

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

FALL 2019

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, MIKE FINEIS



Comrades sisters and brothers, I pray that each of you are doing well. We are about to enter the holiday season and I have a request of you. That is to pray to the deity of your choice in private. Reason, we have had Christians and non-Christians fight and die for our country. Be

sensitive of other worriers' religious beliefs.

The Veterans Training Seminar at Camp Trotter was attended by nineteen first timers. Thank you to all who attended. Special thanks to Butch and the cooks.

On June 29th the following team was assembled in the 14th District to fill the chairs that were totally vacant. Past Department Commanders Roger Mays and Jerry Gorski. Past Districts Commanders Gary Gamble 4th, Norm Mauldin 5th, Vern Blauwkamp 8th, Shane Houghton 9th. Also, in attendance was Su-Jen Mauldin, Jim Muys, Joe Tebor, and me. This remarkable team solved the problem and had the election report into National in ninety minutes. Then conducted a mini VTS. TEAMWORK!

The UP VET of the Year award was presented to

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Thomas Stanaway at the Upper Peninsula Fair Grounds in Escanaba Michigan. I had the honor of placing the cover on the young marine's head. While in attendance I met Governor Gretchen Whitmer and retired Lt. General US Marine Corps Jack Bergman. Jack is US Congressman for the 1st Congressional District.

I attended the Commanders Group with Chief Jerry Gorski, Service Office Director Joe Greene, and State Legislative Director Jennifer Smith. At this meeting I met the Director of Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs, Zaneta Adams. She also spoke at our Fall Conference.

Continued on page 2 ..

Chief Jerry Gorski and I met with the Service



JIM "MOUSE" MUYS RECEIVES THE 2018-2019 NATIONAL CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Jim Muys (Mouse) as he was awarded the honorable title of National Chaplain of the Year at the 2019 National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The National Chaplain award is presented each year to a VFW member who shows the utmost integrity, professional execution of duties, dependability, punctuality, timely submission of reports, commitment to the ministry and duties of the Chaplain and a member of the VFW in good standing with the Post, District and Department. The VFW Chaplain of the Year is selected by the National Chaplain, three past National Chaplains and the previous National Chaplain of the year.

Here are some words from our very own, National Chaplain of the Year, Jim Muys (Mouse).

"I would like to thank everyone for the kind words of encouragement after it was announced that I had won the National Chaplain of the Year award. I was shocked and surprised when the National Chaplain (Charlene Cobb) informed me of this prestigious award. It is a huge honor just to be considered. I try to do my best as Post 334, Oakland County Council, and 5th District Chaplain and will endeavor to do my best as I continue to fulfill this position.

I would like to thank everyone who filled out the application and said kind words about me. I hope I can live up to your expectations.

I also had the chance to speak at the National C. of A. and the Big Ten Conference, which was a little unnerving as that was the biggest crowd that I had ever spoken to and especially in front of the Commander-in-Chief. I would also like to thank all those who attended the Chaplains workshop and stated they were in the "Mouse" fan club. You know who you are and again I thank you for your support.

As we continue on, I will do my best to live up to the title and be the best Chaplain that I can be. May God bless each and everyone of you and the United States of America, the greatest Country in the world. Thank you."

Congratulations Mouse!



A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CONTINUED ...

Office Personnel in Detroit. We invited most of staff to lunch as a thank you for their dedication to service. I later found out this was a first. Later this day we went to the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Affairs with Joe Greene, very educational.

Congratulations to the newly elected Camp Trotter committee members. Bob Benderman is the new camp director.

Thank you, Larry Thayer for your term as

director. I enjoyed working with you.

Our newly established PTSD committee was a tremendous success. The Department of Michigan VFW invited United Veterans of Michigan to our table. Thank you, Doug, Ray and Larry. I was informed that this project was well received.

Thank you, comrades, sisters and brothers.

THE FOLLOWING IS A QUOTE BY RAYMOND CHANDLER

... "down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid. He is the hero; he is everything. He must be a complete man and a common man and yet an unusual man. He must be, to use a rather weathered phrase, a man of honor—by instinct, by inevitability, without thought of it, and certainly without saying it. He must be the best man in his world and good enough man for any world. He will take no man's money dishonestly and no man's insolence without a due and dispassionate revenge. He is a lonely man and his pride is that you will treat him as a proud man or be very sorry you ever saw him."

"The story is this man's adventure in search of a hidden truth, and it would be no adventure if it did not happen to a man fit for adventure. If there were enough like him, the world would be a very safe place to live in, without becoming too dull to be worth living in." ...

DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, LYNN PATTERSON



There have been some upgrades at the Department office recently. We purchased a remote scanner for banking purposes, it seems to

be working out rather well for transmitting checks. Also, fiber-optic internet will be up and running by the time you read this. We are hoping that this will help in our daily tasks on both the VFW and Auxiliary sides.

The VFW Service Office has hired a new Field Service Officer and is working out of Dept. Headquarters. This is a great asset and will hopefully be convenient to veterans in this area. If you know a veteran in the surrounding Lansing areas that need assistance with their claim or benefits, please give them the Department phone number so that they can set up an appointment with a Service Officer. Under the subscription dues model, an annual member's dues expire on the last day of the month of which they paid the previous year. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership. Officers and committee members, whose membership is not in good standing by reason to pay current dues, by the end of anniversary month, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office the re-

mainder of the administrative year.

The Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages and smoking/vaping in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

"It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are unacceptable and are prohibited."

It is the intent of the Commander-in-Chief's decision, regarding this response, to include Post, County Council, District and Department meetings, whereas it is held to be objectionable. Please refer to section 1001 (25) of the National Manual of Procedure.

The podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 120th National Convention, effective Aug. 23, 2019, are in stock and can be purchased through the VFW Store at

www.vfwstore.org/products

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER



Hello Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Well, fall is upon us. It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference. I hope you all had a good time and were able to take new information back to your Posts and Districts.

Please do not lose sight of our ultimate goal, to help all Veterans and their families.

I am optimistic that we can move forward and get this accomplished. As, we all know there are always bumps in the road. But as Veterans and a team, we can overcome.

Please keep working on membership. We need to keep growing.

Get your Poppy orders in, that is just one more way we help our

Veterans and families in need.

I want to extend my congratulations to all the 100% District, Posts and to the Department of Michigan for receiving All State and All-American status. That is a **BIG** achievement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I will do my best to help.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter. Get your Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year candidates ready. This program is the biggest one for our young Americans. It is their weekend for recognition.

- YOURS IN COMRADESHIP -

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, DELLA STEEGE



COMMITMENT

Websters definition states: an agreement or pledge to do something in the future

Lately our officers have been walking away from

commitments made to lead our auxiliaries into and thru our 2019-2020 membership year. Our military men and women face many challenges during their tours of duty and none of them backed down from a challenge because it's too difficult or because of personality issues.

Members, we need to take our commitments seriously, others look to us for leadership and mentoring.

What kind of example are we setting by not honoring our commitments?

Who will step up to take positions in the future if all they see is leadership walking away?

My word is my honor, If I commit to a task you can believe I'm going to do my very best to honor my word.

Please repeat after me...

In the presence of the members of this organization here assembled

I do solemnly promise

on my sacred honor

to preform faithfully, strictly and impartiality

all the duties of the office upon which

I'm about to enter.

No where does it say until the going gets tough. We offer many ways to assist officers and auxiliaries with issues please reach out for help.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers:

It was terrific seeing many of you at Fall Conference. We had another positive annual Chaplains' breakout session.

Hoping those unable to attend can come in 2020.

Also, once again, please apply for National VFW Chaplain of the Year. It is open for Chaplains at all levels but Post Chaplains are the primary focus.

Nomination letters may be emailed, faxed, or sent USPS to the National Chaplain. A nomination shall address the following criteria and shall not exceed two type written pages.

**Rev. Jim Jenkins, National Chaplain
Veterans of Foreign Wars
647 N. Nettleton Ave.
Bonner Springs, KS 66012
kschaplain@att.net**

May the autumn days bring many blessings upon your families, Posts, and Districts. Isaiah 40:8 (ESV): "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Galatians 6:9 (ESV): "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

- MAY GOD BLESS YOU -



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR, BUTCH OGDEN

Hello Comrades!

Our year is off to a good start and inspections are coming along, although we missed our goal

of Fall Conference.

Post Commanders, when you get your copy of the inspection, please review and

correct the items listed to make your post current with the By-Laws.

The September audit is due by the end of October. Please get these in on time.

The fall conference was good and I hope to see you at Mid-Winter in Kalamazoo in January. Our VOD Patriot Pen and Teacher of the year programs are under way and hope each post enters. Also Buddy Poppy orders are due by the 31st of December in order to receive them by May

Any issues with Audits or Inspections feel free to contact me, **517-304-4069**



DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN

As this summer wraps up and kids are back to school we all should be thinking about the VOD/Patriots Pen and our Teacher's of the Year

Awards. We need to continue the push to encourage our schools to participate in these worthwhile programs. The children are the future leaders of our country. The schools probably will not be coming to you seeking out these programs. It takes our membership to reach out to educate the school teachers and administrators about these programs. Each post/district should have a VOD/PP Director that is the go to person to ensure this is happening. The director(s) needs to report on the progress at each monthly meeting. It only takes a few minutes at your meeting to share the information. I am confident if each one of our members laces up their boots and gets into these schools we will get more students involved. I am really excited to see all of you and the students and teachers at the Mid Winter Conference in Kalamazoo 2020.

The camping season has also wrapped up and I would like to shout out to all of the staff of Camp Trotter, the directors, and volunteers

that made this a successful camping season. As always there is much needed work to be done at Camp Trotter. If you or any group would like to spend the weekend or a day at the camp, I am certain we can get a list of things needing fixed, painted or cleaned up. Our newly elected Camp Trotter team members are Director Bob Benderman, Ron Oaks, and Richard Rhought. They will and have been a great asset to the camp for many years. Thank you comrades, for all of the time and energy you selflessly devote ensuring the camp is in tip top condition. If you would like to volunteer and are not sure what to do etc please call Director Bob Benderman and he will assist you.

As your Jr Vice Commander I will be working to find dedicated directors for the 2021-2022 year. If you know someone that is highly motivated and willing to take on a directorship please contact me. I am looking for people that are highly motivated and want to do the work. I would encourage everyone to get involved in the programs of the VFW. There is something to do for everyone. Pick a program that you are truly passionate about and do the best you can at it. Give a report at each monthly meeting. I believe this will motivate others to get involved in

your program. Membership has always been important to the VFW and it always will be. We have many posts that are considering closing/consolidating and I would venture to say they don't have a strong membership team in place. Please conduct membership drives and recruit some new blood. Our Membership team at Department is top notch and will assist you with setting up a membership drive. There are posts in the department that have come up with great ideas for recruiting and retaining membership.

