

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

— SPRING 22/23



Happy 10 year anniversary to the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency! The partnership between the MVAA, VFW and other veteran service organizations has impacted and improved the lives of Michigan's veterans for a decade. We are proud to be a part of this team and look forward to what we can accomplish together in the next 10!



Our VFW Department of Michigan and Auxiliary leadership at the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington DC.

Since 1949, the VFW's annual Legislative Conference has provided an opportunity for VFW leaders from each state to personally speak to their respective lawmakers and watch as the VFW's current Commander-in-Chief testifies on Capitol Hill before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of veterans.

mov@vfwmi.org
VFW Dept. of Michigan
(517) 485-9456
vfwmi.org
924 N Washington Ave
Lansing, MI 48906



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, JOHN GRIFFITH

I am writing my final MOV article as your commander, and what a year it has been. First, I want to start off recognizing March as National Women's Month. We recognize and thank you for your selfless

service to our nation and want to take the time to show appreciation for your dedication to our comrades, communities, and country.

I want to thank all the directors that have worked alongside me this year for your unwavering dedication to serving veterans and their families. Together, we have made a difference in many lives, by providing support in various ways, getting involved in our communities and providing a place for our comrades to go when many felt they had no place where they felt belonging after their service.

The VFW Legislative week wrapped up recently, and the impact our advocacy has had was felt in the halls of congress. Millions of veterans are now receiving benefits which, in many cases, are years overdue. Lives have been changed because of your support and dedication.

Camp Trotter registration is now open for

children ages 7-11, all are welcome! Lets get these kids signed up so they can learn about patriotism, nature and have a week of fun with peers learning beside them. I am excited about the camp's development this year and look forward to seeing its growth, which has again, been made possible by you.

Our VFW Charities of Michigan is open again for a new grant cycle. The awards from the 2022 grants spans across Michigan, in assisting posts and programs that needed a little extra funding. I'm truly proud of the development our department has made, and I encourage posts to apply for these grants.

I look forward to seeing you at our state convention in Kalamazoo, June 8-11, and I hope as to have as many attendees as possible so I can share my gratitude in person. You all have overwhelmingly stepped up to the plate, not only by aiding in the passing of the PACT Act, but by also engaging with our brothers and sisters in arms whenever you see a need. That is the VFW spirit, and the esprit de corps of never leaving a comrade behind. Leading you this year has reinvigorated in me the whole reason I joined the VFW in the first place, to continue to serve. Thank you, God bless, and please continue to lean on your VFW family moving forward.

IN THIS ISSUE

Dept. Commander..... 1-2
 Dept. Jr Vice 2
 Dept. Quartermaster 2
 Dept. Chaplain 3
 National CofA 3
 District Commander Reports 4-5
 Post Reports 6-7
 Cootie Corner 7
 Aux. Jr Vice President 8
 Drug & Safety 8
 National Home 8
 District President Reports 9
 Meet the Candidates 9
 TAPS 10
 Camp Trotter 11
 Mental Health / VMS 11
 MOV Note 12
 District 4 Riders 12
 TAPS Form 12



DEPT. JR VICE COMMANDER, KIMBERLY NAPOLEON

Where has the time gone? Mid-Winter Conference has come and gone and spring is in the air. (Although at the time of this writing, we are in the midst of an end of season snow, rain, ice and windstorm.)

We have completed one of our jewel programs, The Voice of Democracy scholarship program/Patriots Pen/ and Teacher of the Year recognition programs; where It was an honor and a privilege for me to serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Congratulations to all of the students that participated and a heartfelt congratulations to the amazing students who represented their perspective districts at the state level competition. Special thank you to the Post VOD/PP/ TOY chairpersons for all of your work.

We are fresh off a successful National Legislative Conference, where the Department of Michigan delegation met with each US Senator and all elected representatives. All in all the advocacy meetings and presentations were well

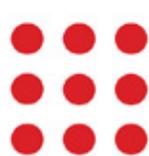
received.

Advocating for our Veterans is the epitome of why we exist and there's power in numbers. Thank you to all who played in a role in constant contacting your elected officials and encouraging them to pass the PACT Act, it truly is a historic win and long overdue. There's still much more work to be done. Please continue responding to the action alerts and encourage family and friends to sign up as well; we are indeed stronger together than apart.

Please continue with your recruitment efforts, as we are reminded by Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland and that "Every Veteran Counts," so let's each one reach one as we strive onward in growing our ranks. In addition continue with getting your monthly reports in on time.

I am very humbled and grateful to be a part of the Department of Michigan leadership team as your Department Jr. Vice Commander and I truly look forward to seeing what the future holds for us.

Until we meet again,
Be kind and Be well.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
800-273-8255
PRESS 1

When posting to social media add **#VFWpostpride** and tag **@VFWMI**

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT QUARTERMASTER, DEREK BLUMKE



In June 2020, the VFW Department of Michigan granted me the honor of serving you as your State Adjutant and Quartermaster. At the close of the 2023 State Convention I will complete my tenure working on your behalf, at your VFW State Headquarters. When

I assumed office, I was fresh out of my recovery from being overprescribed medications by the VA. At the same time, the pandemic shuttered our state; our body politic and Nation was in tumult; and our organization was sent reeling, as "Closed" signs were placed on our doors. Many posts were already on the ropes, having lost more than 100,000 members here in Michigan from the early 1990s through 2022. The combined effect of our membership declines and the pandemic, resulted in more than 20 posts closing their doors permanently in the two years following 2020.

To stop the bleeding, we came together. We focused on our mission: serving our people, posts and communities. To help posts get back on their feet, we created VFW Charities of Michigan. In our first year, \$150,000 in grants were issued to posts for critical repairs and hosting post events across the state. In response to our pain from the collapse of Afghanistan in 2021, we held "Veteran Town Halls". We shared our experiences, and our tears, as we recognized the many parallels between Kabul and Saigon. When the State rewrote the grant that funds our

service officer programs, also in 2021, we engaged the Governor and the Legislature. Instead of facing a potential funding cut, our actions resulted in a \$1.3 million funding increase. To offset the costs of our conferences, and to provide greater resource options for our members, we began partnering with companies to sponsor our events. Through this sponsorship program, we've also been able to begin development of an economic empowerment initiative to help veterans get jobs. Last year, the VFW – and the VFW Department of Michigan in particular – helped to lead the passage of the PACT Act. The passage of this bill upholds this Nation's commitment to care for our veterans and their families, by providing relief to millions of troops poisoned by toxins during their service. We inspired people, we built an amazing team, we were inspired, and this incredible group of people came together to make Michigan an "All American Department" – a recognition that's occurred only four times in the past twenty years. All of this, we did together.

Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of your journey. Your support when I came to the VFW in a time of need humbled me, and your advocacy in response has enabled great progress towards reforming VA prescribing practices. This will save lives and ensure that what happened to me, does not happen to anyone else. For all of this, I will be forever in your debt. Thank you for the amazing ride, and for allowing me to be part of your VFW, and your lives.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JIM MUYS

Well, 'tis the season and not a good one for now. From the reports that I have received several comrades

and sisters are sick and need our prayers. The weather temperature changes we are going through right now is a good reminder to keep watch of yourselves and stay safe. It is not summer yet and you can't fool mother nature.

Comrade PSC Sherwood Pea was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. He is currently at home and being treated as an outpatient. He will undergo chemo at the Cleveland Clinic and Betty will be with him.

Please send cards to him at:
3213 Clement St. - Flint, Mi. 48504

I'm sure he will be happy to get all the cards that we can send to him.

Current State President Diana Ward had a heart attack in Washington. She had triple bypass surgery and is still in the hospital. They've asked not to text or call at the present time. Updates should be coming as they are available.

Myself, I am going through an upper respiratory virus just short of pneumonia. No hospital but just what I need more medication.

These weather changes are rough on the system so be careful out there and keep safe. We need everyone healthy for National and State Convention coming up. Keep everyone in your prayers.

May God bless all you comrades and sisters and may God bless the United States of America.

VISIT DEPARTMENT'S
WEBSITE TODAY
VFWMI.ORG

vfwmi.org/join

vfwmi.org/contact

vfwmi.org/vethelp

vfwmi.org/directory

vfwmi.org/officers

vfwmi.org/allstate

vfwmi.org/mov

vfwmi.org/forms

vfwmi.org/gallery

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, JERRY GORSKI

I want to begin by Wishing and Praying for our Department Auxiliary President Diana Ward, a Speedy Recovery. Diana was at the Parade of Winners on Monday Evening, March 6, 2023 in Washington DC and suffered a Heart Attack after escorting our Department Voice of Democracy Winner. She was rushed to the hospital by ambulance. The next day at the hospital, Diana suffered a 2nd Heart Attack and was operated on. Diana is recovering in Washington DC and will return home after she is released by her Doctor by the time you read my article. Please keep Diana is Your Prayers.

I just returned from the Washington DC Legislative Conference on Thursday, March 9, 2023. The National Council of Administration Workshop was held on Sunday, March 5, 2023. At this workshop, Council Members heard from Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lippardt. We also heard from presenters Taiber Kosmala on Investments Overview and from Innovairre on the Direct Mail Program. Quartermaster General Marc Garduno spoke about the Investment Policy Statement, Audit & Compensation Committee Update and Motion, Retirement Board Update and Motions, Life Membership Motion and Properties Update. Adjutant General Dan West spoke about the National Awards & Citation Committee Awards, VFW University, Council Questions and Commander-in-Chief Testimony Process. Afterwards, we had a General Discussion. We do this, so any questions can be brought up and settled before the National Council of Administration Meeting.

The next day, Monday, was the National Council of Administration Meeting. After the Opening Ceremonies, we had a Moment of Silence honoring John Wrinkle-National Council Member from Oregon, who recently passed away. Next was the Introduction of Guests by Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland. The 1st Guest who spoke was Dwight Hora,

Supreme Commander of the Military Order of Cooties, the 2nd Guest who spoke was Mike Wilson, Executive Director of the VFW National Home and the 3rd who spoke was Lisa Barorio, Executive Director of the VFW Foundation.

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland installed New National Council Members Leon Rideout of New Hampshire, Kenneth Stein of the Pacific Area and George Carroll of Oregon. Chief Borland also installed Ryan Gallucci, Executive Director of the Washington DC Office. Past Commander-in-Chief Robert "Bob" Wallace had been the Executive Director for "32" Years and decided to retire. Bob Wallace was Honored by renaming the 5th floor DC Conference room the "Robert "Bob" Wallace Conference Room".

Committee Reports were given by Chairman Tim Peters of the Budget and Finance Committee, Chairman Cynthia Archuleta of the Time & Place Committee, Chairman TC Rollins of the Appeals Committee, Chairman Glenn Umberger of the Awards & Citations Committee and Vincent "BJ" Lawrence of the National Veterans Service Committee.

Motions were next. The 1st Motion was the Passing of the Investment Policy Statement, the 2nd Motion was the Passing of the Authorization of Life Member Payouts for FY 2023-24 and the 3rd Motion was the Passing of the Grant Thornton of Audit Services for year ending August 31, 2023. All discussions were conducted during the workshop, the previous day.

The National Council approved the 2027 National Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the 2028 National Convention to be held in San Antonio, Texas.

There was much more at the Washington Legislative Conference that I would like to tell you but I exceeded 500 words.

Please watch and listen to both the Commander-in-Chief's Testimony and also the Parade of Winners at www.vfw.org.

Thank you again for Electing Me as your National Council of Administration Member representing YOU and the Department of Michigan for 2019 through 2023.

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER - ORVILLE BEAUCHAMP

To my fellow veterans, this is Orville Beauchamp the Commander for the 4th District. Since we last spoke there has been more positive movement within the district, I hope everyone had a Blessed and prosperous Holiday season and a Happy New Year in December VFW Post 1136

held a Christmas Cash Bash which was well received, every 6 min a winning ticket was drawn and then the ticket went back into the barrel for another chance to win. January held a great many events starting with the District 4 Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Essay Banquet which was held on the 7th our Department Commander was the Keynote speaker among other guests and Past Department Officers. Also within the District one of our own, Post 1136 Commander Brian Martin became our newest Veterans Service Officer I wish to take the time to congratulate him and look forward to working with him in the future. Departments Mid-Winter Conference was in Kalamazoo this year. We will also have the Department Convention there as well. Even though

the 4th didn't take top honors this year The winning essay from the 6th District was very thought out and delivered with great emotion and enthusiasm. As well at the mid-winter we introduced our new Camp Trotter for Children Operation/Activities Director Ms. Maddie Schlossberg. She is a much-needed asset to move the camp forward, stay tuned for more information about the camping season this year. The next District meeting will be on February 26th at the VFW Harris Khrrer Post 3323 in Wayne, I would love to see everyone there, In March there will be a Rainbow of Riches drawing at VFW Post 1136 in Wyandotte, and part of the proceeds will go to help incoming Department Commander Ray Lopez with his Special Projects. Also in March the King of Hearts will return to the Wyandotte post as well. If there are any members that our out there and don't have a home post I would encourage you to seek one out, we still have many Members at large in the District and we need your voice to assist in meeting the needs of all veterans, if you know of any eligible veteran who needs a place to go for some one on one or just to decompress let them know the Veterans of Foreign Wars is there for them.



