

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SUMMER 20/21

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER



Since the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by the Spanish American War veterans in 1899, our Comrades have fought through two World Wars, conflicts and wars in Vietnam, Korea, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Africa and a list of others around the

globe.

Together we survived the Flu Pandemic of 1919, the Great Depression, the Cold War, the attacks of 9/11, multiple recessions, and countless other global events. During those uncertain times, many Americans felt as though we might not make it through.

Rather than succumbing to these challenges, we came together as Comrades and we fought for the survival and the betterment of our Nation, our veterans and their families. The VFW helped create the Veterans Administration in 1930, along with the national cemetery system. Together we fought for our Comrades who were exposed to Agent Orange and other toxins in Vietnam. In 2008, we battled for the passage of the Post 9/11 Bill of Rights, alongside our friends at Student Veterans of America (SVA). Our efforts in passing Post 9/11 GI Bill helped to send over two million veterans and their family members to college, to a tune of over \$100 billion; forever changing the lives of Iraq and Afghanistan era veterans and their families, and ensuring our latest generation of warriors are placed on track to be the future leaders of our great Nation.

The first six months of this year of 2020 has brought with it the Covid-19 Pandemic. This "coronavirus" tipped off a series of economic and political events that will be studied by historians for decades and centuries to come. ... see page 2

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2020/2021 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER SCOTT GLOGER & WIFE LINDA GLOGER



Department Commander Scott Gloger swearing in



Sr. Vice Commander Kevin Conklin and wife Rini Conklin



2020-2021 Department Officers being sworn in

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 ...**

In addition to the public health concerns posed to many of our VFW and Auxiliary members, many of our Comrades have lost their jobs and the businesses they spent lifetimes in building. As these once in a century level events were occurring, Comrade Lynn Patterson was offered a new position, which left our Department without the Adjutant & Quartermaster who had served us honorably for the past five years.

Just as this crisis has shaken our economy, the financial viability of many of our Posts have been threatened, requiring us to be creative to ensure we do not lose any of our Posts due to unexpected financial issues thrust upon them. As a result of the Governor’s “Stay at Home Orders” we were precluded from hosting our Department Convention. This dramatically altered the way in which our Department Officers are elected.

Rather than hosting elections at a Department Convention, as we have done every year since the VFW Department of Michigan’s inception, we were directed by an Executive Order issued by VFW Headquarters and the Commander in-Chief that required myself as the Senior Vice Commander and Kevin Conklin as Junior Vice Commander, to move up in the chairs, and for all other officer positions to be vacated until the Council of Administration could hold a ballot vote, which was completed on 30 June 2020. The results of those elections are as follows: Junior Vice Commander: John Griffith; Quartermaster: Derek Blumke; Surgeon: Don Martindale; Chaplain: Jennifer Smith; Judge Advocate and Big Ten Delegate: Ray Lopez.

Compounding all of this, the way many of us interact with our loved ones, our dearest friends, and our Comrades have been altered, leaving many to feel isolated and alone; in a time when Comradeship is most needed.

This organization has survived for over 120 years. When posed with great challenges, we create greater opportunities. When told we cannot conduct business as usual, we began conducting video conferences and meetings from our computers. We’ve begun using email to conduct a great deal of our business, and have begun using computer software to keep better track of all the amazing work this organization does for veterans and their families everyday.

As we are sad at Comrade Patterson’s

departure, we’re excited for the future of this great organization. On 6 June 2020, I appointed Derek Blumke to be our Department Adjutant. Not long after, Derek was elected by the Council to also serve as our Department Quartermaster. In 2008, Derek founded Student Veterans of America (which has grown to over 1,500 chapters around the country). Last year he authored the resolution we passed at Department and then at National Convention to investigate the role of medications in causing the veteran suicide epidemic; while at the National Convention in Orlando, he also served as the keynote speaker at the National Memorial Service.

In every meeting we hold, together we say “Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the Government of the United States of America”. In this same vein, we also must reflect on all of those with whom we have served and that just as in uniform, regardless of race, gender, age or persuasion, we are all Comrades and we must all fight for one another.

The theme of the VFW Department of Michigan is “Veterans Moving Forward”. As we all know the past three months have been very trying times for us all, I ask you to call one another, do buddy checks, take care of one another and our Comrade’s families. If you would like to have a Department officer to join you at an event with your District or Post, please let us know, as we want to be there for you in the most trying times, and in those of celebration. My cell phone number is 734-323-1188. If the Department or I can ever help you, we are just a phone call away.

Congratulations go out to our new Department officers and those of the Auxiliary! It is my hope that together as we navigate these challenges, we remind ourselves of our dedication to this organization, our Comrades and their families. The year of 2020 will continue to pose challenges, but together, we will ensure the welfare and success of all of our Comrades.

I could not be prouder to be your Commander, and I will do everything in my power to support you, to ensure you and your Post thrives in the face of 2020, and in this most challenging of times, we are “Veterans Moving Forward”, together.

**DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, RAY LOPEZ**



Greetings comrades, sisters and brothers. Thank You for allowing me to serve as your Department Judge Advocate for 2020-2021. I am dedicated to serve the membership to the best of my ability.

I want to congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers. I look forward to serving all of you throughout the year.

As we all start the new administrative year, we have been faced with some unusual challenges due to the recent pandemic. It is more important than-ever that we come together. If I can be of any assistance, please reach out. I am here to serve and assist in any way.

**FOR INFORMATION  
ON FALL  
CONFERENCE,  
VISIT  
VFWMI.ORG**

**VETERANCRISISHOTLINE 1-800-273-8255 & PRESS 1**



**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, CARRIE TURNER**

“The objects of this organization shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible; to maintain true allegiance to its Constitution and Laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women; and to preserve and defend the United States of America from all her enemies.”

Are these ideals outdated, unattainable or unnecessary? To the contrary, our communities needs these things more than ever. Our culture has changed over many decades and those changes have separated us more and more. We are divided, disheartened, anti-social and isolated. We are suffering from more mental and physical disorders. Our patriotic symbols, traditions and ideals are disrespected. But common purposes, community involvement and volunteering CAN help to improve these societal issues!

Volunteering helps people and communities in need and promotes worthwhile causes. But it also benefits the volunteer! Giving to others can improve mental and physical health, create relationships and make a difference in our society. When we all work together in our community, we have a built-in support system whenever a need arises. Having a vested interest in our youth and neighborhoods benefits everyone for generations.

Americanism is an unflinching love of

country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity. Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion and sense of attachment to a homeland and alliance with other citizens who share the same sentiment. By their very definitions, Americanism and patriotism require ALL of us to participate! We must live by these ideals and therefore ensure that they apply to ALL Americans. We must make the words of our National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance LIVE - they bring us together and make us one people.

Through volunteering and promotion of our patriotic ideals, the VFW Auxiliary serves as a force for the good of all citizens across our nation. While our main focus is service to veterans and their families, we also promote many other youth and community projects. Through our programs, there are many opportunities for any member to volunteer.

Membership in the VFW Auxiliary is open to male and female family members of a Veteran who is eligible to join the VFW. My participation in the VFW Auxiliary honors my five grandfathers who served in the United States military during WWII and Korea. Serving as the Department President for the 2020-2021 year is the culmination of 17 years of my membership in this great organization. I am humbled, grateful and motivated by the wonderful people who have become my friends and who give of themselves daily to make our world a better place. Thank you all for putting your trust in me and I know we will accomplish great things!

**DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, DEREK BLUMKE**



A year ago, my friend Lauren Bowen -- Lauren lost her husband to suicide -- and I were given the opportunity to speak at Department C o n v e n t i o n about the role of

antidepressants in causing veteran suicides. A few months earlier, Graf-O’Hara Post 423, my home Post, passed a resolution I’d written that exposed dramatically higher suicide rates for veterans who use the VA for their care; and the role of antidepressants in causing suicides.

After our remarks, Lauren and I were supported with open arms. The resolution passed unanimously the next day. A week later, I was invited to serve as a keynote speaker at the VFW’s National Convention in Orlando. Again, I walked off stage and into the arms of veterans and widows with tears in their eyes and crushingly familiar stories. Here again, the resolution passed, making this issue a legislative priority of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

When Commander Gloger asked me to be his Adjutant, I said yes without hesitation, and I committed to give the VFW as much energy and compassion as I received from it in this past year. A month ago I was confirmed as the Department Adjutant and just a week ago, I was voted into the position of Quartermaster by the Council of Administration.

My path to the offices I now have the incredible honor of serving you in has not been a traditional one. Instead of going through the chairs, I learned the ropes of the veterans community as the founding national president of Student Veterans of America (SVA), and I learned business skills as a technology entrepreneur in New York City.

In 2008, I witnessed the incredible strength of the VFW, as I fought alongside you for the Passage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Fast forward to 2018, when I realized the medications the VA was prescribing me nearly killed me, and that this was happening to millions of other veterans and their family members. I returned to the VFW because I knew that if you knew something was wrong, our Comrades would want to do something about it, and I was right.

This organization is one of our Nation’s finest and most essential institutions. I am proud to be a part of the VFW, and to call you my Comrades. Thank you for this humbling opportunity, and for all of the incredible work we are going to do together for our veterans and their families in the next year.



**DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN**

Congratulations to all the incoming officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Auxiliary. As your Senior Vice Commander,

I am super excited about this year and the tremendous opportunity I have to work for you. This year our National Auxiliary President is Sandra Onstwedder from District 9 of the Dept of Michigan. I am extremely confident that she will represent the Auxiliary on the National level very well. I am very proud of her and the work she does for this organization. Good luck Sandy O!

Continuing to move past the hurdles that were cast in front of us, I am confident that Commander Gloger and his team will have a very successful year. The VFW is not about any one individual and I will continue to serve the VFW with integrity and loyalty to the organization. I truly appreciate the phone calls and messages of encouragement I have received this past year. The encouragement helped more than you will ever know.

Even with the executive orders restricting meetings, I was encouraged by many of our Posts that thought outside the box and continued to serve their communities all the while keeping safe. I would like to see things get back to “normal” but.... I think that ship has sailed. We as a veteran’s service

organization will need to seek new ways to reach our veteran community. The old way of doing things may not be good enough anymore. Let’s continue the “out of the box” thinking, work together and get it done.