Please attend your post, district and department meetings. This is where ideas are exchanged and we learn together. The VFW Department of Michigan offers Veteran Training Seminars (VTS) across the State. Each District is also required to conduct at least one VTS per year. Please reach out to one of these training seminars and take a member with you. I promise you no matter how long you have been apart of the VFW you will learn something. I love to see fresh faces attending training because we always need a fresh perspective. If you have any constructive ideas or suggestions please let Department know.

Thankyou for all you do to serve our veterans and families. **YOURS IN COMRADESHIP**

JERRY GORSKI, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION



Thank you again for allowing me to serve you as Your National Council of Administration Member representing the Department of Michigan.

I just returned from Kansas City, Missouri (August 22-25, 2019), where I spent three days on the Budget/Finance Committee, Workshop and National Council of Administration Meeting. I was appointed a Member of the Budget/Finance Committee for the next four years because of my background. There are 10 New Council Members from the Big Ten Conference this year. We received a great deal of training at the Saturday Workshop. The entire Council of Administration received training as well. We even had to return after dinner to finish up. We were finished at 8 p.m. A very long but very productive day. Sunday was my 2nd National Council of Administration Meeting. This was a smooth meeting because all the deliberation was done on Saturday. There are a lot of Passionate Council Members. This is very good for our organization. Everyone wants to do what is BEST for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Our Commander-in-Chief William "Doc" Schmitz told us at the start of the weekend and he continually told us over the weekend that he does not want any Council Member to be afraid to speak up. He wanted everyone to leave the weekend with all questions answered. This is Great from our Commander-in-Chief!

I want to now give you some information about our Posts. As of August 30, we have 6,198 Posts. There are 65 Posts still under suspension for failure to submit an election report by July 1st. Unbelievable! That is 60 days gone by and still no election report submitted. There are 26 Posts under suspension for reasons other than failing to submit an election report, for a total of 91 Posts under suspension. Please, please do not let your Post become part of these statistics. Please do everything you are required and supposed to do.

I want to now give you some information on membership. National Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz is offering a new life membership incentive program. Beginning on September 1st through June 30th, all members who either join the VFW as a new life member, reinstate as a life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership will earn a \$50 VFW store credit. This credit must be used prior to August 31, 2020. Please upgrade or pay off your life membership today.

Next, I want to talk to you about the All-American Dashboard. Copies of the All-American Dashboard guide were mailed to Council of Administration members. Program Director Lynn Rolf recorded walk-through videos explaining the dashboard for Post, District and Department Adjutants, and the videos will soon be available on the MyVFW page on the national website.

I am at 504 words and I must stop writing because of the 500-word maximum.

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

When posting to social media use #VFWPOSTPRIDE



DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, GARY GAMBLE

Greetings everyone,

I truly hope you find this article in good health and spirits today. I want to start off by reminding you that a strong

Membership is required in order to be successful in every activity of our great organization. For that reason, every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is on the membership team and we need your help pulling in a positive direction to ensure we have a strong membership to support the VFW mission.

Listed here are our membership statistics as of Oct 5th. We are basically at day 120 in the 2019-20 Membership Year.

- **Life Members: 28,923**
- **New Members: 204**
- **Reinstate Members: 44**
- **Paid Annual Members: 1851**
- **New Life\ Reinstate members: 69**
- **Total Membership: 31,022**
- **Annual members with expiring dues before June 30: 6,800**
- **Dept. Membership stands at: 83.11%**

With District 11, 10, 8, and 13 leading in the top 4 spots above the state percentage.

We had 116 members recruit or reinstate 317 members in the first 120 days. Excellent work by all and please keep this going! Unfortunately, we had 141 of the 317 members recruited without anyone receiving recruiter credit. It is very important that the Post Quartermaster include the recruiter information when transmitting new and reinstate members to our National office.

We need to work harder to increase the number of members recruiting new and or reinstating dropped members. We need every member to step up and help recruit new or reinstate dropped members. **Our recruiting efforts today will ensure we have a strong VFW for tomorrow!**

One important item to keep in mind when recruiting is to be a well-informed recruiter. Knowing the VFW and its programs will give you the ability to speak with confidence when talking with prospective members. So, stay informed by reading your Department MOV and VFW Magazine. In addition, be sure to visit our Department website

www.vfwmi.org

and read through all the information listed. All 2019-20 VFW Programs can be found in addition to other useful information. Also be sure to visit the VFW National website.

www.vfw.org

You will find even more program and training information. Keep in mind, to get the most out of our VFW National website you **MUST** login as a VFW member. You will use a unique username and password to log in that must be setup by first time users. If you do not have a username and password setup, please do so you are able to view content only intended for VFW members and officers. If you're having troubles logging in

or need help, please contact me so I can get you the needed help to set it up.

Membership Recruiting & Retention, visit **National Website > My VFW > Training & Support > Membership, Recruiting & Retention**

You will find videos and other useful information that will help with being a better recruiter.

We are asking for some help from our **VFW AUXILIARY!** We have a **NEW** program that includes our VFW Auxiliary. We are encouraging all our VFW Auxiliary members to submit veteran referrals to us for membership. Simply put, we are asking for a name and phone number for a potential member. We will do the investigating and steer them to a post of choice. The Auxiliary member, Auxiliary, and District with the most referrals (name and contact information) will receive special recognition.

1. The Auxiliary with the most referrals will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the VFW Store.

2. The top individual and top District with the most referrals will receive a special State Commander Award at the 2020 VFW State Convention.

Deadline to submit referrals to the State Membership Director is: May 15, 2020.

Our Commander-in-Chief initiated a New Life Membership Incentive Program. All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to a Life membership beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 VFW store credit. Also included are members on a Life member installment. Final payment must be made before June 30, 2020 to be eligible for the \$50 store credit. This credit **MUST** be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Upgrade, pay off, or reinstate as a Life member today. Use this web link to do it online now!

<https://oms.vfw.org/QuickRenew.aspx?srcid=275>

Or call the VFW Member Service Center
1-833-VFW-VETS

Any existing or unpaid member can call this number to pay annual dues, upgrade to Life Membership, change mailing address, etc. All you need is a credit or debit card. The Member Service Center is open Mon-Fri, 9:15am – 5:15pm.

The 2019-20 Membership Program can be found on the Department Website under Programs. Every post should be working toward achieving all our 2019-20 membership goals.

If you need any help with membership please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of your Department Membership Team! **Cell: 313 575-6258**

Keep the momentum going and thank you for everything you're doing to support the VFW Mission.

**TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD
A STRONGER VFW**

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

JENNIFER SMITH

After Fall Conference, was informed that we need more Legislative reports submitted. Therefore, please note that the Legislative section of our Department's website is updated every couple weeks. It is as easy as copy, paste into Word, read report to Post or District, and send your report. Simply go to

vfwmi.org

click 'Programs,' then select 'Legislative'

Once you have conveyed the legislative information to Post (or District), please submit your report or legislative response letter with your monthly Community Activity report via

activity@vfwmi.org

and copy to **leg@vfwmi.org**

Obviously, would also like you to visit the VFW Action Corps Weekly for yourselves,

write letters, and promote our VFW Priority Goals as it is how we remain a positively recognized force for advocacy. We have a terrific National Program that you can view at:

vfw.org > advocacy >

National Legislative Service

However, at the very least, please visit our Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan website's Legislative section and see the VFW Action Corps highlights posted to share with others and report!

www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly

New from Lansing,

STATE of MICHIGAN BILL:

MI HB 4325: The scope of proposed Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

(LARA) policy changes would threaten the ability of private mental health clinicians to be reimbursed by private insurance companies. Veterans could lose alternatives (vs. VA counselors) if these mental health professionals lose their licenses, ability to diagnose patients, or ability to receive payment from their insurance...

A number of our Comrades get mental health services from private clinicians in addition to VA mental health or instead of it. MI HB 4325 (Rep. Aaron Miller, District 59) addresses this matter and prevents the policy change support this bill.

Last, please keep up your efforts, report your positive endeavors, and know that YOU are our true legislative strength!



DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT

Hello Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! It is time that we start reaching out to our local Public Service Offices for nominations for Law Enforcement, Firefighter and EMT/Paramedic of the Year Award. My challenge to you is to reach out RIGHT NOW to those offices so that they can get nominations submitted

before the deadline approaches. Not only will you receive 10 All-State points for each of the 3 submissions, but you will also have the opportunity to receive Drug and Safety points for recognizing these fine men and women at your Post! I encourage each and every one of you to submit your nominees as soon as possible and schedule a recognition event at your Post. We need to ensure everyone one of them is recognized for a job well done. The nomination form is found on our Department webpage under Programs and Safety. It is a fillable form that you can easily print and disperse throughout your community. The deadline for submissions is **December 31, 2019**. Please email your nominations to me at

ds@vfwmi.org

or you may mail them to

7468 N. Johnson Road Lakeview, Michigan 48850

Please ensure that the form is legible so that I am able to contact if you if necessary.

Are you looking for **FREE** Drug and Safety information? If so, the Michigan State Police (MSP) offers free traffic safety materials. All you need to do is fill out a form, available online, and the State Police will send you **FREE** brochures, coloring books, flyers and stickers to hand out at your Post or community events. The best part is that it's **FREE** and you receive drug and safety points just for ordering items listed on the form! The form can be found online by visiting

http://bit.ly/31ZR9mC

or call 517-636-4256

If you are unable to access the online form please call or email me and I will be happy to send you a copy. I am here to help you achieve your goals and assist with getting you the drug and safety points you need!

"Leaders instill in their people a hope for success and a belief in themselves. Positive leaders empower people to accomplish their goals." -Unknown

NOMINATIONS DUE DECEMBER 31ST

CAMP TROTTER DIRECTOR

BOB BENDERMAN

I would like to thank the newly elected committee members, Richard Rought, Ron Oakes, myself Bob Benderman. We've spent a lot of time at the camp this summer working with Matt Koutz .

I would like to thank VFW Post 702 and Auxiliary for painting the boys and girls shower room. This was something that needed to be done.

We will be installing a new sidewalk between the mess hall and cabin 3 to the kid's shower room. This will be completed before this MOV hits print.

Also, the committee approved a new furnace and A/C over the mess hall. They have been failing for a few years. They will be in-

stalled on Oct. 30th.

A lot of our equipment is starting to reach the 15-20 year old range and as you all know, things have to be replaced.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support. We can not do it alone and we need your help. Any ideas or suggestions please refer them to me or another committee member.

My contact info is:

rsb002@comcast.net

cell 231-557-5778 / home 231-773-2076

Last but not least I would like to thank Eddie Dandridge for staying on as the life membership coordinator for Camp Trotter.

