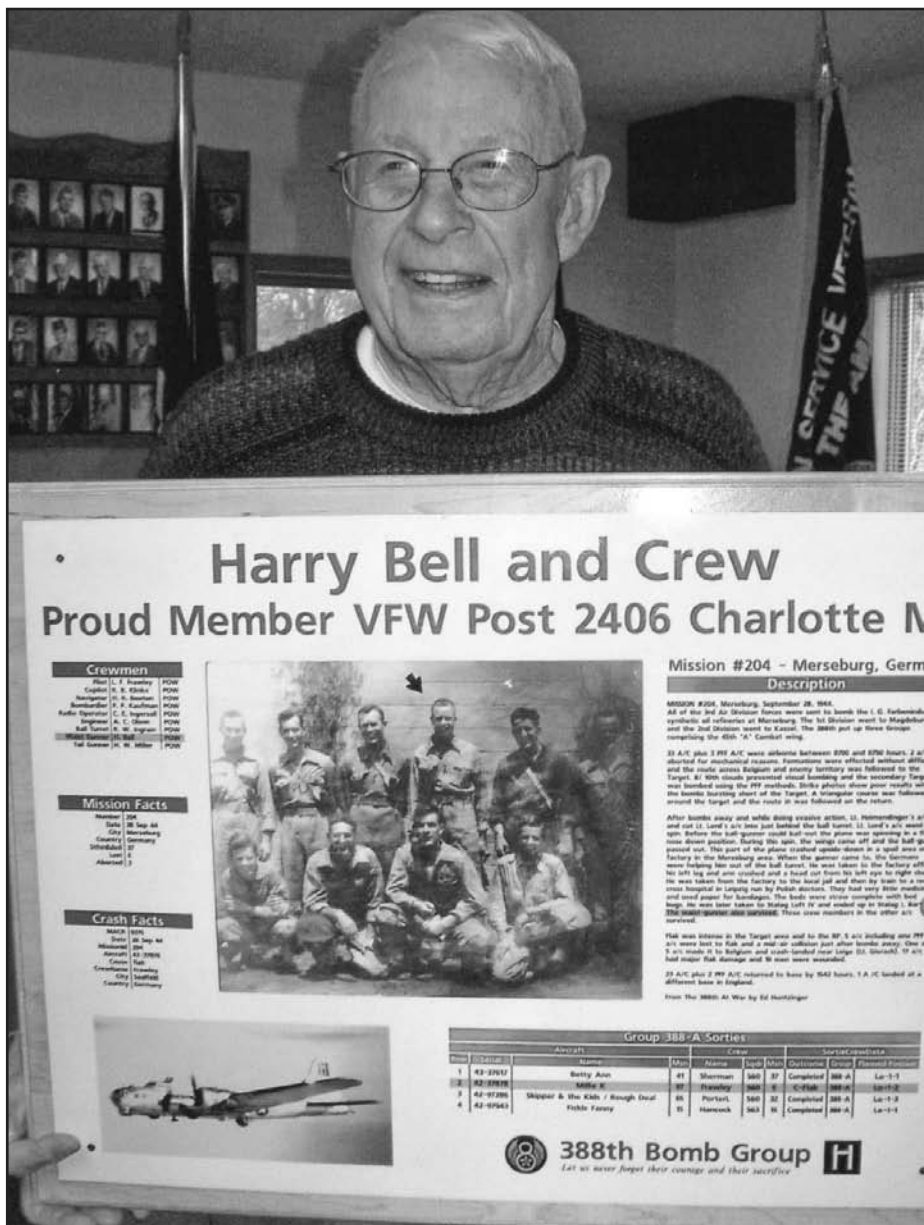
## Charlotte Maple City VFW Post 2406 and Auxiliaries Honor WWII Veteran for Service and Sacrifice

On February 16, 2013 the VFW Post 2406 and its Auxiliaries honored WWII Veteran and Ex-Prisoner of War, Harry Bell, with a plaque of recognition. He was also presented Certificates of Appreciation from the State of Michigan signed by Governor Rick Snyder and the Department of the Army.

Harry was honored for his military service and sacrifices that he made during WWII as a waist gunner on a B-17 Bomber, named Millie K. He was a member of the 388th Bomb Group, 560th Bomb Squadron, 8th Air Force. On September 28, 1944 on his 6th bombing mission, his B-17 was hit by flak and all crewmembers successfully bailed out and were captured by the Germans. They were imprisoned in Stalag Luft 4, Gross Tychow, Poland.

After several months of imprisonment at Stalag Luft 4 and as the Russians advanced on this camp, the prisoners were forced on a road march as they were to be relocated to another prisoner of war camp in Hamburg, Germany. They marched over 600 miles in 87 never-to-be-forgotten days. After 8 months being held as a Prisoner of War, he was liberated by allied troops on May 2, 1945. Of those men who started on the march about 1,500 perished from disease, starvation or at the hands of the German guards while attempting to escape.

Harry, who will celebrate his 95th Birthday in July, is a member of VFW Post 2406 and was very humbled by all the recognition and words of appreciation that was extended by all guests in attendance.



Harry Bell holding the plaque that was presented to him.