Fall Conference is still being planned as of today. I am looking forward to seeing my fellow comrades and Auxiliary at Boyne Highlands. We are working on ideas to live stream, record, or Zoom so that we can reach veterans that cannot make it to the conferences. We want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to take part. Please keep our National Home and Camp Trotter in your thoughts. Each still has their needs and we will be continuing efforts to make improvements. I would like to strongly encourage each of the Posts and Districts to support the programs that are set by National and Department. We will also be focusing on post inspections and training for the inspectors. Department of Michigan has had some problems arise that could have been caught sooner. We all like to see posts do well and want to maintain our friendships but if there are issues, they need to be addressed. Kicking the can down the road doesn’t do anyone any favors and again it’s about the organization.

Again, congrats to all the incoming officers of the Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me. I look forward to seeing you all soon!





### DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

This has been a unique past few months for us due to the Coronavirus.

While the efforts to keep Posts (and Auxiliaries) viable using technology and misc. was rather encouraging, we know that there is still an existing trend of disconnection occurring regarding member involvement. As Past Dist. 6 Commander Neil Fulton once aptly paraphrased to me, '90% of the time, 10% of the people do 90% of the work.' This lack of participation is not just a Veterans of Foreign Wars' concern but a common problem in most business and social organizations. Specifically, it is found when a small number of dedicated stakeholders perform most of the output/work, often leading to burnout.

Indifference due to a variety of issues often results in diminished returns. Like a tangled string of Christmas lights with a few nonworking bulbs, the whole product is less

effective and sometimes rendered unusable (i.e. not enough workers to undertake tasks, etc.). So, the question is – What can we do to get members more involved and proactive?

Humbly, I suggest the following: Be clear about the mission and objectives, be pragmatic, and lead positively by example to motivate. The mission of the VFW is: "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans." Please also consider: What are your Post's specific goals? What are your reasonable plans to properly address any obstacles and to meet those objectives? Are you communicating effectively and encouraging ethical mentor/menteeship?

Moreover, we all have gifts to give, and these can vary from time and effort to money, etc. As 1 Corinthians 12:20-25 (ESV) states, "As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the

parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another."

Last, even when a few lights go out on your light string, please do not despair, but remain active and dedicated to service; Positive results gain momentum and often yield more blessings to others. As Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." With that thought, hope to see you at the Fall Conference's annual Chaplains' Break-Out Session for Chaplains at all levels.

May God bless you.



### DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER, JOHN GRIFFITH

Comrades, this will be a short article since I just learned that you have elected me your new Department Junior Vice-Commander and we are moving

rapidly to the dead line for this edition of the MOV. With the restrictions brought on by the Covid, pandemic, this has been a very strange year for us all. Campaigning for this position became very difficult and I appreciate the patience and cooperation of all the comrades in facing the challenges we were dealt. Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers of the Department.

I would like to thank all of the Past Department Commanders, the Districts, Posts, individual comrades and the Auxiliaries that encouraged and supported my campaign. It is humbling to have so many individuals repose their trust in me by electing me to this

position.

As we look forward to the coming year under the leadership of State Commander Scott Gloger, and the rest of the newly elected and appointed officers of the C of A, I want you to know that I will be supporting every effort to restore teamwork and comradeship to our Department as we embrace this year's motto of "Moving Veterans Forward".

During this next year we will be facing many challenges in making the Department of Michigan second to none in our organization. I hope that everyone will do their best to meet those challenges. Our membership team, consisting of Vern Blauwkamp, Kimberly Napoleon, George Navarrette and myself, are already hard at work in making arrangements to "market" the VFW to assist in recruiting new members. I hope that each individual, Post, and District will get behind them and assist in this endeavor.

Again, thank you for giving me the honor to serve you as your Jr. Vice-Commander.

### ACTIVITY DIRECTOR / BOB LUTZ

First of all I would like to congratulate all the incoming officers and directors for the upcoming year. I'm sure that the Department of Michigan will have another outstanding year!

As you probably noticed, Commander Gloger has appointed me Activity Evaluation Director for 2020/2021! Most of the program will stay the same with one exception. If you are claiming more than 10% of your post members are flying American and POW/MIA flags, you must provide proof. EX: if your post membership is 120 then you can claim 12 without showing proof!

Reminder, the 10th of the month is a hard deadline, if you run into some problems let me know and we can work things out.

Please use the online reporting system or the forms provided on the Dept. website. All other forms should be discarded and NO "homemade" forms or changing the ones provided! If you must sent in a handwritten report make sure it is legible!

All the information about reporting is provided in the program section of the Dept. webpage.

To all the District Commanders, please make copies of the report forms from the webpage and make sure each and every post fills one out at your first district meeting and turns them into you, NO excuses. You can then give them to your Dept. rep who will make sure they get to me. If you want me to come to a district meeting to go over reporting let Dept. know, I would be happy to do it.

**Again, I do not take hospital reports and again they will NOT be forwarded to the Hospital Director.**

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me and if you leave a message please make sure that you mention the VFW(I've been getting tons of telemarketer messages) and I hope that everybody is in good health and staying safe.

(586)924-4591 / [activity@vfwmi.org](mailto:activity@vfwmi.org)



### DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT

I hope everyone has been able to stay healthy during this global pandemic. It is more important than ever to make sure we are checking on our

fellow comrades. Everyone's physical and mental health are our biggest concerns at this time.

As our State progresses through COVID-19 and the state regulations regarding gatherings, I will be working with State Commander Gloger on a Safety plan for our conferences going forward to ensure we are adhering to those regulations. The safety of our Comrades and Auxiliary is my top priority.

This year's presentation of Safety Awards will be held at the Fall Conference in Boyne Highlands. Incase you missed the winners in the last article they are: Law Enforcement

Officer Scott Howden sponsored by Post 334, District 5, FireFighter Chief Jeffery D. Locke sponsored by Post 10704, District 7 and EMT/Paramedic Barry Christiansen sponsored by Post 3701, District 9. Congratulations to the Posts and District and I look forward to presenting these fine officers with their awards.

If you are looking for safety materials the Michigan State Police have FREE safety information available for you. The form to obtain the safety information can be found online at

<http://bit.ly/31ZR9mC>  
or you 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!

[ds@vfwmi.org](mailto:ds@vfwmi.org)



**VETERAN & MILITARY SUPPORT, VINCENT OLTESVIG**

Comrades, I hope that all are well and stay well. I am looking forward to seeing and being in contact with all Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Michigan and guest at our upcoming Fall Conference on October 1st through the 5th. I will have the new MAP (Military Assistance

Programs) Pins available for a donation of \$ 3.00 each at my Directors Display. I will also be distributing to each District Commanders and or your representative MAP Pins for each Post in your District. You will distribute the MAP Pins at your District Meetings to your Post Commanders, they will each receive 5 MAP Pins each and will be expected to make their \$ 15.00 Dollar Donation to their District Quartermaster , the District Quartermaster

will send their donation to the Department Quartermaster. This will insure you also get your All State Points. We have done this practice of distribution for the past 5 years and it works well. Additional Pins will be available for purchase at the Fall Conference as previously mentioned and or contact me directly.

oltsvig@Comcast.net // 248-535-1023



**DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, DON MARTINDALE**

Comrades and sisters, wonderful still being on solid ground during this pandemic. I am sure many of our members have been affected by it, my prayers go out to those affected. We have started a new reporting season May 1 2020 - April 30 2021. PSC Phil Patterson allowed me to give a hospital report to a Post if they had no activity as long as they reported; I have received many of these during the past couple of months and will still give credit if you report. One major change to the program this year, any report received next May has absolutely no bearing

on the previous reporting year or All State Program as those points have already been allocated. I for any reasonable reason you just have to have for instance a January 2021 report for January in May, let me know and I will do that for you. Other than that change, it is business as usual. Remember, REPORT REPORT REPORT. I want to thank the Posts that listend to Activity Director and myself as to where you are to send reports. We have had very few reports going to the wrong director. Thank you all. If you ever have any questions about hospital reporting, don't hesitate to contact me.

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28836 Armanda, Warren MI 48088

**CAMP TROTTER DIRECTOR, BOB BENDERMAN**

Have you ever wondered what roamed the grounds of Camp Trotter before it was happy children on warm summer days? Well me too! In preparation for my meeting with the Bill's Lake Association recently, I came across an article from 2018 written by Keasha Palmer.

In the article, Keasha talks about the stories her mother told her about growing up on a chicken farm. Her grandparents were Will & Edna Sproul and after working for the railroad, Will saw the potential trains had to safely transport live poultry all across the country. In the early 1900's the Sprouls founded Northland Farms where they hatched chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys on the banks of Bill's Lake in Newaygo, Michigan. The farm was highly successful, winning many awards and receiving the highest R.O.P (record of performance) year after year. For nearly 30 years, they shipped poultry to customers all over North America and to far-off provinces in northern Canada. Northland Farms also worked closely with what is now known as Michigan State University and other agricultural organizations to continuously improve the high quality of their layers. Unfortunately, the farm was no longer in production by the time Keasha was born in 1947 but she was able to find and visit the grounds in 2016 at the age of 69. She was expecting to find the land filled with new homes but was surprised to see many of the buildings she had seen in photos still standing. Today, the old chicken coops and hatcheries have been converted into camper housing and the former farm manager's house is now the summer home of our Camp Director.

This was an interesting story to find because we all know it as Camp Trotter with the land being donated to the Department of Michigan by WWII Veteran and past State Commander, Ralph Trotter. But this additional bit of history was unknown to me. What is still unknown to both myself and Keasha Palmer is what happened in the years between the operation of Northland Farms and the donation in 1949 by Comrade Trotter. **Do you know?**

**NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR / JAMES HUBBARD**

Dear Comrades and Friends  
Now is the time to get ready for the new fiscal year, as we start planning the many programs and fundraisers that we support, it is going to be a very different as well as difficult year for sure.  
As you may or may not know, **Michigan Days on August 2nd at the National Home have been Canceled** due to the Covid-19-Pandemic this year.  
I ask of each member of this organization to please remember our VFW National Home. Our comrades and their families need our financial support now more than ever before. Please plan a fundraiser. Pass around a canister each month to support or just take

a stand and ask each member to send in a dollar amount to help support our children. No matter how small or large the donation, give what you can, and give from your heart to support our home.  
Our National Home is in need of backing for the many activities and programs the children are involved in. I am not sure how many field trips will take place to the Potter Park Zoo, Andy's T Farm, MSU 4-H- program or the Children's Garden. This year the children will not be attending Camp Trotter's Summer Camp Program being it has also been canceled.  
So please, support our VFW National Home!

