



Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan VFW community



# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

VOLUME 86 NUMBER 2

## State Commander Phil Patterson



Phil Patterson  
State Commander

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

I would first like to thank everyone who supported our Department fundraiser. We made just over \$15,000.00 and to everyone that helped with the selling of the tickets. A BIG thanks goes out to all of you. Because of all of you, it turned out to be a great success.

I hope that everyone enjoyed our Fall Conference, as always, a lot of great information was put out and I hope that you were able to take it back to your Districts and Posts and share everything that you learned with your members.

I recently attended the Big Ten Conference in St. Louis, MO, and I would like to congratulate our Past State Commander Jerry

Gorski for being elected as the Chairman for the Big Ten Conference. There was some great training provided as well and there have been some significant changes to our National By-Laws so please make sure you read your new By-Law book.

Our Mid-Winter Conference will be here in no time. Please remember to put an ad in the ad book as all the proceeds go to help defray the cost of Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year. I would like to thank all the Districts, Posts and Auxiliaries that make these programs possible. Without your hard work they just would not happen.

By the time you read this article, our Posts and Districts will have already judged their Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year entries and turned their winners into the Department for judging. Good Luck to ALL our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year winners!

Our organization needs to grow. We must empower the younger veterans to be forces of change within our organization while lending them the institutional knowledge to be effective leaders for future generations of veterans.

We need to promote all our programs. If you ever have any questions or concerns about our Department Programs please contact the Director of that program, they will be able to answer your questions.

The membership program, as always, is the lifeblood of our organization. As of this writing, the Department of Michigan is at 88.71percent. District 11 is in the lead with 91.26 percent, District 13 is in second with 90.26 percent, and District 10 is a close third with 90.25 percent. There are 17 Posts that have attained 100 percent or better:

|                     |                      |                  |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Post 1153 (114.28%) | Post 10194 (102.63%) | Post 2532 (100%) |
| Post 9914 (105.22%) | Post 1407 (102.29%)  | Post 4837 (100%) |
| Post 565 (104.70%)  | Post 3775 (101.52%)  | Post 6250 (100%) |
| Post 6015 (103.84%) | Post 5114 (101.35%)  | Post 7912 (100%) |
| Post 8135 (102.77%) | Post 2236 (101.33%)  | Post 9973 (100%) |
| Post 8260 (102.77%) | Post 1573 (100%)     |                  |

Congratulations on hitting this difficult milestone. Please keep up the great job that all of you are doing. Let's continue to work hard on membership all year. That way come April and May, we are not scrambling for those last few members because we will already have them, and we can just keep pressing forward with our mission.

Looking over the membership stats of the 12 districts and 270 Post that make up our Department of Michigan, you will find that 136 posts have not recruited a single member or have they reinstated a single member. That is just over half the Posts in the State. Comrades, I know we can all do better. If you need assistance, please contact me or our Department Membership Director, Scott Gloger. Together, we will assist you in any way that we can. Post Commanders, please try to get your posts to 90 percent by the end of November. With a concerted effort, this can be accomplished.

The post quartermaster can download the unpaid members reports from the national website. Get this list, put a team together, and go knock on doors. Surveys have shown that the number one reason comrades leave the VFW is because they sign up and they never hear from anyone again, or they attend a meeting, and no one even greets them. Let's get out there and let these comrades know that we haven't forgotten about them and we want them back. If you see someone new at a meeting, go shake their hand, introduce yourself, and welcome them to the post. However, don't forget about the members that pay their dues every year. We need to reach out to them, too. A phone call, card, or personal visit reminding them of the monthly meeting and saying we missed you will go a long way.

Annual members look at becoming a Life Member. The National organization has a deferred payment plan, utilize this plan and you will never pay dues again. Contact your Post Quartermaster for more information.

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 13

## Commander Phil Patterson Presides Over the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars 90th Fall Conference September 27-29, 2018 at Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs, Michigan



### Team Building! Team Work! Communication!

Many Were Recognized for all their hard work and service and contributions at the Fall Conference by Commander Phil Patterson and Past Commander Matthew David.



—RECOGNITION AT THE FALL CONFERENCE, continued on page 13

**MOV MAILING CLARIFICATION:  
A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV  
IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS.**

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**State Sr. Vice Commander Mike Fineis**



**Mike Fineis**  
State Sr. Vice Commander

Comrades,

To the posts that participated in the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year, thank you. These programs reflect the VFW at its best. The above programs advertise the best in us. We need to advertise the VFW as much as possible. Reason, most of the population does not know who we are.

District Commanders, your district receives funds from Department twice a year. Use these funds to send your officers to Fall Conference, Mid-winter and State Convention and VTS [Veterans Training Seminars]. District Sr. Vice Commanders, please be aware by holding your office, you are expected to attend Fall Conference, Mid-Winter and State Convention. You should also attend VTS schools of instruction. If you fail to attend these functions, you will not have the knowledge to go through the chairs and be successful. In addition, the

Posts in your District will not receive the tolls they will need to be successful.

At all state functions, there will be a meeting of all Sr. Vice Commanders.

We will come together and continue the process of building the team that will lead our Department starting June of 2019. We will share thoughts, ideas, and "what if we did it this way". All may attend and give their thoughts and ideas.

Posts and Districts, please plan your functions around Department and National events. Example: A Post fund raiser on the same day as a District meeting; a District event on the same day as a State event. Please plan better.

It's the Holiday season. I pray everyone will worship in their own way. I ask that your love of God be carried over into your organization and that you create a more loving, kinder and caring Veterans of Foreign Wars. Once we do this . . . membership will cease going out the back door.

**State Jr. Vice Commander Scott Gloger**



**Scott Gloger**  
State Jr. Vice Commander

Hello Commanders and Auxiliary members,

First, I would like to thank all the members for the courtesies that you have shown my wife, Linda, as we travel and visit your Posts and Districts.

After attending Jr. Vice training, it just opened my eyes further. I have always believed in teamwork. First teamwork in the VFW, second teamwork in the Auxiliaries, but, most important of all we need to unite teamwork together and become one big team.

Show our communities, friends and fellow veterans we are one big family working for the same reasons. Somethings start at the bottom, in this case they are starting at the top. National level full speed ahead leading by example.

I cannot forget to congratulate all our VOD [Voice of Democracy], PP [Patriot's Pen], and Teacher of the Year winners. They are our future. Sometimes, we need to listen to what they have to say and do.

Membership is doing fairly well. But we can do a lot better. Do not forget it is the Commanders job to recruit new members, not just a select few, it takes all of us to reach 100%. If you need assistance do not hesitate to call me or the Department Commander. If you have any questions we will try and answer them, or we will get the answer for you. It may take a couple of days, but we will get the answer for you.

Thank you again for all your support. We, as a team, can have the BEST DEPARTMENT in National. Yours in Comradeship.

**Adjutant/Quartermaster Lynn Patterson**



**Lynn Patterson**  
State Adj./Quartermaster

I hope this finds you all in good health and enjoying this Holiday season with your loved ones.

Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been changed to a 12-month dues structure that started July 1, 2018. The changes to subscription dues to a "DMV" model now allows anyone who becomes a member or renews membership after July 1, 2018, to postpone expiration until the last day of their 12th month. For example, if a new member joins or an existing member renews on July 5, 2018, their dues now expire on July 31, 2019. The annual membership card (effective July 1, 2018) reflects the month and year dues expire. Current members that are in good standing as of July 1, 2018, have been extended in OMS [Online Membership System] through the last day of the month when their dues are scheduled to expire. Regardless of

the month they renewed, as long as they were in good standing as of July 1, 2018, they now have until the end of the expiration month to renew their dues. They will have the option to request an updated annual membership card with the change reflecting the expiration month and year. The purpose of the changes to subscription dues to a "DMV" model was to streamline the process for both the Post and Department Quartermasters to track expiring annual members. No longer will Posts and Departments have to chase annual members' dues on a daily basis; instead they can see a block of members during a specific month (one, two and three months out), allowing them to formulate a plan to collect dues at one time. This also makes it easier for the Department/District/Post Sergeant-at-Arms to quickly see if a member is in good standing prior to a meeting.

Recent changes to the VFW National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures and Ritual establish that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority on procedural matters not governed by VFW By-Laws and Manual of procedure. Newly revised Robert's Rules of Order is readily available at local book stores and online retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Amazon. You may also find the National By-Laws and Roberts's Rules of Order on the Kindle app.

—ADJ.QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 3

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—ADJ. QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 2

National By-Laws were revised in August 25, 2018. Here are some of the changes that you need to be aware of:

The Post is no longer required to have a Dues Reserve Fund. This fund can be transferred into the Post General Fund. The Post is still required to have a Post Relief Fund.

Section 216 Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairman and Committees.

(a) The Post shall elect the commander, Senior vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees.

(b) The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Service Officer

(c) The Post may elect or the Post Commander may appoint a Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Officer of the Day and/or Guard if required by Post By-Laws.

(d) The Post Commander may appoint such other chairman and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post By-Laws.

Manual of Procedure Section 222- Delegates, District Convention & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

With this change please elect your delegates for the District and Department Convention with your Post elections. You may have to look up the Post membership for that meeting as you may not have your Delegate form from Dept, before your meeting.

Trustee reports of Audit MUST be completed by the Trustees and the Commander verifying with his signature on the report. ALL accounts must be audited by the trustees. This includes any cash on hand. If the Post is behind two audits, they will be placed on suspension. Post failing to go to two District meetings, the Post Commander will be removed from his/her position.

If your Post is considering Consolidation, Surrendering the charter or selling the Post building you need to let the Department know in writing prior to entering into any agreement.

If you haven't reviewed or updated the Post By-Laws in the last 3 years it is time for you to look them over and update where needed. There is a template that you can use to assist you in the process. It is on the National website and the Dept. website.

We are well on our way to being 100% in membership this year. I appreciate all the Posts out there doing their part to making this a great year. I have been watching you all out there carrying on the VFW mission and helping veterans and their families every day. It is great to know you and stand beside you as a Comrade in this great organization. We together can make it stronger and succeed for years to come.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please use your chain of command starting at the Post, District and then give the Department headquarters a call. We are all here to help you in any way that we can. Thank you for all the support over the years.

## State Judge Advocate Kevin Conklin



Kevin Conklin  
Judge Advocate

I would like to highly encourage each of the Posts/Districts to get their Bylaws updated prior to their elections. I am offering the below verbiage for you to add to your Bylaws. This will address the recent National Bylaws change under Sec. 216. There are also similar changes made in respect to Districts under Sec. 416. These changes were made to relieve some pressure to elect officers at each of the levels from around the country. Your Bylaws Committee will present recommendations for our Department Bylaws change at the 100th Department Convention 2019.

### Option #1

A. The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate,

Surgeon, Chaplain, Officer of the Day/Guard and three Trustees.

B. The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Service Officer.

C. The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post Bylaws.

### Option #2

A. The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees.

B. The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Surgeon and Service Officer.

C. The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post Bylaws.

### Option #3

A. The Post shall elect the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Chaplain and three Trustees.

B. The Commander shall appoint an Adjutant and Service Officer.

C. The Post Commander may appoint such other chairmen and committees as deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the Post or as may be required by Post Bylaws.

If you would like me to review your Bylaw changes or give any suggestions, please call or send me an email. We really need to get these Bylaws completed this year.

The Commander has authorized a Redistricting Committee to begin planning. At the Mid-Winter Conference 2019, we will be scheduling a break out session for this committee to begin work. I am looking for a representative from each District to sit at these meetings. This person should be well versed on each of the Posts in their Districts. We are looking for input to possibly make some recommendations for changes. If you would like to be a part of this committee please contact your District commander. I will be seeking at least one name from each of the District commanders.

## State Chaplain Jennifer Smith



Jennifer Smith  
State Chaplain

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

So much to state [grin] but will be brief for this autumn submission. Therefore, it is happily time once again for the *VFW National Chaplain of the Year Award*. Please know being that being praised is something many Chaplains would be uncomfortable with, as performing good works generally requires humility and lack of pretentiousness. Accordingly, this award is a positive opportunity to shine light upon members that selflessly serve in the finest tradition of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As mentioned, since narcissism and effective Chaplaincy are poor companions (Matt. 6:1), those Comrades that likely merit it most will be last in seeking such acknowledgement. Usually, the full scope of their activities will be unknown to Post, District, and/or County Council Command Officers. Keeping this in mind, please ask your Chaplains if they would honor your specific level with submission of the award if applicable. This positive action can be a source of empowerment for both the nominees and fellow Comrades (Isaiah 60:1-3; Matt. 5:15). While the award is focused upon **Post Chaplains**, those at each level of our Department may be nominated.

The related award information was emailed to each District Commander on 24 September 2018. Below, please find the criteria and mailing address. The submission deadline to the National Chaplain for nominations is by April 1, 2019 and will not exceed two typed pages.

### Chaplain of the Year Criteria

#### 1. Performance of Duties:

A. Exemplary character and conduct: e.g., A person of upmost integrity, professional execution of duties, dependability, punctuality, and timely submission of reports, etc.

B. Exemplary performance above and beyond the normal expectations of the position and duties.

2. Personal attitude which is positive and professional in all contacts with others and which represents the VFW and the Department in the best possible way.