- HAPPY TRAILS -

NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR, JAMES HUBBARD

Thank you for a wonderful day everyone had on August 4th at VFW National Home Michigan Days. The children had a fishing contest with trophy's awarded to the winners, face painting, ice cream & popcorn, Bingo was played by many children and adults, \$200.00 in quarters was placed "in the sand" then the children searched for their coin findings, then off to the .1k run with 60 children and 25 adults. I remember a 7 year old boy ran his little legs off to the finish line after crossing the finish line he said "Can We Do That Again?!" then everyone laughed out loud To sum it up in a nut shell, he had fun, and that is what counts.

We had many activities for the children and families and are looking forward to bigger and better highlights next year in store. Plan now to be there next year.

With the holidays approaching be sure to go online and seek out a gift from the Amazon wish list and send it to the Home. There is a 2019 Santa's Wish list for the families to select from for their gift list.

Also if you are searching for that gift for someone who has everything, consider a \$50.00 Life Membership to the National Home in there name.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
@VFWAUXMI
@VFWMI

CHAMPIONING FOR ADVOCACY

JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Your VFW VSO office is proud to speak of the many successes the Veterans of Foreign Wars has had over it's 100 years of advocacy!

Throughout all the lobbying and legislation, one would think we finished, unfortunately far from the truth. One huge success is being prosecuted now, Blue Water veterans are finally being recognized having presumptive exposure to herbicides during their tours of duty off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam, 28 years after the Agent Orange Act was passed in 1991. There is another group from that era who continue to struggle with illnesses of herbicides while continuing to be denied, Air Force and Army veterans deployed throughout Royal Thai Bases in Thailand.

For many decades, Air Force historical reports completely deny the use of Agent Orange in Thailand. Then in 2013, the CHECO report was released even though it was originally declassified in 1989. CHECO, "Contemporary Historical Examination of Current Operations," is a 90-page report

written in February, 1972 detailing the use of herbicides in Thailand although the Department of Veteran Affairs concluded that only veterans that were by base perimeters should receive acknowledgment of exposure and granted their due compensation. Good work covering up by both DOD and the VA.

The VA has put out the following literature in light of this report: The following veterans may have been exposed to herbicides: -U.S. Air Force veterans who served on RTAF Bases U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. -U.S. Army veterans who were stationed at these bases provided they were in the occupation of Military Police such as dog-handlers who were "on or near" the perimeter.

In the five years I have been advocating for veterans and their dependents on behalf of the VFW, this issue is consistently denied at the Regional Office level because "on or

near" the perimeter fails to quantify. One such example was an Avionics technician that was responsible for maintaining the TACAN station, verified by the layout of the Base at Takhli to be 50 feet from the perimeter. According to the Decision Review Officer, this did not reach the threshold - are you kidding me?! This case was eventually won at the BVA level as well as several others but it has taken up to 8 years for them to be properly adjudicated.

I struggle following VA logic as they now concede 12 nautical miles of exposure for Blue Water veterans out at sea, yet all of the above listed RTAF bases are land-locked and not bigger than 10 square miles, let alone "on or near" the perimeter!

Yes, I am truly proud as all of you should be for the many milestones we've crossed on behalf of our comrades, but pause for a moment for all of those we have lost due to the continuity of bureaucracy we will continue to fight for in the next 100 years.



VOD / PP / TOY DIRECTOR, GARY BROWN

Comrade Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to remind everyone that both the Patriot's Pen and Voice of

Democracy themes for this year are

"What Makes America Great"

and our deadline cutoff is October 31st to have all entries for VOD,PP and TOY into your posts to qualify for this year's judging. Posts have until November 15, 2019 to have their entries submitted to their Districts and Districts have until December 7, 2019 to have their winners submitted to Department. The **DEADLINES** are **ABSOLUTE** and it includes all paperwork. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the programs please give me a call or send me a text to

**garybrownsr@outlook.com
517-667-1189**

I hope everyone has a good turnout of Students and Teachers for this years program.

I would also like to let everyone know that Andy Conklin has volunteered his assistance to be my Assistant Director for Department Programs and replaces Adam VanSickle. Please change your directories to the below information

Andy Conklin – Assistant Director
307 S. East St., Decatur, MI 49045
Email: andyconklin@gmail.com
Phone: 269-944-9781

- YOURS IN COMRADESHIP -



PTSD DIRECTOR, DOUGLAS BRINKER

I want to first thank each and everyone of you, my fellow Comrades, who attended and approved that our great Department have a PTSD Program.

Moving forward, the program will be here to help our Brothers and Sisters. We know you may struggle and continue to struggle and want you to know we care and **You Matter!** The reception from so many has been very welcoming and we as a team are committed to being there when you need us the most.

I want to extend my sincerest and honored gratitude to our Department Commander who has given me this humbled appointment. Our team consists of Department Commander Mike Fineis, Auxiliary President Della Steege, Don Martindale, Richard Sherman, Bruce Bridson, Barbra Locke, Ray Black, and Honorary Member Larry Billings. Our goal is to have team members all across the Department in the event a comrade needs help, we have someone close by who can provide that.

For those who weren't able to join us, we accomplished a few things.

One, more awareness and how we are dedicated to you, the members of this awesome Department, the ability to reach out to any one of our Committee Members throughout the state when you feel you need someone to listen.

Secondly, for everyone who has purchased a "Know The 5 Signs" bright yellow shirt, we are grateful that you will help us advocated

those 5 emotional signs that others display when crisis arises. We will reorder for Mid-Winter Conference so that if we didn't have your size, we will the end of January 2020. While there was some confusion about the "Pie the Director and Friends" event, we still managed to raise \$140. With shirt sales, we raised \$935 for a grand total of \$1,075.

The program also welcomed United Veterans of Michigan to the conference helping provide necessary resources for our comrade family. Larry Billings and Ray Black both Marine Veterans (pictured below) poured their hearts out sharing and listening how UVM can play a significant role assisting Vets with hunting, fishing and other activities to help reconnect us together. Follow United Veterans of Michigan on Facebook to arrange for your next big adventure.

We also were fortunate to have present, Shawn Smith, a Veteran who works at Peace Ranch of Traverse City. Peace Ranch is focused on Equine Therapy and is **FREE** for all Veterans using the EAGALA Model for those with PTSD.

Our program is dedicated to build relationships with other organizations that have your 6 at all times and is concerned about the safety and welfare for all who we serve.

At Mid-Winter we plan to hold a Blind Draw Corn-Hole Tournament for Fundraising in order to continue to build up our funds. Each District will have further details by District Meeting in December. We are also seeking PTSD displays to showcase your creative talent. Each display will be judged for creativity, awareness, and hope!

KNOW THE FIVE SIGNS





**BUDDY POPPY
DIRECTOR,
TERRY DOWDELL**

Comrades, it is time to order your Buddy Poppies for this coming year. Buddy Poppy Days are May 7-9, 2020, so

please order by December 31st to ensure on-time delivery. Last year we had a lot of Posts that did not order an at all. In fact, there are Posts in every District that haven't ordered any Poppies for two years or more. So please order at least 500 each year. I do not know when was the last time that Michigan was 100% in Buddy Poppy orders.

In 1922, the VFW was ordering Poppies from France but members soon realized it took a long time to receive these orders so they came up with a better idea. Disabled, hospitalized and aging veterans could make the paper flowers and ship them out for distribution. And so it was known, for veterans in VA hospitals, domiciliary, and state veteran homes that every day would be a VFW Buddy Poppy day. These men and women assemble the Poppies, tie them in bunches of 10 and pack them in boxes of 500, 1,000 or 2,000 for shipment. The VFW pays the disabled veterans for their work. In most cases, this extra money provides additional income for the workers to pay for luxuries, which can make their lives more comfortable. Furthermore, Poppy assembly is often used as a therapy program to provide exercise for fingers and hands. Another reason Poppies are so important is because all proceeds from distribution are used for veteran's welfare or the wellbeing of their dependents and orphans of veterans. More than 2,300 children of veterans have been, or are being, cared for at the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, thanks to a portion of Poppy funds.

If you are a Buddy Poppy Chairperson, help build enthusiasm and reiterate to your fellow members the two-fold importance of Poppies. It is truly all about veterans helping veterans and living up to the VFW's motto of "No One Does More For Veterans."

Special poppies are now available to Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversary. The Poppies come in silver (25), gold (50) and iridescent white (75 & 100). These can be ordered along with regular Poppies prior to or during your anniversary year and should be distributed along with traditional Poppies.

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

DENI HUNTER

And so, I thought to myself...

Why does the VFW Auxiliary need a chairmanship devoted to Americanism/Patriotic Instructor?

Shouldn't these acts of devotion already be known, expected, and practiced?

Hadn't we all been taught and grown up with these ideals?

Well, the answer is no.

An article in the American Interest expresses "The once-accepted view of America as one nation, with the attendant sense of pride rooted in the belief in its exceptionalism, has been steadily losing ground over the last three decades..."

CNSNews reports, that "a survey released... found that one in five millennials views the American flag as "a sign of intolerance and hatred"."

The Investor's Business Daily cites, "[the nation's public education system] are now producing generations of Americans who know little about their own country, other than that they hate it."

The Daily Signal concluded, "The decline of patriotism in American life will lead to profound crisis for the world's youngest civilization—which has been fortunate enough to maintain one of the oldest, and certainly the greatest, of political systems."

I began to reflect on the importance of and significance of pledging allegiance to and supporting the ideals of our Country, The United States of America.

Then, I started to research why we should commit ourselves to this cause of instructing Patriotism.

All down through the history of the United States of America, our citizens have laid down

their lives for not only their own life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, but also have rallied and fought for other nations for their common security and common humanity.

From the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, to the Persian Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq...and, let us not forget the Global War on Terror and the War Against the Islamic State...our citizens have sacrificed their lives in defense of country, liberty, and founding principles.

"The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it." expressed John F. Kennedy.

Ronald Reagan wrote that "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them" spoke Franklin D. Roosevelt.

And, of course, there is the famous quote from Patrick Henry—"Give me liberty, or give me death."

And so, we have been reminded of the importance of and significance of pledging allegiance to and supporting the ideals of our Country, The United States of America.

"You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it." wrote John Adams.

God Bless the United States of America where "All gave some—some gave all."

BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME AUXILIARY CHAIR

KATHY HUBBARD

Good Afternoon, I just returned from Fall Conference, it was great to meet each and everyone at our break out session and being able to put a face to a name. Thank you.

I wish I could of spent more time sharing more of the ideas I had to help your Auxiliaries. Hopefully, you can encourage members to be involved in the many great programs we have for our Veterans and their families. The many programs offered interact with each other to assist in helping our Veterans and their children.

Wear a poppy on your shirt or jacket each day and then have it be your errand to find

someone to share it with and **Thank** them for their service. Never forget how the strength of the mighty little flower & a smile can brighten a strangers day.

With the holidays fast approaching please add our VFW National Home to your Christmas list. We can recognize family members or Auxiliary members with a Life Membership which will show a thank you to them as well as being able to show our support to our military and veteran families.