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - BENJAMIN LIGHT

What a wonderful year we've had in the 5th District! Before I go on about how wonderful a year it has been, I would like to say thank you to everyone and all who sent well wishes and offers of support when my infant daughter ended up in the NICU at the beginning of the year. I am happy to report that we now have a very happy and healthy baby girl with a clean bill of health!

Now, on to the wonderful year we've had in the 5th District.

I would like to congratulate our VOD/PP winners, and to thank all the young folks that participated. What incredibly talented young adults we have throughout the 5th District! Any function that we put on in this District is a big project, and the VOD/PP Banquet is the biggest. I would like to thank the District Chair George Navarrete and his counterpart, Aux Chair Kathy Hubbard for their incredible work on this monumental program!

Another big function that we pulled off this year is the Past Commanders / Past Presidents Banquet. We had a great turn out and tasty food. I would like to thank Post 1008 Commander Mark Woods and his team for cooking and providing first class service. Speaking of providing first class service; thank you Sr. Vice Commander Jerry Beseau and Sr. Vice President Kathy Hubbard for making this event a phenomenal success!

Congratulations to the 5th District Posts that have achieved 100% in membership. As of the date of this was submitted, the following Post are 100%: Posts 4037, 4162, 4659 and 9222. Great work Comrades. We have several other Posts that are very close, and I have no doubt that we will be 100% as a District before the National Convention.

Another way the 5th District showed up this year is in hospital and activity reporting. Thank you to Norm Mauldin, Don Martindale and Bob Lutz for your leadership dedication in these matters. And I huge thank you to the 5th District Commanders for getting this done!!!

Thank you to my wonderful Auxiliary counterpart Janet Swica! You have been a most worthy collaborator and with your members made every event better than it would have been without you. Thank you for your friendship and hard work.

Before I wrap this up, I need to take a moment to thank some very special people. First, my Chief of Staff this year, Comrade John Gubin. Thank you for your comradery, leadership, friendship and mentorship. Most importantly, thank you for kicking me in the ass when I needed it.

Last but not least, thank you to my wife Leah for supporting me while simultaneously taking care of our young children while I've been away. I love you baby!!!

In closing, thank you to the Members and Auxiliary of District 5! The District is successful because of you. Good luck to Jerry Beseau heading towards 2023-2024!

Team, remember... Serve First, Build Trust and Make Everyday a Great Day!



DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER JIM ALDEN

Welcome from the "Working 7th". As I come to the end of my term as

Commander, I would like to pass along a few thoughts about my Term in office.

I want to thank the officers who served with me the last two years. It takes a lot of Comrades in the chairs to make a District go. I've been blessed with a great bunch.

I also want to thank our Posts for their continued work to keep membership up. Last year I'm proud to announce District 7 was over 100% in membership!! We had ten 100% Posts for the District. Excellent Work Posts.

We also had one All-American Post in our District. Post 5319 in Athens received this honor at last years winter meetings. Commander Scott Holmes is doing a great job and looks to be All-American again.

On a sad note, also during my term our longtime Adjutant Tim Van Wormer passed after a short battle with cancer. Tim was a fine man and comrade.

As I ride off into the sunset, I again want to Thank all the Posts and members for their work the last two years.





DIST. 8 COMMANDER - GARY BROWN

Well, once again we are coming to the end of the year, and I hope ALL of you are working hard on getting your Post membership in to achieve your 100% Membership Banners. Membership in our posts consists of recruiting new members which grows the post and brings in new IDEAS on how to improve the atmosphere within the post. Keeping the membership in the post requires everyone to become involved within the post and keeping everyone aware of activities and events within the post. So remember this...A Post that works as a TEAM...CAN and WILL achieve Higher GOALS and Grow....A Post that FAILS to become a TEAM.....WILL not GROW and fade into the sunset...So, let's ALL Work Together and Bring the 8th District to the 100% Membership Goals and GROW OUR TEAM! It's Up to YOU on how our District ends up that counts!

I would like to remind all of you Post Commanders that getting

your post audits into department on time will keep all of you from getting into hot water when it comes to being able to VOTE at the State Convention. Also, Making Sure you get your Post Delegate Fees paid to Department and National before the conventions.

Hopefully every post has had their Post Elections completed and that you sent the District/Department and National a copy of the Post Elections....if you haven't done so....please do this quickly! A Post that Does Not Have Their Post Elections into Department and National can and will be put on Suspension. There WILL NOT be a district 8 Hospitality Room at the State Convention as Department will be running this at the Hotel this year...so when you arrive ask the registration desk where it will be located.

I would like to thank ALL of you for working with me this year and I hope I have been able to lead you to a better understanding of how our district and posts should operate and do our business as a VFW TEAM! See you ALL at the State Convention in June.



DIST. 9 COMMANDER - BILL ALMY

I am proud of all the posts in our district for your hard work and dedication towards keeping the Veterans of Foreign Wars alive and well. Please, keep up the hard work, there are still a few weeks remaining in the 2023 recruiting year. I am confident we can achieve 100% + if we continue to work at it.

District 9 raffle winners:

The Grand Prize for the Milwaukee tool set was, Jerald Sohn.

2nd place / \$250- Randy Haas

3rd place / \$100- Barry Cuscile

The early bird ticket seller for \$50 went to - Jerald Sohn

Thank you to Dave Reed, Commander of Post 4090 and District 9 Fund-Raising Chair for all your effort to promote and achieve success with the District 9 raffle.

The net profit from the raffle was \$6,000.00.

Thank you to all the posts who worked hard to sell tickets for this raffle. The profit from the sales will help promote VFW activities and programs within our District, Department and at national level.

District 9 Post Commanders:

Post commanders, please encourage your line officers and members to attend District meetings. Junior officers who plan to be a post commander should attend all district meetings and conventions to learn the protocols and procedures.

The meetings provide a good way to network with other Posts and a learning experience including Department updates. The meetings run according to National Bylaws and are a good example of Rules of Order. The VTS training covers topics such as; membership recruiting, explanation of specific bylaws, veterans'

benefits, quartermaster, trustee training, order of business and a host of other interesting topics.

A special Happy Birthday, to Irene Hosking. April 20, 2023 Irene turned 105 years young. Irene was a registered nurse before World War II, but when her brother survived the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, she joined the Army. Irene Hoskins has been with Post 4005 since joining the organization and has held positions as Junior Vice-Commander, Senior Vice-Commander and Adjutant, in addition to her year as Post Commander from 1995-96. Happy Birthday Irene! (photo on next page)

Comrades, it has been an honor to serve District 9 as your commander for the 2022 and 2023 year. It has been a very busy year for me, with the travel, conventions, meetings, banquets and many other events. With each event, I learned something new and useful. I am glad I had the opportunity to serve the District.

A special thank you to Chief-Of-Staff Richard Lehner, Deputy Chief-of-Staff Barry Walter for your guidance and vote of confidence in me. This year was not about me, it was about "Doing what has to be done for Veterans".