Pictured, L-R: Post 2406 Ladies Auxiliary President Nancy Dexter, Senator Rick Jones, Harry Bell, VFW State Commander Kirk Kennedy, Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich and Post 2406 Commander Ernie Meyers.

## Frankenmuth's Independence Village Provides Transportation for Local Veterans

Frankenmuth's Independence Village retirement living community provides local VFW members with transportation to the VFW Post 2725 meetings held once a month in Frankenmuth, Michigan.

The chauffeured shuttle bus picks them

up at their home, delivers them to the meeting and then returns them to their homes after the meeting. This service is provided by Independence Village, free of charge to all Post veterans. For some of the men, this is their only source of transportation to the meetings.



Pictured, L-R: John Belger, Post Quartermaster Larry Schluckebier, Post Adjutant Gerald Sohn, Bob Hubbard, Larry Fowler, Post Commander George Reinert, Roy Main, Curt Weiland, Driver Jack Hoornstra and Past Post Commander Don Twietmeyer.

## Chassell VFW Post 6507 and Men's Auxiliary Host Annual Youth Ice Fishing Tournament

The 6th annual Chassell VFW Post 6507 and Men's Auxiliary youth ice fishing tournament was conducted on February 23rd. A total of 85 youths participated with monetary prizes for the largest Walleye and

Northern Pike to the smallest fish caught. In addition, all participants received prizes including bicycles, fishing poles and ice fishing equipment. The Grand Prize was a 2-person portable shelter.



## 3 Teachers Selected for National Awards by the Veterans of Foreign Wars *Money given to award-winning teachers and their respective schools*

March 14, 2013, Kansas City, MO – Each year for the past 14 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has recognized three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The *Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award* recipients are selected from entries submitted by local VFW Posts in the U.S. and overseas. The entries detail a local teacher's act of promoting civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in the classroom.

There are three categories of competition: elementary school (K-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12). During the competition more than \$253,000 in awards were presented to more than 1,400 teachers at various levels in the VFW.

Matt Maddox, a fifth-grade teacher at Columbus Elementary in Edwardsville, Illinois, has been named the win-

ner at the elementary school level. At the middle school level, Hunter Jones, an eighth-grade school teacher at Will James Junior High in Billings, Montana was named the winner. Matthew Susin, a teacher at Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne, Florida was selected at the high school level.

Each teacher receives the VFW Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award of \$1,000 for their professional development and another \$1,000 for their school. In addition, all three teachers receive an all-expense-paid trip to Louisville, Kentucky, where the awards will be presented during the 2013 VFW National Convention, July 20-24.

Steve Van Buskirk, director of VFW Programs, commented, "Next to parents, teachers hold the key to raising up young civic-minded patriots who will perpetuate the values that have made this nation great."

## VFW Applauds House Effort to Fund VA in Advance

*The VFW urges swift passage of this much needed bill*

February 27, 2013 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., the nation's largest organization of combat veterans, is applauding yesterday's announcement from House Veterans Affairs Committee leadership to fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs one year in advance.

House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller, R-FL, and Ranking Member Mike Michaud, D-Maine, introduced the "Putting Veterans Funding First Act of 2013," or H.R. 813, which would require Congress to fully fund VA's discretionary budget one year ahead of schedule. The measure would ensure that all VA services would have timely and predictable funding at a time of fiscal uncertainty for the nation.

"The VFW applauds Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Michaud for coming together and recognizing that our veterans deserve timely and predictable care and benefits," said VFW National

Commander John Hamilton, a combat wounded Marine Corps rifleman in Vietnam. "Regardless of the difficult fiscal decisions our country may need to make, we can never abandon our responsibility to care for the men and women who have borne the battle."

VA health care, which accounts for nearly 86 percent of the total VA budget, is already funded one year in advance, thanks to VFW's strong advocacy of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009. Advance appropriations for VA health care has allowed VA to deliver consistent care and properly plan for future needs. The goal of H.R. 813 is to allow all of VA to similarly plan for the future by investing in areas like information technology, claims processing and construction.

The VFW urges swift passage of this much needed bill.

## VFW Calls Out TIME Columnist

*VFW outraged that a TIME magazine columnist has called for the resignation of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki*

March 15, 2013, WASHINGTON – The National Commander of the nation's largest war veterans organization is outraged that a *TIME* magazine columnist has called for the resignation of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

"Freedom of the press isn't a license for Joe Klein to twist reality about someone who has volunteered virtually his entire life to serve his country," said John E. Hamilton, who leads the 2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries. Klein's column, entitled "Ten Years After: A National Disgrace," is posted on the magazine's website and is being published in its March 25 edition.

"Secretary Shinseki has one of the toughest jobs in America," said Hamilton, a combat wounded Marine Corps rifleman in Vietnam. "It is his responsibility to heal, help and care for our wounded, ill and injured veterans from all generations. What he doesn't need is criticism from those who have little or no understanding of the real issues or challenges facing his department."

In his column, Klein criticizes Shinseki for being quiet and reserved, as if the secretary of the nation's largest integrated healthcare network and second largest federal department has time for a publicized social life. Klein hides behind a so-called "legion" of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who say the secretary lacks the creativity and leadership skills to run the VA, plus sympathizes with their complaint of not being moved to the front of the line ahead of other – but older – disabled veterans. Still worse, Klein accuses Shinseki of not capitalizing on the mass murder allegedly committed by an Army staff sergeant in Afghanistan.