3. Commitment to the ministry and duties of the Chaplain, as reflected by service to [C]omrades and their families and responsiveness to needs.

4. A member of the VFW in good standing with the Post, District, and Department.

Please submit to: **Rev. Charlene Cobb, National Chaplain, Veterans of Foreign Wars; 452 Buckingham Ct.; Darien, WI 53114**

Last, Beloved, please be well and know that your selfless efforts are appreciated. May you be uplifted, inspired, and fulfilled. Deuteronomy 16:17 *ESV*, "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you." Romans 12:12 *ESV*, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

May God bless you.

## State Surgeon Don Martindale



Don Martindale  
State Surgeon

Comrades,

I want to discuss an issue that no one wants to discuss with an individual that might need to hear from one of us. Suicide is our greatest enemy with our younger warriors, 22 service members on average lose their lives to this enemy daily. On July 10 2018 DOD released its annual suicide report for the first quarter of 2018, Eighty active duty personnel died from suicide, up Five from the first quarter of 2017. Eighteen Reservist and 23 National Guard personnel died as a result from suicide. From January 1 2014 through September 1 2018, using an average of 22 suicides a day we have lost 37,488 of our comrades. This is the equivalent to over 9 percent of the total killed in WWII, 102 percent of the total killed in Korea, 64 percent of those killed in the Vietnam War, and 538 percent of those killed in OIF, OEF, OND, OIR, and OFS combined. It is time we get proactive on this battlefield. The first step is to take out your cell phone and put these numbers as shown 1 800 273 8255 AA Veterans Suicide Crisis Line, and 1800 959 8277 AA TAPS Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors. The AA in front of the name will make sure that they are the first two contacts in case of emergency. Please if you know anyone that you feel may be on the verge of suicide don't wait, sit them down and talk to them, one warrior to another. Let them know that there is help available, believe it or not the VA is a great source. I know firsthand about the value of getting help from the VA, through five years of group counseling and 4 months of inpatient care at the North Chicago PTSD Program. I had some very caring individuals both staff and other veterans help me through some very tough times. Please don't let one of your friends or relatives succumb to suicide without trying to help them. God Bless Our Troops.

**It's an honor  
to serve our veterans**

**Department Service Officers**
**ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY!**

**New VFW Service Office State Director Joseph Greene  
Executive Assistant to State Director/Claims Consultant/Supervisor of Administrative Staff Marlene L. Khaireddine**

A great deal of what the Veteran Service Office does is meet with veterans and/or their dependents to assist them with prosecuting VA claims for compensation or pension through the Veteran Benefit Agency. The Veterans Service Officer (VSO) will instruct the client on what evidence is required, how the process goes, and assist them with the necessary forms for whichever entitlement they are seeking. Throughout this process, VSO's are trained to ascertain if there are any additional entitlements or benefits the client may be entitled to and not be aware of, and that can sometimes steer the interview in an entirely different direction, which is exactly the type of situation that occurred at the VFW Regional Office in Detroit this past September.

A 15-year U.S. Army veteran took early retirement in 1996 and has been dealing with the VA for decades. He had wanted to check the status of a claim he submitted for an increase in his lower back condition and perhaps see if he would be eligible for Individual Unemployability.

Needless to say, he was somewhat familiar with the forms, evidence, and procedures but the VSO sensed there may be other issues afoot. The veteran had in his hand a letter from his treating psychologist at the Ann Arbor Medical Center, and had been in treatment since 2007.

The letter expressed how the veteran complies with all treatments, yet continues to experience significant impairment in both occupational and home-life situations. The letter stated his support of increasing his benefits if, at all possible. VBA (*benefit side of the VA*) and VHA (*health side of the VA*) do not speak to each other.

The VSO immediately picked up on these clues, showed the scheduler requirements for higher evaluation, and queried if the veteran ever had any suicidal ideations? YES. Had the veteran ever considered a plan? YES, there is a gun at home and he had considered using it often. At that point, the original increase for back interview went in an altogether new direction. The VSO paused the veteran, and sought the office manager to contact the crisis hotline. He then went back to continue dialogue with the veteran while the others in the office made sure proper actions were being taken care of. The VSO, along with the crisis line convinced the veteran to get in-patient care, where he became stable after several days of intense treatment. The VSO did file the claim on behalf of the veteran, which the VA granted to 100 percent permanent and total.

Veteran called to thank the VSO and office for saving his life that day, which is far more valuable than anything else we do! The important lesson here is if you know someone dealing with these types of issues, even if they have been in treatment for decades, they could very well be going through these very emotions. Ask critical questions and get them the care they need. Please feel free to contact the VFW Service Office anytime at: 477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. 1215, Detroit MI 48226, Ph: 313/964-6510, Fax: 313/964-6545, Email: [vfwus.vbadet@va.gov](mailto:vfwus.vbadet@va.gov)

**Buddy Poppy Director Ricky Young**

This year, on November 11, 2018, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. One of the most famous poems commemorates those that died in battle on Flanders Field. The poem opens with the mention of the poppies that covered Flanders Field, contrasting their orange-red color against the white crosses that span the width and breadth of the field. It was in 1919 that the poppy became the symbol to remember the fallen during World War I. As other wars were fought, the poppy came to symbolize all of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

The VFW conducted the first nationwide poppy distribution event in 1922. "Buddy Poppy" was officially registered with the U.S. Patent Office in 1924, which was the first year that the Buddy Poppy program provided employment to disabled and needy veterans. That first group of veterans gathered at a poppy factory in Pittsburgh to assemble the flowers. Today, the poppies are still assembled by veterans in need at a variety of VA facilities.

The Buddy Poppy program aids more than just those veterans who assemble the flowers. Once the poppies are assembled, they are sold to local VFW Posts. The money paid by the VFW Posts does more than pay those who assembled the poppies. Part of the monies goes to Department and National Veterans Service Funds, and part also goes to the VFW National Home for Children.

The Posts, in turn, collect donations for the Buddy Poppy program. Each donor receives a Buddy Poppy as a thank you for helping local veterans. All monies collected through

local Buddy Poppy campaigns are held by the local Post in their Relief Fund to be distributed to needy veterans in that area.

Participating in the Buddy Poppy program is a great way to support veterans and their families. Please don't miss an opportunity to help. The deadline for Posts to order Poppies is December 31, 2018.

For questions, please call me at 810-569-2193 or email [poppy@vfwmi.org](mailto:poppy@vfwmi.org).

**In Flanders Fields**

by John McCrace

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.


**VFW Is Rebranding with a New Logo**

This logo includes an artistic representation of service stripes, easily recognizable insignia indicative of military service. Worn on most service uniforms, they denote length of service. As such, the first and leaner of the two service stripes represents our steadfast entry into our second century of service to America's veterans, service members and their families. The second, broader stripe represents our first storied century of service, spanning back to 1899. The bold letters and sharp angles of this text represent the strength and stability of our organization, and the clarity with which we work to fulfill our mission.

**Refreshed Visual Identity  
Same Proud History.  
Same Strong Commitment.  
Bold New Look.**

The brand logo refresh you are about to discover was carefully undertaken with full respect to the VFW heritage and its future. A bold step was taken to bring forward a solid, contemporary look and feel that sets us apart as the longest established and largest combat veterans service organization with a relentless pursuit of exception service and dedication.

**OUR MISSION IS SINCERE,  
OUR BRAND VOICE IS COHERENT,  
OUR ACTIONS ARE BOLD.**

By simplifying, clarifying and amplifying the look of our brand, we can create a strategically focused and impactful visual statement.

... the Old



and

... the New



We have achieved that by rethinking the hierarchy of our previous logo components, and isolating them so that they become more powerful stand-alone pieces of visual information, each with a strategic and distinct purpose.

As we move into the future and evolve to expand our target market reach within a highly competitive sector, it is essential that our organization's logo is not only relevant to our brand essence, but to our audience and the modern era. Upholding our logo's integrity is crucial because a consistent visual identity is key to promoting a solid brand with a unified voice. Our previous logo held too many elements with no hierarchy resulting in not only visual misinterpretations and complex graphic translations, but a disconnect with who we are as an organization and what we stand for [courtesy of vfw.org].


**Cootie Corner: TIDINGS**

**PGC Robert E. Wilson  
VFW-Cootie Liaison**


**Military Order of the Cootie "Vets for Vets"**


**Robert E. Wilson  
VFW Cootie Liaison**

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

Can you believe it's almost Christmas! The Cooties have been very busy with the 84th Tomb Trek at the Arlington National Cemetery. It's very moving to see and be a part of this function. In December we will have our 90th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party. The children of the National Home get to see Santa and have a great time.

**To see the smiles on their face is priceless.**

The Grand of Michigan has two major projects throughout the year. The VFW National Home Cootie Christmas in December, and the Trip to Cedar Point in June. The proceeds from your donations provide the necessary funds for these projects.

If you would like to help with the Cootie Christmas Party at the VFW National Home, please when sending your contribution, make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home. Any donations sent to the National Home will not be forward to us. The Grand of Michigan and the MOCA thank you for all you do to make this a great adventure for the children. Please send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster 710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050 Phone (810)-735-7920.

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

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

## Legislative Chairman Evelyn Avery

averycow@yahoo.com

I am confident VFW Auxiliary members participated in the elections on November 6th in Michigan and voting as well as helping others get to the polls. With the continued threat of sequestration, deficit reduction, and budget cuts that affect veterans, the military, and their families, it is important to support members of Congress who support us. It is crucial we, as an organization show congress that we "BELIEVE ....We can Do It" because "United We Stand" for our Veterans.

Make sure you inform your members and your community through the media what the Priority Goals are for the VFW and how everyone can help accomplish these goals for our Veterans by writing to their legislators.

Legislative chairman, have you contacted your local school to see if you can do a Legislative program in the school about the legislative process? Even taking in coloring pages of the Capitol, the flag, legislative word searches, etc. is helping target how this process works. The younger we reach our students the more knowledgeable and involved they will become as adults.

Make sure you sign up for Action Corps Weekly and READ it – share the information contained with your whole community through your local newspaper. The new representative for sign up for the Action Corps Weekly is: Ann Markel, her e-mail is [amakel@vfw.org](mailto:amakel@vfw.org). You can sign up through her as a group or go on to the National VFW site to sign up yourself.

Check out the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary Website ([www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)) for all kinds of information to help you educate how we can show how "United We Stand" for our Veterans. Print out the "I VOTE IN HONOR OF A VETERAN" stickers, learn how to contact your Legislators the correct way by Using the "Guide to Contacting Your Legislators" that is there.

Please report everything you do for the Legislative chairmanship. Reporting is another way to "Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects" (S.W.A.P.). This idea comes from our National President Sandi Kriebel. When you are reporting your projects, make sure you highlight an idea you think is special and I can share them on the Legislative Facebook Page – have you friended the Legislative Facebook Page? It is: VFW Auxiliary Dept of Michigan Legislative. Please, give it a try!

I hope everyone had a chance to meet National VFW Auxiliary President, Sandi Kriebel, while she was in Michigan. I was privileged to be able to present her with a proclamation from Governor Snyder when she visited Holland. She is a "down to earth" dedicated member of the VFW Auxiliary, who wants to accomplish all she can for our veterans and has a way about her that motivates all around her to do the same. She sincerely stands behind her motto "BELIEVE....we can do it!"

## VFW National Home

Director James Hubbard

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

It was great to see so many at Fall Conference. Thank you to all who made donations to the National Home "Make a Change" for the campus maintenance fund. We have been Challenged by the Department of Michigan Auxiliary, to see who can raise the most monies. We raised \$43.38 at Fall Conference. The collection bottle will be at Mid-Winter's National Home Table. So, bring your monies remember every 16 cents we collect, you have walked a foot, of the green campus area and never left your chair . . . .

I hope each member has purchased a Life Membership before it increases on January 1st.

Other ways you can support the National Home is if you shop on-line use AmazonSmile or if you shop at Kroger, Use the Community Rewards program. Go to <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/group/#79329> is the VFW National Home. This is no cost to you, but the Home benefits from your shopping at Kroger.

Saturday, December 1st is the Cootie Christmas Party at the National Home, if your Post would like to make a donation, please do. Send it to the National Home and in the check, memo write donation for Cooties Christmas Party.

Thank you, for all you do for Our Veterans and Their Families.

May Your Family have a Merry Christmas!



## Big Ten Conference

Chairman Gerald Gorski



"I would like to first begin by thanking every member throughout the Department of Michigan for your continued support and endorsements over the years as I progress within the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Without you. I could have not achieved any of the positions that I have been elected to over the years. Thank You!"

On October 20, 2018, at the Big Ten Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, I was elected Chairman of the Big Ten Conference for 2018-2019 by the Big Ten Conference Delegates. The Big Ten Conference Delegates are from the following States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. I am very humble, grateful and honored to be elected your Big Ten Conference Chairman for 2018-2019. I will continue to serve you.

I want to thank State Junior Vice Commander Scott Gloger for nominating me. Also, our Michigan Delegates (State Commander Phil Patterson, State Senior Vice Commander Mike Fineis, State Junior Vice Commander Scott Gloger, Past State Commander Matt David and Chief of Staff Ray Lopez) for voting for me.