Thank you to District 9 Auxiliary President Robert Brown, your officers, staff and members for your support and hard work. The behind the scenes extra effort at district meetings, banquets, conventions are just a few of the volunteer activities that often go unnoticed by most. I am grateful to have such a patient and understanding Auxiliary in District 9. Thank you Robert.

Thank you to VFW Post 3055 St. Louis for hosting our District 9 meetings, VOD banquets and for outstanding luncheons and dinners.

Comrades, my loyalties and passion lie with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I will continue to serve the VFW wherever I am needed.

VFW CAMP TROTTER 17TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The 17th Annual VFW Camp Trotter for Children Fundraising Golf Outing will be held on Friday, June 17th. Cost is \$80 per person / \$320 per team of four. Includes 18 holes, cart, lunch, dinner, and prizes. This event is limited to 25 teams. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

To be held at Village Green Golf Course
8130 Bingham Ave in Newaygo at 9 am.

For questions or to register, contact Ricky Young.
810-569-2193 / rickyrambo2928@yahoo.com



POST REPORTS

POST 334 - NORTH OAKLAND

North Oakland VFW Post 334 presented a check for \$1,200 to the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry's Adopt-a-Shelf program in February for the 5th year in a row.

This Adopt-a-Shelf program purchases food items to keep stocked on the shelves. VFW Post 334 supports the pasta sauce shelf. Volunteers then take the purchased items and place them on the shelf's throughout the building (which is like a small grocery store). Everyone evolved with FISH are volunteers.

The pantry provides to those in need

who currently live in Lake Orion, Oxford, Addison and Oakland Township. Food provided per the size of each family and can range from 60 to 200 pounds per month.

With the high inflation on food this past year, the demand from the community is consonantly increasing. For those in need of services or who want to join the Adopt-a-Shelf program, call 248-628-3933 or visit oxfordorionfish.org to get more information. The Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry is located at 1060 South Lapeer Road, Oxford, MI. 48371



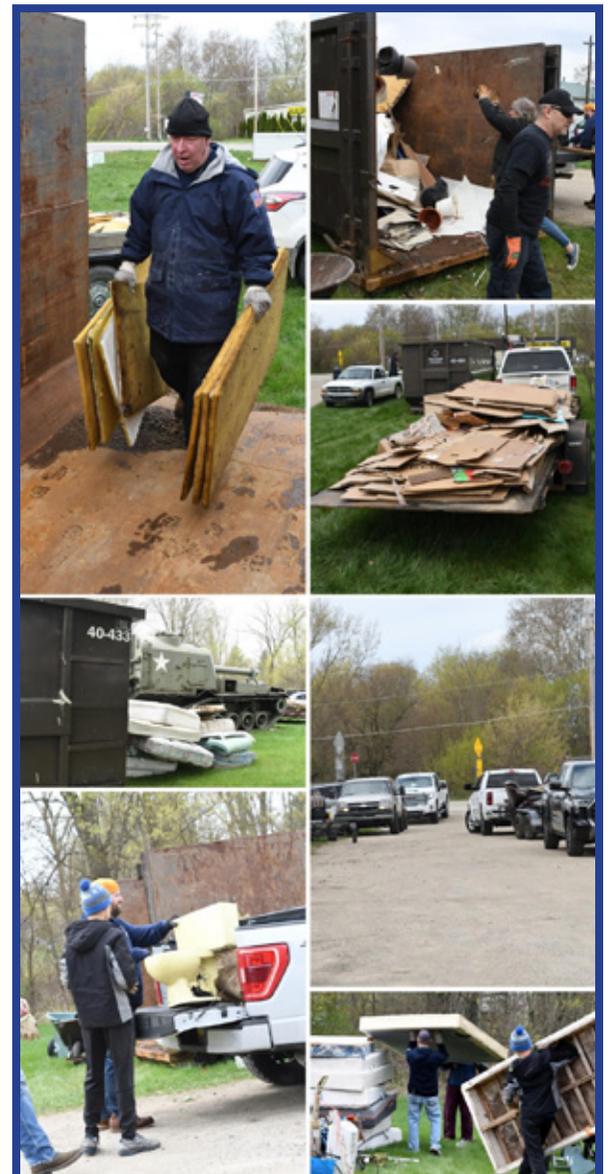
POST 582 - ORTONVILLE

VFW Post 582 Post and 5th District High school teacher of the year Brian Moore Brandon H.S. with Dennis Hoffman post CMDR. & Carl Jeffrey Sr. vice, pictured Brandon M.S. Patriot's Pen four finalist and VOD winner with post commander. Boy scout Pack 139 Ortonville's newest Eagle Scout Tim Whalen with commander Dennis Hoffman.



POST 8260 - THORNAPPLE VALLEY

Post 8260, a partner with the M-66 Business District in Nashville, participated in the local "Dumpster Day" on April 22nd. Veterans from Post 8260 assisted with unloading trailers into dumpsters while separating scrap metal and other recyclables for appropriate disposal. The event collected three dumpsters, one dump truck, and two scrap trailers. Post 8260 is proud to have participated in this event with both manpower and financial assistance with the cost of dumpsters. We look forward to a repeat next year.

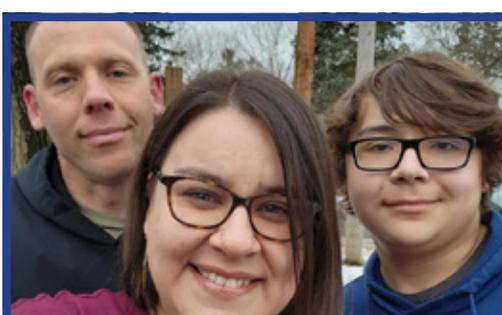


POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



1st & 2nd place winners of Post 3701's fourth annual winter cornhole league

Scan the code below to keep up with us, enter raffles and join in on the fun!



We welcome, Chris Owen, home from his 4th deployment. Here with wife, Donna & son, Caden

POST 6248 - DECATUR

V.F.W. Post 6248 and it's Auxiliary held a luncheon on April 15, 2023 in support of Gold Star Mothers and families. Kevin Conklin, Commander of VFW Post 6248 and his wife Makrina (Sr. Vice President of the VFW 6248 Auxiliary) organized the event with the help of Mission BBQ of Mishawaka, IN, who supplied all the food for the event. The luncheon and program paid tribute to The Gold Star Mothers and families of America. The proceeds from the luncheon and program were donated to the Gold Star Mothers/Families Organization of Southwestern Michigan.

The program began by remembering the loved ones who lost their lives in the military service. Each Gold Star mother & father who were in attendance rang the Gold Star remembrance bell and named their son or daughter and the date they had lost their lives in military service. VFW 6248 Commander Kevin Conklin also presented each Gold Star mother or father present with a cutting board he had made for them as a remembrance of the banding together they all share.