"What occurred in Afghanistan was a tragedy, not an opportunity," said Hamilton. "The Department of Defense and the VA expend an enormous amount of resources on programs and outreach to provide mental health counseling to those in need, but you can't mandate any program that first requires someone to

voluntarily step forward and ask for help. That same limitation also confronts all of us who are in this battle to end military and veteran suicides.

"And regarding the columnist's personal attack, just because the secretary prefers a lower profile to someone who might 'Tweet' their every movement doesn't mean he doesn't care. It just means he's too busy doing his job, and that's to fulfill our nation's promise to her veterans."

For years the VFW has testified before Congress about the lack of funding for the VA's Veterans Benefits Administration, especially in the areas of automation and proper staffing. Hamilton said the secretary did the absolute right thing to grant additional presumptive service connections for Vietnam and first Gulf War veterans, but he acknowledged that organizations like the VFW and others who employ service officers to help veterans file their claims knew that the increased workload would overwhelm the existing system.

Thanks to the president and Congress, the VA now has the necessary resources to automate the claims processing system. This means the VA is moving in the right direction, said the VFW national commander, but after years of neglect, the fix will not come overnight.

"We want the VA to succeed, and that's why we work closely with Secretary Shinseki and his staff to help identify and correct problems in a professional manner from within, not by enlisting the media to sensationalize issues the great majority of Americans and, quite frankly, many veterans don't understand," said Hamilton.

"The VFW helped to create the VA in 1930. We will not let it fail. We will also continue to take strong issue with people who blindly criticize the organization or its secretary, who is a combat wounded veteran who understands what it means to serve and sacrifice. Secretary Shinseki gets it, and America should be very appreciative that he volunteered to stay for another tour – the VFW is."

## VFW Announces 2012-2013 National Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners *See VFW's national annual essay contest winners*

March 04, 2013 – The winners of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition and the Patriot's Pen essay competition were announced late yesterday afternoon during the 2013 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Voice of Democracy program celebrated its 66th year with this year's theme, "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" The 1st Place winner, Danielle Hayes, sponsored by VFW Post 1205 and Ladies Auxiliary in San Francisco, California, received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she was presented with the T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship Award in the amount of \$30,000. The 2nd Place winner, Haley DeAndrea, sponsored by VFW Post 3182 and Ladies Auxiliary in North Bend, Oregon, received the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship Award. The 3rd Place winner, Sarah Hartland, sponsored by VFW Post 4042 and Ladies Auxiliary in Bigfork, Mon-

tana, received the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship Award. All other state winners received at least a \$1,000 college scholarship. Nearly 40,000 students participated in this year's competition.

The Patriot's Pen program is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to express their opinions on democracy based on an annual theme, this year's being, "What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers." The 1st Place winner, Mariessa McKenna, sponsored by VFW Post 8065 and Ladies Auxiliary in Bowie, Maryland, received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she received a \$5,000 award. The 2nd Place winner, Kirstee Dunlap, sponsored by VFW Post 9170 and Ladies Auxiliary out of Beeville, Texas, will receive a \$4,000 award. The 3rd Place winner, Celia Dekeyser, sponsored by VFW Post 2245 in Grayslake, Illinois, will receive a \$3,500 award. A total of 104,000 students participated in this year's competition.



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**Matt David, Editor**

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Matt David, Historian/MOV Editor  
Cindy Peto, Aux. Committee Member

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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

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

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

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

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

**Branch (Circle One):**

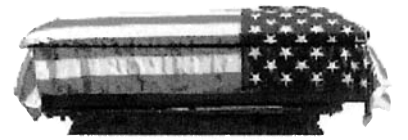
**USA**      **USAAC**      **USN**  
**USMC**      **USAF**      **USCG**

**Served In (Circle One):**

**WWI**      **WWII**      **Korea**  
**Vietnam**      **Gulf**      **Other**

**Occupation Forces**

# OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY



**6-MARQUETTE**

KOEHS, ROBERT, 66, USN/VIETNAM

**345-REDFORD**

BERNARD, DONALD R., 76, USA/KOREA  
CUMMINGS, JOHN A., 80, USMC/KOREA  
MATHENY, ROBERT, 91, USN/WWII  
MILLER, ROBERT H., 86, USA/WWII

**446-MUSKEGON**

CORNING, WILLIAM SR., 77, USN/KOREA  
GILLETT, LAWRENCE, 75, USA/VIETNAM  
KNAUF, DONALD, 93, USA/WWII

**796-PORT HURON**

BOERRE, ARTHUR J., 94, USA/WWII  
SZYMANSKI, GERALD R., 64, USMC/VIETNAM

**1136-WYANDOTTE**

ALFANO, SAM, 97, USN/WWII

**1138-MONROE**

CLOUM, LLOYD, 94, USA/WWII  
SMITH, PHILLIP, 65, USA/VIETNAM

**1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES**

DAHLIN, HENRY, 86, USA/WWII  
HOBBS, JOSEPH, 87, USN/WWII  
KALEEL, THOMAS, 92, USA/WWII  
MANISCALCO, MANUEL, 88, USAF/WWII  
SZCZEPANSKI, WALTER C., 94, USA/WWII  
WORDMAN, WILLI, 78, USN