**God Bless and Keep you,
Have a Very Merry Christmas!**

LEGISLATIVE AUXILIARY CHAIR

JENNIFER SMITH

It was a pleasure seeing you at Fall Conference. Must again convey was impressed with reports received; Thank you! Once again [grin], gently reminding all to please sign up for the dynamic VFW Action Corps Weekly via: <https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly>. It features timely updates on federal legislation that affects veterans, troops, their families, and Prisoners of War/Missing in Action updates.

Just a couple points... First, received a couple of wonderful Prisoners of War/Missing in Action reports from Auxiliaries. They were terrific and I appreciated them greatly. Sadly, even though updates on these servicemembers are included in the VFW Action Corps, which sometimes leads to confusion, all reports &

events honoring them are filed under the Americanism Program.

Second, please be sure to include a valid telephone number or email on your reports so I can contact you in case of questions. Yes, I am new, but sometimes really need to touch base. My job is not to make your job harder so am trying, but may need to contact you.

Last, please follow the Guide Sheets. Your legislative efforts should relate to veterans, active duty, and their families, VFW Priority Goals, and Community Legislative Education and Engagement, as described in the Guide Sheets. Your efforts are amazing just want to be sure you get all the points possible. Am also updating the VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Michigan Legislative Facebook page often

with easy-to-download files to for added help.

New! Lansing, MI ~ "MI HB 4325: The scope of proposed Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) policy changes would threaten the ability of private mental health clinicians to be reimbursed by private insurance companies. Veterans could lose alternatives (vs. VA counselors) if these mental health professionals lose their licenses, ability to diagnose patients, or ability to receive payment from their insurance... A number of our Comrades get mental health services from private clinicians in addition to VA mental health or instead of it. MI HB 4325 (Rep. Aaron Miller, District 59 [R]) addresses this matter and prevents the policy change; please support this bill."



DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS COMMITTEE CHAIR, BARRY WALTER

Comrades, I am honored to Chair the 2019-2020 Department Bylaws Committee. I wish to thank the Commander for the appointment.

The Department Bylaws Committee is responsible to receive, review and propose to the Department Convention all proposed amendments to the Department Bylaws. We are also responsible to review and propose to

the Convention all properly received proposed amendments to the National Bylaws, National Manual of Procedure and National Ritual as well as all resolutions proposed for consideration by the Department Convention.

Each of these areas of responsibility have their own criteria of authorship and passage.

In its work the Committee may not reject any submission but shall propose to the Department Convention passage or rejection with rationale.

Department Bylaws – Authority National Bylaws Section 502 and Department Bylaws Article XVIII.

Amendments to the Department Bylaws will be considered under the procedure detailed in Article XVIII of the Department Bylaws. Amendments may be proposed by any member in good standing, a Post, a County Council or a District. Amendments so proposed must be approved at a District Convention. In practice this means that a member may submit a proposed Bylaw amendment directly to the District Convention without prior approval of a Post or County Council. While we would encourage members to seek approval of proposed amendments by their respective Post and/or County Council prior to submission to a District Convention, such action is not required.

Proposed Bylaw amendments approved at a District Convention must be forwarded in writing to the Department Adjutant with verification (generally over the signature of the District Adjutant) that they have been approved by the District Convention and to be received by the Department Adjutant not later than 15 days prior to the Department Convention. On this point we must provide some comment. In common practice the Department has been as liberal as possible because the Department Bylaws are ambiguous. However because there is a further requirement of when the proposed amendments must be distributed there must be some absolute deadlines beyond which proposed amendments cannot be accepted.

Proposed amendments may be forwarded to the Department Adjutant in writing by mail, by FAX or by email. It is always the responsibility of the sending party to ensure and verify the timely receipt by the Adjutant.

The Department Bylaws allow the Committee or a Department Officer to submit a proposed Department Bylaw amendment to the Adjutant without the requirement of approval by a District Convention.

The Committee does not have the authority to reject or revise a proposed Bylaw amendment received following approval by a District Convention.

Once distributed by the Adjutant as required a proposed amendment originated by the Committee or a Department Officer cannot be further revised.

The Department Bylaws require that the Adjutant distribute all proposed Department Bylaw amendments timely received and properly documented to the Council of Administration and Posts at least 10 days prior to the Department Convention and cause them to be available on the Department website. Once again, we must offer some comment because the Department Bylaws are currently ambiguous on the definition of distribute. Common practice within the Department has been to distribute proposed amendments in the same manner as usual communication with Posts. In recent years this has been by email to either the Post Commander or other Post officer who has an email address on file with Department Headquarters on behalf of the Post. It is therefore incumbent on each Post to have a working email account on record with Department and a responsible member who checks and distributes material received timely and properly.

In practice, for those amendments timely received from Department Officers or the Committee, the Adjutant has also distributed proposed amendments to District Commanders prior to District Conventions with the request that they be presented and discussed at the District Convention. While this distribution may satisfy the requirement of distribution to that segment of the CofA it cannot be presumed to wholly satisfy the requirement to notify all Posts despite our best intentions requiring Post Commanders or their representative to

attend all District meetings. And in practice it does not allow for the prospect that additional proposed amendments may be forwarded to Department having been approved at a District Convention.

If the author of a proposed Department Bylaw amendment desires it to be published in the MOV prior to the Department Convention the deadline for submission to the MOV Editor is March 15. Any proposed amendment published in the MOV not proposed by a Department Officer or the Committee must be approved by a District Convention prior to presentation to the Department Convention.

In practice this time line looks like this:

- Department Convention opens on June 4, 2020
- Proposed amendments should be received by the Department Adjutant not later than 15 days prior – May 19, 2020
- Proposed amendments must be distributed to the CofA and Posts not less than 10 days prior – May 24, 2020, at which time they must also be made available on the Department website.
- Proposed amendments may be published in the MOV, optional – deadline March 15, 2020.

These are very tight timelines requiring all parties to perform properly. Comrades, things rarely work as exactly as required or expected. The cooperation of all parties in this process is requested and expected to the benefit of our Department.

National Bylaws – Authority National Bylaws Section 1401

Proposed amendments to the National Bylaws may be authored by any member in good standing, a Post, a County Council, a District or a Department. Proposed amendments are to be forwarded to the National Adjutant General only after they have been approved at a Department Convention. There is no requirement that proposed amendments from members, Posts or County Councils be approved by a District Convention.

National Bylaws do not dictate a timeline for proposed amendments to be submitted to a Department Convention. In practice this means that a proposed amendment may be submitted to the Department Convention right up to close of the final business session of the Department Convention. To ensure knowledgeable consideration of a proposed amendment, courtesy to the Department Commander, the Committee and the delegates would dictate that amendments be submitted to the Department Adjutant in sufficient time to allow review and comment by the Committee prior to presentation to the Department Convention delegates for their consideration.

Proposed amendments received by the Department Adjutant in sufficient time prior to the Department Convention will be distributed in the same manner as proposed Department Bylaw amendments, even though there is no requirement for such distribution by the Adjutant.

National Manual of Procedure and Ritual – Authority MOP Section 1401

Proposed amendments to the National Manual of Procedure and Ritual may authored by a Post, a County Council, a District or a Department. Proposed amendments are to be forwarded to the National Adjutant General after approval at a Department Convention.

Proposed amendments should be submitted, distributed and considered in the same manner as proposed amendments to the National Bylaws outlined above.

Resolutions – Authority Department Bylaws Article XII

A proposed resolution is a request. An adopted resolution is an instruction that something be accomplished by somebody. A proposed resolution should briefly describe why the request is being made and concisely state what action is being requested and by whom. A proposed resolution may be intended for action by the Department or by the National organization.

Annually the National Adjutant General distributes proposed National Resolutions with instructions for their consideration.

Proposed resolutions may originate from a Post, County Council, District, the Committee or a Department Officer. Resolutions authored by a member must be approved by a Post or County Council or District prior to submission to the Department Adjutant. There is no requirement that a proposed resolution be approved at the District Convention but rather may be approved at any District meeting and forwarded to the Adjutant.

Proposed resolutions from a Post, County Council or District may be submitted to the Department Adjutant at any time. Proposed resolutions received by the Adjutant will be distributed to the Districts quarterly on August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1 for reading at District meetings. Proposed resolutions may be submitted to the Adjutant right up to close of the final business

DEPT BY-LAWS CONTINUED

session of the Department Convention. To ensure knowledgeable consideration of a proposed resolution, courtesy to the Department Commander, the Committee and the delegates would dictate that resolutions be submitted to the Adjutant in sufficient time to allow review and comment by the Committee prior to presentation to the Convention delegates for their consideration.

The Department Adjutant will publish all proposed resolutions timely received on the Department website.

The Committee has the authority to originate a resolution as well as the authority to revise resolutions submitted to it. In practice the Committee when revising a proposed resolution has done so having sought input from the originator and with the intent to clarify not to change the intent of the originator.

Do not write proposed Bylaw amendments in the form of a resolution.

The Department Bylaws and Resolution Committee

The Committee works closely with the Department Adjutant and the Department Judge Advocate due to their roles and daily responsibilities. The Committee seeks input from any member with suggestions on changes to the Department Bylaws or seeking assistance in authoring a proposed amendment or resolution. The Committee does not rule on questions pertaining to application of existing Bylaws, that is the responsibility of the Judge Advocate. We encourage your input and suggestions.

I may be contacted by email at barryfw516@hotmail.com



A CELEBRATION OF MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Veterans Recognition Ceremonies

Thursday, November 7 | 9 a.m.
Michigan State Capitol Rotunda
Lansing, MI

Thursday, November 7 | 3 p.m.
Northern Center at
Northern Michigan University
Marquette, MI

Friday, November 8 | 11 a.m.
Grosse Pointe War Memorial
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Open and free for all veterans. For questions, call **800-MICH-VET** (800-642-4838).



The Michigan Military Order of the Cootie participate in the Labor Day Parade in the Romeo Peach Festival.



Past Grand Commander Eric Bell, never passes up an opportunity to recruit new members! Here with new member, Lonnie Bennett from VFW Post 2645



The Michigan Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary at the Romeo Peach Festival Parade on Labor Day

COOTIE CORNER

PGC ROBERT E. WILSON

The MOC & MOCA are on the same team and we work together as One

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! We had our Grand Scratch in Alpena and it was a great time. The Grand is growing as we speak. If you are interested in starting up a Pup Tent at your post. Please contact

PGC Eric S. Bell
roadrunnerdaddy@hotmail.com
or call 734-389-9498

we look forward to having you aboard. Our objectives --- Clean fun, harmless frolic, good comradeship and a desire to increase our circle of Friends in the VFW and the M.O.C., services to the VFW, the widows and orphans in our National Home, the hospital program of "Keep 'Em Smilin in Beds of White." At all times, neat appearance, conduct becoming a Cootie and gentle person, while in public and at VFW and M.O.C. activities.