Laura DeRoo, president of the Southwestern Chapter of the Gold Star Mothers & families was presented with checks for \$7,900.00 raised at the event and from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and private donations through the state of Michigan.

The main speaker for the program was Sandy Onstwedder, Past National President of the VFW Auxiliary, who explained the dedication of the Gold Star organization to active military and Veterans in need. Department of Michigan VFW Commander John Griffith also spoke and made a donation from the Dept. of Michigan VFW. Thank you to Lisa Chilton, who sang the Star Spangled Banner to begin the program and another song at the end of the program.



Thank you to MISSION BBQ for supporting this Gold Star Mothers Program and Presentation at VFW Post 6248 by supplying the meal for the event. MISSION BBQ opened its doors for business on September 11, 2011. Ten years after our world changed forever, in some small way they wanted to change it back. The founders of MISSION BBQ, strive every day to remind everyone what makes Our Country great—its heroes. Bill & Newt, the founders, are two friends passionate about BBQ, patriotic for Our Country, and who believe in running a business with meaning and purpose.

They believe there is nothing more American than BBQ. And nobody more American than the brave men and women who have sworn to protect and serve Our Communities and Our Country. They do what they do for the love of our soldiers, firefighters, police officers, first responders—all our loved ones in service.

Every day they strive to serve you authentic BBQ made from the freshest, most delectable ingredients, and serve it to you in a patriotic dining room filled with tributes to those who've made Our Country great, given to us by the people who earned them. One of those is the daily salute to the Stars and Stripes. They don't do any of this because they have to. It's because they want to. At MISSION BBQ, they are Proudly Serving Those Who Serve. Please come to support the Gold Star Mothers and to enjoy the best BBQ on earth.

COOTIE CORNER - ERIC BELL



The Grand of Michigan has been very busy over the last few months. December was Cootie Christmas at the VFW National Home. The Cooties in attendance made a Veteran visit at a retirement home in Lansing.



Visitors came from far and wide. The state they are from is abbreviated in parentheses. L to R. Dept. of MI Dep. Chief of Staff Reinold Yahnka, Supreme Cmdr. Dwight Hora (SC), Dept. of MI President Diana Ward, Ben Light (MI Dist 5), Grand of MI Cmdr. Nate Powell, Past Supreme President Penny Caculidous (TX), Supreme President Cathy Seippel (AZ), Grand of MI President Bridget White, and Past Supreme Cmdr. Don Lynch (WI). The Cooties and guests on the Veteran visit was just LOUSY!

In January we held our Grand CofA at our newest Pup Tent, Yardbirds PT-42 at VFW 423 in Ann Arbor. The Grand met again in March at the American Legion Boat and Canoe Club in Grand Rapids. Stinky Pup Tent-14 was our lousy host.

The Grand of Michigan also sends out thoughts and prayers to Department of Michigan President Diana Ward and her family.

Cootie School: Just a bit of Michigan Cootie history; Our first Grand of Michigan Commander was Ashley Beck 1926-1928. He was also a Past Supreme Commander (PSC) 1941-1942. The Cootie Field Monument at the V.F.W. National Home is dedicated to him. We also had other Grand Commanders to go on to be Supreme Commanders; Otto Steinberger 1928-1929 (PSC 1944-1945), Thomas Wheaton 1938-1939 (PSC 1949-1950), and Donald Nettler 1983-1984 (PSC 1992-1993).



HAPPY 105TH BIRTHDAY TO IRENE HOSKINS
World War II Nurse



**AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT
JR. VICE PRESIDENT, JANE DADY**

Jokes can make dark moments light and awkward moments more comfortable. I like to laugh and make people laugh. But did you know that a good laugh is actually good for you? A laugh can stimulate your heart, lungs, and muscles. It increases the endorphins in your brain. It slows down

your stress response and gives you a relaxed feeling.

It will also improve your immune system. Positive, glad thoughts release neuropeptides that help fight stress. Laughter may ease pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkiller. It helps you cope with difficult situations. It makes you feel happier, which improves your mood, and your self-esteem.

Make it a habit to be around people who make you feel good. Try to make someone else feel good. Find a way to laugh about your own situation and watch and your stress begin to fade. Give it a try. Turn the corners of your mouth into a smile, then perhaps a laugh. It is never a bad time for a corny joke!

1. Why were the teacher's eyes crossed?
She couldn't control her pupils.
2. What do you call 2 monkeys who share an Amazon account?
Prime mates.
3. What is the tallest building in the whole world?
The library because it has so many stories.
4. When is a door not a door?
When it is ajar.
5. I stayed up all night trying to figure out where the sun was.
Then it dawned on me.
6. What do you call a pudgy psychic?
A four-chin teller.
7. Where does the General keep his armies?
In his sleeves!
8. What do you call a French man wearing sandals?
Phillipe Phillope.
9. What's a computer's first sign of old age?
Loss of memory.
10. Why can't you trust atoms?
They make up everything.

I hope at least one of those made you chuckle. Tell me your favorite joke or humorous situation. The world right now is full of ugly. We can change things. Smiling and laughter is infectious. Smile at someone. Almost always, they will smile back. They will feel good, and they will smile at someone. Pretty soon the natural wonder of smiling, laughing, and feeling good will infect everyone. You got this!



DEPT. SURGEON - DON MARTINDALE

Comrades What a year we have had, especially concerning hospital visits. I want to thank each and every one of you that did anything to contribute to the helping our fellow comrade and his or her family, in his or her time of need. Those of us who were able to carry on

should feel thankful that we weren't incapacitated, and those that were affected you have my condolences.



**DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HOME
DIRECTOR, JAMES HUBBARD**

We are now in the last stretch for this Fiscal year. Hopefully everyone is ready to tie up loose ends.

It was Great to see everyone at Mid Winter in Kalamazoo "Congratulations" to all the Winners sometimes it's the little things we do that make the Biggest

Difference. I also want to Thank everyone that stopped by the National Home Table to talk and share ideas as well as get questions answered.

As you know We All Need to Do Our Part to keep our VFW National Home Meeting the needs of our Veterans and their families, maintaining the 80 acre campus, 365 days a year, takes a whole lot of support and work needed. Supplies of all kind are needed to maintain the 42 single family homes, daycare, gym programs, community center, museum, guest lodge and playgrounds and much more. As your sending in your donations keep in mind at this time the Michigan House is financially doing well But the Veteran's Family Support OR "Make a Change" is where we need support. Please use the memo area to write where you desire your funds be used for, Thank you!