**1355-STURGIS**

HAMBRIGHT, LEO, 71, USN/VIETNAM  
MILLER, JAMES, 63, USA/VIETNAM

**1454-ALMA**

DOUGHERTY, MARGARET, 91, USA/WWII

**1519-NORTHVILLE**

ACCETTURA, MUZIO, 82, USMC  
BORLAND, MICHAEL, 66, USA/VIETNAM  
MOORE, WALTER, 93, USAF/WWII  
NICHOLAS, WILLIAM, 92, USA/WWII  
SMITH, JAY, 95, USA/WWII

**1566-SAGINAW**

KEYSER, THOMAS A., 89, USN/WWII

**1669-ROYAL OAK**

BANNASCH, JOSEPH, 92, USA/WWII  
BUSH, DONALD, 90, USA/WWII  
MC MAHAN, JAMES E., 74, USA  
SHEPPARD, RALPH, 85, USA/WWII

**2053-WHITE CLOUD**

CRAIGMYLE, WILLIAM J., 82, USA/KOREA  
FRY, ALLEN L., 82, USN/KOREA

**2144-HOLLAND**

LIEVENSE, GEORGE A., 87, USN/WWII  
NIES, HARRY, 86, USN/WWII

**2292-EDMORE**

BEEHLER, WILLIAM, 88, USCG/WWII

**2326-GRAND HAVEN**

GOSEN, JAMES, USA/WWII

**2358-ROSEVILLE**

LEONOWITZ, FRANK, 96, USN/WWII  
MURRAY, FRANCIS A., 87, USN/WWII  
THAAR, ERNEST F., 86, USAF/VIETNAM

**2406-CHARLOTTE**

ASELTINE, JOHN, 79, USMC/KOREA  
DUNHAM, FRANK, 90, WWII  
HINE, JACK, 85  
HOLDER, LLOYD, 89, USN/WWII  
PETERMAN, LEONARD, 86, USA/WWII

**2409-OTTER LAKE**

HARRINGTON, ORLAND, 69, USA/VIETNAM

**2780-TRAVERSE CITY**

FLEIS, BENEDICT, 96, USA/WWII

**2891-CRYSTAL FALLS**

BALCERZAK, ALOIS E., 84, USA/WWII

**3023-GRAND RAPIDS**

FARWELL, LAUREL, 67, USA/VIETNAM  
VANDER VLIST, JOSEPH, 87, USA/WWII

**3055-ST. LOUIS**

SHOWALTER, CRAIG, 63, USA/VIETNAM

**3195-MUSKEGON**

GARDNER, PHILLIP, 63, USA/VIETNAM  
LOHR, RALPH D., 78, USN/KOREA  
MEYERS, WALTER J., 89, USA/WWII

**3243-FENTON**

ALDRICH, FRED L., 92, USN/WWII  
CLINTON, PHILLIP D., 65, VIETNAM  
JONES, VINCENT, 88, USMC/WWII  
JONES, CHARLES P., 88, USA/WWII  
KENNEDY, DUANE, 87, USA/WWII  
LANNING, CLIFFORD J., 82, USN/KOREA  
MC CAULEY, RONALD J., 80, USN/KOREA  
OSON, ANTHONY A., 69, USAF/VIETNAM  
RAGONESE, TOMMY J., 73, USMC/CUBA  
SCHOFER, ALLEN P., 73, USN/VIETNAM  
SHARP, JAMES, 84, USN/WWII  
STOYAK, JOSEPH P.  
TAYLOR, DANIEL  
VAN DEUSEN, DONALD, 88, USN/WWII  
WHITSON, THOMAS, 87, USA/WWII  
ZAHER, JOSEPH JR., 81, USA/KOREA

**3623-CHEBOYGAN**

CURLEY, ROBERT S., 79, USA/GERMANY  
DE GROFF, THEODORE, 87, USN/KOREA  
WHELOCK, ORVILLE, 91, USMC/WWII

**3676-SAULT STE MARIE**

BENOIT, GERALD C., 77, USA/KOREA  
CRYDERMAN, NEWTON L., 89, USCG/WWII  
POLISKI, WALTER F., 91, USN/WWII

**3727-HOLT**

YOUNG, EUGENE, 87, USN/WWII

**3733-FOWLER**

CRAIG, MARION E., 66, USA/VIETNAM  
GARNER, GALE, 70, USA/VIETNAM  
ILER, JAMES L., 78, USA/GERMANY  
NEIDOFFER, HARLEY, 95, USA/WWII  
RADEMACHER, ROMAN H., 87, USA/WWII