**VFWM.I.ORG QUICK LINKS**

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**BUDDY POPPY DIRECTOR, TERRY DOWDELL**

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. I know most Posts have not had a chance to go out and offer Buddy Poppy yet but I hope in the next

few weeks they will. If your Post does go out, please make sure that members wear a mask over their nose and mouth to keep everyone safe.  
Reminder : You must order your new Poppies by Decemeber 31, 2020. I know if the Posts aren't able to get out for Buddy Poppies,

they will still have some left from this year. So please let's try to get out if you are able.  
Buddy Poppy days for 2021 are May 6-8th. I hope to see all the comrades again at Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands in October. Everyone please take care and stay safe.  
Yours in Comradeship



**2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, VERN BLAUWKAMP**

First, I would like to thank our Dept. Commander Scott Gloger for the appointment as your Membership Director for 2020-2021. It is a huge responsibility that will not be taken lightly. I will work diligently for the Department to have another successful year.

Membership in our great organization is a seven day a week job. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a great organization that does many things to make Veterans lives better. Helping Veterans financially, needed legislation for Veterans benefits, National Home, Camp

Trotter, and most of all, friendships. In order to maintain our voice in Lansing and Washington we need to keep our membership strong. To keep our Posts alive and well, we need to retain our present members and always recruit new members.

Sometimes we need to adapt to new ideas and different ways of accomplishing our goals, and sometimes that gets harder as we grow older. This past year we lost 959 annual members, that means we need 959 less to be 100%. But that also means we have 959 more members that we can renew this year (as of Jun 29) to be 100%. WE can do it, together.

Membership can grow! VFW Post 2144 has proven that in Holland. 3 years ago, we were down to 317 members now we are up

to 387 members as of Jun 28. An increase of 70 members in the last 3 years. We have also lost 20 members this past year due to passing away. But we are still growing. Our secret, "Teamwork". Assisting one another with our individual strong points. And of course, every time we see a veteran wearing a Veteran hat, a military shirt, a military tattoo, we tell them "Thank you for your service", where did you serve, I haven't seen you in our VFW, etc. There are other things also that I will be talking with you about when I visit your Posts and Districts. Thank you for your time and effort!

I wish everyone a great and successful year!

lblauwkamp@gmail.com



**2019-2020 MEMBERSHIP RECAP, GARY GAMBLE**

First, I want to start by thanking State Commander Mike Fineis for his trust and confidence to appoint me his 2019-2020 Membership Director. It was truly

an honor to serve at this level. I feel it is every leader's responsibility to help with the VFW mission and ensure our Department remains successful every year! Serving as your Membership Director, I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and work with so many comrades throughout the state.

Despite having many challenges during the 2019-2020 membership year, our members rallied and worked very hard to recruit and retain members. I am very proud of what was accomplished!

Next, I would like to thank our entire Department Membership team, Gary Brown Sr. (Post 2406), Vern Blauwkamp (Post 2144), and Scott Cleary (Post 5600) for their contributions throughout the year to help achieve our goals. A great job was done by all these comrades!

I want to personally thank the members that spent many hours working recruiting tables, working the telephones, and other methods to recruit and retain members. It was your efforts that helped achieve our Department Membership goals and helped us build a stronger VFW membership for the future!

Congratulations to all the leaders at every level that worked tirelessly to earn All State and All American Honors. Your hard work does not go unnoticed! Always remember, your Department officers and Directors are here to help you be successful!

Below are the 2019-2020 Department Membership Statistics. In addition, you will learn more about our Membership HIGH achievers as of June 30.

- Department Membership: 97.53% (2nd place in the Big 10 Conference)
- National Membership: 96.58%
- Membership by the numbers.
- Life Members: 29,353
- New Members: 670
- Reinstate Members: 171
- Paid Annual Members: 6,174
- New\ Reinstate Life members: 211
- Total Membership: 36,405

108 Posts at 100% or above in membership  
1 County Council at 100% or above  
2 Districts at 100% or above in membership

**District Rankings by percentage:**

- 1 Dist. 8 100.44%
- 2 Dist. 5 100.23%
- 3 Dist. 7 98.17%
- 4 Dist. 11 97.89%
- 5 Dist. 6 97.88%
- 6 Dist. 99 97.42%
- 7 Dist. 13 97.33%
- 8 Dist. 14 96.64%
- 9 Dist. 12 96.14%
- 10 Dist. 4 96.08%
- 11 Dist. 10 95.86%
- 12 Dist. 15 95.83%
- 13 Dist. 9 95.44%

**Top 12 - Department Recruiters:**

- Dist. 8 Post 2144 Garrett Dickey 22
- Dist. 5 Post 9914 Vincent Oltesvig 18
- Dist. 8 Post 2406 Gary Brown 16
- Dist. 5 Post 1146 Bernard Jarzombek 14
- Dist. 13 Post 2780 Eric Boals 14
- Dist. 5 Post 4659 Michael Perusich 10
- Dist. 8 Post 2144 Mike Martin 10
- Dist. 11 Post 3651 Joseph Dufort 9
- Dist. 5 Post 1669 Luke Conner 7
- Dist. 6 Post 4357 Ralph Schlaff 7
- Dist. 8 Post 1527 Karl Ogilvie 7
- Dist. 9 Post 4005 Fred Blair 7

VFW Member Service Center  
1-833-VFW-VETS (833-839-8387)

Any existing or unpaid annual member can call this number to pay annual dues, upgrade to Life Membership, change mailing address, set up a snow bird address, contact the VFW Store, etc. All you need is a credit or debit card to safely renew over the phone. The Member Service Center is open: Mon-Fri (9:15am - 5:15pm).

ATTENTION!!! All New Life Members that converted to a Life Membership, and Reinstate to a Life Membership since September 1, 2019! You have until August 31, 2020 to use your \$50 credit with the VFW Store or lose it!

If you have questions or need any help with our VFW Mission, I remain ready and willing to help.

Lastly, I wish State Commander Gloger and his team much success during 2020-2021.

"Together We Can Build a Stronger VFW"

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
**@VFWAUXMI**  
**@VFWMI**

**AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE CHAIR,**  
**TRACIE LEMON**

Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters: Welcome to a new organizational year. It is my hope that I can help serve our program to the best of my abilities and offer assistance in any capacity that is needed.

The Guide Sheets have been posted to the Department website. Please be certain to follow the guide sheets and review the bulletins. All of our combined Your legislative efforts need relate to veterans, active duty, and their families, VFW Priority Goals, and Community Legislative Education and

Engagement, as described in the guide sheets. Both the VFW Auxiliary Facebook page and the vfwmi.org are frequently updated with current resources.

The VFW 2020 Priority Goals are a key focus on we can use when we contact our legislators. On the right side of the page is an option to print a downloadable pdf version of the priority goals to have on hand and pass them out at your meetings and event. The VFW 2020 Priority Goals are available at: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

Also be sure to sign up and promote the Action Corp Weekly. This will allow you, your membership, and your community be informed and up to date on veteran related issues. You can sign up on individual or have a group sign-up sheet available at your events. You can sign up for the Action Corp Weekly at: <https://www.vfw.org/>

Finally, it an election year and we need to Get Out the Vote. Encourage people to vote if not for themselves then for the Veterans that gave them the right to do so. This goes hand in hand with the Education Legislative Education & Engagement. We need to educate the out membership and community on why it is important to vote, why we vote. How a bill becomes a law? If we can get back to basic civics to we push for better legislation to help our Veterans and their families.

**2019-2020 ALL STATE RECAP**

**NORM MAULDIN**

This has been a very trying year, especially with all the inconsistencies popping up since the COVID 19 threat reared its ugly head. We tried our best to ensure the program was as fair as possible.

Commander Fineis made sure the last quarterly audit, election report, and delegate dues didn't count against the Post as cancellation of conventions and elections were in such a state of flux. The Commander also allowed the Posts to submit documentation missing on the Checklist up to the time of judging on May 7th. I also verified records on file, confirmed with the Department Inspector, to ensure the posts had the fairest chance at attaining All-State.

**Congratulations to**

- Post / Commander / Quartermaster (QM)*
- 702 Ronald Oakes / Steve Van Valkenburg
- 1008 Mark Woods / Robert Benson
- 1669 Christopher Templeton / Christopher Smith
- 1794 David Tester / Don Martindale
- 2144 David Martin / Garrett Dickey
- 2406 Gary Brown / Barry Wickman
- 2645 Donald Kuffner / Jon Adams
- 2780 Gerald Achenbach / Eric Boals
- 3033 Timothy Artibee / Scott Connor
- 3055 Edward Davidson / Larry Steffenhagen
- 3701 Stacey Roberts / Jessica Wright
- 3925 Thomas Sancrant / Thomas Merce

- 4005 Fred Blair / Heidi Burbank
- 4139 Robert Evoy / Robert Novak
- 4156 Gary Schultz / Dave Shockling
- 4434 John Blackstone / Robert Krouse
- 4659 Joseph Wrobel / Jay Benner
- 6056 Dennis Ryan / Rod Marks
- 6248 Fred Turk / Richard Overton
- 6333 Sean Knudsen / Richard Schafer
- 6464 Butch Ogden / George Wygant
- 6695 Richard Adis / Bob Lamoureux
- 9455 Larry Thayer / Mike Eckmyer
- 9914 Vincent Oltesvig / George Wilson
- 9931 Kimberly Napoleon / Bruce McKinney

Congratulations to the Captains of the All-State Team:

Captain of the All-State Posts, Post 334 James Hubbard Commander / Chuck Haskins QM

Captain of the All-State County Councils, Oakland County Council Jon Adams Commander / Su-jen Mauldin QM

Captain of the All-State Districts, District 5 George Navarrette Commander / Norman Mauldin QM

It has been my pleasure and honor to assist the membership in this capacity. Congratulations again to all the All-State members and "Thank You" to Commander Fineis for the appointment.