We have new Big Ten Officers for 2018-2019. The new Big Ten Vice Chairman is Chris Johnston. Chris is from Missouri. Chris and I served together as State Commanders for 2016-2017. Chris is also a "Bounty Hunter" by trade. Our Big Ten Secretary/Treasurer is Richard Uzl. Richard was reelected for his 5th term. Our "New" Big Ten Chaplain is Deborah Halter. Deborah is also from Missouri. We have a Great Team representing the Big Ten Conference for 2018-2019.

I also want to thank Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence for installing the "New" Big Ten Officers for 2018-2019. Chief B.J. gave a Great Motivating Speech after the installation. He also gave us our marching orders.

I also want to thank Adjutant General Kevin Jones, Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office, Robert Wallace, Quartermaster General Deborah Anderson and Associate Director Tara Arteaga for putting on the Great Training Sessions and bringing everyone up to date. I am sure this information will be passed down to the membership by our State Officers.

I had a lot of fun being the Master of Ceremony at the Big Ten Conference Banquet Saturday night. I tried to keep it lively by informing the audience of the Big Ten football scores throughout the evening, especially, the Ohio State Buckeyes versus the Purdue Boilermakers. Purdue beat Ohio State by the score of 49 to 20 at the end of the night. It was also difficult informing the score and results of the University of Michigan versus Michigan State game throughout the evening. Michigan beat Michigan State by the score of 21 to 7. I also told the audience a funny story which they enjoyed. At the end of the banquet, I introduced National Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence and Big Ten Auxiliary President and National Auxiliary Secretary-Treasurer Jan Passmore (Michigan) and National Auxiliary President Sandi Kriebel. Both gave great speeches. It was a great banquet with over 200 people attending.

I would like to now talk about membership, "Our Life Blood of our Great Organization." At the Big Ten Conference, Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence talked a lot about membership and he said, "It is time that the Veterans of Foreign Wars achieve 100 percent in membership this year". So, I will continue to talk, promote and keep you up to date on the membership standings by National, Big Ten, Department of Michigan and by District. Membership for 2018-2019 "starts" on July 1, 2018, and "ends" on June 30, 2019. As of October 26, 2018, the results are: National is at 86.07 percent, Big Ten Conference is in 2nd Place at 86.35 percent, Michigan is in 3rd Place in the Big Ten Conference at 88.51 percent, Michigan is also in 16th Place in the Nation at 88.51 percent, District 11 is in 1st Place at 91.00 percent, District 10 is in 2nd Place at 90.16 percent and District 8 is in 3rd Place at 90.00 percent. We are doing very good compared to the other States, Conferences and National at this time. WE just need everyone's help throughout Michigan to increase our membership even better. I know we can do it. We can achieve 100 percent in membership!

Also, while I was waiting for my plane to return to Detroit from the Big Ten Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, I signed up an E-4 Air Force soldier who was going to his 2nd overseas assignment in Qatar. I signed him up for a Post in Wisconsin, where he is from. I just sat down next to him and started talking to him, afterwards I asked him if he wanted to join the best combat veterans organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and he said, "yes." I contacted the Wisconsin State Commander and told her, then I mailed my personal letter with his membership application to the Post Commander in Wisconsin. I will sign up anyone from any State in the Nation. No matter where I am.

Lastly, I am a Candidate for National Council of Administration for 2019-2023. My term as Big Ten Conference Chairman will end October 2019 at the Big Ten Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. I hope you will endorse me, support me and vote for me at next year's State Convention in Flint, Michigan. I promise to continue serving you, representing you and protecting you and the Department of Michigan as your next National Council of Administration member. Thank you!

I look forward to continuing serving you, representing you and representing the Department of Michigan and the other (9) Big Ten States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin) throughout 2018-2019 and into the future.

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



# God Bless America

## District 5 Commander Norman Mauldin



**Norman Mauldin**  
District 5 Commander

Greetings and Salutations Comrades,

### BZ to Posts 1407, 6250, 9222 for Attaining 100% Membership.

Our focus is on membership. We truly need to keep our eyes on the numbers. Our membership is what gives our leaders in Kansas City an even stronger voice in Washington D.C. Everyone in your post is and can be a recruiter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We talk with veterans everyday that may be eligible, just ask them to join our great organization. November 30th is the last day you can get the maximum 10 points, for being 100% in membership, toward the All State Program. Remember you can use your relief fund to pay membership dues for those with hardships.

Our Voice of Democracy (VOD), Patriot's Pen (PP), and Teacher of the Year (TOY) Programs are progressing along nicely. By the time you read this, we will be forwarding our District winners to the Department of Michigan. Our 5th District VOD/PP/TOY Banquet will be on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at Post 7573, New Baltimore, MI. The doors open at 1:00 p.m. and dinner starts at 2:00 p.m.

The Oakland and Macomb County Council Camp Out was a hit. Check out the article located in this MOV. Bravo Zulu to the Campout Coordinator, Don Kuffner, for taking charge and making things happen and to all behind the scenes. This is one of the gems in the 5th District. The camp out is held every year the weekend after Labor Day. It is not limited to Scout Troops; it is also open to any group. We have had JROTC units and church groups in attendance in the past.

Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands was an enjoyable time of comradeship and a lot of information was disseminated. VTS at the end provided a lot of good information for first timers and old timers alike, especially with the new By-Law changes. The Department Hospitality Room was a huge success and a lot of fun. Come out to Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo and join in the festivities.

Congratulations to Post 9914 for receiving the Award of Merit and Outstanding Community Service Project awards. Past District 5 Commander Mike Oleksiak and the Quartermaster were presented their white hats for last year. Mike would like to personally thank his officers and posts for making this possible. It has been a while since the 5th has received this award and it took all involved to accomplish it.

—DISTRICT 5, continued on page 14

## District 6 Commander William Liettaert



**William Liettaert**  
District 6 Commander

Being a member for over 50 years, I have always been active when health permitting and open to Ideas from all. I hope that all members work together for the greater goals of this great organization, and never let pettiness and jealousy get in the way of comradeship. I was a full bore grunt in the 173rd Airborne C Company 2/503 Infantry in Vietnam and made great friends there. Friends and family are the only reality later in life. Your Post should be like a family.

I hope your Post is like a family and everyone gets along. Always ask others if they can help and accept them into your post. If there is a problem, work it out and remember people will always have a different outlook. In professionalism, you can give a group of 10 the same letter and you will get 10 different Answers.

Yours in Comradeship.

## District 8 Commander Laverne Blauwkamp



**Laverne Blauwkamp**  
District 8 Commander

How time flies when we are busy and having fun! Five months have come and gone so fast I missed the last MOV. I apologize for that. It is such an Honor to serve as your District Commander. I am thrilled at all I see and learn as I visit and talk with members all over the District.

Our District is looking good. Thank you to all the Post Commanders and staff for making sure things get done. I know our Posts are doing things in our communities, now please just go online and file the reports to show what you are doing. All inspections have been completed and turned in. Thank you for everyone's help in making it happen.

We had a great time at the National Home August 5th. That was my first visit and it was very impressive that our organization has a facility like that to assist veterans and their families, and now, including even children of veterans who need assistance. What a great fundraising weekend along with Ohio. Michigan VFW members make a huge difference in a lot of lives. Let's have a great turnout for the Children's Christmas Party on November 30th at the National home a 5:00 PM.

It has been informational and great to visit different Posts and experience all the activities that different Posts do. We can all learn from one another. It also becomes quite evident when you look at how much a Post does in the community and how much it is reflected in the Post's membership percentage. Our District membership percentage is 90.34 percent as of November 2nd. Let's keep working on membership and be 100 percent once again. I am sure that all of us working together, we can make it happen! By December 31st, it would be awesome to see 94 percent, we can make it happen! Let's make some phone calls and visits.

If anyone ever needs assistance, please feel free to give me a call. One of the District staff or I will be glad to help wherever we can. Teamwork makes all things so much easier.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## District 10 Commander Don Callaway



**Don Callaway**  
District 10 Commander

Greetings Comrades,

It is an honor to be serving as District 10 Commander again this year. Thank you for your confidence and support. Hopefully, we can improve in the areas where we fell short last year. Membership is the key. If we can retain the members we have and keep their dues up to date, it will go a long way towards our goal of 100 percent. We all know that new members, especially younger ones, are hard to come by, but just take a look at what is happening at the Department level. Many of our Department officers are younger veterans with young families and full time jobs. Yet, they still manage to find the time to help fulfill our mission of veterans helping veterans. It can be done.

Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers at every level and thank you to all of our past officers who for one reason or another have elected to take a break for a while. To all of our past officers, do not forget our new officers will be looking to you for guidance and the wealth of knowledge you have as one of our greatest assets.

It was nice to be invited to so many Post functions last year. I try to make as many as possible, but [it is] impossible to do all of them. Please let me know as far in advance as possible if your Post is hosting an event and let other Posts in your area know, also.

In closing, please get all of the items on the checklist completed in a timely manner, audits, quartermaster bond, election reports, inspections, incorporation papers and 990s. A lot of time was spent last year that could have been spent on membership and other areas of concern like Post closing or consolidation.

## District 11 Commander Terry Inosencio



**Terry Inosencio**  
District 11 Commander

Just think, the year will be about half over when you read this. Now is the time to get our [old] membership dues, and hopefully, some new members' dues, also. Our District is doing very well at this time and some Posts are down to one or very little to be 100 percent by December 31st. I am asking all Posts to try to beat this by December 31st or before. I want to thank all Posts for getting your reports in by the 10th of the next month. Make sure it all goes to the right place. When District officers visit your Post, they are there to help you if you need some help. Remember the VOD [Voice of Democracy] dinner January 5th in Mt Pleasant Post 3033. We need to show the students that we care. Until next time, I hope you had a good Thanksgiving and may Saint Nick keep you

healthy for a New Year.

## District 12 Commander Billy Stancroff



**Billy Stancroff**  
District 12 Commander

Comrades,

As Stan Preidis stated last year, this also is my third time as 12th District Commander. You would think out of the membership in the District there has to be a Comrade who would be interested in being commander. If so, call me or one of the other past District commanders. I want to thank Stan for doing a great job as commander last year. If there is a member or Post that needs help with the Internet, we will have computers to show you how things work. By going to vfwmi.org, you can do your reports and check a list of things. Call me if you need help with this anytime, 231-740-3131. On December 2nd, Post 7729 hosted the District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Diner: Social Hour at 1:00 PM and Dinner at 2:00 PM. Remember to get your paper work in to District on time. Our spring meeting and District Convention is April 14th at VFW Post 7729 in Muskegon. At the end of October, District 12 has one Post 6015 that is 100 percent and nine that need less than eight to be 100 percent. The District is at 89.4 percent and needs 318 Members to make 100 percent. The District has 473 unpaid members. So, the District should be 100 percent this year! If you have not ordered your Poppies, do so now. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**District 15 Commander Robert Paavola****Robert Paavola**  
District 15 Commander

Greetings Comrades,

Once again, I have accepted the position of District commander . . . for the third time. I figure if I keep doing it, I'll get it right sometime, but it's beginning to remind me of getting out of first grade.

I want to apologize for the last MOV article not making it in the paper but in our high-tech world sometimes we have glitches and what should be doesn't always happen.

By the time this goes to print we'll already have completed the first half of reporting season. I would urge everyone to catch up on reporting what you have done so far this year. We have been trying to work with anyone who needs assistance with online reporting. You can also call John Gubin at 586-216-7088 for help especially if

you're having problems logging on. Mailing or faxing a hand written copy is still acceptable.

I want to thank the Ontonagon Post for the excellent job they did on the Memorial service conducted for 2nd class fireman Lowell Valley, the 19 year old who was killed at Pearl Harbor onboard the U.S.S. Oklahoma. After many years his remains were finally positively identified and laid to rest in Ontonagon. I also had the honor of attending Military rites for SSG. Marshall Kipina whose remains were identified after being MIA since 1966 in Laos. His remains were interred at Arlington National Cemetery, and a ceremony was held in Calumet simultaneously. Thanks to everyone who participated.

We now have a District facebook page so if you have an account feel free to check it out. We need to make someone in your post an administrator if you want to post any of your upcoming activities. I'm still working on my skills there so we'll learn this together.

If your Post sponsored anyone in Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, or Teacher of the Year, the results should be in shortly and we'll be honoring the winners at the Mid-winter Conference in Kalamazoo January 24th, 25th, and 26th.

Please be sure your audits are in, you have a new quartermaster bond, and be prepared for inspection if it hasn't already been done.

**Some dates to remember:**

February 10, 2019 is District meeting in Iron River

February 23, 2019, the Day of Challenges is at Mich. Tech. Univ. S.D.C. [Michigan Technological University Student Development Complex]

April 28, 2019 is Spring meeting in South Range.

Have a wonderful Holiday season.