**3897-L'ANSE**

BIANCO, JOSEPH, 85, USN/WWII  
PENNEBAKER, ROBERT, 85, USMC/KOREA

**4034-HOUGHTON LAKE**

MANHIRE, FREDRICK, 85, USA/KOREA

**4054-MARCELLUS**

WHETSTONE, JOSEPH, 82, USAF/KOREA

**4090-PORTLAND**

SHATTUCK, DONALD, 91, USA/WWII

**4159-ROSCOMMON**

CARRICK, KEITH, 93, USA/WWII

**4162-HAMTRAMCK**

KMIECIK, ROMAN, 90, USA/WWII

**4164-CARO**

BOGART, DAVID, 87, USN/VIETNAM  
GOSDINSKI, VIRGIL A., 78, USA/GERMANY

**4422-TAYLOR**

REINKE, KENNETH, 83, USA

**4499-MANISTEE**

ADAMSKI, CONRAD J., 84, USA/KOREA  
GUTOWSKI, JAMES F., 89, USMC/WWII

**4553-DETROIT**

LEE, ALBERT, 86, USMC/WWII

**4581-NORWAY**

CHARTIER, ART, 88, USA/WWII  
LARDENOIT, ERNIE, 86, USN/WWII  
RIGOTTI, WALLACE, 88, USN/WWII

**4624-HUBBELL**

LE PINE, VINCENT, 87, USN/WWII

**5189-VICKSBURG**

DORBIN, FRANK, 89, USA/WWII/KOREA  
HOEHNE, MARTIN, 86, USN/WWII  
KIBLER, RAYMOND, 90, USA/WWII

**5315-BALDWIN**

DOMBROUSKI, STAN, 94, USA/WWII  
KORTE, PAUL, 94, USN/WWII  
MOORE, DONALD, 92, USA/WWII  
VENROY, MIKE, 72, USN/VIETNAM

**5319-ATHENS**

SNYDER, LESLIE, 87, USA/WWII

**5598-COOPERSVILLE**

BERTOIA, GEORGE A., 74, USN/VIETNAM  
PLACE, VERNON E., 89, USN/WWII

**5600-ONTONAGON**

MOGAN, GEORGE, 84, USA/KOREA

**5666-FLUSHING**

NOVAK, FRANK, 93, USAAF/WWII

**5670-GWINN**

AMORELLI, JOSEPH, 79, USAF/VIETNAM  
DOYEN, JOHN, 74, USN/KOREA  
HAKALA, EDWIN R., 86, USN/WWII  
PELLOW, THOMAS P., 71, USA/VIETNAM

**5680-ST. HELEN**

VAN WORMER, OTIS, 70, USA/VIETNAM

**5740-RUTH**

DALLAS, RICHARD, 88, USN/WWII

**6017-PENTWATER**

STENBERG, LEWIS, 91, USMC/WWII

**6032-MELVINDALE**

BERGIN, RICHARD "PETE", 82, USA/KOREA

**6248-DECATUR**

SHROYER, RICHARD, 86, USMC/WWII

**6507-CHASSELL**

HAKALA, REINO F., 90, USA/WWII

**6756-CENTER LINE**

BUTLER, NORMAN, 86, USA/WWII  
GABIS, LONGIN, 100, USA/WWII

**6782-EASTPOINTE**

GRACE, JAMES, 80, USN/KOREA  
KROKOSKIE, EDWARD, 87, USN/WWII

**7542-BIRCH RUN**

SATCHELL, JAMES N., 80, USN/KOREA

**7979-EVART**

OLES, DAVID, 78, USN/KOREA  
TRGIS, PHILIP, 91, USN/WWII

**8372-ENGADINE**

ROBINSON, JOHN, 81, USN/KOREA

**8846-MUSKEGON**

CONRAD, GARY, 78, USN/KOREA  
PIKAART, MELVIN W., 81, USA/KOREA

**9084-WAKEFIELD**

CALABRO, JOSEPH C., 87, USA/WWII  
DELICH, STEVE, 95, USA/WWII  
DRIER, FRED, 87, USA/WWII  
KAURANEN, EINO M., 87, USA/WWII  
KUIVANEN, TOIVU, 86, USA/WWII  
MC GINN, WILLIAM SR., 74, USAF/KOREA/VIETNAM