**AUXILIARY EXTENSION CHAIR, MARILYN MALICK**

I would like to begin by congratulating Commander Scott Gloger and President Carrie Turner and their officers on their new positions and wish them a successful year.

As Extension Chairman it is my job to assist in maintaining the VFW Auxiliaries that we currently have and to help VFW Posts in our state establish new VFW Auxiliaries.

The first goal of maintaining current Auxiliaries is something that we all have to play a part in. Find ways to get involved and to get others involved. Get motivated and get others motivated as well! Utilize the Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit that can be found on the National website at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) and the Department website at [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org). Find out what is going on in the organization by reading the program blogs. And above all else support all veterans!

Another goal is to assist VFW Posts in our state establish new VFW Auxiliaries.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS TO HAVING A VFW AUXILIARY IN YOUR POST?**

- It can open the doors to new membership in the post.
  - Help with family-oriented events and meal preparation.
  - Help spread the word on Scholarship programs and other VFW programs including Buddy Poppy Drives.
  - Boost the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.
  - Help to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families.
- Your VFW Post can have all of these benefits and more by starting a VFW Auxiliary in your Post! If you are interested or would like someone to come into your post to speak to your members about starting an Auxiliary, please contact me by [586-536-6004](mailto:586-536-6004) / [MJMalick@msn.com](mailto:MJMalick@msn.com)

**AUXILIARY MENTORING CHAIR, DIANA HERRICK**

The Mentoring for Leadership Program incorporates respecting the Auxiliary's past, embraces our present and plans for our organization's future by pairing experienced Auxiliary Members with members, new or old, who wish to expand their knowledge of our organization. Through this program we ensure a positive member experience, embracing the diversity of membership and how valuable every member is with a first and lasting impression.

This program creates future leaders by providing guidance and support for all members. It enhances knowledge and educates on topics relating to the Auxiliary that will complement all of our Programs. It provides an opportunity to learn and support leadership and goals, encouraging members to participate in activities and assume

responsibilities in Leadership roles. It is my opinion that this is one of the best additions ever added to the programs, it causes others to think about their words and actions.

Kindness and caring never goes out of style!



**SCHOLARSHIPS DIRECTOR, GARY BROWN**

Greeting Comrades and Sisters from the Voice of Democracy Team for the 2020-2021 Year. First, I want to congratulate Commander Scott Gloger on becoming

Commander and for appointing me as the Programs Director again for his year.

The question on everyone's mind because of the COVID-19 pandemic; is/are students going to have school this Fall? This question has been coming to my attention a lot and right now I have no answer to give to you. This is why I need EVERYONES help getting in touch with your Schools and passing our program on to all of them right away!

Voice of Democracy theme  
**"Is This the Country our Forefathers Envisioned?"**

Patriots Pen theme  
**"What is Patriotism to Me?"**

This year's programs are going to be incredibly challenging and exciting for this year's participants, and my staff and I, are looking forward to having a highly successful year. I would also like to remind ALL the Post, District and Department Adjutants on getting VTS Training this year on how to input their VOD/PP and TOY information into this All-American Dashboard.

It is the Adjutants Membership Card number from the election report that allows only you to input this information into this dashboard on the National Website. Therefore, ALL Adjutants need to get VTS Training and learn how to download the manual and do this input this year. All the documents required for the student's and teachers are downloadable on our Michigan

VFW Website at [www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org) and also on the National VFW Website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

Deadline for Post sponsored program entries is October 31, 2020. Post judging may not be held before November 1, 2020 and must be completed in time to ensure that winning entries are delivered to the District Chairmen by November 15, 2020.

District judging may not be held before November 16, 2020 and must be completed in time to ensure that the winning entry with all required materials are to the Department Director by December 7, 2020. District judging is the responsibility of the District Chairman to be conducted in accordance with the National Judging Criteria. The Department deadline for District entries is December 7, 2020. This deadline is ABSOLUTE, and it includes all paperwork. Department judging will be closed and will be the responsibility of the Department Committee.

If you would like to have me come to your District or Post for VOD, you can request me by filling out a Department Officers Request and I will be glad to come and give you training on this program. You can reach me anytime with questions

10975 Irish Rd. - Vermontville, MI 49096  
 517-667-1189 / [garybrownsr@outlook.com](mailto:garybrownsr@outlook.com)



**Name correction from last issue**  
 L-R : Commander Dan Caron, Angus Butler, Emma Schneiderhan, President Judy Fell



# POST REPORTS



## POST 582 - ORTONVILLE

June 3rd, 2020, we were contacted by VFW National Headquarters and learned that our Post 582 won the Community Service Post Special Project Recognition Program and have awarded Post 582 the Award of Merit for our project "Purple Heart Trail". Pictured is the new sign with Post Commander Hoffman.

Our Post members placed 580 flags on Veterans graves in the Ortonville Cemetery and a flyover on Memorial Day.



## POST 1454 - ALMA



Memorial Day Ceremony 2020



Post Honor Guard



Post Members on Memorial Day

## POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW

Post 3701's 3rd Annual Golf Outing is on Saturday, August 1st. Register online at [bit.ly/3701-golf](https://bit.ly/3701-golf)

We are currently raising funds for a new roof by offering a Gun of the Month calendar raffle. Twelve chances to win, only 200 tickets sold and calendars are \$120 each (ends up being \$10 a raffle). This will sell out. If interested contact the Post at [989-460-8250 / vfwpost3701@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost3701@gmail.com) or on Facebook at [fb.com/vfw3701](https://fb.com/vfw3701)



Post & Auxiliary members at the Post's first softball tournmanet



Post purchased new trailer and custom wrapping for Scout Troop #95

## POST 2645 - SOUTHFIELD

This Memorial Day was a special day for Dunham-Ray VFW Post 2645 Southfield. Post Commander Don Kuffner, Past Post Commander Al Stabrava, Adjutant/Quartermaster Jon Adams, Chaplain Lonnie Bennett, State Bugler Rudy Wade, Past District 5 President Donna Stabrava and Jerry Gorski, laid Memorial Day wreaths for Past Commander-in-Chief Eugene Ignatius Van Antwerp and Past Commander-in-Chief Carl Joseph Schoeninger at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan.

These men were Charter Members and early Post Commanders of the Sixteenth Engineers VFW Post 582. The Post was named after the unit Captain Van Antwerp served in during World War I. The Post met at the GM Headquarter Building in Detroit, Michigan for a period of time. The Post was Chartered on December 19, 1920 and went defunct on February 18, 1981.

Then, our National Organization reissued the Post Number 582 to the Sherman-Wudarcki-Sutton VFW Post 582 in Ortonville, Michigan, District 5.

Captain Eugene Van Antwerp was born on July 26, 1889. He was educated in parochial

schools and then at the University of Detroit and worked as an instructor in English at Gonzaga University in 1910-1911.

In 1911, Eugene Van Antwerp married Mary Frances McDevitt. They had eleven children. They are buried next to each other at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery. Van Antwerp served as a Captain in the 16th Regiment of Engineers (Railway) from Detroit during World War I and was among the first members of the Allied Expeditionary Force to land in France. He served from 1917-1919. He served as the VFW National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from 1938-1939. He served a single term as the Mayor of Detroit from 1948-1950 and on the Council continuously until his death. He died on August 5, 1962 at the age of 72.

Carl Joseph Schoeninger was born on September 25, 1895 in Defiance, Ohio. He moved to Detroit in 1914 to work as an electrician for Detroit Edison. Carl served in the U.S. Army during World War I. After the War, he married Catherine Ellen Byrne in 1921 at the age of 25. Together they raised 6 daughters and a son. Carl became the City Electrical Inspector in 1924 and

was Chief Inspector before becoming Executive Secretary of the Detroit Electrical Contractors Association. Carl retired in 1955. The 16th Engineers was Michigan's only all volunteer Regiment during World War I. He served as Post Commander in 1927 and VFW State Commander in 1932. He also served as the VFW National Commander in 1943. In addition, he served as an Overseas Emissary for President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II. Carl passed away on June 28, 1980 at the age of 84 in Dearborn, Michigan.

Thank you National Sergeant Gary Gamble for doing the research on our Past Chiefs.



**POST 3734 - FRUITPORT**

We are urging all VFW & Auxiliary members to write their State Representatives and State Senators to ask them to pass legislation for eligible veterans to have one or two wars displayed on their license plates; including those with DV plate notation; at no cost to them. The current limit is one war; or none of the plate has DV on it. The cost to the state of Michigan would be minimal. Many Michigan veterans have served in both Iraq and Afghanistan and must choose between them. There is room for two wars and/or DM on a plate so this should be no problem. Urge you state legislator to support legislation to make this happen in 2020.

We are also urging all VFW & Auxiliary members to write President Donald Trump to call upon Russian President V. Putin to repatriate the remains of 23,000 some American POW's held by the Germans in World War II. They were taken by the Communist Russians when they overran German POW camps on the Eastern Front. These soldiers were written off by our government for many years and it is time to bring them home. Also, around 2,500 Korean War POW's ended up in Russia and never heard from again. Given the relatively good relations between President Putin and President Trump, this is a very good time to pass such a resolution by our Michigan legislature and send it with our membership letters to President Trump.

Two good books to read on this subject are: "Forsaken But Not Forgotten - American's Most Shameful National Secret Revealed" by Phillip Rife and "Washington's Secret Betrayal of American POW's In The Soviet Union - Soldiers of Misfortune" by James D Sanders, Mark A. Sauter, and R. Cort Kirkwood.

**POST 9931 - BRIDGEPORT**

VFW Post 9931 has partnered with Feeding America, a nationwide network of local food banks that feeds more than 40 million people through food pantries, shelters, and meal programs, Feed America helps provide people with nourishing meals, give kids the food they need when they need it most, especially during school closures; and provide balanced, nourishing meals for seniors.

As Veterans and community servants, we are all in this together, and together we can help distribution providers food to people who are most at-risk of facing hunger.

One of the pillars of Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States of America is helping Veterans in need. Another is Community Involvement, if ever there was a time to demonstrate our organizational mission, that time is now.