**Taxes****Submitted by Judge Advocate Kevin Conklin**

Our VFW Posts are exempt from federal income tax under a "group Ruling" issued many years ago to MI VFW by the Internal Revenue Service. This group ruling from the IRS exempts our Posts from Federal Income Tax under Section 501c (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. All Posts are subordinate units of MI VFW. However, in order to retain the income tax exempt status for the Post, each Post **must** file an annual information income tax return form 990 with the IRS, **even if your Post received no**

**income.** Under current IRS rules, the tax-exempt status of your Post will be automatically revoked if the income tax return has not been filed for three years. If your Post' tax-exempt status is revoked, you must re-apply for tax-exempt status using the IRS Form 1024 and pay an application fee. Filing the annual 990 income tax return is critical to ensure that your Post maintains its income tax-exempt status and does not become liable for any taxes on income generated by the Post.

Posts with annual gross receipts of more than \$50,000 must file either the Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, depending on the annual gross receipts and total assets. Posts with annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less may file the Form 990-N (e-Postcard). The Form 990-N, which must be filed electronically, asks for only a few basic pieces of information; the Post's taxpayer identification number; the Post's tax period; the Post's legal name and mailing address of a principal officer; and a statement confirming that the Post's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less. If your Post's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less, I encourage you to file the Form 990-N. Simply go to the IRS website, type 990-N in the search box and "click on" the link for the Form 990-N and follow the instructions. Or, you can go to the Department of Michigan website, go to "Documents and Forms" and "click on" " Form 990, then "click on" [www.irs.gov/charitiesandnonprofits](http://www.irs.gov/charitiesandnonprofits) to complete the Form 990-N. If your Post has lost its tax-exempt status, you will also find information at this website on how to apply to regain your Post tax-exempt status.

The Form 990-series tax forms are due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of an organization's tax year. For example, if a Post's tax year closes on December 31, its form is due by the following May 15. I would suggest your filing year be the same as your VFW year, if it does not you can correct this. The form to change the tax year is 1128. Filing the required Form 990 is critical to ensure that your Post retains its income tax-exempt status and does not become liable for any taxes on income or capital gains generated by the Post.

Please ensure that your Post is compliant and makes the appropriate annual filing with the IRS.

**Activity Evaluation****Director Robert Lutz**

Comrades,

So far this year the reports are hit or miss. Some posts are doing fantastic in their reporting and other posts not so much. We have one District that over half the posts haven't sent in a single report. I hope this will change. To help in reporting, we have come up with a new form that has replaced the old form. The new form will now appear on the website under forms and you can fill it out on line or print a blank and fill it out manually. Just fill it out and email it to [activity@vfwmi.org](mailto:activity@vfwmi.org), or fax or mail it to Dept. Below you can read some of the instructions, there is also an example to

look at under forms on the Dept. website.

**Reporting Instructions:**

1. Make sure that your Post and District are on your report.
2. Please make sure that the reports are legible.
3. Make sure that you put the dates on the reports.
4. If it has anything to do with doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and/or the VA, it is a hospital report. Do NOT send them to me.
5. Only put one month on the report, if you have reporting for more than one month, put them on separate reports.
6. You have to put a description of what you are reporting, just numbers will not be accepted.
7. Auxiliary and Cootie functions are not reportable and the Post does not get credit for them using the hall, etc.
8. Mileage is charged at \$0.14 a mile per IRS rules.
9. The reports must be received by the 10th of the month to get credit for that month
10. When reporting events that are the same, for an example: donated hall to the Boy Scouts on 9/10/18 \$350, donated hall to Boy Scouts on 9/24/18 \$350, you can report it twice with dates or just say "Donated hall to Boy Scouts X2 \$700.", or you could put "Donated hall to Boy Scouts 9/10, 9/18 \$700." All three are acceptable. Another example is "Veterans funeral 09/3/18, 8 mem, 16 hours, 110 miles." Veterans funeral 9/5/18, 10 members, 10 hours, 90 miles or You could put two (2) veterans funerals, 18 members, and 26 hours, 200 miles or Veterans funerals 9/03, 5/18, 18 members, 26 hours, 200 miles, again all are acceptable.
11. You can use more than one line when making the report.
12. Do NOT put value, members, hours or mileage in the description just the numbers in the proper column.
13. Do NOT write anything in the section for "Department Use Only."

Any questions feel free to call me [Bob Lutz] at 586-924-4591 or email me at [activity@vfwmi.org](mailto:activity@vfwmi.org).

**Know the Criteria for Your All-American Post and District and All-State Checklist**

(Source: *VFW National Membership Program "Make It Happen 2018-2019,"* B. J. Lawrence, *Commander-in-Chief*, pp 8-9.)

First, there is the Post:

**All-American Post Leadership Criteria**

- Greater than 50 members on July 1, 2019
- Membership greater than 100 percent
- Finish in the top 50 posts in your respective division
- Voice of Democracy – minimum of one entry advanced to District Judging (Overseas Post donate \$50 to National in lieu of entry)
- Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post donate \$50 to National in lieu of entry)
- National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post donate \$50 to National in lieu of entry)
- Buddy Poppy- must purchase Buddy Poppies
- Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to National Veterans & Military Support Services, minimum of \$50
- National Veterans Service – Appoint a Post Service Officer

Second, there is the District:

**All-American District Leadership Criteria**

- Membership greater than 100 percent
- Finish in the top 25 Districts in your division
- Voice of Democracy – minimum of one entry advanced to Department Judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
- Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
- National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)

**All-State Checklist can be found on page 96 of the Phil Patterson 2018-2019 MI VFW State Commander's Roster.**

## District 6 President Kris Griffith

Greetings and Happy Holidays from District 6! Our year is well under way and all of the inspections will be complete by the first week of December. I have really enjoyed visiting our auxiliaries and listening to all the great things we do within our communities and for our veterans...you are all doing a great job! Remember to report all that you do. This is a busy time of year for our auxiliaries with the holidays upon us, and with the Voice of Democracy [VOD] and Patriot's Pen essays being judged at the local level and forwarded to our District. Our next District meeting is on December 8th at the Ann Arbor VFW Post 423, where we will recognize our District essay winners and the Teacher of the Year. The program will start at 11 a.m., with lunch and our meeting to follow. This meeting will also be our Department President's, Sandy Medos, official visit so let's show President Sandy how super the 6th is!! The Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo will be January 24th – 27th, at which time our Department VOD and Patriot's Pen essay winners will be announced at the banquet! This is always a great time, a little friendly competition between the Districts and some remarkable essays from our students. If your VFW or Auxiliary is having a function, please submit it for publication to our District 6 Facebook page so our District can support your activities. As we are enjoying this season with family and friends, please remember our veterans that may not be as fortunate as us, those that are hospitalized, in nursing homes or without family nearby. I would like to thank everyone for your continued support and look forward to seeing you all at different events throughout the year. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

## District 7 President Jason Manke

As you're reading this article, our District has had two meetings already for the 2018-2019 year. Man is this year flying. I'm halfway through my year as your District 7 President. A couple of things I would like to remind our members about are: at the next State Convention, our District will be hosting a Hospitality Room once again. With that said, we will need a lot of helpers (bartending, food, help with raffles, etc.). I'm looking forward to the VOD [Voice of Democracy] and Patriot's Pen presentations at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. It is always great to hear what our youth have to say since the youth are our future. Don't forget the District 7 VOD and Patriot's Pen banquet will be in March at the Decatur Post. More details will follow. Our District has unanimously endorsed Sara Manke for Department Office. We wish Sara the very best. Lastly, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year. May God Bless each of you and may God Bless this great Organization.

## District 4 President Patricia Bielskis

It's the time of year that has us all thinking of warm fuzzy sweaters, hats & gloves, or staying bundled up inside. With Fall over and Thanksgiving & Halloween behind us it is time to be thinking of our veterans. I know some will say that Veterans Day is the time to remember them, but we should be honoring them all year.

With homeless and hospitalized Veterans, we should see to their needs. Our District 4 Senior Vice Deni Hunter has a program called "12 Crates for Christmas" they gather supplies like soap, deodorant, socks, sweatshirts, just to name a few items. They pack and hand out these crates to the homeless veterans in need. We also go to the Ann Arbor and Dingell VA Hospitals and hand out sweatshirts & Christmas Stockings to the residents.

One of our most important things to remember is that even if nothing looks wrong take time to ask how a veteran is doing and listen to them. A few minutes of your time can make all the difference in their life. With suicide at an all time high a few minutes and a few kind words might be enough to change someone's life.

## District 8 President Elisa Blauwkamp



How time flies when we are busy and having fun! Five months have come and gone so fast I missed the last MOV. I apologize for that. It is such an Honor to serve as your District Commander. I am thrilled at all I see and learn as I visit and talk with members all over the District.

Our District is looking good. Thank you to all the Post Commanders and staff for making sure things get done. I know our Post are doing things in our Communities, now please just go online and file the reports to show what you are doing. All inspections have been completed and turned in, thank you for everyone's help in making it happen.

We had a great time at the National Home August 5th. That was my first visit and it was very impressive that our organization has a facility like that to assist veterans and their families. And now even children of veterans that need assistance. What a great fundraising weekend along with Ohio. Michigan VFW members make a huge difference in a lot of lives. Let's have a great turnout for the Children's Christmas Party on November 30th at the National home a 5PM.

### —DISTRICT 8, continued

It has been informational and great to visit different Post and experience all the activities that different Post do. We can all learn from one another. It also becomes quite evident when you look at how much a Post does in the community how much it is reflected in the Post's membership percentage. Our District membership percentage is 90.34 percent as of November 2. Let's keep working on membership and be 100 percent once again. I am sure that all of us working together we can make it happen! By December 31 it would be awesome to see 94 percent. We can make it happen! Let's make some phone calls and visits.

If anyone ever needs assistance, please feel free to give me a call. One of the District staff or I will be glad to help where ever we can. Teamwork makes all things so much easier. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## District 9 President Kathryn Doran

Greetings and Happy Holidays from District 6! Our year is well under way and all of the inspections will be complete by the first week of December. I have really enjoyed visiting our auxiliaries and listening to all the great things we do within our communities and for our veterans...you are all doing a great job! Remember to report all that you do. This is a busy time of year for our auxiliaries with the holidays upon us, and with the Voice of Democracy [VOD] and Patriot's Pen essays being judged at the local level and forwarded to our District. Our next District meeting is on December 8th at the Ann Arbor VFW Post 423, where we will recognize our District essay winners and the Teacher of the Year. The program will start at 11 a.m., with lunch and our meeting to follow. This meeting will also be our Department President's, Sandy Medos, official visit so let's show President Sandy how super the 6th is!! The Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo will be January 24th – 27th, at which time our Department VOD and Patriot's Pen essay winners will be announced at the banquet! This is always a great time, a little friendly competition between the Districts and some remarkable essays from our students. If your VFW or Auxiliary is having a function, please submit it for publication to our District 6 Facebook page so our District can support your activities. As we are enjoying this season with family and friends, please remember our veterans that may not be as fortunate as us, those that are hospitalized, in nursing homes or without family nearby. I would like to thank everyone for your continued support and look forward to seeing you all at different events throughout the year. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

## District 10 President Kathy Kirby

I bring you greetings from the District. It's been an interesting year so far. All the 10th District Auxiliaries have been inspected. This is one of the best parts of my job as your District President – traveling and visiting all the Auxiliaries. Renewing friendships and building new ones. Plus, just seeing all the different things that each individual Auxiliary is doing and the interesting ways they help the veterans. All 990's have been filed and Bonds paid.

We are working hard on membership in the 10th District – retaining our members and bringing in new members will make our Auxiliaries stronger and continue to thrive. Unfortunately, we lost a couple of Auxiliaries this year but were able to get many of the members transferred to another Auxiliary. At the writing of this article, the District is in 8th place in Membership at 87.21%. Good Job! We only need 283 more dues sent in – keep them coming. We have two Auxiliaries that are 100% - Sandusky Auxiliary #2945 is 158% and Sebawaing #4115 is 100%. Congratulations! Several Auxiliaries are very close. We'd like to make our District 100% and get Department there as well for the Circle of Excellence. Remember if the member's dues were not paid by December 31, 2018, they must rejoin the Auxiliary. Maybe the member needs a little financial assistance and your Auxiliary could pay the per capita from the Relief Fund – this is one of the things it can be used for. Another way to help are Dues Angels – someone can pay the dues for the member. Many Auxiliaries allow the person to pay just the per capita and forgo their portion of the dues.

The District VOD Banquet will be on January 13, 2018 at the Chevy VFW Post #3087, 4138 Corruna Rd., Flint. Doors will open at 1pm, lunch at 2pm, and the program following at approximately 3:00pm. Be sure to order your tickets. **There will be no tickets sold at the door!** Please contact Roberta Reid (810) 385-4030 to get your tickets ordered – the tickets are \$12.

MidWinter Conference is **January 24-27, 2019** in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Make sure that you make your hotel reservations prior to December 31, 2019 or you will not be able to get the VFW conference rate. Be sure to get rooms for all of your students and/or teachers. Banquet ticket deadline is January 18, 2019. Tickets ordered by this date are \$40 and after are \$50. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Continue working on the program goals. The new quarter reporting period is November 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019. We are working very hard to make sure that all the Auxiliaries are 100% reported each quarter. If you are having difficulty getting your activities and work reported, please don't hesitate to contact me. You all do such wonderful work for our veterans, their families and the communities; let's make sure that we get it reported. The National website has many education tips for training and ideas for each of the programs. National and Department also encourage members to visit the Malta system to check your status and manage dues. Treasurers if you are having trouble, I will get you help.