The National Home has a 2022-2023 Amazon Wish list of needs, go to Amazon .com take the time to review and then send it directly to the Home hopefully you can provide a need from the list. We can also purchase a \$50 Life Membership for ourselves/ Family Member or for an Associate Member non-VFW Member consider your Boss it doesn't hurt to ask, if you don't ask then they can't say No.

Or you can become a Supporter of "Home Front Hero" this is a monthly donation and you set the amount can be as low as \$10 a month and be canceled at anytime..... Think about it.

Thank you for being there for our Veterans and their Families. Remember if I can answer any questions, Please call me anytime 248-496-1213



**DEPARTMENT DRUG & SAFETY
DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT**

Greetings. Public Service Officer of the year entries have been received. We had 28 Posts submit entries this year, which resulted in over 46 entries. This was by far the best year! Thank you to all the Posts who submitted entries. These fine men and women deserve to be recognized.

I would encourage all of the Posts that did submit entries to honor these men and women at the Post/District level. They deserve to be recognized for their continued efforts to keep their communities safe.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winners are: Law Enforcement Officer: LT. Chauncey Shattuck with Ingham Co Sheriff's Office submitted by Post 6132, FireFighter: Jonathan T. Perkins with Detroit Arsenal Fire Department submitted by Post 8465 and EMT: Justin Todd with Morton Township Fire Department submitted by Post 2335. Please help me in congratulating these fine officers on Friday, June 9 at the State Convention!

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

www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2014MaterialsCatalog_460159_7.pdf

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!

★ ★ DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS ★ ★



DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT - PATRICK RICH

It has been an incredible fast year, we have done a lot and there is more to do.

As we come near the end of our year, we need to plan the elections in your local Auxiliary and make sure you complete your installation reports, also elect your delegates and alternate.

We still need to try to get your unpaid members paid. District 6 is at 97.71%

We need new members.

We have many Veterans in our VA Hospital, and they need to know that we are here for them. Spring is almost here, and you might be able to plan a Family Freedom festival.

As a Auxiliary we need to assist the VFW they need us and we need them.

And Congratulation to District 6 in the VOD Winner from post 6056 Springport.

And District 6 instituted a new Auxiliary in Lansing 6132.



DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT - BLANCHE BROWN

Many from District 8 attended the 2023 Mid-Winter Conference celebrating the Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year Winners. On Feb. 4 we celebrated our District 8 Winners at the Boat and Canoe Club in Grand Rapids. There were a lot of

great essays entered by students who participated this year. When the new themes are announced, be sure to get the 2023-2024 information out to your contacts so students will have a better opportunity to submit their essays. At this time, we should have our entries for VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, VFW Auxiliary 3-D Creative Art Contest and VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships turned into our Auxiliaries. I cannot wait to see the winners in these contests, there is such great talent in our youth today.

District 8 elections will take place at the May 6 District meeting at Red Arrow Post #1527, 1920 E. Kilgore Rd., Portage, Michigan, 49002. Your auxiliary elections should be completed by then. District 8 Senior Vice President April Lowery is putting together her Program Chairmen, if you are interested in a

chairmanship, please contact her. If we end up with openings in our officer's lineup for 2023-2024. I will be contacting you for nominations for those positions. Please contact me if you have questions about your auxiliary elections or our district election.

Reporting for 2022-2023 will be finishing up on April 20, so please finish adding your reports in the system. Even if the activity was done in a previous quarter, it can be reported until April 20. I hope District 8 Presidents passed out copies of my Reporting Instruction Booklet to those that have been having some problems figuring out the system. If anyone is still having problems, please contact me and I can walk you through it. The new system has been hard for some to navigate through. But I feel this system when up and running properly will provide the feedback and info needed for auxiliaries, districts and department. I hope your auxiliaries sent in entries for the National and Department Awards and Citations offered in each program. It is always nice to be recognized for our efforts in the VFW Auxiliary Organization helping our veterans and community.

I want to thank all of you in District 8 for working with me to get things done and problems solved. The best part this year was getting to know all of you and your devotion for our veterans.



DIST. 11 PRESIDENT - DENISE ARNOLD

Happy Spring!

District 11 is alive and well. Our district has reached 100%+ in membership! Great job all. We are working on instituting a new auxiliary in Harrison with the assistance of Jane Dady, Vickie Bushong, and Laura Laney. We are excited to soon

have an auxiliary back there.

The Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo was well represented by our district, we had over 36 members in attendance. Denise Arnold, our District 11 Auxiliary President was awarded the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award for high school 9-12 grade. Her nomination moves on to the national level and the winners of each category will be announced at the National VFW Convention in Phoenix, AZ in July, 2023.

All of the auxiliaries in our district have reported at least once in every program and many have reported in all 3 quarters. GREAT WORK and THANK YOU! Our next district meeting will be held Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Oscoda VFW. We are looking forward to having Cathy Sasse from the Midland VFW Post 3651 as our next District Auxiliary President.

Thank you to all of our members for their hard work and dedication.