The call went out from several local affiliate outlets. Due to the many closures, the need for food donations was going to be much greater than the usual monthly volunteer staff could handle. It went from volunteering at one distribution site to possibly setting one up at the Post in partnership with Resurrection Lutheran Church-Saginaw, MI; Hidden Harvest Food Pantry, Community Action Center, Buena Vista, MI

Items available range from frozen meats, pizza, fresh vegetables, and dairy products including milk and cheese. Dry Cereal, canned goods, bottled Apple Juice and Teas.

Many recipients show great appreciation as many are visiting the donation sites for the first time. The words like; "thank you" "we appreciate you all," "you're such a blessing" is heartfelt, but at the end of the day, it is our reasonable sacrifice.

At all sites we personal protection equipment such as cloth masks, hand sanitizers and gloves. The distributions take place no matter the weather. To date as of this writing, we have served over 600 families throughout Saginaw County. The food distributions take place on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month @2115 Brockway Rd. Saginaw, MI. All are welcomed.

In addition to the food distribution project, we have been working in partnership with The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, MI providing bi-weekly provisions of food to the local known homeless veteran population.

★ **CAMPAIGNS** ★

**BILL THICK JR**

Candidate for Department Judge Advocate 2021-2022



Looing forward to serving

**JENNIFER L. SMITH**

Candidate for Department Chaplain 2021-2022



Selfless Service Through Faith



**JERRY GORSKI**

Candidate for National Jr. Vice Commander-In-Chief 2023-2024



Please send donations for my campaign to Su-Jen Mauldin 214 Endwell - Novi, MI 48377

**GARY GAMBLE**

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2021-2022



Unwavering \ Dependable Knowledgeable \ Committed Supported by his wife & family

**VERN BLAUWKAMP**

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2021-2022



Striving to Lead the Department with TEAMWORK!

**RAY LOPEZ**

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2021-2022



Looking forward to continually serving our Department of Michigan members

## COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR

JOSEPH L. TEBOR

Well, it's that time of the year again when we recognize all of our Community Service Award Winners. Normally these awards would be given out at State Convention; however, as you all know, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the State Convention was cancelled this year, as were a great number of other functions and events at all levels. As of this printing, the plan is to pass the awards out at Fall Conference with the same recognition the recipients would have received at Convention. All award winners will be recognized in this article and they have also been recognized on the Department website. First of all, I want to thank Past State Commander, Mike Fineis, for my appointment as Community Service Director during his year. I have thoroughly enjoyed performing the duties of this position as well as the additional duties that were assigned to me. I sincerely hope that all of you are well and coping with the pandemic as best you can.

The top three Posts in each of four Divisions are recognized based on the number of credited Community Service Reports submitted from 1 May 2019 thru 30 April 2020. Post membership as of the 30 April National Membership Report will determine which Division the Post is in and the 30 April Activity Report is used to determine the winners in each Division.

DIVISION I (10-65 Members)

**1st Place:** CADILLAC Post 6864, District

12 (971 Reports). Cdr: Donald C. Grage

**2nd Place:** GRASS LAKE Post 10194, District 6 (676 Reports). Cdr: Adna R. Murdock

**3rd Place:** MARLETTE Post 4837, District 10 (662 Reports). Cdr: Nick A. Gould

DIVISION II (66-125 Members)  
**1st Place:** ELDON L. CHADWICK Post 6017, District 12 (1180 Reports). Cdr: James O. Carlson

**2nd Place:** GORDON R. BENNETT Post 1452, District 10 (871 Reports). Cdr: Jerry L. Lemon

**3rd Place:** AUGUSTA-CUSTER Post 7956, District 8 (857 Reports). Cdr: George E. Waller

DIVISION III (126-225 Members)  
**1st Place:** WILLIAMJ. BEAL Post 446, District 12 (2454 Reports). Cdr: Gary White

**2nd Place:** OWOSSO MEMORIAL Post 9455, District 9 (1789 Reports). Cdr: Larry Thayer

**3rd Place:** DUNHAM-RAY Post 2645, District 5 (1165 Reports). Cdr: Donald A. Kuffner

DIVISION IV (226 Members and over)  
**1st Place:** CITY OF MONROE Post 1138, District 6, (2980 Reports). Cdr: Robert S. Cabina

**2nd Place:** MAYFLOWER-LT. GAMBLE Post 6695, District 4, (2830 Reports). Cdr: Richard E. Adis

**3rd Place:** PORTLAND Post 4090, District

9 (1629 Reports). Cdr: William Almy

Congratulations to all of our Division winners for their outstanding job of reporting what they do.

### NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every year Department recognizes a "New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year". A new member for the purpose of this award is any VFW member in good standing who has been a member of the VFW for less than two (2) years. Only two (2) Districts submitted entries this year. District 4 winner was Matthew Barr from post 4434 and District 8 winner was Jenna Schaub from Post 2144. The Department New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year for 2019-2020 is Jenna Schaub, Post 2144, District 8. Post 4434 received ten (10) All State points and Post 2144 received 15 All State points.

### POST SPECIAL PROJECT AWARD

Since this is a National Award Program, National establishes the criteria and my job as Community Service Director is to ensure that every entry meets or exceeds these requirements. I'll be the first to admit that I'm a bit strict when it comes to reviewing Post Special Projects before forwarding them to National. There were four (4) Post Special Project submitted to National for judging this year.



### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBER, JERRY GORSKI

I would like to begin by CONGRATULATING our New State Commander Scott Gloger, New State Senior Vice Commander

Kevin Conklin, New State Adjutant Derek Blumke, New District Commanders, New County Council Commanders, New Post Commanders and ALL the New Officers and New Directors and New Appointees at Every Level throughout our Department of Michigan. By the time you read my article, the remaining State Elected Officers (Quartermaster, Chaplain, Surgeon, Judge Advocate) will have been elected by the Department Council of Administration. I wish EVERYONE, Much Success this year.

Now I want to talk about the Most Devastating Year placed upon every one of us because of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). This Coronavirus (Covid-19) has devastated the United States, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Everyone throughout the World. This Coronavirus has caused a lot of hardships for everyone including unemployment and worldwide deaths. We will never forget what this virus has done to humanity. The VFW National Council of Administration voted to Cancel our National Convention in Reno, Nevada because of the virus. The VFW Department of Michigan Council of

Administration voted to Cancel our State Convention in Flint, Michigan because of the virus. Our VFW Camp Trotter for Children Committee voted to Cancel our Children's Camp out this year because of the virus. Michigan Day at the National Home for Children had to be canceled because of the virus. Our Planned Events at every level of our organization had to be canceled because of the virus. We had to "Stay Safe Stay Home" because of the virus. Many restrictions were placed on the Citizens of Michigan by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in order to save lives, which everyone knows the sacrifices each of us had to make. I am not sure if our World will ever get back to where we were before the Coronavirus hit us. Life will never be the same.

On August 21st & 22nd, I will be in Kansas City, Missouri for the National Budget Meeting and the National Council of Administration Meeting. At the National Council of Administration Meeting, the Tabled Motion to Eliminate the (5) Day Washington DC Trip for our Voice of Democracy Department Winners and Replace it with a (3) Day Valley Forge Trip will be brought up for a Vote. I am hoping that My Fellow National Council Members will vote "down" this motion along with me. If you read my previous article, you know how I feel about it.

Lastly, I don't want to forget about MEMBERSHIP. Membership is So Very Important to our VFW Organization. WE ALL

must do our part to Recruit New Members and Retain our Current Members "everyday", if we as an organization are going to survive. As of June 15, 2020, MICHIGAN is 28th in the Nation at 97.05%. WE have 36,227 Members and WE NEED 1,099 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members to ACHIEVE 100% or 37,326 Members. MICHIGAN is in 1st Place in the Big Ten Conference ! OUTSTANDING! District 5 is in 1st Place at 99.96%. WOW! District 8 is in 2nd Place at 98.92%. District 7 is in 3rd Place at 97.84%. CONGRATULATIONS to ALL the 100% Posts, County Councils and Districts, who I know will ACHIEVE 100% in Membership by June 30, 2020.

I look forward to seeing EVERYONE at our Fall Conference in Boyne Highlands on October 1-4, 2020. Please pray for "NO" Rain.

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

I want to end by Thanking "Everyone" who has contributed to My Campaign Fund, so far, for My Candidacy for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief 2023-2024. It is very expensive! Please help me by sending your Campaign Contributions to:

Su-jen Mauldin, 214 Endwell  
Novi, Michigan 48377

THANK YOU!

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

**YOU FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY.  
NOW JOIN US IN THE FIGHT**

**FOR VETERANS.**

**MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR,  
ZANETA ADAMS**

**MVAA Makes State Emergency Aid Available to Michigan Veterans**

Struggling veterans in many counties across Michigan are able to put food on the table, make essential housing and vehicle repairs and pay medical bills thanks to the County Veteran Service Fund Emergency Relief (CVSF-ER) effort launched by the MVAA during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the state's coordinating agency for Michigan's more than 550,000 veterans and their families, the MVAA facilitates \$6.4 million in CVSF state-appropriated grants to County Veterans Service Offices.

The emergency aid was made available to counties that were previously approved for CVSF grants but wanted to amend the grants to offer emergency relief directly to veterans. Some counties were slated to spend CVSF grants on veteran outreach and activities but were unable due to pandemic restrictions. The emergency relief was also available to counties that either did not qualify or chose not to apply for CVSF grants previously.

The emergency relief effort gained considerable traction, with at least 20 Michigan counties participating by mid-June to the tune of \$1.3 million. The CVSF-ER grants, determined by each county's veteran population, ranged from \$6,000 in Wexford County (with 2,500 veterans) to \$519,736 in Wayne County (with 83,400 veterans).

Eligible veterans from all eras – both wartime and peacetime – in participating counties can use the money to make home and vehicle repairs, pay medical expenses and meet other needs determined emergent. As part of the effort, the MVAA also teamed up with Meijer to provide grocery vouchers to veterans in participating counties.

While the emergency assistance is helping veterans hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, it also applied to emergent needs stemming from the central Michigan flooding in May. Both Midland and Gladwin counties, which were devastated by flooding, applied for and were approved for CVSF-ER grants.

As Gov. Whitmer said in helping announce the CVSF-ER effort: "The State of Michigan is committed to supporting our veterans and their families during these challenging times and every day throughout the year. These brave men and women put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and we will continue serving them as they served us."