**9363-FLAT ROCK**

BRESINSKI, LOUIS, 85, USA/WWII  
KORBEL, JOSEPH J., 90, USN/WWII  
PROVENZINO, ANDREW V., 80, USA/WWII

**10770-LEROY**

GRANT, HECTOR, 88, USN/KOREA

**12082-IONIA**

SUMNER, EDWARD, 81, USA/KOREA

**15023-LANSING**

VALLEY, RAY C., 80, USA/KOREA



Auxiliary TAPS

<b>78-Dearborn</b> Bezaire, Ruth	<b>3243-Fenton</b> Kryza, Marion Miller, Donna, 81 Robinson, Marian	<b>4115-Sebewaing</b> Heckroth, Julia Phillips, Mary Reige, Dorothy Southgate, Elizabeth Stoeckle, Florabell	<b>5855, Portage</b> Schewe, Emily Swinhart, Eleanor	<b>8945-Covington</b> LeClaire, Ethyl Raby, Barbara, 71 Seppanen, Dorothy, 91
<b>446-Muskegon</b> Huston, Clara Belle St. Armour, Dorothy	<b>3256-Montague</b> Zack, Cecelia	<b>4156-White Lake</b> Gotts, Kathryn Renolds, Mary Riley, Elizabeth	<b>6015-Marion</b> Box, Dorothy	<b>9021-Warren</b> Brindley, Margaret Hanekow, Barbara Schaffner, Wanda
<b>582-Ortonville</b> Murray, Diann	<b>3623-Cheboygan</b> Lavender, Gloria Retzloff, Joyce	<b>4159-Roscommon</b> Lenz, Virginia Scarlett, Matilda VonHinken, Stella	<b>6032-Melvindale</b> Axline, Shelia	<b>9023-Brimley</b> Hammer, Ruth Nainan, Beatrice Passmore, Marion
<b>1146-St. Clair Shores</b> Brown, Barbara Klein, Mary	<b>3651-Midland</b> Gerard, Sharon	<b>4249-Newaygo</b> Abbott, Garnet Wellman, Barbara	<b>6056-Springport</b> Dunham, Geannie, 55	<b>9084-Wakefield</b> Bonello, Florence Marczak, Alma
<b>1153-Charlevoix</b> Gallagher, Edna Schmidt, Mary Jane	<b>3676-Sault Ste Marie</b> Cobb, Mary LaCoy, Florence McGill, Geraldine	<b>4406-Belding</b> McComb, RuthAnn	<b>6333-Kaleva</b> Adamczak, Lila Proctor, Lydia	<b>9283-Southgate</b> Bosman, Millie Kemeny, Virginia Kish, Margaret
<b>1519-Grand River</b> Sage, Joyce Stucky, Helen	<b>3701-Lakeview</b> Farrell, Dora Martin, Shirley Sheinke, Wanda	<b>4461-Lake Odessa</b> Heffelbower, Roxie	<b>6579-New Lothrop</b> Wares, Mary	<b>9455-Owosso</b> Hanzlovic, Norma Lepard, Frieda Limbaugh, Starr Peterson, Irmalene Reich, Catherine
<b>2144-Holland</b> DeFeyter, Dorothy, 89 Meyer, Susan	<b>3720-Swartz Creek</b> Hines, Marjorie	<b>4499-Manistee</b> Bush, Pat Miller, Theresa Robinson, Sylvia	<b>6695-Plymouth</b> Wellman, Enrid, 91	<b>9809-Saginaw</b> Acha, Shirley Kotcher, Phyllis Seabrook, Muril Tyra, Mary
<b>2272-Durand</b> Libbey, Elizabeth VanDeSande, Irene	<b>3727-Holt</b> Allis, Ida Glasobatz, Elizabeth Johnson, Ada Quantrell, Marion Rounds, Gladys	<b>4573-Ishpeming</b> Sipola, Mildred	<b>6754-Spruce</b> McInerney, Mary, 78	<b>9885-Westland</b> Morris, Sherry
<b>2326-Grand Haven</b> Phillips, Ruth	<b>3735-Oscoda</b> Curtis, Linda, 68 Harlan, Eloise Primeau, Karen, 75	<b>5065-Sheridan</b> Bailey, Donna Gillson, Berniece Hansen, Lillian Herroon, Viola Kloosterman, Shirley Kowalski, Lucille Mahan, Mildred Miller, Martha Mills, Ann Sanders, Barbara Wilson, Marie	<b>6802-Richmond</b> McCall, Dorothy	<b>9914-Highland</b> Davis, Mary, 101 Fuegge, June, 79
<b>2356-Hillman</b> Eagle, Barbara	<b>3753-Pinconning</b> Berthiaume, Beauty Filpeck, Laura LaCasse, Dorothy LaPorte, Bonnie	<b>5319-Athens</b> Duncan, Joan Fisher, Teresa Leggitt, Irene Pontius, Sally Jo Roberts, Marian Tagliareni, Florence Thurston, Judith Weesaw, Sara	<b>6896-Westland</b> Jeromin, Stephanie Kay, Sylvia Marski, Jean Postula, Irene Rojeski, Lucille Stanis, Ruby Swirles, Evelyn	<b>10704-Cassopolis</b> Cross, Wilhelmina Walker, Janet
<b>2406-Charlotte</b> Green, Jerilee Page, Betty	<b>3925-Erie</b> Cousino, Rose Sachs, Evelyn	<b>5572-Allen Park</b> VanCamp, Beverly	<b>7302-Hemlock</b> Evon, Marion Moeller, Angeline Weymouth, Hazel	<b>10884-Mayville</b> Cain, Anna
<b>2496-Alpena</b> Derthick, Margaret, 96 Nelson, Rita, 80	<b>4005-Corunna</b> Dobos, Pat Hildebrant, Edna Maurer, Joy Nall, Cletis	<b>5585-Emmett</b> Chartier, Joetta Kovach, Susan	<b>7309-Mason</b> Szichak, Alice	<b>15023-At Large</b> Crispin, Beatrice Gardiner, Ione Mills, Gloria Speirs, Norma Stone, Catherine Todd, Beatrice Witt, Shirley
<b>2645-Southfield</b> Sloan, Frances, 98	<b>4012-Northville</b> O'Hare, Jody, 69 Porter, Olive	<b>5670-Gwinn</b> Maki, Josephine, 83 Nyquist, Gwinn, 91	<b>7542-Birch Run</b> Risner, Shirley	
<b>2780-Traverse City</b> Newman, Anice	<b>4034-Houghton Lake</b> Ives, Phyllis, 93	<b>5680-St. Helen</b> Olson, Linda	<b>7573-New Baltimore</b> Westerman, Edna	
<b>3023-Grand Rapids</b> Marlett, Clara, 95	<b>4090-Portland</b> French, Ruth Pohl, Frances Schick, Hazel	<b>5740-Ruth</b> Tschirhart, Frances	<b>7581-Wayland</b> Keil, Louise Nicholas, Kathryn	
<b>3030-Otsego</b> Cooley, Vivian McIntosh, Polly Walters, Dealie	<b>4093-Carleton</b> Diaz, Gloria Katschor, Lorraine Whiteaker, Darlene	<b>5822, Byron</b> Whetstine, Jean	<b>7646-Pelkie</b> Foy, Mary	
<b>3033-Mt. Pleasant</b> Parker, Helen	<b>4106-Weidman</b> Grech, Rita		<b>7804-Posen</b> Bruski, Anna Smolinski, Stephanie	
<b>3039-Farwell</b> Scozzari, Phyllis Sharp, Bernette 3165-Negaunee Johnson, Shirley, 83			<b>7956-Augusta</b> Roe, Melinda	
<b>3195-Muskegon</b> Black, Myrtle Bond, Barbara Lewis, Evelyn Marshall, Arlene Popp, Lisbeth Sturgeon, Lois Vermilya, Mary Williams, Loretta			<b>8236-Flint</b> Romanetto, Betty	
			<b>8260-Nashville</b> Gardner, Shirley Huver, Yvonne Marcum, Audrey Patten, Pamela Purchis, Pamela	