The following Cooties have receive Supreme Appointments as follows:

- Supreme Deputy Chief Of Staff: PGC Eric S Bell
- Supreme Deputy Inspector: PGC Ernest A Pauline
- Supreme Recruiter (VFW or MOC): PGC Robert Wilson
- Supreme Seam Worker: PGC Don Martindale
- Supreme Cootie Supporter: Mahlon F Breese
- Supreme Aide-de-Camp: Russell Makowskj
- Supreme Newshound: Stephen F Tracy
- Supreme Comedian: Robert Commings
- Supreme Cheerleader: PGC Earl Tefft
- Supreme Cootie Juicer: Barry Teagan

On June 1st, 2019 Eddie Dandridge and Rosalyn Dandridge became the elected 94th/57th Grand Commander and Grand

President for the 2019-2020 Year. Also elected were Grand Sr. Vice/Sr. Vice President Russell Makowski/Josephine Miller; Grand Jr. Vice/Jr. Vice President Jon Adams/Rhunell D. Adams; Grand Quartermaster/MOCA Treasurer: PGC Ernest Paulin/Kathryn Kirby; Grand Adjutant/Secretary; PGC Robert E. Wilson/Kathy Kirby. The installing officer was Past Supreme Commander/Past Supreme President Peggy Bell.

As of this print our 84rd Tomb Trek 2019 Arlington National Cemetery has come and gone. The 91st Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party for 2019 just around the corner and we want to thank all of those who plan to participate.

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

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2019-20020

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to

PGC Bob Routhier Jr.
P.O. Box 117
Clio, MI. 48420

Our motto:
Honor, Loyalty, Perseverance, & Industry
The Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars"

Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White

- Photos submitted by Nate Powell -

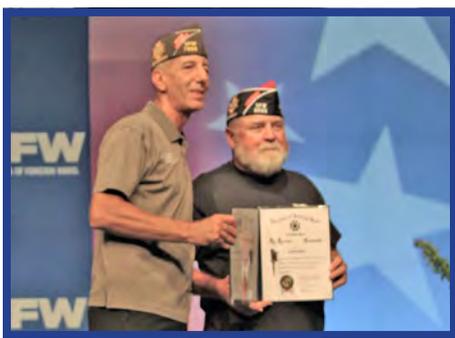
NATIONAL CONVENTION / ORLANDO, FL



Vern & Lisa Blaukamp (bottom left) accepts Post #2144's plaque for 2018-2019 National Outstanding Community Service Award



Post #3734 Cmdr. Max Rieseke accepts a plaque for 2018-2019 National Outstanding Community Service Award



▲ Post & District Commanders accept All-American awards from 2018-2019 National Commander in Chief B.J. Lawrence ▼



Past State Commander, Phil Patterson accepts the 2018-2019 Dept. of Michigan All-American Award



FALL CONFERENCE / BOYNE HIGHLANDS



▲ Post & District Commanders accept 2018-2019 All-American awards ▲



▼ Post & District Commanders accept 2018-2019 All-State awards ►



Livonia Post #3941 receives the Diamond Jubilee Award for 75 years of service



Past State Commander Matt David receives a bonded book containing MOV articles from his time in the chairs



Department of Michigan received the Platinum Donor Star for donations to the National Home for Children 2018-2019



State Commander Mike Fineis is presented the official Department Commander certificate from National Representative John Muckelbauer



Past State Commander Phil Patterson and Honor Guard Member Ricky Young attach the 2018-2019 All-American ribbon to the Department of Michigan colors



DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER - JAMES JOHNS



I look forward to working with all of you for the 2019-2020 year.

We have had a very busy 3 months already. In July we had the City of Wyandotte Parade then our VTS training seminar with District 4 and District 5 at Post #4422 in Taylor. It was one of the biggest for the Districts. We also participated in the National Convention in

Orlando, Florida, as a representative for the Post and District 4.

August 10th was our District Family Picnic, hosted at Post #3663. Thank you to the Post and Auxiliary members for coming out. Thank you to Dee Miller for all of your help. The District 4 Charity Poker Fundraiser was a big success do to all the help we received.

September 1st was our first meeting at Post #6695. September 8th, Past State Commander James Warner passed away and service was held at Czopek Funeral Home. There were full

military honors provided. September 20th, we participated in the POW-MIA ceremony at Bova Post #9885 at 6 in the evening.

Post inspections are now turned in. I would like to thank Mike Martin and all of the inspectors for a job well done.

Thank you to those of you who attended Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands last month.

November 3rd is the next District 4 meeting and will be held at Post 1888 in Trenton at noon. I look forward to seeing you there.

DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - GEORGE NAVARRETTE JR.



The Department Fall Conference was held at Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs. Past District Commander Norman Mauldin, Past District

Quartermaster Su-jen Mauldin, Past Macomb County Council Commander Phil Gannia, Past Oakland County Council Lonnie Bennett, Post 582 Commander Dennis Hoffman, and Post 1146 Commander Randy Shafer all received their white hats for 2018-2019. I had the privilege of presenting Randell Shafer his white hat at a recent Macomb County Council Meeting. The Commander stated how proud he was to achieve this honor, but said he had help from many members of the 5th District.

I would like thank all the Posts who participated in the Gold Star Mothers' Banquet. It was held at the Menge Post 6756. Commander Mike Sharples and Auxiliary

President Theresa Brinker did an excellent job with food preparation and program. The Gold Star Mothers in attendance had a great time and thanked the 5th District.

The Fall Youth Camp Out was held at Multi-Lakes Conservation Campgrounds. We had 77 campers that participated in several events: drug & safety courses, rifle competition and team building, to name a few. Special recognition to Don Kuffner and Su-jen Mauldin for coordinating all aspects of the camp out. Once again we would like to thank Post 1008 for all the food preparation. Next year we hope to have young women participate in the camp out. Coordination of these plans will be addressed by the District and Department.

POW-MIA Recognition Day was held in two locations in the 5th District. We presented the POW-MIA Memorial wreath at the Oakland County Memorial Cemetery in Novi while Sr. Vice Commander Eddie Dandridge

represented the District at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township.

Everyone should already be working on the Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year Program. The following are dates to remember:

- Oct 31 - Entries are due to the Post
- Nov 15 - Entries are due to the District
- Nov 24 - Ad Book inputs are due
- Dec 26 - Deadline to purchase District banquet tickets (tickets will not be sold at the door)
- Jan 5 - District Banquet, New Baltimore Post 7573 (Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)

Remember that pictures must be submitted to the District with all entries. Mail entries to Harry "Les" Croyle.

Wishing all 5th District, Post and Auxiliary members a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER - BILL THICK JR.



Hello, comrades! I hope this finds you all in good spirits.

First of all, I would like to remind our Post Commanders that your reports

are due to department by the 10th of each month. At Fall Conference, there were quite a few District Commanders who had to fill out activity reports for the Posts in our Districts.

You are all doing the work already. There are at least 10 members of every post who fly the American Flag or POW/MIA Flag. If your post has a building, you probably have a Missing Man Table. Perhaps you let scouts or American Legion members use your building? Please be sure to document it and get it to the chairperson on time. The same goes for hospital reports. Talk to your members and find out who your blood donors are so you can report it. Keep track of hospital equipment

you have loaned out. It goes on the report.

I also want to see every Post in District 7 with submissions for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the Year, LE of the Year, Firefighter of the Year and Paramedic/EMT of the Year. Please get these turned in on time.

Please get your rooms booked at the Radisson in Kalamazoo ASAP! I would love to see all Post Commanders and Quartermasters present.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER - RICHARD RINGERSMA



Thank you for electing me for your District 8 Commander. It is truly an honor to serve you. I am hoping we can have another successful year. We attained 100% in membership, thanks to you and Past District Commander, Vern Blauwkamp. Disappointing though was our lack of activity and hospital reporting. I know that all of our Posts are active in the community and are helping fellow veterans. We just need to report it.

Again, I am asking you to bring more veterans into our great organization. There are many out there that just need to be asked, "What can we do for you?" Once they realize what we are about, they often become involved and help others. One simple idea that is used in my Post is that each member carries a card that shows When, Where and What Time we meet. Also, on the card is a contact number for questions.

Our next District 8 meeting are:

- Nov, 2 Coopersville Post 5598
- Feb 1, Holland Post 2144
- May 2, Charlotte Post 2406

Each Post is to have a representative at all District meetings. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of Post Commander.

Please conduct your Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen essay programs as soon as possible. Also, the Teacher of the Year program. You can go to vfw.org for any information you need. You can also call, Gary Brown, the Department Director of these programs.

Let us all work hard and have fun growing in our GREAT DISTRICT 8 organization. Remember,

"NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"



**DISTRICT 9
COMMANDER
THOMAS GLEASON**

Hello Comrades. I hope everyone made it home safely from Fall Conference.

VTS was educational and the

Thursday golf outing was great! Thankful for no rain.

The upcoming District 9 meeting is Saturday, October 26th at the St. Louis Post #3055. Meeting will begin at 10 am, break for lunch and joint meeting at 11, resume regular business session at noon. Lunch is \$7 per person. Please be reminded that every Post must be represented at each District meeting. If you have any trouble or questions, please reach out to me at

616-824-5745



DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER - BOB WILSON

Dear Comrades and Aux Members of the 10th:

We had our 1st District Meetings and C of A in the past month. A lot of good things are happening

throughout the District. There are a few Posts who need to fix a few items found in their inspections but over all let's keep up the good work. At Fall Conference it was announced that Zurek-Graham VFW Post 6965 won the September membership contact throughout the Department with a 150% in membership. Bravo Zulu Commander McIntyre and comrades of VFW Post 6965.

Those Posts who have not paid their delegate fees from last year will have to do so before our next District meeting. Also, a

few of you have not sent in your audits. Let's remember they are due 30 days after the quarter. Please make sure your by-laws, 990's and other tax responsibilities are taken care of. Don't wait to hear from the IRS or local tax boards.

Our next District meeting will be Nov 9th, (VFW Meeting) Flint VFW Post 822 G-5065 S. Saginaw, Flint, Mi. 48507 (Aux Meeting) Davison VFW Post 4087 8031 E. Court St., Davison, MI. 48423 School of instructions at 10am Lunch at 11:15am and Meeting starting at 12:30pm.

District VOD/PP/TOY Banquet Jan 12 at Gordon R. Bennett VFW Post 1452 10380 N. Saginaw Rd. Clio, MI. 48420.

Social hour from 1-2pm, dinner at 2pm and awards at 3pm. Ticket price, \$12 each. Reservation deadline, Jan 7th



DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER - DEAN MAKI

Greetings Comrades,

First of all I want to thank Commander Fineis, Chief of Staff Gorski, Budget Director Mays, and

all the Department staff who came up to Post 4420 in Manistique to give the pep talk to the 14th District. The District was in jeopardy of failing, but that was avoided by their inspirational words and support. I also want to thank those in the District who've consented to assume the vital positions which were needed to satisfy our election commitments.