**—DISTRICT 10, continued**

If anyone is interested in attending, the National MidWinter Conference is March 14-17, 2019 in Tucson, Arizona. You can contact Department for information.

Finally, if you have an event, please let me know and I will try very hard to make it. Share your events with the other Posts and Auxiliaries in the District – we all like to support each other and help make our District stronger so publicize your events. If you let me know, I can add it to the next MOV article. If you ever need anything, I can be reached on my cell at (810) 577-7350, by internet at [kighthouse6@yahoo.com](mailto:kighthouse6@yahoo.com), or through the 10th District Facebook page – go on and friend us. Keep up the good work, we are having a great year!

**District 11 President Vickie Bushong**

District 11 is alive and well. We are currently second place in membership, but we strive to be number one. We have at least one auxiliary that is 100 percent in membership. In October, Post 3033 Auxiliary was honored to host the National VFW Auxiliary President Sandi Kriebel with a dinner during her Michigan visit. Approximately 90 members and/or spouses were in attendance.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests at the local and District levels have come to a close and we are all anxiously awaiting Mid-Winter to see who the winners will be. Last year, District 11 swept Michigan with first place winners in both events. The Voice of Democracy winner, Emma Russell, stated she had a blast in Washington DC. In all, she was awarded over \$7000 in prizes, the Patriot Pen winner over \$2500 in prizes.

For this year's Mid-Winter Hospital Basket raffle, we are collecting gift cards ranging \$5.00-\$25.00 denominations from statewide stores and restaurants. All monies raised will be donated to the Fisher Houses being built in Michigan. All donations for District 11 should be sent to the District Treasurer Ruth Ayris. Make sure you reserve your rooms and purchase your banquet tickets if you plan to attend.

Please make sure your Auxiliary is reporting on all of your chairmanships. Everything you do is important for our veterans so take credit for it. Also, quarterly audits need to be in on time.

**District 12 President Diana Herrick**

It has certainly been a busy fall, the Auxiliaries in District 12 have worked tirelessly in their dedication to serving our Veterans! I thank each of our members for their creativity, passion and desire to make a difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed and those who continue to sacrifice for our Freedom.

Breakfast, Bingo, Freedom Festivals, Steak Dinners and Burger Nights are just a few of the constant fund raisers that are promoted and provided by our Auxiliaries. Our faith, strength and abundance of generosity has provided 104 years of service to our Veterans, the same qualities that will continue to provide unconditional support and unwavering dedication to our Veterans Active Military and their families.

**District 14 President Janice Lovel**

District 14 has been busy. I had the honor of visiting National Home and met with a past resident who shared so much information. He came to our District Meeting in September and shared his experience. We then donated over \$1000.00 worth of craft supplies and I've been told there may be more coming. Says something for downsizing!

Our District members and their spouses gather to prepare over 500 Christmas cards to send over to our troops.

At the Department Fall Conference, District 14 donated enough items for the Department Auction, that we came in 2nd place in total value. I am excited to say that I volunteered to be one of the Auctioneers and I just loved it! auctioneer, me, lives doing it. Come see us next year. Many of our Auxiliaries and Post participated in the Veteran day programs in our communities.

Getting ready now for the VOD and Patriot Pen judging. We had 5 groups participate. Best of luck to the participants.

**District 15 President Judy Fell**

We have teamed up with the schools' 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The program that we do is called "Adopt-a-Vet." The students make cards for every holiday and Veterans Day to be given to veterans. We also as Auxiliary put \$5.00 on a canteen card for the veterans. This happens on Veterans Day and Christmas. The cards were given out at the veterans' party on November 12th. This program is in its third year.

**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS****Department Americanism  
Chairman Sara Manke**

REMEMBER our fallen US Veterans. HONOR those who serve. TEACH your children the value of freedom. December 15, 2018 is National Wreaths Across America Day. This year I am encouraging ALL auxiliaries to volunteer/donate to Wreaths Across America, but ANYONE can! By coordinating wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as more than 1,400 additional locations in all 50 States, at sea and abroad. You can join by sponsoring a veteran's wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering to place the wreaths or donating to a local fundraising group. There are approximately 26 cemeteries in Michigan that participate, to find one near you or donate please visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). If you can't find the time or money to help this year, PLEASE mark your calendars for the next 2 years. What an amazing feeling you will get helping lay wreaths on the graves of those who fought and died protecting us. Honor a family, friend or comrade today!

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY  
DECEMBER 14, 2019  
DECEMBER 12, 2020

**Jane Reape**

*National Conductress*  
2018-2019

Jane Reape, of Carthage, N.Y., was elected National Conductress of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Kansas City, Mo., on July 25, 2018.

She is now in the second of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2022-2023.

A Life Member of Dionne-Rumble Auxiliary 7227, she has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department (state) President. Jane is currently serving as her Auxiliary President.

On the National level she has served as National Director for the Scholarships program, Eastern Conference Chairman for the Americanism/Patriotic Instructor and Youth Activities programs and as National District Council Member representing New York.

She joined on the eligibility of her late husband, James, who served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961-1983. Jane's family includes three children and three grandchildren. The military service continues in her family. Jane's oldest son, Raymond, is a Navy veteran of the 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi War and a Life Member of the VFW. Her youngest son, Robert, served in the Air Force for 22 years. Jane's granddaughter, Sarah, is currently serving in the Air Force and her brother, Daniel, is serving in the Army.

Jane is equally active in her community. She serves on the Finance Council of her church and she is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Ava Maria Circle, Carthage Area Hospital Auxiliary and the Honor Flight Committee.



**Auxiliary Youth  
Chairman Holly Allyson**

Young people are a gift to all of us. Our VFW National Auxiliary realizes this and requests our Auxiliaries to forge relationships with young people and their parents for good intentions. We are to educate the youth of our land about loyalty and patriotism. We are to educate the young concerning our veterans and their families and the sacrifices they have made for us all. We need to teach the young to honor the honorable.

While approving Auxiliaries' service reports, I have found Auxiliaries doing an amazing job at these very assignments such as working with an elementary school making cards for hospitalized veterans, a group of young people working a weekly fish fry at their local Post and a high school honor society sponsoring an overseas serving unit. I have also read on these reports of a young person making a difference such as assisting a veteran with yard work and sharing another young person their musical talent with a Post for various ceremonies.

I am so thankful to be a member of this organization and all the positive impact we have on the youth of our land.

**Veterans and Family Support  
Chairman Jane Dady**



This year we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1. Veterans Day, the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. Thank you! To each and every veteran! The most heartwarming story of WW1 was the Christmas Truce. The soldiers in the trenches declared their own unofficial truce. On Christmas morning a soldier yelled out "Merry Christmas!" The others responded the same. They laid down their weapons, came out and shook hands. They exchanged cigarettes, rations and sang carols. Some played soccer while others retrieved the dead on both sides. Of course the next day the war resumed, but not even war can destroy the Christmas spirit.

The Spirit of Christmas is very much here for our military and veterans. If you are currently serving and would like to talk to someone at home, request a Virtual Pin from the Operation Uplink program. Email [uplink@vfw.org](mailto:uplink@vfw.org).

Because of the holidays, you might be struggling to make ends meet. Contact the VFW to fill out a grant application under the Unmet needs program. This is a grant-not a loan to help with basic life needs. Contact the VFW at (866) 789-6333.

National Veterans Services will provide a Service Officer to help military and veterans cut through the red tape and file for benefits for you. This can be for health care, crisis management, compensation and pension, vocational rehab and employment. Contact the VFW at (816) 756-3390 or [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Obtain all the benefits you have earned.

This is a stressful time of year. If you have PTSD or are in crisis, contact the Veterans Crisis line at (800) 273-8255.

No military or veterans child should go without this season. Contact a VFW Post or Auxiliary for help, ask for whatever assistance you need. While VFW Posts and Auxiliaries all around the state are hosting dinners and parties, invite the homeless veterans. Tell them about your programs. Holiday cheer, a hot meal and a renewed purpose will be the best present you can give.

Lift up in prayer our military families and those serving who are in harm's way. Pray that all our POW/MIA's make it home and are accounted for.

Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause." —Abraham Lincoln

In honor of the WWI soldiers, "Merry Christmas!" (Pass it on)

**VFW Auxiliary Camp Trotter  
Chairman Denise Arnold  
[dmarnold65@gmail.com](mailto:dmarnold65@gmail.com)**



With winter upon us, our beautiful Camp Trotter is in hibernation. We auxiliary members however still need to be wide awake and active. Every day is a great day to promote our awesome camp for children. Our camp accepts children ages 7-12 years old for 5 weeks during July and the first 2 weeks of August. The camp is funded donations and our large raffle. Has your auxiliary donated to the general fund, scholarship fund or purchased at least 1 Life Membership? These items are on your guide sheet. It is never too early to start recruiting campers for the 2019 camping season, each week can host 88 campers. A week away from electronics and just being a kid makes a great gift and

at \$200 it's a steal! Please contact me, Larry Thayer the VFW Camp Chairman, or any of the other board members if you have any questions.

Happy Camping!

**God Bless America**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
40th ANNUAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
JANUARY 25-26, 2019  
AGENDA**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 25, 2019**

|                        |  |               |
|------------------------|--|---------------|
| 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Registration                             | Kalamazoo 1   |
| 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  | Program Display tables                   | Kalamazoo 1   |
|                        | <b>BANQUET TICKETS</b>                   |               |
| 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  | Budget & Finance                         | Prairies      |
| 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Service Officer Committee                | Prairies      |
|                        | PTSD seminar                             |               |
| 10:00- 11:30 a.m.      | Director's reports                       | Prairies      |
| 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | <b>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b>                 |               |
| 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  | VTS Training                             | Stone Theatre |
| 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  | Cmdr./Senior/Junior Vice District Cmdrs. | TBA           |
|                        | Redistrict Committee                     |               |
| 5:30 p.m.              | Night on the Town                        | Zazio         |
| 6:00 p.m.              | VOD Event- for students                  |               |
| 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. | Department Hospitality Room              | 813           |

**Dress Code:**

Meetings- Commander Patterson's black shirt and grey pants

Night on the Town- Casual

**SATURDAY JANUARY 26, 2019**

|  |  |                  |
|--|--|------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.                                      | Council of Administration Breakfast      | Meadows          |
| 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.                                     | Registration                             | Kalamazoo 1      |
| 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.                                      | Program Display tables                   | Kalamazoo 1      |
|  | <b>BANQUET TICKETS</b>                   |                  |
| <b>ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11:30 A.M.</b> |  |                  |
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.                                      | Camp Trotter Meeting                     | Prairies         |
| 9:45 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.                                     | Council of Administration                | Prairies         |
| 12:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.                                     | <b>LUNCH ON YOUR OWN</b>                 |                  |
| 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.                                      | VFW Aux. VOD/ PP Reception               | Glens            |
| 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.                                      | VOD/ PP Students, District Cmdr. / Pres. | Fields           |
|  | Head table meet for line up              |                  |
| 5:30 p.m.  | Head table seated                        |                  |
| 6:00 p.m.  | VOD/ PP Banquet                          | Arcadia Ballroom |

**Dress Code:**

Meetings- Council of Administration (Jacket and tie) / Past Cmdr. David's grey shirt and tan pants for all others.

Banquet- Suit or sport coat and tie/ Head table Black Tux. We are honoring our VOD and PP students. Please DO NOT take alcoholic beverages in the Banquet Hall. Thank you





**VFW Department of Michigan 90th Annual Fall Conference  
Golf Outing Was a Big Success  
Hosted by Department of Michigan Commander Phil Patterson  
September 27, 2018, Boyne Highlands, Michigan**

Ten teams, shown below (players not necessarily listed in order) golfed at the Chestnut Valley Golf Course, Boyne Highlands, Michigan, the day before the conference.



*Chestnut Valley Golf Course, Boyne Highlands, Michigan*



*Team 1: Natalie Lopez, Ray Lopez, Lynn Patterson, Phil Patterson*



*Team 2: Kris Griffith, John Griffith, Mark Halvorsen, Diana Halvorsen*



*Team 3: Ray Amud, Bod London, Matt David, Butch Ogden*



*Team 4: Don Asam, Dennis Bannon, Harold Koviak, Terry Flewelling*



*Team 5: Les Croyle, Tom Oltesvig, Mary Houghton, Shane Houghton*



*Team 6: David Miller, Ricky Young, Jim Muys, Richard Bought*



*Team 7: Bob Williams, Dave Strange, Rob Tuck, Paul McIvor*



*Team 8: Jerry Gorski, Beth Plont, Annabelle Furgason, Roger Mays*



*Team 9: Lloyd Templeton, Lloyd Puttmann, Jim Klotz*



*Team 10: John Chanda, Eric Schanagg, BJ Schnagg, Judy Mays*





**We Must Never Forget!**



**Post 7435 Commander Terry Frank salutes the colors.** The second of two POW/MIA Ceremonies were held at Hale Area Schools Friday, September 21, 2018. Commander Frank salutes the Colors presented by Hale Area Honor Guard. The Honor Guard assisted in the program presentation for the children grades 5 through 12.