CBS Apologizes to Vietnam Veterans, Families
CBS President apologizes to veteran community
for Amazing Race episode

March 25, 2013 – The CBS reality show "Amazing Race," began with an apology last night that read: "Parts of last Sunday's episode, filmed in Vietnam, were insensitive to a group that is very important to us: our nation's veterans. We want to apologize to veterans – particularly those who served in Vietnam – as well as their families and any viewers who were offended by the broadcast. All of us here have the most profound respect for the men and women who fight for our country." Below is a response sent today by the VFW National Commander to the head of CBS. A web link is at http://www.vfw.org/uploaded-Files/VFW.org/News\_and\_Events/Press/CBS%20ApologyResponse.pdf

March 25, 2013

Mr. Leslie Moonves
President & CEO, CBS Corporation
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Moonves:
On behalf of the 2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and our Auxiliaries, thank you for the apology to America's Vietnam Veterans and their families that aired at the beginning of last night's episode of "The Amazing Race."
As the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans' organization, our toughest challenge is keeping the American public and her government focused on veterans after every war and conflict ends. Our nation has many national priorities, but to the VFW, making sure our men and women who serve in uniform return home to a grateful and respectful nation is paramount. Your network and all of its programs can be of tremendous assistance in that mission.
Again, thank you for hearing our voice.

Sincerely,
John E. Hamilton
Commander-in-Chief

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary
Department of Michigan State Convention

Troy Marriott Michigan
Wednesday, June 5 – Sunday, June 9, 2013

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION IS MAY 14, 2013

Mail or Fax Reservation to:
Marriott Detroit Troy,
200 Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084
Fax: 248-524-0532

Make checks payable to: Detroit Troy Marriott
A deposit of one night or a Major Credit card is required! (NO CASH).
Reservation will not be guaranteed without a form of payment. Please specify if a barrier-free room (handicapped) is required. If you need a Barrier-Free Room, check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Table with 4 columns: Single, Double, Triple, Quad. Prices range from \$104.00 + tax to \$312.00 + tax.

Please enter your email address or phone number below to receive confirmation numbers from hotel.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_
Address \_\_\_\_\_
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Your office in VFW/Aux \_\_\_\_\_
Credit Card type \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_
Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

Hospitality Rooms:
2 Rooms, 1 sleeping/1 hospitality \$208.00 + tax
3 Rooms, 1 sleeping/2 hospitality \$312.00 + tax
3 Rooms, 2 sleeping/1 hospitality \$312.00 + tax

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

The VFW has a golf outing on Wednesday.

Pat Patterson, Convention Director
586-202-7776
pattersond5@aol.com

Tuition Assistance Amendment
Passes Senate Thanks to VFW Advocacy
VFW members were highly involved
in push to reinstate Tuition Assistance

March 20, 2013 – This afternoon the Senate passed an amendment to the Defense Continuing Resolution, H.R. 933, that will reinstate the military Tuition Assistance or TA program under sequestration. The amendment, S. Amdt. 72, was introduced by Sens. James Inhofe, R-OK, and Kay Hagan, D-NC, and championed by the VFW, The American Legion and Student Veterans of America.

On Monday, VFW Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton sent an "all hands" call to VFW advocates in an effort to muster support for the Inhofe/Hagan amendment. On Monday afternoon, Senate debate over the continuing resolution stalled before the amendment could be considered, leading many on Capitol Hill to believe that hope for restoring TA through the continuing resolution was lost. Inhofe and Hagan quickly scrambled to introduce stand-alone legislation to reinstate TA through S. 614 and a House companion bill, H.R. 1265.

Fortunately, VFW advocacy was unrelenting. In two short days, VFW advocates generated more than 12,000 calls and emails to Senate and House offices from every state, and this morning, Senate Majority Leader Harry

Reid, D-NV, presented the amendment to the Senate floor without objection. It officially passed through voice vote late in the afternoon.

The Inhofe/Hagan amendment will require each military branch to continue operating their respective TA programs proportionate to the sequester. Currently, the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine Corps have cut off TA enrollment entirely in an effort to generate greater savings through budget sequestration.