MEET THE CANDIDATES



REINOLD YAHNKA

**CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT
OF MICHIGAN
JUNIOR VICE
COMMANDER
2023-2024**



BRUCE BRIDSON

**CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT
OF MICHIGAN
JUDGE
ADVOCATE
2023-2024**



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

- 334 Oxford**
Sweeney, Michael N. 89 Navy/Korea
- 345 Redford**
Butler, James H. 76 Army/Vietnam
- 423 Ann Arbor**
Gabrys, Robert A. 75 Army/Vietnam
- 446 Muskegon**
Wallace, Joseph A. 72 Navy/Vietnam
- 607 Rogers City**
Schaudt, Albert C. 73 Marines/Vietnam
- 671 Dewitt**
Chester, Dennis M. 75 Army/Vietnam
Gulick, Todd M. 72 Army/Vietnam
Kingsbury, Oliver O. 79 Army/Vietnam
- 701 Lansing**
Gilton, John K. 87 Navy/Korea
Knapp, Gerald H. 97 Army/WWII
- 702 Grand Rapids**
Oakes, Jesse W. 94 Army/Korea
- 796 Port Huron**
Hayes, Glenn L. 76 Army/Vietnam
Scandalito, Charles E. 85 Army/Vietnam
- 822 Flint**
Wilson, Robert E. 72 Navy/Vietnam
- 1075 Harrison**
Bishop, Aaron L. 71 Navy/Vietnam
- 1136 Wyandotte**
Bucska, Charles D. 93 Navy/Korea
Milewski, John C. 94 Army/Korea
Olszewski, Jerome B. 97 Army/WWII
- 1137 Watervliet**
Kavanagh, Frederick W. 92 Navy/Korea
Sadler, Paul A. Jr. 75 Army/Vietnam
Wesaw, Thomas 99 Navy/WWII
- 1138 Monroe**
De Bruyne, John R. 89 Navy/Korea
- 1146 St. Clair Shores**
Barnes, Robert A. 80 Air Force/Vietnam
Courtney, Irene W. 92 Air Force/Germany
Denske, Mark 76 Army/Vietnam
Perye, Eugene R. 92 Army/Korea
Sobolewski, Walter 92 Army/Korea
- 1329 Hart**
Vanden Heuvel, Joseph A. 101 Army/WWII
- 1355 Sturgis**
Ammer, Steven L. 72 Army/Germany
- 1669 Royal Oak**
Birchmeier, Gerald H. 75 Vietnam
- 1887 Menominee**
Levesque, James 97 Army/WWII
Rick, James R. 92 Navy/Korea
- 2144 Holland**
Belanger, Daryl R. 73 Air Force/Vietnam
- Brink, Donald 92 Army/Korea
Hibma, Bernard 90 Army/Korea
Nobel, Willard 98 WWII
Parcheta, Douglas G. 79 Navy/Vietnam
Russell, Kenneth 97 Army/WWII
- 2492 Imlay City**
Williams, Thomas A. 80 Army
- 2496 Alpena**
Shay, Kenneth G. 86 Air Force/Korea
Weiler, Kenneth L. 90 Korea
- 2725 Frankenmuth**
Reinert, George C. 92 Army/Korea
- 2780 Traverse City**
Finnila, Michael K. 72 Army
Schmuckal, Kenneth P. 73 Army/Vietnam
Van Houten, Ward 97 Navy/WWII
- 2945 Sandusky**
Lien, Rober E. 77 Marines/Vietnam
- 3023 Grand Rapids**
Kalkofen, Donald J. 92 Army/Korea
- 3030 Otsego**
Zanardi, Robert Sr. 91 Army/Korea
- 3134 Iron River**
Toti, Donald R. 93 Army/Korea
- 3195 Muskegon**
Jones, Gerald L. 93 Marines/Korea
- 3256 Montague**
Paul, David C. 68 Air Force/Vietnam
Sikkenga, Richard E. 92 Navy/Korea
- 3323 Westland**
Darling, Terry W. 72 Army/Vietnam
- 3623 Cheboygan**
Woiderski, Gayle 74 Army/Vietnam
- 3651 Midland**
Mills, Paul 85 Navy/Vietnam
Pickelman, Russell T. 76 Army/Vietnam
- 3674 Iron Mountain**
Carlson, Douglas 94 Army/Korea
- 3720 Swartz Creek**
Sherwood, Ronald D. 77 Army/Vietnam
Sturgis, Dennis G. 76 Army/Vietnam
- 3733 Fowler**
Helms, Lester L. 80 Marines/Vietnam
Tamulis, Charles P. 70 Marines/Vietnam
- 3941 Livonia**
Sternett, Harold A. 102 Army/WWII
- 4005 Corunna**
Bandy, Joseph C. 74 Navy/Vietnam
Donahue, Hartley J. 82 Navy/Vietnam
- 4012 Northville**
Sherrod, Ronald A. 74 Army/Vietnam
- 4054 Marcellus**
Abrams, Jack H. 95 Navy/WWII
- 4063 Perry**
Miller, Donald E. 96 Navy/WWII
- 4087 Davison**
Isenbarger, Carl R. 98 Navy/WWII
Rynard, Dennis J. 72 Army/Vietnam
- 4090 Portland**
Mc Beath, Thomas A. 79 Army/Vietnam
- 4093 Carleton**
Milliman, Marlin K. 92 Army/Korea
- 4126 Mio**
Cook, Norman E. 94 Navy/Korea
- 4139 Lapeer**
Doty, David C. 76 Army/Vietnam
Main, Edwin R. 96 Navy/WWII
Meadowcroft, William E. 97 Navy/WWII
- 4162 Hamtramck**
Brzozowski, Richard 70 Army/Vietnam
Kettlewell, Dale C. 74 Army/Vietnam
Nowakowski, Jerome 84 Army/Vietnam
Waldo, William L. 82 Army/Vietnam
- 4249 Newaygo**
Postema, Herman G. 91 Army/Korea
- 4420 Manistique**
Reed, Daniel 71 Army/Vietnam
- 4461 Lake Odessa**
Diaz, Roberto 85 Army
Schray, Larry 75 Army/Vietnam
- 4499 Manistee**
Meyers, Jeremiah P. 41 Army/Iraq
Tuka, Frank J. 89 Army/Korea
- 4573 Ishpeming**
De Caire, Mark K. 98 Army/Korea
Dodge, Clyde H. 91 Marines/Korea
- 4659 Shelby Township**
Brown, George 94 Army/WWII
Rehn, Oscar 72 Air Force/Korea
Wagner, David C. 82 Army/Korea
- 5065 Sheridan**
Barker, Percy W. 96 Navy/WWII
Edwards, Mandy E. 70 Army/Vietnam
Horrocks, Jack H. 93 Army/Korea
Long, Bernard J. 95 Navy/WWII
- 5315 Baldwin**
Nyland, Bruce A. 75 Marines/Vietnam
- 5600 Ontonagon**
Corser, John L. 90 Marines/Korea
Fezzey, Richard A. 77 Army/Vietnam
- 5678 Tawas City**
Brownlow, Jeffrey F. 76 Air Force/Vietnam
- 5738 Clare**
Huerta, Anthony 91 Army/Korea
- 6056 Springport**
Miller, Larry 74 Army/Vietnam
- 6132 Lansing**
Chaney, William T. 75 Marines/Vietnam
- 6165 South Range**
Mattfolk, Robert M. 76 Army/Vietnam
- 6248 Decatur**
Bombich, Eugene S. 82 Army/Korea/Vietnam
- 6250 Sterling Heights**
Draska Fred A. 89 Army/Korea
- 6579 New Lothrop**
Johnson, Larry G. 71 Army/Korea
- 6691 Fraser**
Reeve, James L. 94 Navy/Korea

6756 Center Line

Gillette, Gerald H. 75 Army/Vietnam
 Thornton, Robert L. 75 Army/Vietnam

6898 Fremont

Carney, Robert L. 94 Navy/Air Force/Vietnam

6950 Kawkawlin

Parsons, Benjamin F. 99 Navy/WWII

7302 Hemlock

Lutz, Michael C. 80 Army/Korea
 Shebester, Archie D. 75 Navy/Vietnam

7310 Grosse Ile

Medved, Martin E. 89 Army/Korea

7439 Indian River

Jaroche, Michael A. 55 Army/Panama

7546 Dearborn Heights

Tomblor, Eugene A. 92 Air Force/Korea

7573 New Baltimore

Burns, Richard L. 77 Marines/Vietnam
 Redford, Donald R. 91 Air Force/Korea

7581 Wayland

Russell, Richard L. 81 Navy/Cuba

7646 Pelkie

Fedie, Ronald J. 88 Army/Korea

7729 Muskegon

Putney, Donnley V. 97 Navy/WWII

7956 Augusta

Ernst, Robert K. 74 Marines/Vietnam

8236 Flint

Hickman, Henry 91 Air Force/Korea
 Young, Gregory 72 Army/Vietnam

8684 Kalakaska

Beauchamp, Christopher L. 72 Army/Vietnam

8846 Muskegon

Garton, Paul E. 77 Navy/Vietnam
 Morehouse, Danny R. 73 Marines/Vietnam
 Woodring, Lawrence R. 76 Navy/Vietnam