Indeed, for those counties that opted in, veterans of all eras could take advantage of emergency funding opportunities while also becoming more familiar with resources that are available to them and their families. No matter which era they served in, they deserve support when they need it the most, especially during these trying and uncertain times.

For more information about emergency funding opportunities and all other benefits and services available to veterans, contact the MVAA's Veteran Resource Service Center at 1-800-642-4838

**1-800-MICH-VET**



**COOTIE CORNER, ROBERT E. WILSON**

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! – On June 13th, 2020 Russel Makowski PT-12 was elected as Grand Commander for the 2020-2021 Year.

Also elected were Grand Sr. Vice Nathaniel L. Powell PT-32; Grand Jr. Vice Jennifer Heraty PT-21; Grand Quartermaster Shane Houghton PT-32; Grand Adjutant PGC Robert E. Wilson. The installing officer was 8th Supreme District Commander PGC Eric S. Bell PT-21.

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

**86th Tomb Trek 2020  
Arlington National Cemetery**

The 86rd Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 06-08 November 2020. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier at LOTCS.org.

Speaking of web sites, you can now download information about the Grand of Michigan from either the Departments web page vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocgrandofmichigan.com

**92th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2020**

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 5th, 2020. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members both VFW and Cooties to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids.

Please when sending your contribution make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forwarded to us. Send donations to: Shane Houghton, 343 High St. Ionia, MI. 48848

**"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2020-2021**

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to PGC Bob Routhier Jr., P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420.

In closing, remember membership. The life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cooties Auxiliaries'. Sign a new member up today!

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



VFW National Home Director Frederick Puffenberger, Michigan Grand Sr. Commander Russell Makowski, VFW National Home Event Coordinator Patti Marriott, Michigan Grand Commander Eddie Dandridge, and Michigan Grand Jr. Commander Nate Powell

Grand Jr. Vice Commander Nate Powell (PT 32) was all set to accompany the residents of the VFW National Home for Children to Cedar Point on May 30th. Grand Sr. Vice Russell Makowski, who made the trip last year, was raring to accompany him. It is one of the highlights of the year for children at the VFW National Home for Children. The day begins with a hot breakfast provided and served by VFW Post 2529 followed by a day in the park.

The children of the National Home have been treated to a trip to Cedar Point for over 30 years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to cancel this year's trip for the safety of National Home for Children residents, staff, and VFW members according to Sue Alverson, VFW National Home for Children Development Director.

"It is definitely the most popular trip of the year. From the comfortable ride in a charter bus to the delicious breakfast at the Sandusky Post and the incredible generosity of the Cooties and the [VFW]Post 2529 members to provide the tickets and spending money, all of which makes a fun and memorable family experience for the residents," said Nancy Bowers, National Home staff member.

Also affected by the pandemic was the annual fishing trip to Lake Erie. "The thing

that I liked most about the fishing trip is that it gives the kids an opportunity to get out on one of the Great Lakes. They get so excited about heading out of port and being in the front of the boat as it splashes through the waves," said Nancy. VFW Post 9871, North Ridgeville, Ohio, pays for the charter boat every year, and VFW Post 2480, Port Clinton, Ohio, provides the children and staff lunch. Jack Uber, Chaplain of Post 9871, is a beloved fixture of the annual trip.

"We plan to continue these fun traditions in the future, as it is a wonderful opportunity for our resident children to experience the fun of Cedar Point, the beauty of the Great Lakes, and the love of the VFW," said Nancy.

It is the Grand of Michigan tradition that the Grand Jr. Vice Commander chairs the committee and accompanies the children on the annual Cedar Point trip. "I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to chaperon the Cedar Point trip this year," stated Grand Jr. Vice Commander Powell. "I was looking forward to sharing this experience with the VFW National Home residents. In 2021, there will be a new Grand Jr. Vice Commander, and maybe I will be able to accompany him or her on the Cedar Point trip."

**-Nate Powell**



## DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



### DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - EDDIE DANDRIDGE

Hello 5th District! My name is Eddie Dandridge Sr. I am a proud Gold Legacy Life Member of Oskar A. Andreas Post 1794 in Mount Clemens.

You can contact me by calling 586-615-5054, email: [DISTRICT5@VFWMI.ORG](mailto:DISTRICT5@VFWMI.ORG) or [eddie.dandridge29@gmail.com](mailto:eddie.dandridge29@gmail.com)

I do not text.

I want to congratulate all District 5 Elected & Appointed Officers. Thank you for being on THE TEAM! At this time I want to thank my wife Rosalyn Dandridge for helping me in so many ways which helps things go more smoothly. She never put obstacles in my path. I want to thank our amazing 5th

District membership for electing me as your Commander 2020-2021. Thank you Past 5th District Commander George Navarrette Jr. for continuing the proud leadership traditions that other Past 5th District Commander's blazed for all to follow. Before I began writing my report, I went on the Department membership website & there as I expected, District 5 as of 14 June 2020 at 99.96% in membership. So I placed a call to Commander Navarrette Jr. to Congratulate him & the dedicated membership of The Fighting Fifth! Job well done. To our outstanding 5th District Officer's, Chairman & membership, I look forward to working with all of you as ONE TEAM!

Now I want to introduce our 5th District TEAM! Sr. Vice Commander: Su-jen Mauldin,

Jr. Vice Commander: Benjamin Light, Quartermaster: Past District 5 All American Commander: Norman Mauldin 2019-2019, Adjutant: Past District 5 Commander: Robert Lutz 2008-2009, Service Officer: Joseph Greene, Surgeon: Don Martindale, Judge Advocate: Past District 5 Commander: George Navarrette Jr. 2019-2020, Chiefs Of Staff: Past District 5 All American Commander: John Gubin 2002-2003, Robert Lutz 2008-2009, Pamela Young 2013-2014 & Chaplain: District 5 can't be the leader it is without the blessing of our National Chaplain Of The Year, James Muys 2018-2019. So 5th District! As you can judge for yourself, & we all will know by this time next year 15 June 2021. Until Next Article! "ONE TEAM! ONE FIGHT!"



### DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - REINOLD E. YAHNKA

Hopefully, everyone has survived the COVID-19 pandemic and your lives are getting back to some sort of normalcy. This

has been a different year for all of us so far and we have learned to use social distancing and Zoom teleconference to conduct VFW business. It has been a learning curve for all of us. As the Commander of the "Super 6th District" we need to strive to be the best that we can be as individuals, as a Post, as a District and as a Department. I believe we can achieve great things in the District if we work together as a Team, to be the Best that we can be, and keep "Veterans Moving Forward" which is Department Commander Scott Gloger's theme for this year. Make sure you stay on top of getting the Post monthly reporting for activities and hospital reporting in by the 10th of every month. Make sure that your trustee's perform quarterly audits and that all audits are completed and turned in on time. The District Meeting schedule below will be posted on our "VFW & Auxiliary District 6" Facebook page. Communication is the Key to keeping everyone in the know, so you will be receiving a lot of e-mails and phone calls when necessary to keep you informed. Post Commander's, Quartermaster's and Adjutants please make sure that your member's get the information as it is passed onto you.

#### District 6 Meeting Schedule for 2020 - 2021

Saturday, September 12, 2020 - Adams-Rockey Post 6056, 230 Mechanic Street, Springport, MI 49284

10:00 am - Veterans Training Session  
12:00 pm - Lunch  
1:00 pm - Meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2020 - Moore-Lenz-Wakefield Post 6462, 418 Dunham Street, Dundee, MI 48131.

10:00 am - Pearl Harbor Ceremony  
10:30 am - District VOD/PP/Teacher of the Year Presentation of awards.

Lunch as soon as VOD/PP/TOY presentation is completed.

1:00 pm - Meeting and Nominations for 2021 - 2022

Saturday, April 24, 2021 - Carleton VFW Post 4093, 700 Carleton Rockwood Road, Carleton, MI 48117

11:00 am - Memorial Service  
12:00 pm - Lunch  
1:00 pm - Meeting and Elections for 2021 - 2022, Installation of District Officers after meeting.

It is an Honor to be your District 6 Commander and I am here to serve you and help you in any way I can. So please feel free to contact me at any time so that we can keep the "Super 6th District" "Veterans Moving Forward". Thank You, for all that you do.



### DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER MIKE MARTIN

First, I would like to thank my Comrades in the 8th District for allowing me to be their

District Commander. I consider it an honor and privilege to be leading the Great Eight. I will do my absolute best for you every day. We have a great team of elected officers this year—Gary Brown Sr Vice Commander, Bob Brink Jr Vice Commander, Barry Wickman Quartermaster, Rudy Banas Chaplain, Steve Eernisse 1-year Trustee, Gary Hosteter 2-Year Trustee and Robin Bailey 3-Year Trustee. This year's Department of Michigan theme is "Veterans Moving Forward" and these Comrades along with Adjutant Garry Goff and all the appointed Committee Chairs will be working together to move the Veterans of District 8 forward from this crisis we have been living through.

My focus is serving all the Posts and I can only do that by getting to know each Post personally. To do this I will be visiting every Post in District 8 to spend time with the officers and members. I want to hear the good and the bad. Suggestions on how to better serve Veterans are always welcome as is constructive criticism, but please, no personal attacks. My visit may not necessarily be on a meeting night. If you are having a special event and would like me to attend, please let me know and I will attend if possible.

Communication is key. We must be able to pass along information as quickly as possible. To help with that we now have an email address for District 8. You can email me at [vfwmidistrict8@yahoo.com](mailto:vfwmidistrict8@yahoo.com) and I will answer as quickly as possible, just as I will a phone call. If you haven't already, please download the free Zoom app to your computer, tablet, ipad or cellphone. The zoom app is a great way to get together and be able to exchange ideas in between District meetings, ... continued on page 13



### DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER - BILL THICK JR.

I hope this finds you in good health and positive spirits. Congratulations to all the new VFW officers for 2020-2021. So far, this year has been strange to say the least. We have done the best we can to keep things as normal as possible while social distancing and trying to keep our vulnerable members safe. I encourage you to

continue to keep the safety of your members a priority until this all passes. To any new Post Commanders or Quartermasters, Hospital and Activity Reports are due to the Directors by the 10th of every month. Please catch up on any you have missed and keep reporting monthly and on time. If you need help, I will assist you. I would also like to challenge you all to make a run for All-State Posts this year. I can give you a list of requirements. Let's work hard and have a productive year!