**Operation VA Drive Post 2645  
Submitted by Trustee Jerry Gorski**

Our Post 2645 Southfield 2017 Voice of Democracy Winner, Christopher Moy, who also won the District 5 Voice of Democracy Competition and went on to the Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy Finals wanted to give back to the community, especially our Veterans. It is something that his parents instilled in him throughout childhood. He believed that people are extremely grateful for Veterans and their self-sacrificial service and devotion to our country.

Christopher decided to have a "Fundraiser" for the Veterans at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Facility this year. He started on August 1st, 2018 at our Monthly Post 2645 Spaghetti Social. Christopher put together his flyer stating he was a Senior High School Student and wanted to raise money for the Veterans at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Facility. He passed out his flyer to everyone attending the Post 2645 Spaghetti Social with a brown bag donated by Meijer's in Commerce Township. The flyer stated his purpose with instructions to bring their empty cans & bottles in the Meijer's brown bag back to the Post Spaghetti Social on October 1st, 2018.

His flyer also stated, "On behalf of my friends at VFW 2645, Meijer in Commerce Township who donated bags, and myself, thank you in advance for your generosity." Through his hard work and efforts, Christopher Moy raised \$482 for the Veterans at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Facility.

Congratulations to Senior High School Student Christopher Moy for a Great Fundraiser for our Veterans! Those Veterans at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Facility will sure appreciate what you did for them. They will remember Christopher Moy for a very long time!



**Port Sanilac VFW 8872  
to Mark 100th Anniversary WWI**

Contributor Steven Kovac skovacC@mihomepaper.com



The bell ringer is Jeff Lyall, currently VFW Post 8872 Adjutant and former Commander (7 yrs.). The bell belonged to George Innis, Post 8872 Quartermaster. A bell ceremony was held in Port Sanilac on Sunday, November 11, 2018, as the Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW] Post honored servicemembers from Sanilac County who died in World War I.

For years, the November 11 national holiday was called Armistice Day. It was formerly dedicated to memorializing United States servicemen who died in WWI. It has since been expanded to honor all of America's veterans,

This year, November 11 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice which halted the brutal fighting of the First World War.

In memory of that occasion, and in acknowledgment and appreciation of the service of all of our veterans, the Port Sanilac VFW Post 8872 held a special ceremony at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 11 at the Bark Shanty Community Center at 135 Church Street in Port Sanilac.

"There's special significance in this being the 100th anniversary," said former Post Commander and current Adjutant and Public Affairs Officer Jeff Lyall of Port Sanilac.

"Being so long ago, it is easy to be out of memory because there's almost no one alive today from that era to remind us. It can be easy to forget, so we thought it would be nice to make a real effort to remember."

There was a small exhibit of World War I equipment, such as a rifle, military hat, and uniform on display. "We always try to include a little history in all of our events," he said.

Post Commander Roger Bobby told the News that the program included the Bells of Peace Ceremony and bell ringing honoring the 51 Sanilac County servicemen who died from the time the United States entered the war in April 1917 through November 1918.

We read five of their names and then rung the bell a single time until all 51 are honored, explained Lyall.

Bobby said there were also bells ceremony for departed comrades-in-arms from Post 8872, a wreath laying, three volleys from a rifle squad, and the playing of Taps.

Activities included the awarding of the winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay and Coloring Contests.

Refreshments were served.

The Bells of Peace Ceremony is a coordinated effort organized by the national World War I Centennial Commission inviting churches across America to ring their bells at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in remembrance of the 116,516 Americans who gave their lives fighting for our nation in what has been termed "The Great War."

The church bells are to be rung 21 times with five-second pauses in between as an expression of highest honor similar to the 21-gun salute.

Precisely at 11 a.m. three churches in Port Sanilac rang their bells like that, said Lyall. They were St. John's Lutheran, Port Sanilac United Methodist, and St. Mary's Catholic Church."

The date and hour of the observance coincided with the exact time in 1918 that the four and one-half year-long First World War ceased.

The signing of the armistice that stopped the fighting of one of the bloodiest wars in human history, a conflict which left 8.5 million soldiers from a dozen countries dead, is celebrated by much of the world.

According to the United States Department of Defense, 4,734,991 American men and women served in World War I, including 135,000 from Michigan.

Veterans Day-related programs were also planned by at least three other veterans' organizations and some schools in the county.

The Peck American Legion held a short Veterans' Day program at the village park on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.

The Sandusky Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Sandusky American Legion jointly hosted a "Vets' Round-up" on Saturday, November 10, from noon to 4 PM at the VFW hall located just south of Sandusky on the west side of M-19.

The program consisted of the serving of a light lunch at noon followed by an informational session for veterans to hear representatives of the Veterans' Administration and other speakers explaining the benefits and services available to American veterans. The event also included door prizes.



**God Bless America**

—STATE COMMANDER, continued from Pg. 1

I do know that our organization is not as visible as we should be in our communities. Our Posts need to be involved in our community and we need to blow our own horn and take credit for the good things we do.

I have always said I have an open-door policy, but I would like everyone to please use their chain of command. Please don't go straight to Department or National without going to your Post or District Commanders first. If the issue cannot be handled there, call Department and let us assist you. As many of you know, I will be running for National Council of Administration for the Department of Michigan 2019-2023 at the end of my term as your State Commander. Although I will not be out actively campaigning, I am asking for your support. My first and only responsibility is to take care of the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and all its members, after all that is what you elected me to do.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe and healthy Christmas and Happy New Year. I would like to thank all veterans for their service to our great country, the United States of America.

TEAMBUILDING~TEAMWORK~COMMUNICATION

—RECOGNITION AT THE FALL CONFERENCE, continued from Pg. 1



**Medal of Honor Lt. Col. Charles Kettles**



Lt. Col. Kettles received the Medal of Honor on July 18, 2016, nearly 50 years after his actions while serving as a flight commander assigned to 176th Aviation Company (Airmobile) (Light), 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, Americal Division.

Col. Kettles was awarded the Medal of Honor after legislation was introduced by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Dearborn, and U.S. Senators Gary Peters, Bloomfield Township, and Debbie Stabenow, Lansing as a result of a grassroots level campaign started in 2012 Ypsilanti Rotary Veterans History Project.

**Pioneer High School and VFW Post 423 Host Veterans Day Activity**



*9th grade Principal Daniel Hyliard welcomes students and veterans to Veterans Day Activity*



*Lt. Col. Charles Kettles and Pioneer High School teacher, Kenneth O'Day swap stories at Veterans Day Activity.*



*VFW Post 423 member Horace Frazier (left) and Post Commander Douglas Brinker (opposite) answer questions posed by Pioneer High School students, 12th grader Shashank Chandru and 11th grader Djeneba Soumaoro.*



*Students pose with Lt. Col. Kettle at Veterans Day Activity at Pioneer High School.*



*Michigan Overseas Veterans editor and Pioneer High School librarian Nathaniel Powell and Pioneer High School 12th grader Eric Xing with Medal of Honor Winner Lt. Col. Charles Kettles.*



*Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. Col. Charles Kettles.*

—DISTRICT 5, continued from page 6

Congratulations to the National-Aide-to-Camp Appointees. Thank you for all your hard work throughout District 5 and the Department of Michigan. Commanders, I'm sure there are Service Officers, Chaplains, new members, Fire Fighters, EMTs, and Law Enforcement Officers who have gone above and beyond to help our posts, veterans, and the community. Be sure to honor these comrades for their dedication. Part of our job as leaders is to ensure our hard chargers are recognized. If you have any questions, need forms or assistance, contact us, we are here to assist you.

There were two POW-MIA Recognition programs conducted in the 5th District. One at Oakland Hills Memorial Cemetery in Oakland County and Resurrection Cemetery in Macomb County. Bravo Zulu on the great showing by all hands from the Fabulous 5th. We must keep our POW's and those MIA in the fore front until all are accounted for, returned to our grateful nation, and their families have complete closure.

**GET OUT AND VOTE!** I don't care about your political affiliation, whether it be Democrat, Independent or Republican. We are one of the reasons this right is secured as the guardians of our freedoms. Get out and let your voice be heard, you have fought for and earned it.

We would like to personally thank Comrade Ken Klee, for the past 10 years as the District 5 Adjutant and our Gold Star Mothers Program Chairman. Your dedication and perseverance will be missed. Enjoy your retirement.

Our deepest condolences go out to the Dobbie family in their loss of Past State Commander and National Legislative Rep. William Dobbie. Bill's dedication to the veterans of this great nation is unmatched and will be sorely missed. Rest in peace my friend, you stand relieved.

Many of you didn't know that I have had family issues that have required me to travel out of state quite a bit. I would like to personally thank the officers for stepping up to the plate to help in the day to day operations. Also, a personal "Thank You" to Department Commander Phil Patterson for ensuring I was able to recognize their hard work.

**HERE IS WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH, and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Scheduled Events**

**2018**

- 04 Nov 18 | 10th Annual Veterans Day Parade [www.detroitveteransdayparade.org](http://www.detroitveteransdayparade.org) and Daylight Savings Time
- 10 Nov 18 | USMC Birthday
- 11 Nov 18 | Great Lakes National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony at 11:00 AM
- 15 Nov 18 | VOD/PP/TOY submissions due to the district
- 04 Dec 18 | Macomb County Council Christmas Party, New Baltimore Post 7573 at 7:00PM
- 07 Dec 18 | Pearl Harbor Day
- 09 Dec 18 | District 5 Meeting, Holly Post 5587 and Pearl Harbor Day Services
- 15 Dec 18 | Resurrection and Great Lakes National Cemeteries Wreaths Across America, 9:00 AM
- 25 Dec 18 | MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31 Dec 18 | Poppy Orders Due

**2019**

- 01 Jan 19 | HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 06 Jan 19 | District 5 VOD/PP/TOY Banquet, New Baltimore Post 7573, Doors open at 1:00 PM, Dinner at 2:00 PM
- 24-27 Jan 19 | Mid-Winter Conference, Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo MI.
- 24 Feb 19 | Day of Challenges, Michigan Technological University, have fun swimmingScotty!
- 10 Mar 19 | Daylight Savings Time
- 13 Mar 19 | K-9 Veteran's Day
- 17 Mar 19 | Happy St. Patrick's Day
- 06 Apr 19 | Past Commanders/Past Presidents Banquet, Waterford Post 1008 Doors open at 1:00 PM, Dinner at 2:00 PM (date changed)

**Our District Meetings Follows:**

**2018**

- 09 Dec 18 | Holly Post 5587, 10:00 AM Pearl Harbor Observance and Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) Training/Stated Meeting at 1:00 PM

**2019**

- 17 Feb 19 | District and POW/MIA Memorial Service Eastpointe Post 6782, 10:00 AM training/Stated Meeting at 1:00 PM
- 28 Apr 19 | Waterford Post 1008, 10:00 AM Awards/Stated Meeting at 1:00 PM (date changed)

Macomb County Council Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.  
Oakland County Council Meetings are held the Second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM.



*Happy Holidays*

## VFW Post 423 and Auxiliary Host Centenarian Birthday Party for Jack McClary

World War II veteran celebrates 100th birthday, reflects on war

Story by Ryan Stanton ryanstanton@mlive.com, reprinted with permission

ANN ARBOR, MI - As American troops fought their way through the mountains of Italy during the Allied advance to Rome in World War II, Michigan native Jack McClary regularly took fire from German forces while sticking his neck out as a U.S. Army forward observer.

"I was the spotter," said McClary, who used a telescope to gather precision intelligence on the enemy and worked usually with a four-person crew to radio back and call in artillery strikes.

"As we went forward, we would fight our way forward, but when they would fire back, I would leave my observation," said McClary, who took cover in mountainside foxholes to avoid the crossfire.

McClary, who was drafted into the Army in 1941 and rose to the rank of captain, also trained artillerymen how to fire at fast-moving Nazi airplanes, the Luftwaffe, by having them practice on streamers pulled behind remote-controlled drone aircraft. He recalls one particular day in Italy when that training paid off.

"We were being attacked by Hitler's aircraft," he said. "By that time, I had trained enough men that we had a machine gun sitting on top of the driver's compartment of every third truck. So, when one of Hitler's aircraft came at us, very fast, and attacked, my machine gunners opened fire on them as they approached."

McClary said they watched as the German plane flopped, crashed and "went kaboom."

For his service in the war, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the nation's fourth highest honor for military heroism.

Now more than 73 years since Nazi Germany surrendered and fighting in Europe ended in May 1945, McClary is reflecting on his time in the war and speaking openly about it in a way he hadn't before.

"A lot of stories are coming out now," said his son, Keith McClary of Ann Arbor. "All the time growing up, he would not talk about the war."

A Grand Rapids native and former Ann Arborite who lives in nearby Milan, Jack McClary celebrated his 100th birthday with friends, family and fellow veterans at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 423 just outside Ann Arbor on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 18.

His actual birthday was Nov. 7, but longtime friend Vance McCrumb, along with some others, decided a special celebration was in order and helped arrange Sunday's event, which featured singing, food and special tributes honoring the centenarian.

The past 100 years of his life were laid bare on a table full of dozens of old family photos going back to when he was a baby.