The Marine Corps was the first branch to announce its suspension of TA under sequestration. Since then, the VFW has heard from countless service members across each service wondering what to do next. The VFW has been a longtime proponent of the military's TA programs and has been working diligently to reinstate and preserve the benefit since the Marine Corps' announcement.

The Senate will now vote on the full continuing resolution, H.R. 933, to fund the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs through the remainder of fiscal year 2013. Your VFW will keep you posted on our efforts to reinstate military TA as the continuing resolution moves through Congress.

Camp Trotter for Children
Seventh Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
Special Guest – John Hamilton, VFW National Commander-in-Chief

Friday, June 21, 2013
8:00 a.m. – Registration
9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

Village Green Golf Course
8130 Bingham Avenue
Newaygo, MI 49337
Phone: 231-652-6513

Cost \$60.00 Per Person/\$240.00 Per Team Includes:
\* 18 Holes with cart \* Lunch at the Turn \* Grilled Steak Dinner
\* 4 person scramble \* Team Placement Prizes \* Door Prizes

Golf Entry Form

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 15, 2013.

Captain's name: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Player #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Player #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Player #4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hole/Tee Sponsor \$55 \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
I am able to donate products or gift certificates. Please contact me.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to: Camp Trotter for Children
Mail to: PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr., 925 Forest Street, Charlotte, MI 48813-1264

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

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter for Children are
tax-deductible under section 501(c)(19) of the IRS Code.

**Andy Conklin**  
Re-Elect for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Judge Advocate  
2013-2014



Endorsed and supported by:  
District 7  
Post 6248  
His wife and family

**Della Steege**  
Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Guard  
2013-2014



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

**Jerry Gorski**  
Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Surgeon  
2013-2014



Endorsed and supported by:  
5th District  
12th District  
Post 6250  
His fiancé and family

**Jerry Smith**  
Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Jr. Vice Commander  
2013-2014



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

**Leon Hinkle**  
Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Chaplain  
2013-2014



Endorsed and supported by:  
Oakland County Council  
VFW Post 9021  
His family

**Sandy Medos**  
Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Guard  
2013-2014



Endorsed and supported by:  
District 4  
Ladies Auxiliary 4422  
Her husband and family

**Phil Patterson**  
Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Department Jr. Vice Commander  
2013-2014



Endorsed and supported by:  
9th District  
Post 12082  
His wife and family



## Patriotic Rally and Department Function Shirts

The shirt is gray in color with embroidery that outlines the state of Michigan and says "VFW and Auxiliaries" on line one, and "Michigan" on line two. The men's size shirt will feature a pocket on the left with the lettering on the right breast. The ladies size shirt will have the outline of Michigan and lettering on the left with no pocket.

Sr. Vice Commander Ronald Devereaux has chosen this shirt for the Patriotic Rally and the National Convention and the 2013-2014 Department Shirt.

We will need the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_


Number of Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Per Shirt

Men: Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_  
2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_ 4XL \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies: Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_  
2XL \_\_\_\_\_ 3XL \_\_\_\_\_ 4XL \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:**  
Department of Michigan VFW

**Mail to:**  
Department of Michigan  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
924 North Washington  
Lansing, MI 48906

# We Protect Our Own.

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

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



# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •  
April/May/June 2013  
Volume 80 Number 4

## Thomas T. Tradewell, Sr. to be National Rep. for State Convention

Thomas T. Tradewell, Sr.  
Commander-in-Chief 2009-2010  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



Tradewell earned an associate's degree in industrial safety. Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service. He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Coötie, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. Tradewell married Sharon in 1966 and they make their home in Sussex, Wisconsin.



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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## Coming Events

NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY DAYS May 9-11, 2013	DEPT. COMMANDER/DEPT. PRESIDENT TESTIMONIAL May 17-18, 2103
DEPT. CONVENTION TROY MARRIOT, TROY June 6-9, 2013	114TH NATIONAL CONVENTION LOUISVILLE, KY July 20-24

## STATE COMMANDER

Time is not on our side anymore if we are to attain our goals for this year. The Department Convention is in the first week of June, so as of this writing we only have 8 to 9 weeks left. You may ask what we can accomplish in such a short amount of time. Well, it only takes 10 minutes to fill out an application form or a quick phone call to find some child to sponsor for Camp Trotter. Many things can happen when we set our minds to it. So do not stop trying to achieve your goals for this year until you have 0 days left to do it in.

This being my last article for our *MOV*, I want to thank all who have made this year a success. All our District Commanders, all of our program directors and all who have just seen a job to be done and stepped forward and taken the responsibility of getting that task finished, you must realize by now that no one person can achieve any success without the help of others. That is what our whole organization is built around.



Kirk Kennedy  
State Commander

Teamwork. Again, thanks to all of you for what you do each and every day.

Elections should have taken place by the time you read this. I hope all newly elected officers will take their responsibilities seriously. The Veterans of Foreign Wars depends heavily on how you lead your Posts. All our efforts start at the post level. We were all Post members before we moved up the ranks in our organization, and no matter how high you go in this organization, you are still a Post member.

I wish the Department of Michigan and all officers great success in the coming year and years. Thank you all.

# SUPPORT OUR TROOPS