**DISTRICT 8 CONTINUED**

... especially if a situation comes up that we need to address immediately. We are also working on a Facebook page. You will receive more information on that soon.

District 8 had several Posts reach 100% last year but only three Posts that made All-State. It is my belief that we should have the same number of All-State Posts as we do 100% Membership Posts. Every Post does things that are Community Service, Americanism, etc. but they just never report them. You will be hearing from me almost constantly about reporting. We will be doing VTS on them and you will be receiving emails and other materials from me on how to report. Reporting has never been easier. There is just no excuse for not reporting.

Our next District meeting will be on August 1, 2020 in Wayland at Post 7581. There will be a VTS at 10am on the Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen program. This is a critical VTS as there have been many changes in the program this year. Be sure to attend so you can help the students in your area enter for a chance at some great scholarships. Lunch will be at 11am with the meeting at 1230pm. Remember, attendance at District meetings is mandatory. Make sure your Post is represented.

I am looking forward to a great year as we live up to the Veterans of Foreign Wars motto of "No One Does More for Veterans".



**DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER - KIMBERLY NAPOLEON**

**G r e e t i n g s** District 9 and fellow Comrades in service. First I'd like to thank District 9 for your vote of confidence and electing me

to serve you for the 2020/2021 year. I'm looking forward to working alongside the Post Commanders and with Department Commander Gloger and the CofA.

I am a 1986 Graduate of Arthur Hill High School. I served this country as a member of The United States Army from 1987-1996 when I was medically retired. I served during three conflicts; Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, commonly known as "The First Gulf War/Persian Gulf War."

During these conflicts while stationed at Fort Bragg, I provided Logistical Support Operations with the 1st Corps Support Command (COSCOM).

I was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, the fourth highest medal awarded for heroism while serving my country in a combat zone.

I am an accredited service officer with MVAA. I serve as a Mentor with Saginaw County Veterans Justice Treatment Court and I am a Commissioner on The Soldiers and Sailors Relief Commission in Saginaw County. Life Member of Disabled American Veterans, I was elected as The first Female Commander of DAV Chapter 117 (2014-2016) in it's 75 year history to serve as Commander. I am a Life Member of The American Legion and member of local Post 439, I am a member of The National Association of Minority Veterans of America. Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States of America. My Local Post is Wallace C. Schultz/Dwight A. McKinney Jr. Post 9931, where I previously served as the Service Officer, Adjutant and Senior- Vice Commander. I

have served as Post Commander since 2017 in which I became the first African American Female to hold this office in the Michigan.

I am also a life member of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Top Ladies of Distinction Incorporation, Saginaw Chapter.

I am the widow of US Army Veteran Mr. Terrill Napoleon and the proud Mother of our daughter, Ms. Ti'Kyra Napoleon of East Lansing Michigan.

Comrades, the country, our city, communities, and individuals are trying to process and cope with what is going on around them. Amidst a once in a century viral pandemic known as Covid-19, we can do our part to fulfill VFW's mission and do what we can by serving others. Many Posts in the District are busy making masks, serving as food distribution centers and reaching out to the homeless Veteran populations. This is what we do, because as I said, "Serve Is What We Do." Please share how you are serving by submitting your projects to VFW on the National Website under #stillserving.

I am challenging all Posts to submit your monthly reports on time, which is no later than the 10th day of the following month. In addition please work on Membership and let's make a commitment to obtain 100% for the 2020/2021 year! I know we can do this as I've seen it before!! Please let me know if I can be of assistance, as I also serve on the Membership team as Co- Membership Director for the North Region.

In closing, the challenges we face as a nation related to racial inequality and injustice are significant and growing. These roots go as deep as our nation's founding, but they are not beyond the power and determination of committed people for positive change.

I promise to lead District 9 with Vision Integrity Structure & Accountability (VISA).

**SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK.**

**WE PROVE IT**

**DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER - BRUCE BRIDSON**

Hello Comrades, Brothers, and Sisters. On behalf of District 11, I would like to say Congratulations to our new Department Officers; Commander Scott Gloger, Sr. vice Commander Kevin Conklin, Jr. vice John Griffith, Auxiliary President Carrie Turner, Sr. vice President Stephanie Kruger, Jr. vice President Diana Ward, And all the newly appointed officers at Department Level. District 11 is also sending sincere wishes for a very successful and record breaking year.

Comrades of the 11 District, Thank you for the appointment as your District Commander once again. For those that don't know, I served our great country in the United States Air Force, as a Firefighter, from October 1987, to November 1991. During my 4 years of service, I was stationed at Andersen AFB, Guam, and Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda. I was deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990 - 91, during the Persian Gulf / Desert Storm War, earning

my eligibility in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. While in the Air Force, I earned the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Longevity Service Award, NCO Professional, the Air Force Training Ribbon, and Southwest Asia Service Medal, with 2 Bronze Stars. I am a Life Member of St. Helen VFW Post 5680, honorably serving as Post Quartermaster. I am happily married for 27 years to Veronica, we have 1 Daughter Allison, and recently a Granddaughter Brooklyn.

I would appreciate your participation at district meetings. All district meetings my term, will have some type of training. Training will begin at 10:00am the day of our district meetings, and will run for 1 hour. This training will be very beneficial to our great organization. District Meetings will begin at 11:00am and the things discussed at these

meetings are of great value to our members, to your post, and to our VFW organization. District 11's district meetings, are as follows, August 9th at VFW Post #6950 Linwood/Kawkawlin, and November 1st at Midland VFW Post #3724.

I personally look forward to seeing all Comrades, and our Brothers, & Sisters at the Department Fall Conference in Boyne Highlands.

Please remember to do your Hospital and Activities reporting. It's very important that you are reporting all your post activities to department by the 10th of the following month. If you are having issues with reporting please contact me or one of the district officers, we are here to help.

Any Post Events that you would like listed on the department website please email me at our District email address.

district11@vfwmi.org

**When Posting to social media use #VFWPostPRIDE**

**DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER - BILLY STANCROFF**

I hope everyone is doing good and being safe. At my home post we have had members come down with COVID 19 and all are doing well now. With all of the VFW Post clubroom and hall closed being closed I know times are hard. Now that we can reopen be safe.

I want to thank Richard for doing a great job as Commander last year.

With COVID 19 membership for the last year was down. Now anyone needs to check on all of their members to see how they are

doing and the unpaid ones get them up to date with their dues.

By the time you read this our first District meeting may have happened. It was at Post 3256 on August 16. The next District meeting is on November 9th at Post 4499 in Manistee. There will be a Veterans Day Service at 11 sharp. If there is a member or post that needs help with the Internet we will have computers to show you how thing work.

By going to vfwmi.org you can do all of

your reports and check a list of other things. We need to get all reports and Audits in on time. Call me if you need help with this any time. 231-740-3131

January 9th will have the Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen Diner and Teacher of the year Dinner at POST? Social Hour 1 and Dinner at 2pm. Remember to get your paper work in to District on time.

Our spring meeting and District Convention will be April 11 at VFW Post 7729.



**DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER - DEAN MAKI**

Due to the circumstances beyond my control, I have the distinct pleasure of remaining as District 14 Commander for another year. I want to thank last years C of A; especially Past Commander Fineis and

Chaplain Smith: for all the words of wisdom, guidance, and encouragement during my "freshman" year. It certainly was appreciated. Thank you also to the posts of the 14th for their reporting in hospital and activities. Please keep up the good work. Let me know if anyone needs assistance in reporting. Please keep your audits current and Recruit, Retain, & Renew members. District meetings for this

year include: August 16, 2020 at Post 4420 in Manistique at 10:00 am. November 1, 2020 at Post 3676 in Sault Ste. Marie at 1:00 pm. April 16-18, 2021 at Post 5670 in Gwinn at 10:00 am. This Spring has been very challenging for everyone and as this pandemic continues to ease up, I hope to personally visit all the posts in the District. Hope to see some of you in Manistique in August.

**DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER - JIM PINTAR**

Comrades of the 15th. It is indeed an honor to serve as your District Commander for the fifth time. Maybe I'll get it right this time. We have an excellent crew to lead the District this year with PSC Bud Huuki as Senior Vice

, Brian Amos as Jr, Ken Lassila as QM, Jack Lillar as Adjutant and Dan Caron as Chief of Staff. If you need and help we are a phone call away. To keep the calls from coming your way get your audits in on time. Hopefully all

the election reports have been submitted. Our Fall Conference date has been changed to September 20 at Post 5600 in Ontonagon. Hope to see you there. phone 906-934-2490 / cell 906-370-6077

**★ AUXILIARY DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS ★**

**DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT - AILEEN ADRAGNA**

It is the beginning of a new program year. This spring and summer are challenging us in ways we never expected. I hope everyone is ready to work in new ways for the greater good of the organization.

Our organization was founded more than 100 years ago to ensure benefits offered to soldiers were not just lip service upon their return; but, the real deal from our national government. That battle continues today. We must be vigilant in our contacts with elected officials at all levels of government to ensure that this government is of the people, by the people, shall not vanish from this world.

As patriotic citizens we should be teaching the people of our land about our history – our history as a nation that grew from 13 colonies in the 1700's to the nation we now have. It is not a perfect nation by a long shot—but in teaching our children and our children's children, hopefully, we will be able to entrust the future to those who will continue working

to instill patriotic beliefs and standards that will lead to a better country.

The auxiliary has many programs that help us in reaching these objectives. Americanism does not stand alone. Americanism is an attitude of pride, an attitude of not worrying about retribution for having an opinion that is different from your neighbor, family, or friend. Americanism is loyalty – fidelity to the unit – the organization, the state, the country. The Pledge of Allegiance is not just words on paper. Teaching what each phrase means is part and parcel of attitude and loyalty. Who do you teach? Work with the schools; find that one teacher, that one principal, who has a vision that all are created equal. Find that one person who will let you into their classroom for Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Patriotic coloring.

Together, we are better that we have existed. Let all our actions be for the greater good.