I also want to thank the Posts of the 14th District for being 100% in reporting. Past District Commander Olsen attained 100% in membership last year; we should continue that legacy. Please Retain, Renew, & Recruit.

Congratulations to Post 3165 Commander, Bernard Stanaway, Jr. for being selected as the 2019 U.P. Veteran of the Year.

Being new to this leadership role in the District, my first attendance at the Dept. convention in Boyne Highlands was very informative. Thank you to all the C of A members and Program Directors for your support and encouragement, and I look forward to the winter conference in Kalamazoo in January.

At our next District meeting at Post 3165 in Negaunee at on November 3rd @ 12 noon, we are scheduled to have State Commander Mike Fineis as our Department Representative. In addition to this meeting, we will be holding; in conjunction with District 15; a Veteran's Mental Health Program & Membership Training Seminar.

All Post Commanders or one of their line officers are required to attend the District meetings. Those attending should be disseminating any information received to their respective Post members.

Please continue to get your audits in on time and keep on reporting!

I wish you all a Blessed Holiday Season.



SUCCESS STORY

JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

There was an intent to file submitted to preserve an effective date for DIC, Dependent Indemnity Compensation claim with VA by a widow and her daughter this past July. This is a routine task performed by a Veteran Service Officer on any given day but there could be so much more to the story. In order for VA to grant such a claim, the veteran must have either been permanent and totally disabled through the VA for a period of 10 years, or the cause of death must have been service connected. The Air Force veteran in this case had been a client with the VFW and we journeyed alongside him through the appellate labyrinth that can be bureaucracy on steroids.

This veteran did a tour of duty at Osan, Korea as an Air Policeman. His honorable

duties included providing protection to those at his base, along with high value assets under his charge. One of these involved the U-2 spy plane. This aircraft flew at very high-altitude taking pictures of enemy terrain, forces, fortifications etc. Records for the security of this highly classified asset were tightly guarded and not easily acquired if at all. When he came in to file his claim for compensation in 2010, he was diagnosed with five presumptive illnesses of exposure to Agent Orange. VA promptly denied all of these conditions on the basis his records indicated no "boots on the ground" in Vietnam. Veteran stationed in Korea but not near the DMZ, denied.

When a U-2 aircraft is damaged by enemy forces or maintenance, it receives very high

priority. That's what led to this Air Policeman taking a temporary duty to Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam for security while it was repaired and took off. His reward was an R&R for 2 days to Japan where he managed to purchase a dress for his sister back home for her senior prom. Any evidence of his TDY, not of record. Personnel reports only state the exceptional duty he performed, but not where. Denial continued through the informal appeal level. Raised to the BVA where it could not be advanced on the docket because he wasn't financially destitute, terminally ill, or above the age of 75. So at the age of 71, while waiting 8 years, his case was finally heard from VFW VSO.

After the judge heard all testimony, finally granted exposure which entitled the veteran to over 270k in retro. While outstanding, still not acceptable because this was adjudicated in October of 2018. The promulgation from the VA was not released until June, 2019 and one month later, he passed away knowing his family was cared for.

The success of this story truly goes to this Airman. His dogged determination, his willingness to put country first during his years of honorable service. His willingness to continue to fight VA with the same veracity he fought his illnesses with, to preserve a future for his wife and daughter.

RIP Airman, and God speed.



★ AUXILIARY DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS ★

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT - LESIE GILLIES



HELLO Super 6th!!! This year seems to be flying by. Thank you President Della for your official visit at our first District meeting. It's always an honor and a privilege to see our Department President. We will be gearing up for our next District meeting to be held at Post 2298 Dundee on December 7th. There we will recognize our District Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year awards. The program

will start at 11AM with lunch and business meeting to follow. Before you know it, the holidays will be upon us. Mid-winter conference will follow on January 22-26 in Kalamazoo. At the banquet we will celebrate the Department essay winners and Teacher of the Year. Listening to our youth give their remarkable essays is always a great time. By now I have met the majority of the Auxiliaries during their inspections. I should be finishing those the second week of December. The 6th District is amazing! I was overwhelmed by the generosity, hard work,

and teamwork that you inspire in each other. You have renewed my faith in people and I am proud to be a member of the Auxiliary. A couple of reminders: Communication is important, share your events on the District 6 Facebook page so everyone can support and attend your functions. Check the District Facebook page often. There is always new and interesting information, reminders, and events. Please keep doing what you are doing. I am in awe of the wonderful work our District is accomplishing every day for our veterans and communities. Happy Holidays and thank you for your continued support.

DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT ALLEN HENSON



Thanks to everyone for your participation in National Home Michigan days.

Nice seeing all of you as you registered your flags and banners. Inspections are underway and I enjoy traveling to the many Auxiliaries. You all have made me feel most welcome. Had a great time at the Fall Conference as well. Hope everyone learned a lot to take home. Don't forget to attend the Mid-Winter in Kalamazoo. Get your reservations in. Veterans Day is just around the corner. Plan a celebration to remember for our veterans. Have a dinner at the Post Home and invite your local Vets. Looking forward to finishing my inspections and looking forward to the District meeting on Nov 3 in Marcellus. See you soon.

DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT SUE DEROUSHA-SMITH



The D J Jacobetti Home for Veterans is located at 425 Fisher Street in beautiful Marquette,

Michigan. It is currently the Upper Peninsula's only Veterans Home and it needs your help. According to their wish list, there are five funds that could use our assistance. These funds are very helpful to the veterans living there.

- Member Assistant Fund
 - Critical area of need
 - Helps pay for vision, dental, hearing for veterans that don't insurance.
- Eagle Pride Fund
 - Helps with end of life comforts.
- Memory care unit
 - Improvement of life for veterans in the unit.
- Activities and recreation
 - Tickets to games & events in the area.
- Equipment and Comfort fund
 - Repairs on wheelchairs and oxygen.

Thank you for your assistance and time to help our Veterans.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT - JANE DADY



Many thank-you's and sincere gratitude to all the Auxiliaries in District 11 for your kindness and hospitality during the inspection visits.

Please get your membership dues in so we can get to 100% by December 31st. Keep up the great work you are doing for our veterans. Remember to report all that work, you are all amazing! November 11 is Veterans Day where we honor all military personnel who have served or are serving.

To all our Military and Veterans: "There are not words big enough. There is not a hug strong enough. There is not a smile wide enough. All I can offer is thank you. You are my hero. You are in my thoughts. You are in my prayers. For all you've done, thank you." We don't know them all, but we owe them ALL. As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, help any veteran, military and their families. This is a tough time for those deployed, homebound and homeless. Let them know about the resources that your Posts and Auxiliaries have. To all our members, have a Blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT - SHEILA PICKARD



We have had several Parades and Quilts of Valor presented this year, with many more to come.

On Sept. 18th the 12th Mid-Michigan Honor flight left Traverse City with 68 World

War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans and their guardians for Washington DC., where they visited many monuments. Also, after missing for seventy years, Charles Lawler was returned home to Traverse City with hundreds of mourner's present. He was killed at the age of 19 in the Korean Conflict. He now rests in peace beside his mother.



As Veterans Day approaches, join us as we honor America's heroes in signing a card to show them our appreciation for all they have sacrificed for our freedom. Signing a card may seem like a small gesture compared to

what they have done for us, but hearing from you while in the hospital means the world to a veteran. Sign a card today by visiting <http://bit.ly/2ouT7NG>

VFW FRIENDS OF FREEDOM

If you are not already a member of the VFW's online community, please visit vfw.org and look for the gold banner that says "Find Out What's Happening" to sign up. As a member of the VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting

our nation's veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit vfw.org/vfwatwork and click on "Read VFW success stories" to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans' rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

JOHN GRIFFITH

Candidate for Department
Jr. Vice Commander
2020-2021



Selfless Service through Faith.
Proud member of
District 6 and Post #701

GARY GAMBLE

Candidate for Department
Jr. Vice Commander
2020-2021



Supported and endorsed by
his wife, family, Post,
District 4, and many more

JENNIFER L. SMITH

Candidate for
Department Chaplain
2020-2021



Selfless Service through Faith.
Proud member of
District 6 and Post #701

VFWMI.ORG EASY LINKS

We are constantly trying to improve the Department website to make it easier to use and navigate. Here are a few direct links to some useful pages!

- vfwmi.org/contact
- vfwmi.org/vethelp
- vfwmi.org/join
- vfwmi.org/directory
- vfwmi.org/officers
- vfwmi.org/allstate
- vfwmi.org/camptroutter
- vfwmi.org/mov
- vfwmi.org/forms
- vfwmi.org/gallery

**VOD / PP / TOY
DEADLINE REMINDER**



Entries to Post / October 31
Post to District / November 15
District to Department / December 7
- See page 6 for more -

ORGANIZE A VETERANS DAY EVENT

Organizing an event on Veterans Day to honor all veterans is a great way to get the community involved. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: <http://bit.ly/2B7O7AW>



LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE

Our Commander-in-Chief is offering a new Life membership incentive program. All members who either join the VFW as a new Life member, reinstate as a Life member, or upgrade their existing annual membership to Life beginning Sept. 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, will earn a \$50 store credit. This credit must be used prior to Aug. 31, 2020. Upgrade, pay off or reinstate your Life membership today! <http://bit.ly/2VDSulH>

**NEW YORK VETERAN ELECTED NEW VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER SCHMITZ
TAKES OFFICE DURING A TIME OF GREAT MOMENTUM FOR THE ORGANIZATION**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 29, 2019) – William J. “Doc” Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., has been elected the new leader of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from all five branches of the armed forces.

Schmitz’s election to VFW Commander-in-Chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization’s 120th national convention in Orlando, Fla., which drew approximately 10,000 veterans, and military family members.

Each year, VFW members from around the globe representing a myriad of conflicts converge at the event. Their mission during the weeklong convention is to approve new national priorities to guide the organization in its advocacy and business efforts throughout the ensuing year.

Schmitz takes office during a time of great momentum for the organization which recently announced its first increase in membership numbers in 27 years, reached a milestone achievement of more than \$8.3 billion in benefits and compensation collected from the VA on behalf of veterans, and fought for the successful passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. Through donations and corporate partnerships, the VFW has also surpassed \$11 million in financial grants and \$6.5 million in scholarships awarded to veterans, and is celebrating 100 years of its National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service programs which advocate for the best possible quality of life solutions and benefits on behalf of America’s veterans, service members and military families.

Aiding the VFW’s corporate relationships is its VFW Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) charity which maintains a coveted four-star rating by Charity Navigator, setting the VFW Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrating to the public its trustworthiness.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on



foreign soil or in hostile waters. Schmitz served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970, with deployment to Vietnam as a corpsman attached to United States Marine Corps infantry and artillery. He then joined the VFW in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he has served the VFW in many vital leadership positions at the local, state and national levels.