8872 Port Sanilac

Fagan, Francis F. 86 Army/Korea/Vietnam

8872 Port Sanilac

Neddermeyer, Dewey 98 Navy/WWII

8945 Covington

Kantola, James F. 73 Army/Vietnam

9021 Warren

Malinowski, Ronald 77 Air Force/Vietnam

9363 Flat Rock

Dunn, Ralph 75 Army/Vietnam
 Hrabowicki, Robert 80 Army/Vietnam

9363 Flat Rock

Piwok, James 77 Army/Vietnam

Schaffer, John 96 Army/WWII

9455 Owosso

Dixon, John F. 92 Army/Korea
 Salters, Richard L. 79 Army/Vietnam

9809 Saginaw

Ledbetter, William K. 91 Air Force

9885 Westland

Craighton, Elvin E. 96 Army/WWII
 Grysh, Arthur G. 90 Army/Korea

15023 Lansing

Britz, Edwin 92 Army/Korea
 Hahn, Herbert 92 Army/Korea
 Reimer, Thomas A. 72 Army/Vietnam
 Rosenkrands, Peter K. 77 Army/Vietnam

**CAMP TROTTER OPERATIONS & PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
 MADDY SCHLOSSENBERG**

Campers : We still have a low number of campers registered! We need your help spreading the word to local school districts to get more campers registered for the 2023 season. Families can be directed to our website for further details.

Paper Registrations : After receiving requests, we have created a paper registration that will be able to be printed off and filled out. This is not replacing the online registration form!

We want to emphasize that all paper registration forms will still be inputted into the registration system, and if at all possible the online form should be filled out by the parent/guardian of the camper.

Staff : We are filling summer positions! If you know of anyone that is interested or in need of summer work, we have multiple roles open. Further information on roles, salaries, and our application is on our website.

Sponsorship : Sponsoring campers is the same whether you use a physical or online registration. A Post/Auxiliary can send a check to Department or follow

another method that is in the attached guide.

If there are further questions within your District please let me know, and I would be more than happy to help.

**(231)519-7091 / camps Trotter.org
 Support@campstrotter.org**



**DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH & VMS DIRECTOR,
 DOUG BRINKER**



Happy Spring. I first want to give kudo shoutouts to Department Commander John Griffith for my appointment first and foremost and each who were able to attend Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. While at the conference we were able to direct a homeless Vet who presented himself to Hero to Hives representative who made a call and connected him to the Kalamazoo Defender's office that houses the Kalamazoo Transitional Housing Advocate Director Sara Cain. He is now working on getting safer housing and off the street. Overwhelmingly, you came and visited our table and took back with you nearly 85% of all resources. Something new brought with me are the VA Cards for Connection' which have positive self-affirmations, resources, coping skills etc. Those who couldn't make it and are planning to attend Convention I will have more until they run out. I am currently trying to obtain additional funding for more production of these cards which are produced by disabled small business Owner Veteran Greg Brumann of GBPro.net. I have ordered nearly 1000 pounds more of resources for State Convention. I also am still working on securing Sport Clips to provide haircuts for the Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Program onsite at the convention. There will be

a charge for the haircut details coming forthright. With Day of Challenge coming May 6th it's a great opportunity for community events to support our VMS programing. Unmet Needs, (if your Post is not currently working with a Post please let me know immediately so that national can scrub the list). Other programs such as MAP, Adopt -A-Unit Community support Legacy Citation and Service Dog Citation programs are crucial and as your Department Chairman it's my honor and duty to work with each post and district to bring the program presentation to you. All requests Must go through Department for my representation.

The Mental Health program invited to speak at the Royal Oak VFW Mental Health Workshop April 8th 1-3p open to the public. Other presenters including Ian Perry a Marine Combat Veteran and Life Member presented a 45-minute SAVE Training. Additional mental health speakers are expected to attend. Comrade William Gambill was the coordinator for the event from District





**MOV DESIGNER,
STACEY ROBERTS**

**Next deadline :
6/15/23**

Send articles for
consideration to:
MOV@VFWMI.VET

I want to thank the membership for your support in my role as your MOV Editor/Designer over the past few years. As is life, things for have me changed quite a bit since I took on this role and the time commitment no longer fits into my life schedule. Believe it or not, toddlers and graduate school take up a lot of time! This paper has been a really fun project to be part of and a great learning experience. I am sad to say this this is my last issue.

However, it sounds like you will be in good hands with your next editor and I look forward to seeing where it goes next.

It is important to note that the submission email will stay the same at this time as well as the June deadline.

MOV@vfwmi.vet

Best of luck to all of the incoming officers for this next year. I look forward to seeing many of you at convention soon. Thank you!

TAPS FORM

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

Mail completed form to:

**VFW of Michigan
924 N Washington
Lansing, MI 48906**

or email to :

Amanda@vfwmi.org

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

Branch of Service :

ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :

WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

DISTRICT 4 - VFW RIDERS

Many members of our Riders Group attended a Stuffed Animal Donation Event for the Detroit Police Department and United Way. For a few years, the District 4 Riders Group partook in a program to provide stuffed animals to local and state police departments. The police departments use these animals in their community programs. We thank the following for attending this event at the Detroit Police Headquarters and for our District Commander Oville Beauchamp's support. Our Riders Group donated 364 stuffed animals.

Rodney Gasaway, Gary DeMars, William Schaffer, Jan Schaffer, Ralph Miricale, Dennis Boulder, John Welchman, Dianne Welchman, Orville Beauchamp, Terry Baxter, Veronica Baxter, Luke Baxter, Gordon Dorey.



The mission of this paper is to provide 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 rejected or 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.

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN NEWSLETTER

(ISSN 1067-0661) is published quarterly; June/July/August, September/October/November, December/January/February, March/April/May at Stafford Publishing, 1005 E Fairplains St, Greenville, MI 48838 by the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars at 924 N. Washington Ave., Lansing (Ingham), MI 48906.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LANSING, MI AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.

Members receive this publication as part of their dues. Subscriptions for non-members is \$4.

**Next Article Deadline : 6/15/2023
Send to : MOV@VFWMI.ORG**

**Postmaster - Please send address changes to
MOV Editor
924 N. Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48906**