**DIST. 6 PRESIDENT - ROSE SANCRANT**

Thank you to everyone for your support as I follow my predecessors footsteps. I have the honor of being a life member of Erie Post 3925 with eligibility under my husband who served in Desert Storm and Global War on Terrorism. I look forward to making new friends. Our district meetings will be September 12th at Adams-Rockey Post 6056 in Springport, December 5th at Post 6464 in Dundee, and April 24, 2021 at Carleton Post 4093. Lunch to be served at 1200 with meeting following at 1300 for all meetings. September will include school of instruction. Pearl Harbor Ceremony December 5th at 1000 with District VOD/PP/Teacher of the Year Award Presentation at 1030.

Though COVID-19 has changed the way Super 6 operates it will not deter us from supporting our Veterans and their families. With everyone's help we will overcome and meet our mission. Stay safe and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

**DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT - NANCY VREDEVELD**

Great 8th! Looking forward to working with Department President Carrie Turner, from the Great 8th! This year is starting out a little different, but with determination we will attain our goals for this coming year.

Now is the time to concentrate on getting those dues notices out and working toward

100% in membership! Inspection notices will go out shortly and I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months.

Our first District Meeting will be August 1st in Wayland, and there will be a school of instruction at this meeting. The other meetings are November 7 in Nashville,

February 6 in Holland, and District Convention will be May 1 in Charlotte. Lunch is at 11am, audit & registration starts at noon and meeting is at 12:30.

Looking forward to working alongside District 8 Commander Mike Martin and the VFW members.



**DIST. 9 PRESIDENT - CARLEY RALEIGH**

This has been a very different end of year for Michigan and all VFW and Auxiliaries. We have learned to use Zoom to run our meetings and found new ways to keep in touch with our members. June brought us a Zoom Department Convention where Della and Carrie showed us how to effectively close one year and open the next.

As the State opens more we are back in the VA hospitals for visits, lunches, and Bingo. We remembered our Veterans on July 4th as we should every day. Although Michigan Day was canceled our National President, Sandy Onswedder planned her Celebrate America's Freedom Event at the National Home.

Please continue to be safe as we work toward membership and all our programs.

**DIST. 12 PRESIDENT - WENDI HALL**

My name is Wendi Hall I am proud to be returning as the 12th District president for 2020-21 year. I served in this same position 15 years ago and am excited to take this journey again.

Goals for the district will certainly be increasing or retaining membership. I hope to recruit members off our at large list for our area and get them back involved in an Auxiliary.

I also look forward to visiting with all my auxiliaries in the district and reconnecting with old friends.

**DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT - JUDITH BROWN**

My name is Judith Brown, District 13 VFW Auxiliary President and I qualify for the VFW Auxiliary under our son Troy Brown USAF, who is now retired from the military. We were blessed with two sons who joined the USAF right after high school.

They have taught me to love the history of the wars and being from Hillman, MI, it has been my pleasure to focus on the history of WWII and Victory over Japan.

VJ (Victory over Japan) Day Celebrations started here in Hillman in the year 1945 at the end of WWII. The celebration continues today on the second Saturday in August every year. It is on this day every year, in memory of our eldest son Jeff, that my husband and I have the pleasure of presenting several Quilts of Valor and Quilts for Veterans. This is done with the aid of our Montmorency County VFW Post and Auxiliary 2356, and many quilters. We work very well with our Post and enjoy doing things together.

August 14th, 1945 is the day Japan announced it would surrender unconditionally, was the first day of a two day celebration. September 2 was the day the official instruments of surrender were signed in Tokyo Harbor. In the United States, President Harry S. Truman changed the name to Victory Day in 1946 calling for a day of solemn commemoration and a day of Prayer and high resolve that the cause of justice, freedom, peace, and international good-will shall be advanced. Decades later, after Japan

became an important trading partner and ally of the United States the name "Victory Day" was preferred.

There have been many who have tried to prevent this celebration saying it was prejudiced along with much other reason to stop it. We continue this celebration because it is part of history and we must not forget our history or what our veterans have come through. We may be the only ones in the United States that that still call it VJ Day. Others have the celebration I believe but it goes under the new title of Victory Day.

We hold our veterans in very high regard and appreciate them more than we can express for keeping us free. Is Freedom Free? No it is not, just ask a veteran!



**AUXILIARY VETERAN SUPPORT CHAIR - KRIS GRIFFITH**

I am honored to be this years V&FS Chairman for our Department President, Carrie Turner. Veterans, service members and their families often face unexpected challenges and the VFW Auxiliary is here to support them in their time of need. One way to do that is through promoting and supporting the programs within V&FS and educating our members and our community on the services these programs provide. Promote the VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), which helps veterans, service members and their families obtain benefits they deserve at no cost. Promote the VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs, which support current and recently discharged military service members. These programs are Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and VFW's "Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship".

The VFW's "Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" does have a suspense date coming up soon, so here is some information on this program. This scholarship provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational

goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. Applications for the spring semester will be accepted August 1 through November 15 and will be awarded in January. Applications for fall semester will be accepted January 1 through April 30 and will be awarded in August. For further details, please refer to

[www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support)

This year, our National President Sandra Onstwedder's Special Project – Stars, Stripes and Support: Combating Food Insecurity Among Our Nation's Military Service Personnel and Their Families is in support of Unmet Needs. Also, this year, Department President Carrie Turner has designated that the Department Program Pins proceeds will go to the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs.

For more in-depth information on these programs and our National President's Special Project, please refer to the V&FS Guide Sheet and Bulletins on the Department Auxiliary website. I am looking forward to working with all of you to have a successful year!



**CAMP TROTTER VETERANS TRAINING SEMINAR 2020-2021 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

**AUGUST 22ND  
\$30 PER PERSON (\$35 DAY OF)**

Name	Bring your own bedding, and shower items.
Position	Please provide the number of Comrades that will be attending the Seminar, along with what positions they presently hold: Post County Council, District, or Department.
Post / District	VTS Director: <b>Ronald Amend PSC</b> ramend@vfwmi.org / 586-255-3871
Total Attending	Make Checks out to: <b>VFW Department of Michigan VTS</b> 924 N. Washington Ave. Lansing MI. 48906-5136



**DESIGNER & EDITOR,  
STACEY ROBERTS**

I hope you all are surviving these crazy times and taking the precautions needed to keep you and your family safe. Please take

a moment to reach out to your fellow members and check on them. They may be unable to get groceries or have trouble dealing with the isolation. Hope to see you all in October.

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.**

**Printing & Distribution:**  
Stafford Printing

**Articles for consideration  
should be sent to:**  
MOV@VFWMI.ORG

7901 Backus Road - Greenville, MI 48838  
**Next article deadline : October 5, 2020**

**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

# ROLL CALL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES



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

**345 Redford**

Lankford, Loran A. 74 Navy/Vietnam  
Stecker, Frank B. 73 Army/Vietnam  
Valley, Gerald M. 88 Navy

**607 Rogers City**

Wright, Richard D. 78 Navy/Vietnam

**796 Port Huron**

Bice, Harold L. 93 Army/WWII  
Gamble, Jimmy R. 70 Army/Vietnam

**1137 Watervliet**

Browers, Earl 80 Vietnam  
Ripsco, Velma 95 Army/WWII  
Weber, Gil 93 Army/WWII

**1355 Sturgis**

Boone, James 80 Army/Korea  
Hudson, Kenneth 68 Air Force/Vietnam

**1519 Northville**

Dinkins, Albert 93 Army/WWII  
Tynan, John Jr. 73 Air Force/Vietnam

**1887 Menominee**

Biernat, Franklin 72 Army/Vietnam  
Kass, Robert A. 93 Army/WWII  
Olsen, Lyle 89 Navy/Korea

**2144 Holland**

Carlson, John 76 Navy/Vietnam  
DeWeerd, Gerald 96 Army/WWII  
Hardin, Thomas 68 Marines/Vietnam  
Johnson, Oscar R. 93 Army/WWII  
Rutzel, Allen 70 Army/Vietnam  
Seidelman, John S. 76 Army/Vietnam  
Visscher, Gerrit 86 Marines/Korea

**2645 Southfield**

Brown, William 82 Army/Korea  
Cummings, Roosevelt 89 Army/Korea  
Schmidt, Lindsay 76 Air Force/Vietnam  
White, Norrel 93 Navy/WWII

**3023 Grand Rapids**

Anderson, Maurice R. 104 Army/WWII  
Cross, Richard J. 68 Vietnam  
Glatz, Russ 89 Army/Korea  
Grams, Jay F. 65 Marines/Vietnam  
Hassen, Lyle 84 Marines/Korea  
Homrich, Ernest 94 WWII

Klawiter, Ralph 86 Korea  
Mitchell, James Jr. 87 Navy/Korea  
Mull, Jerry 88 Navy/Korea  
Sabo, Anthony 86 Air Force/Korea

**3030 Otsego**

Perry, Joseph H. 94 Navy/WWII  
Rose, Dudley A. 70 Army/Vietnam

**3314 Arcadia**

Schroeder, Gerald F. 89 Marines/Korea

**3623 Cheboygan**

Baller, Jerry 72 Army/Vietnam

**4054 Marcellus**

Carlson, Phillip 54 Navy/Persian Gulf  
Gardner, Paul 72 Vietnam

**4093 Carleton**

Kopietz, Harold 86 Army/Korea

**5678 Tawas City**

Pageau, James L. 74 Air Force/Vietnam

**6464 Fowlerville**

Kelley, Howard 96 Army/WWII  
Sawyer, Tommy 95 Army/WWII

**6864 Cadillac**

Cascaddan, Robert E. 71 Army/Vietnam

**6985 Central Lake**

Burns, Doyle D. 92 Army/Korea

**7542 Birch Run**

Grim, Robert E. 83 Army  
Janni, William 94 Army/WWII  
Ruddy, Bernard 72 Army/Vietnam

**9023 Brimley**

Spencer, Gary 75 Army/Vietnam

**9377 Plainwell**

Digby, Marlin 81 Navy/Vietnam

**9656 Lambertville**

Dusseau, Raymond 55 Army  
Libstorff, Arthur C. 94  
Army Air Corps/WWII

Smith, Eugene A. 78 Navy/Vietnam

**10884 Mayville**

Kapa, David 68 Air Force/Vietnam

**15023 Lansing**

Steinberger, William L. 93  
Army/WWII/Korea

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