During his tenure as national commander, Schmitz will log thousands of miles across the U.S. and abroad to promote the many objectives of the VFW. His charge to members and supporters the \$102 million nonprofit organization over the next year is to “Dare to Care,” calling on individuals to help confront the challenges that hinder America’s service members and families from living their best lives.





POST REPORTS



POST #423 ANN ARBOR



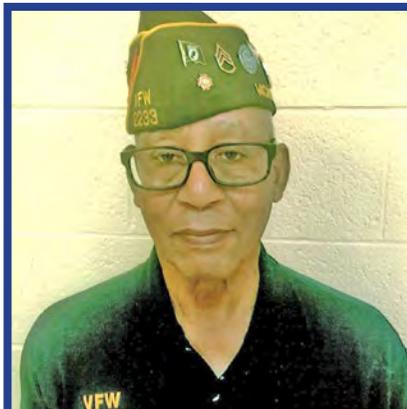
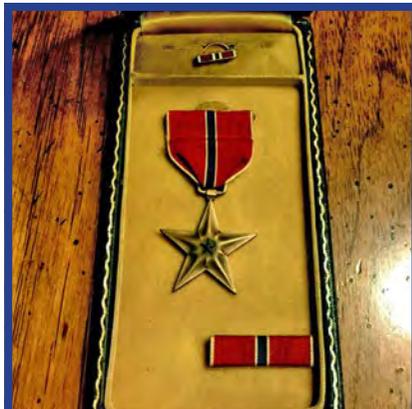
VFW Post 423 historian, Nate Powell, congratulates Kimberly A. Napoleon, VFW Bridgeport/Buena Vista Post 9931 Commander, on her installation as Senior Vice-Commander District 9

POST #582 ORTONVILLE



TOP LEFT: M-15 officially became part of the Purple Heart Trail in the Village limits of Ortonville effective 3/28/19, pictured Post Cmdr. Hoffman. **TOP RIGHT:** Post members at our Purple Heart Day program **BOTTOM:** Post presenting colors at home town hero's night at the Ortonville football game 9/20/19.

POST #2233 DETROIT



Honors two of our heroes who are recipients of the Bronze Star! SSG Louis Thomas, served in the Vietnam War & SGT Samuel Billington, served in the Korean War.

POST #2406 CHARLOTTE



Post held a POW/MIA ceremony. POW/MIA Chairperson, Robert Charley organized an outstanding program. Guest Speaker, Past District Commander Robert Caldwell was outstanding. We thank East English Village High School's JROTC Honor Guard for presenting and posting the colors. Recognition was given of the missing man's table and the grave of the unknown soldier. Although not pictured here, we give thanks to Post Comander Marshall Hawkins for sponsoring this wonderful ceremony. We thank our special guest, Wayne County Commissioner Monique McCormick and to all who attended.

Maple City VFW Post 2406 in Charlotte, MI set up a VFW Booth for the first time at the Eaton County 4H Fair from July 8 – 13th to get the word out on What the VFW does for the community. The Post Honor Guard was requested to do the Ribbon Cutting and Flag raising ceremony to open the 4H Fair and we set up our display booth with assortments of handouts on all topics such as Drug and Safety, VOD/PP/TOY, Fire, Suicide Prevention, Camp Trotter, and much more.

While working our VFW Booth at the Eaton County 4H Fair our Post Members recruited for new members and discussed with veterans VA eligibility. We also collected information for the Service Office on those members needing help with VA.

Our Post members also talked to 4H Students passing our booth on VOD/PP and how to obtain all the documents needed to submit their theme to the Post and the Deadline of October 31, 2019 to have it arrive.

This was a very productive week for our VFW 2406 Post because on August 13th at our regular Post meeting Commander Gary Brown was able to swear in 9 New Members and on our Post meeting during the Fair week he was able to pick up 2 additional new Member that went to the Post to be sworn in for a total of 11 new Members and One new member wore his Dress Blues to be sworn in.

This proves that there are New Members out there walking around and ready to Join the VFW if WE would only Ask them to Join the VFW. Our VFW Post will have another Booth at the Fair next Year!



POST #3701 LAKEVIEW



This summer marked the Post's second year cleaning our M-91 with Adopt-A-Highway



Post members at the 2nd Annual Post #3701 Golf Outing where we raised over \$4,000



Post Qtrm Jessica Wright & Post Cmdr Stacey Roberts with National Commander Chief "Doc" Schmitz

POST #4122 HOLLAND



Holland's own WWII "Rosie the Riveter" honored at the National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

POST #4090 PORTLAND

Early In November of 2018, the manager of Sunset Ridge Mobile Home Park in Portland, called VFW Post 4090, asking if they knew of any organization that might build or finance the construction of a handicap ramp for a veteran who lived the park. Post 4090 took action immediately. Project approval by the membership was unanimous and shortly afterwards a construction crew was formed.

VFW life member and Vietnam veteran Patrick Patton accepted the job as the project manager. Through the winter and spring of 2019, material bids were accepted from local businesses and the project planning moved along at a good pace.

After several months of planning, the team set a start date of August 9. Together, a team of veterans from the Post, Auxiliary and American Legion Post 129 set the footings, engineered the ramp support system and the project was under way.

With the weather cooperating, the crew worked as a team, each contributing their carpenter skills and knowledge while maintaining the correct ramp slope ratio, assembling the supports, deck boards, spindles, and handrails. On August 15, after approximately 4 days' work on the project, the ramp was completed.



Homeowner and veteran in need Bruce Burghdof, explained because of his and wife Esther's physical disabilities, a handicap ramp would be a necessity in the near future.

Bruce is an Army veteran of 6 years. His duty stations were Alaska, Virginia and North Carolina where he held specialty duties as a "Programmer/Analyst" for 2 years and as a "Heavy Construction Equipment Operator" for 4 years and 7 months.

When asked what he thought of the ramp, Bruce stated, "This ramp has relieved the stress on my knees and ankles by not having

to use the steps. My wife Esther uses a walker, so the ramp is much easier for her to use than negotiating steps with a walker."

Volunteers on the ramp construction were Patrick Patton, Mike Fox, Fred Ingraham, Phil Hulings, Rick Teachout, Bill Brown, Andy Huhn, Dave Reed, James Hock and Bill Almy.

Bruce thanked the crew of veterans for their hard work creating, in his words, "this wonderful ramp".

Thank you to MPC Lumber Co. of Lansing for the veteran's discount on materials. Thank you to Todd Goodman Construction for project consultation.

The total cost of the project was \$1,568.00. If you wish to contribute to this project, please call 616-540-0917. Contributions received over and above the project cost will be deposited into the Post's Veteran's Relief Fund. The Relief fund has strict guidelines directed by the VFW National Bylaws for the purpose of, "aid, assistance, relief, and comfort of needy or disabled veterans."

A special thank you to Patrick Patton for his long hours of organizing, persistence, planning and patience.



DO YOU HAVE THE VFW MOBILE APP?

The official app of the VFW puts the power of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans directly in users' hands. It can be found by searching "VFW" in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.



POST #7573 NEW BALTIMORE



On August 29, 2019, VFW Post 7573 New Baltimore hosted the Overdue Medals Ceremony for four Vietnam Veterans.

U.S. Congressman Paul Mitchell presented the Overdue Medals. It took over 50 years for these four Vietnam Veterans to finally receive their medals. Thanks to U.S. Congressman Paul Mitchell and his staff to get these long-awaited medals.

VFW Post 7573 Commander Bob Potteger was the Master of Ceremonies. The VFW 7573 Color Guard presented the colors. A young lady sang the National Anthem. A nice dinner was given afterwards.

Attending this ceremony were VFW District 5 Commander George Navarrete, District 5 Junior Vice Commander Su-jen Mauldin. All-State Director/District 5 Quartermaster Norm Mauldin, Department Historian/District 5 Chaplain Jim Muys and Past District 5 Commander/Judge Advocate Mike Olesiak and National Council of Administration Member Jerry Gorski.

A nice dinner was given to the Vietnam Veterans, their families and everyone attending.

District 5 Commander George Navarrete signed up one of the veterans receiving medals. Post 7573 Quartermaster Jim Van Tiem also gave a VFW membership application to one of the other Vietnam Veterans receiving Medals

It was a great event for VFW 7573 New Baltimore and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



ROLL CALL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES



LISTED BY POST NUMBER / LAST NAME / FIRST NAME / AGE / SERVICE / WAR

78 Dearborn Heights

Gambrel, John C.
92 Army/WWII
345 Redford
Hanawalt, Calvin W.
94 Army/WWII
422 Delton
Briggs, Darold D.
88 Air Force/Korea
423 Ann Arbor
Fletcher, George Jr.
92 Marines/WWII
Kettles, Charles
88 Army/Vietnam
Komblevitz, Andrew
73 Army/Vietnam
Moldovan, Kenneth
72 Marines/Vietnam
Porter, Willis
93 Army/WWII
Scheffler, Paul
98 Marines/WWII
West, Roger 92 WWII
607 Rogers City
Mulka, Edwin J.
100 Army/WWII
1008 Waterford
Filka, Joseph
90 Navy/WWII
Libby, Spencer
97 Navy/WWII
1887 Menominee
Cooper, Thomas G.
87 Army/Vietnam
DeLaurelle, Arnold
88 Army/Korea
Kahl, Robert W.
97 Army/WWII
Mosur, Joseph
96 Army/WWII
Tenarvitz, Donald
93 Navy/WWII
Zimmerman, Orvis
87 Air Force/Korea
2144 Holland
Hambley, Russell
69 Army/Vietnam
Mulder, Terry
73 Army/Vietnam
3030 Otsego
Bellingar, Robert
90 Air Force/WWII
Plotts, Ronald
76 Army/Vietnam

Predum, Russell F.