"I've known Jack for probably 35 years. He and I served on the session at our Presbyterian church together," said McCrumb, a 74-year-old Vietnam veteran, who describes his 100-year-old friend as a pretty sharp guy. "He kept saying, 'I want to be 100, I want to live to be 100,' and Nov. 7 he turned 100."

On Sunday, Jack McClary was presented with a special tribute signed by Gov. Rick Snyder and other state lawmakers representing Washtenaw County, saying his life "has been characterized by a deep commitment to service and leadership" and he "has dedicated himself to ensuring the greatest quality of life for those in his country."

U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, also presented a special congressional tribute, wishing the World War II veteran a happy 100th birthday and thanking him for his service.

Jack McClary said war is no fun and it wasn't his choice to join the Army, but he was drafted and it was his duty. He served under four-star General Mark W. Clark in the Fifth Army.

He recalls he and his fellow troops making their way through Africa and catching a train to Algiers before traveling by boat to Italy to fight against German forces there.

Walberg noted Jack McClary "went on to do distinguished things" after the war, earning a bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Michigan and going to work for the Ford Motor Co., followed by a career as a hospital financial officer.

He also was a professor of economics at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, and chapter president for the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Jack McClary worked at the UM Hospital in Ann Arbor before going to Cook County Hospital in Chicago and then St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center in Minnesota, specializing in turning hospitals around.

"He would go in and fix broken systems and help them run it so they could help more people," said Keith McClary. "He did what he could as a brilliant accountant, and he made it possible to save lives, and that was his theme throughout. He wanted to make sure that people had better lives, so he focused on that, and same with my mom."

In December 1945, after the war, Jack McClary married his wife, Betty, a childhood friend who spent her career as a nurse.

They had three sons -- Michael, Daniel and Keith -- and were married for 69 years until she died in 2014 at the age of 90.

Keith McClary said he was still finishing high school in Ann Arbor when his father took a job in Chicago.

"He was commuting back and forth from Ann Arbor to Chicago for the first two years. I was finishing up high school and my mom stayed with me," he said. "While he was there, he had a place on the north side of Chicago. Well, rush-hour Chicago traffic is a nightmare, so he got an Indian motorcycle and his leathers. He would ride in on the motorcycle to Cook County Hospital and put on his suit and be a CFO, and then he put on his leathers and biked back out for a couple of years."

He added, "I didn't even know about the motorcycle until a few years ago when I found the leathers and reconditioned them."

In August, just a few months shy of turning 100, Jack McClary suited up once again and went for a ride in the sidecar of an Indian motorcycle, with a police escort leading the way from Milan to Tecumseh and back, and more than 70 motorcycles following.

Mark Taylor of Foundation 14, a nonprofit that supports combat veterans, made the special ride happen.

Keith McClary said his father is still in relatively good health at age 100 and was living on his own in his Milan home until earlier this year when he had a slip and fall accident and then a lung infection. Jack McClary is on oxygen now, though he can still walk using a cane or walker, and his son is staying with him while he continues to recover.

Sitting next to Jack McClary at his birthday celebration on Sunday was his younger sibling, 85-year-old Al McClary, who said his brother was determined to make it to 100. He said their sister died in her 50s back in 1976, but other family members have lived longer.

"Everybody else in our family has gone at 92, a few of them before that, but the oldest were 92," Al McClary said.

"I don't hope to make 100," he added. "It's not fun getting old. Probably the reason he's made it so far is because he exercised a lot, he swam a lot, and he was always very active, so it showed up in his old age. He can walk. He can go up and down stairs."

A longtime member of the Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan, Jack McClary said he's happy to have made it to triple digits and he's hoping to stay around "for a bit longer."

His secret to a long life?

"It's just outlasting everyone," he said.



Centenarian Jack McClary



mLive.com reporter, Ryan Stanton, interviews Jack McClary.



U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, also presented a special congressional tribute.



Jack's brother, Jack McClary, U.S. Rep. Walberg, and Post Commander Douglas Brinker.



VFW Auxiliary member Jean Powell shares with U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg on the significance of the event.

## VFW Macomb and Oakland County Council Youth Camp Out September 7 - 9, 2018

By Su-jen Mauldin, [sujenchin@gmail.com](mailto:sujenchin@gmail.com)



**H**ow do you teach your children, grandchildren, or nephews the value of cooperation and teamwork while they think they are just having fun? Since 1976, this is what has been happening at the Macomb and Oakland County Council Youth Camp Out. During one weekend each September, teams of 10 boys between the ages of 7

and 17 gather at Multi-Lakes Conservation Club in Commerce Township, Michigan to compete in team events for awards.

Friday night, teams of boys with their adult leaders, arrived at the camp. The teams set-up their tents and prepared for a quiet evening. Friday night is a time to get acquainted with the location of all the important places, like the mess hall, campfire, events, and especially, the latrine (porta potty).

Saturday was a busy day! The day started early with Scout Troop 102 raising the colors. Then the volunteer cooks served breakfast for nearly 100 attendees. After breakfast, the competition began. Teams were assigned times to compete in five different events: Compass Course, Rifle Range, Team Building Course, Drug & Safety, and Archery. The boys spend the day working together to accomplish one goal, "victory for their team."

The Compass Course contains several checkpoints that must be found with the use of a compass, including shooting an azimuth. Each checkpoint is marked with a symbol that the boys must identify and report to the adult timekeeper. Points are earned based on the finishing time.

On the Rifle Range, under adult supervision, each boy fires 10 rounds from a single shot .22 rifle. All Rifle Safety rules must be followed. Points are earned for each shot by location in the bull's eye or scoring rings of the target.

The boys have to tackle the Team Building Course with gusto. They must run the course following the instructions at several designated obstacles. As a team, they work together on multi-person skis to move the skis forward; walk the plank; step through tires; maneuver through a spider web of rope without touching the web; two (2) participants must push a wheelbarrow with a bowling ball in it keeping it from falling out; and complete a 1/8 mile run not running any faster than the slowest runner. The team earns points for teamwork as well as the time clocked by the slowest team member. Therefore, it is important that the boys help their team members and encourage them not to quit trying.

The Drug and Safety competition is a question and answer session. The boys are given Safety Books, donated by Community Safety Net, at registration to review. Questions from the book are asked. Points are earned for correct answers. All incorrectly answered questions are discussed, ensuring that all the boys have a learning experience that could help them in an emergency.

On the Archery Range, the boys shoot five to ten arrows each at a stationary target while obeying all of the Safety Rules. Points are earned for each shot by location in the bull's eye or scoring rings of a target.

Of course, the completion had to be halted around noon to allow both boys and adults to refuel and lunch was served. Waiting for the boys after lunch was a fire truck and an EMT vehicle with their crews. They boys asked a lot of questions and had a blast climbing in and out of the trucks.

After the competition was completed, the adults that manned the events spent the evening adding up all the scores that determined the team's success. Dinner was served to the participants, and the kitchen had to be cleaned, once again, by the adult volunteers. After dinner, the boys gathered around the campfire and told stories, performed skits, and enjoyed the star-filled evening. The colors were retired for the night and the boys were off to their sleeping bags.

Sunday sunrise came early and Scout Troop 9914 raised the flag and breakfast was served. After breakfast, everyone gathered around the campfire where every youth participant received an achievement ribbon for their success. The VFW Post(s) also received a plaque to recognize their team's accomplishment at the Youth Camp Out. Scout Troop 9914 lowered colors and the weekend was declared a success as the teams packed up and headed home.

The success of the weekend is credited to the hard work of Comrade Don Kuffner, Youth Camp Out Chairman; volunteers that ran the individual events (cooked, cleaned, and watched the fire); all Macomb and Oakland County VFW Posts that not only sponsored their own teams but contributed financial support to the camp out; the Commerce Township Fire Department and EMT; and all of the sponsors that donated their services and monetary support.

Next year's Youth Camp Out will be held September 6-8, 2019. Questions and inquiries can be made to VFW Youth Camp Out Chairman, Don Kuffner, 24222 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48033 or telephone at (248) 971-5844.

## National Home Says Farewell to Merridy Lewis November 1, 2018

The National Home celebrated the service of Merridy Lewis, at this year's Annual Meeting of Life Members in October.

Merridy has served as a member of the VFW National Home for Children Board of Trustees since October of 2012. As District 7 Trustee, Merridy represented the Departments of Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Merridy, of Michigan, joined the VFW Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1993 and is a member of Augusta VFW Auxiliary #7656.

She served as Auxiliary President for eight years, District President for two terms and currently holds the office of District Secretary. In addition to holding several Department chairmanships and winning National awards, Lewis serves on the Fort Custer National Cemetery

Advisory Committee and on a Red Flag Team that helps troubled VFW Auxiliaries.

Lewis studied Business Management at Kalamazoo Valley Community College for two years. She has managed a bowling center and ran a licensed day care business.

"We are grateful to Merridy for her dedication to her beloved VFW Auxiliary and to our veterans—and her service to their children and families here at the National Home will be long-remembered by all of us who have served by her side," said fellow trustee and outgoing Board President, Dave Ouellette at the Annual Meeting.

"Thank you Merridy for your service and dedication to your VFW National Home for Children."

God  
Bless  
America

Bring  
Our  
Troops  
Home  
Safe



**John Griffith**

Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Jr. Vice Commander  
**2019-2020**



*Endorsed and Supported by  
6th District  
VFW Post 4093  
and Family*

**Phil Patterson**

Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
National Council of Administration  
**2019-2023**



*Supported and Endorsed by  
Post 6695  
and his Wife and Family*

**Kevin Conklin**

Candidate for  
Department of Michigan  
Jr. Vice Commander  
**2019-2020**



*Veterans of Foreign Wars  
2019-2020*

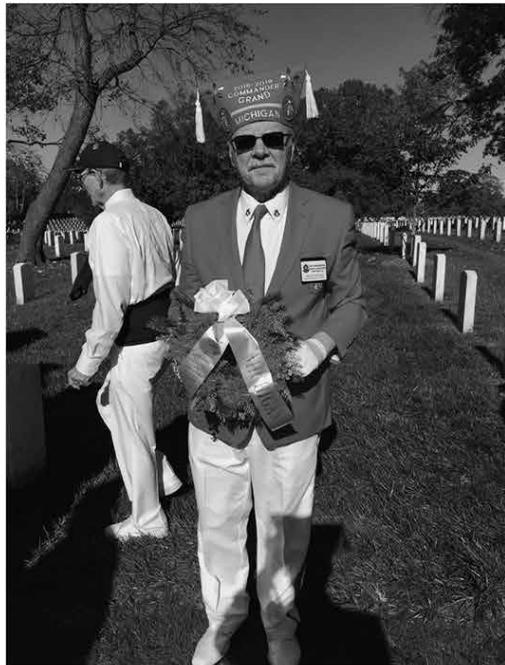
**Jerry Gorski**

Candidate for  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
ADMINISTRATION  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
**2019-2023**

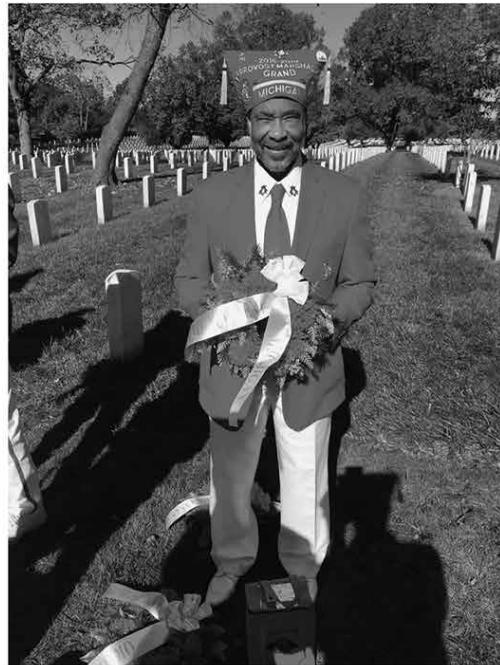


*Endorsed by Post 2645  
Macomb County Council  
Oakland County Council  
District 5 and My Family*

**Wreaths Are Placed at the Argonne Tomb  
by Members of the Military Order of the Cootie**



Grand Commander of Michigan Patrick Henderson.



Grand Provost Marshall of Michigan Horace Frazier.



Grand Jr. Vice President of Michigan Rosalyn Dandridge



**Argonne Cross (WWI)**

During the period from April 1920 through July 1921, the remains of many servicemen buried in Europe during World War I were disinterred. These remains were either reinterred in selected cemeteries in Europe or returned to the United States. Of these, the remains of about 2100 were reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery, specifically, in Section 18. The Argonne Cross was erected to their memory and in their honor. It is situated in the southwest corner of Section 18 and faces east. A grove of 19 pine trees are on 3 sides of the Cross (North, West and South) are symbolic of the Argonne Forest where many of the men fought.

**Department Mid-Winter Conference Representative,  
Thomas T. Tradewell, Sr. Commander-in-Chief 2009-2010  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**



Phoenix, AZ. Tradewell served in the U. S. Army from 1966-1968 and earned VFW eligibility while serving with B Company 26th Engineers 198th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) in South Vietnam as a demolition specialist. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal. Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander 1999-2000. He served as national inspector general in 2001-2002. He also served

as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005. Tradewell earned an associate degree in industrial safety. Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service. He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. Tradewell married Sharon in 1966, and they make their home in Sussex, WI.