85 Army/Korea
3676 Sault Ste Marie
Sprowl, Richard E.
73 Army/Vietnam
4005 Corunna
Francis, Carl E.
82 Navy/Korea
4090 Portland
Minnis, Robert E.
77 Army/Vietnam
4093 Carleton
Laura, Roland
91 Army/WWII
4115 Sebewaing
Engelhardt, Roy H.
87 Army/WWII
4164 Caro
Adams, Gerald
82 Army/Vietnam
Hobson, Richard
85 Army/Korea
4461 Lake Odessa
Dakin, David
76 Army/Vietnam
Nash, Arthur
75 Army/Vietnam
Quint, William
80 Marines/Korea
Sheldon, Arthur
62 Army
4499 Manistee
Bishop, Gary
Lacki, Joseph E.
91 Army/WWII
Langhann, Jerry L.
70 Army/Vietnam
Marsilli, Louis D.
Army/Vietnam
Rodriguez, Rodolfo
92 WWII
Stringham, James H.
75 Army/Vietnam
Sundbeck, Edward J.
4659 Shelby Township
Brastrom, Joseph L. 74
Army/Dominican Republic
Chisholm, William
70 Army/Vietnam
Cusmano, Russell
86 Army/Korea
Dale, Melvin
94 Air Force/WWII
Darling, Richard S.
65 Vietnam

Gentile, Kenneth 75
Army/Dominican Republic

Gizynski, Jerome
72 Navy/Vietnam
Hawks, Charles
84 Coast Guard/Korea
Head, James
91 Army/Korea
Huene, Sidney
85 Army/Korea
Karus, Herman
86 Army/Korea
Link, Richard
60 Grenada
MacDonald, Richard
72 Navy/Korea
Martin, Edward
75 Navy/Vietnam
McCormick, Richard
88 Navy/WWII
Nellenbach, Otto
94 Army/WWII
Nye, Mervin
92 Army/Korea
Re, Mario 101
Army/WWII
Sakofske, Charles
97 Army/WWII
Schonenjahn, William
85 Navy/WWII
Strohkirch, Bernard
100 Army/WWII
Szeliga, Paul
72 Army/Vietnam
Vanderbeke, Kenneth C.
86 Army/Korea
VanSparrentak, Norman
59 Army/Persian Gulf
Wachocki, Walter
82 Army/Korea
Wagner, Conrad L.
89 Army/Korea
Wagner, Richard
76 Navy/Korea
Waites, Robert
89 Army/Korea
Willett, Lester
92 Navy/WWII
Wrenn, William
86 Air Force/Korea
Zapantis, Nicholas
95 Navy/WWII
5319 Athens
Roe, Brian E.
70 Air Force/Vietnam

Wilson, Kenneth J. Army

6056 Springport
Peek, Joe
72 Army/Vietnam
6248 Decatur
Kole, John 92 Navy/
WWII/Korea
New, Johnie
95 Army/WWII
6333 Kaleva
Clements, Russell F.
95 Navy/WWII
7912 Sand Lake
Misner, Fred
68 Army/Vietnam
9021 Warren
Adamisen, Paul J.
87 Army/Korea
Armentrout, Ronald L.
88 Army/Korea
Cornock, Warren
93 Navy/WWII
Idalski, Chester L.
93 Army/Korea
Leonard, George E.
95 Army/Korea
Long, Peter T.
96 Army/WWII
Martin, Marvin
84 Air Force/Korea
Messier, Richard O.
89 Army/Korea
Nadai, Peter
91 Army/Korea
Ranger, Thomas F.
91 Army/Korea
Slablenski, Gerald F.
78 Navy/Vietnam
Stamps, William F.
95 Army/WWII

MAY WE NEVER FORGET



41ST ANNUAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AGENDA / JANUARY 24-25TH

Friday, January 24

- 8 am - 4 pm Kalamazoo 1 / Registration Table, Program Display Tables
Banquet Tickets
 - 9 am - 11:30 am Prairies / Budget & Finance, Service Officer Committee
PTSD Seminar, Director's Reports
 - 11:30 am - 1 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
 - 1 pm - 4:30 pm Stone Theatre / VTS Training
 - 4 pm - 4:30 pm TBA / CMDR, SR, JR Session, Redistrict Committee
 - 5:30 pm Zazio / Night on the Town
 - 6 pm VOD event for students
 - 7 pm - 11 pm Rm 813 / Department Hospitality Room
- Dress Code : Meetings / Commander Fineis' shirt Night on the Town / Casual**

Saturday, January 25

- 8 am - 8:50 am Meadows / Council of Administration Breakfast
 - 8 am - 11:30 am Kalamazoo 1 / Registration
 - 8 am - 4 pm Kalamazoo 1 / Program Display Tables, Banquet Tickets
- ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11:30 AM**
- 9 am - 9:30 am Prairies / Camp Trotter Meeting
 - 9:45 am - 12 pm Prairies / Council of Administration
 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
 - 2:30 pm - 3 pm Glens / VFW Aux VOD/PP Reception
 - 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Fields / VOD/PP Students, District Cmdr. / Pres. head table line up
 - 5:30 pm Head table seated
 - 6 pm Arcadia Ballroom / VOD/PP Banquet
- Meetings Dress Code : Council of Administration (jacket and tie
Past Cmdr. Patterson's shirt and tan pants for all others
Banquet Dress Code : / Suite or sport coat and tie / Head table, black tux.
We are honoring our VOD and PP Students, please DO NOT take alcoholic
beverages in the banquet hall. Thank you**

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE HOTEL INFORMATION

Make Your Reservation by December 31, 2019

To Make Reservations Call the Radisson Plaza Hotel / **Phone 269-343-3333**
100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007

- Cutoff date is December 31, 2019 or until block fills, whichever occurs first.
- Please make your reservations as soon as you receive this information.
- Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.
- A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.
- Rates are subject to 6% State Tax And 5% Occupancy Tax.
- Discounted rates available Wednesday January 22, 2020 - Sunday, January 26, 2020.

When calling to make your reservation to receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a Department of Michigan VFW Mid-Winter Conference participant.
Group Room Rates : Standard Rooms / \$109 Suites / \$149

MID-WINTER BANQUET TICKETS / SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

Price \$40.00 per person / All seats are reserved / No tickets sold at the door

Name _____ Number of Tickets _____

Address _____ City _____

Dist _____ Post _____ Amount Enclosed _____

All tickets ordered after January 17th will be at the rate of \$50. Ticket orders will be held accountable, including no-shows unless authorized by State Commander for refund. All tickets must be picked up by 11:30 on Saturday. Tickets will not be mailed.

Make all checks payable to the "Department of Michigan VFW" (no cash)
Mail to : Pat Patterson 21650 Ulrich - Clinton Township, MI 48036



**MOV EDITOR,
STACEY ROBERTS**

Thank you for the great articles shared. It is nice to read the helpful information on our programs and all the happenings at Posts across the state. Please keep submitting these wonderful articles and encourage our comrades to subscribe to the MOV email or hard-copy by contacting me. Happy Holidays!

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan 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 all 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 and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be returned for revision. **We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.** 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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MOV@VFWMI.ORG
7901 Backus Road - Greenville, MI 48838
Next article deadline : December 15

TAPS FORM

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for your TAPS report.

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

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

(City)

Branch of Service (Circle One):
ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in (Circle one):
WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

UNACCOMPANIED VETERANS BURIAL SERVICE

JERRY GORSKI



On September 11, 2019, the Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan arranged with the Great Lakes National Cemetery Director and Staff to perform the "2019 Unaccompanied Veterans Burial Service for 14 veterans.

These 14 men and women received military honors and were buried at the Great Lakes National Cemetery located in Holly, Michigan without any family.

Their names, war period and branch are as follows:

Robert Edward Mader World War II, Army

Clifford Earl Bright World War II, Army

Lou S. Janos World War II, Army

Gerald Alfred Peterson Cold War, Army

Robert Malone Korean War, Army

Anthony Dwight Turner Cold War, Army

Jack Richard Bennett Vietnam War, Army

Daniel Edward Caris World War II, Marines

James Allen Chatfield Vietnam War, Navy

Sidney George Gilmour World War II, Navy

Joachim Jerome Nauseda Korean War, Navy

Gordon Dennis Bartsch Cold War, Navy

Dennis Wilbert Smith Vietnam War, Air Force

Donald L. Rouleau Korean War, Air Force

There was a floral tribute for each unaccompanied veteran. Each flower had the name of a veteran being honored during the service. Because these veterans were

unaccompanied, each person taking a flower was asked to adopt the veteran for the day by saying a prayer for them and, with a thankful heart, reflecting on their willingness to serve our great nation.

There was also a bell tribute for each unaccompanied veteran. The Great Lakes National Cemetery Ship's Bell was rung once for each veteran during the roll call. By tradition, the tolling of the bell is intended to show respect and honor for the veteran's service to our nation.

The VFW was present to honor these 14 unaccompanied veterans.

Attending were Past State Commander Sherwood Pea, District 5 Commander George Navarrette, District 5 Junior Vice Commander Su-jen Mauldin, VFW Great Lakes National Cemetery Chairman Fred Kelly, VFW 5587 Holly Adjutant Katrina Berger and VFW 5587 Auxiliary Financial Secretary Sandra Klevin and myself.

The "St. Clair County Allied Veterans Council" did the rifle salute & Taps. Thank you for doing the Honors.

There were U.S. military honor guards from the 4 Branches of the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force unfolded, folded and presented the 4 U.S. Flags of each branch of service to the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I want to thank the Daughters of the American Revolution for putting on this ceremony.

I also want to thank Sean Baumgartner, Director of Great Lakes National Cemetery for preparing this ceremony.

This was a very moving ceremony. Many people attended to show their respect and gratitude to these 14 unaccompanied veterans.

I want to thank again, all the VFW members and VFW Auxiliary member mentioned above, who attended with me today. I really appreciate you attending with me.



**- ZANETA ADAMS -
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY DIRECTOR**

"True patriotism is loving your country and countrymen enough to want to make it better."

- Malcolm Jenkins

On Nov. 11, we observe Veterans Day – a time we come together as a state and nation to honor and thank all military personnel who served our country, particularly living veterans, for their service and sacrifices.

There are 20 million veterans in the United States and more than 550,000 of them of them call Michigan home -- the 11th largest veteran population in the nation.

As an agency, the MVAA cares deeply about our veterans. Our employees are working to serve and support these veterans and their families every day – working to make the lives of their patriotic countrymen, and women, better. Indeed, many of our employees are veterans themselves. For us at MVAA, I like to think every day is Veterans Day.

This year, MVAA is celebrating its six-year anniversary. While the agency has achieved many successes in that time, we are not finished yet. We have more partnerships to

create. More veterans to reach and serve. As Michigan's resource hub for veterans, outreach is our goal, and each of our employees plays a significant role in ensuring that we are reaching all veterans and their families across the state.

Like others who serve veterans, our employees are on the front lines. They hear the stories of triumph and heartbreak; their endure criticism and not enough praise. It is, quite often, a thankless job. So, for all of you who serve veterans each day, I offer my sincere thanks. All of this hard work and dedication is helping make a bright future for Michigan's veterans.

As we meditate on our impact with the veterans we serve, please let Veterans Day serve as a reminder of the reason of why we do what we do, and of our mission and values, as we strive to be the state where veterans choose to live, raise a family, work and retire.

Please help us in spreading the word about the MVAA's role of coordinating veteran benefits and resources through our "no wrong door" approach.

For more info,
call 1-800-MICH-VET
or go online to MichiganVeterans.com

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**Postmaster: Send addresses changes to
MOV Editor Stacey Roberts
7901 Backus Rd, Greenville, MI 48838**

SNOWBIRD ADDRESS UPDATE

Quartermasters now have the ability to update snowbird addresses to ensure members to receive their VFW mail.

- Go to Post QM Services
- Click on "Member Contact Info"
- Click on "Edit"
- You will see the "From" and "To", these are dates that the member will be at their winter location.
- Add the winter address & hit "Submit"