**Past District 4 Commander  
(2017-2018) Gary Gamble**



It was truly an honor to receive the All-American District Commander's Cap and Certificate from VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman at the VFW National Convention in Kansas City.

I am humbled and honored to have had the opportunity to lead District 4 as your Commander. I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to lead District 4 that is rich with hard working and dedicated comrades. The comrades of District 4 are working very hard to make a difference in the life of a veteran and their community and the statistics and results clearly support that!

I am very proud that District 4 finished in first place at 101.16 percent in membership. We led in membership for most of the year due to the hard work of District 4. In addition, District 4 was the only district in the Department to be 100 percent reported in hospital activity and community service. The 24 posts that make up District 4 had many achievements and accomplishments for 2017-2018, and I am very proud of all their success. A job well done!

I sincerely thank and salute every Comrade and Auxiliary member who supported me, District 4, and the mission of the VFW for 2017-2018.

Kind regards.

**Subject of the Month**

**Submitted by District 10 Commander Don Callaway**

Hello Comrades,

This month, I would like to only talk about one subject, survival. Many Posts in our district, our Department, and the national organization are in what seems to be survival mode. As combat veterans, this is not something new to us. We have seen it before and we did adapt and we did survive.

Membership is the key to survival. Without new members, we can only survive so long. Many Posts have closed in recent years because the only members willing to hold an elected position are physically unable to continue or they have passed away. This trend can be changed simply by becoming involved at any level you feel comfortable at, elected or appointed or by volunteering to learn a job for future opportunities.

The Bylaws state that a Post officer must be a member of that Post in good standing. That means if the member is not a life member, the annual dues must be current. If a Post officer is removed from office, that member is not eligible to hold any office for the remainder of that year. If you happen to belong to a Post that has a list of members waiting to serve as an officer, that is wonderful. However, if your Post is like most of us, it would be wise to make sure your newly elected officers are paid up a year in advance or help them to become life members, help your Post survive.

I guess what it all comes down to is survival. A post with only one or two members doing all the work will not survive for long. A post with officers being removed for something as simple as annual dues will not survive for long. A post with officers that do not know the requirements set forth by the Department and National will not survive for long, and a Post with officers who do not ask questions or seek help will not survive for long.

**Are You at a Loss  
on How to Help a  
Loved One with PTSD?  
This Is What You Can Do!**

**Submitted by Stan Popovich**

Do you know someone who is in the military or is a veteran who struggles with PTSD and don't know how to help them?

Are you not sure how to help a family member or colleague get relief and stop their suffering from PTSD and other fear related issues?

If so, here are eight helpful tips to help the person cope in these kinds of situations.

1. Learn as much as you can in dealing PTSD, Anxiety, and Depression. There are many books and information that will educate you on how to deal with PTSD and mental health issues. Share this information with the person who is struggling. The main point is that the person who is struggling gets as much information as possible on how to overcome their PTSD. In addition, other family members should be aware on how to deal with someone who is struggling without making things worse. Education is the first step in overcoming a person's mental health issues.

2. Be understanding and patient with the person struggling with their fears: Dealing with PTSD, depression, and anxiety can be difficult for the person so do not add more problems than what are already there. Do not make things worse by getting into arguments with someone who is suffering. Yelling at your loved one with PTSD will only make things worse.

3. Talk to the person instead of talking at them: It is important not to lecture the person who is struggling with PTSD. Talk to the person about their issues without being rude. Most people will listen if you approach them in a proper manner. It is also important to listen to what they have to say so you get an idea of where that person is coming from.

4. Get the person to see a PTSD Counselor: It is very important to get the person who is struggling with PTSD to talk to a professional counselor. A counselor can give advice and ideas on how to overcome PTSD. Getting advice from a professional is the number one priority in helping your loved one deal with their mental health issues.

5. Find Out The Reasons Why The Person Won't Get Assistance: Some PTSD sufferers may not want to get help for various reasons. If this happens, find out the reasons why that person won't talk to a counselor. Many people who are struggling are fearful and frustrated. Try to find out the reasons why he or she won't get the advice they need and then try to find ways that will overcome their resistance to seeking treatment. Addressing a person's issues and fears of getting assistance will go a long way in helping your loved ones.

6. Some people in the military may think that getting help is a sign of weakness. In this case, remind your loved ones that they are not asking for help. Instead, they are learning how to overcome their PTSD. Remind your military friends and fellow veterans that when they were in the military, they had to constantly learn new ways of doing things. Every member of the military had to learn new things on a regular basis during their time in the service. Dealing with PTSD is no different. There is nothing wrong with learning new things; whether you're learning how to start a new job, learning a new hobby, learning how to drive a car, or learning how to deal with your fears and PTSD. Learning is learning and there is nothing wrong with that.

7. Find a local veteran's support group for your loved one. It is also important that the person who is struggling join a local veteran's support group so they can get advice from other veterans. Many people who have been in the military and are struggling with PTSD will be better able to relate to other veterans who may have similar experiences and insights.

8. How To Deal With The Nightmares: Many veterans and military members who have been in combat may get nightmares regarding their past war time experiences. It is not easy to stop the nightmares, but you can start to reduce the frequency of these dreams by getting advice from a PTSD counselor or local veteran's group. The more time you spend in getting assistance to address your PTSD issues, the better the chances that you will be able to reduce those nightmares. Some veterans turn to drugs and alcohol to fix their problems, but that will only make things worse. In addition, suicide is not the answer.

**Detroit Red Wings Announce Our  
Annual Military Appreciation Night**

The Detroit Red Wings are proud to announce our annual Military Appreciation Night will take place on January 15th at Little Caesars Arena, Detroit. In our efforts to make sure the invitation reaches all current and former military members in Michigan, we are asking for your help in sharing information for this celebration of the men and women who have fought to protect our country. Please share the flyer that has information on our Military Appreciation Night ticket package with your membership via bulletin boards, websites, or social media platforms ([www.detroitredwings.com/militarynight](http://www.detroitredwings.com/militarynight)).





Nate Powell, Editor

Editorial Committee:  
 Phil Patterson, Commander  
 Mike Fineis, Sr. Vice Commander  
 Scott Gloger, Jr. Vice Commander  
 Linda Gloger, Aux. Committee Member

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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

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

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

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

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 (517) 485-9456

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\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Last Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (First Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Age) (Date of Death)

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 (Post)

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 (City)

**Branch (Circle One):**

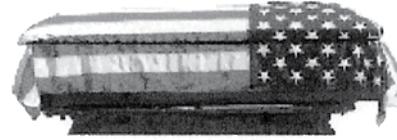
USA USA USN  
 USMC USAF USCG

**Served In (Circle One):**

WWI WWII Korea  
 Vietnam Gulf Other

**Occupation Forces**

**OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
 A VETERAN DIED TODAY**



Listed in Order of Post | Location | Last Name | First Name | Age | Service/War

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>345 REDFORD</b><br>COPLEY HARRY W. 89 ARMY/KOREA/VIETNAM    | <b>3897 L'ANSE</b><br>BOGDA ROGER L. 71 ARMY/KOREA             | <b>6464 FOWLerville</b><br>MORGAN CARL 91 ARMY/WWII           |
| <b>423 ANN ARBOR</b><br>CARTER CHESTER 90 MARINES/WWII         | MATTSON GERALD W. 65 ARMY/VIETNAM                              | <b>6507 CHASSELL</b><br>KLANN HOWARD F. 65 ARMY/VIETNAM       |
| LOPER ROBERT 93 ARMY/WWII                                      | <b>3925 ERIE</b><br>ELLISON DONALD L. 85 ARMY/GERMANY          | <b>6782 EASTPOINTE</b><br>MASTERS TOM 88 ARMY/KOREA           |
| PRUDER GERALD 86 MARINES/KOREA                                 | <b>4005 CORUNNA</b><br>KIMMERER DONALD D. 87 ARMY/KOREA        | <b>6898 FREMONT</b><br>DARE KENNETH R. SR. 84 ARMY/KOREA      |
| VENCIL MICHAEL 92 MARINES/WWII                                 | MARCELLUS ABRAMS HARRY 96 MARINES/WWII                         | <b>7646 PELKIE</b><br>HANNINEN ELMER E. 95 ARMY/WWII          |
| WARD ROSS 83 NAVY  | <b>4106 WEIDMAN</b><br>ARMBRUSTMACHER ROBERT 88 ARMY/KOREA     | <b>8236 FLINT</b><br>BIBBS ARCH O. 92 WWII                    |
| <b>607 ROGERS CITY</b><br>CURTIS JOHN A. 87 NAVY/KOREA         | <b>4167 MASS CITY</b><br>PANTTI CARL I. 74 ARMY/KOREA          | <b>9021 WARREN</b><br>CORRADI LOUIS A. 80 NAVY/KOREA          |
| <b>796 PORT HURON</b><br>ABERNATHY THOMAS D. 73 ARMY/VIETNAM   | <b>4230 ROCKWOOD</b><br>JAMES DWAIN E. 94 WWII                 | FLIGER ROBERT J. 94 NAVY/WWII                                 |
| DEANDA HENRY R. 56 ARMY/KOREA                                  | PFEIFFER DONALD J. 72 ARMY/GERMANY                             | GREEN PAUL G. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM                                 |
| MAYER MATTHEW G. 91 MARINES/WWII                               | <b>4461 LAKE ODESSA</b><br>MORRIS FREDERICK 98 ARMY/WWII       | GRYTZELIUS FLOYD 73 ARMY/WWII                                 |
| REMICK CHARLES F. 87 ARMY/GERMANY                              | <b>4499 MANISTEE</b><br>BATZER THOMAS W. 75 NAVY/VIETNAM       | HIRT HARRY J. 76 ARMY/VIETNAM                                 |
| <b>1519 NORTHVILLE</b><br>KAPOLNEK GEORGE 92 ARMY/WWII         | CONWAY HARRY 90 ARMY/WWII/KOREA                                | HOWELL ROGER L. 64 ARMY/VIETNAM                               |
| RIOPELLE EDWARD 83 NAVY/KOREA                                  | FEAGINS HARLESS 91 NAVY/WWII                                   | KALASOUSKY WILLIAM A. 71 ARMY/WWII                            |
| ROBERTS WILLIAM 93 NAVY/WWII                                   | McMULLEN WILLIAM 80 ARMY/KOREA                                 | MATERAZZI ALDO A. 86 MARINES/KOREA                            |
| <b>1887 MENOMINEE</b><br>ANDERSON JACK W. 86 ARMY/KOREA        | OLEN HAROLD 89 ARMY/WWII/KOREA                                 | NEELSEN ALBERT 100 ARMY/WWII                                  |
| DIONNE CLARENCE JR. 86 NAVY/KOREA                              | WILLIAMS HUGH L. 90 NAVY/WWII                                  | NOWAKOWSKI ADAM E. 99 ARMY/WWII                               |
| HAMM ROBERT G. 82 MARINES/KOREA                                | <b>4624 HUBBELL</b><br>SCHMITT BERNARD 94 WWII                 | O'Rourke MICHAEL J. 69 MARINES/VIETNAM                        |
| MATTSON CLARENCE J. ARMY/WWII                                  | <b>4803 FELCH</b><br>THUNELL ERNEST E. 98 WWII                 | PIEPZYK JOSEPH P. 81 MARINES/KOREA                            |
| PLUDE IVAN I. 92 ARMY/WWII                                     | <b>5114 St. IGNACE</b><br>MASSEY MICHAEL 71 ARMY/VIETNAM       | WAGNER THURMAN R. 84 MARINES/WWII/<br>KOREA/VIETNAM           |
| WAZNIAK WILLIAM J. ARMY/WWII                                   | <b>5189 VICKSBURG</b><br>COSNELL HARRY 93 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII  | ZAKRIN JOHN JR. 90 ARMY/WWII                                  |
| <b>2144 HOLLAND</b><br>BARNES KENNETH L. 71 NAVY/VIETNAM       | WALTERS HARRIS 94 ARMY/WWII                                    | <b>9023 BRIMLEY</b><br>HARWOOD RONALD 85 NAVY/KOREA           |
| MEYERS LEON L. 92 ARMY/WWII                                    | <b>5585 EMMETT</b><br>CONLEY WILBUR 92 ARMY/WWII               | <b>9222 BERKLEY</b><br>SINACOLA FRANK 94 NAVY/WWII            |
| <b>2725 FRANKENMUTH</b><br>MITCHELL DORIS 93 ARMY/WWII         | POWERS ALBERT 92 ARMY/WWII                                     | <b>9345 BRUCE CROSSING</b><br>BEZOTTE DOUGLAS E. 92 ARMY/WWII |
| <b>3134 IRON RIVER</b><br>GODFREY SAMUEL W. 90 ARMY/WWII       | <b>5602 SIX LAKES</b><br>BURNS ALLAN E. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM        | <b>9377 PLAINWELL</b><br>BURHANS CLIFFORD 91 ARMY/WWII/KOREA  |
| PETROFF JACK G. 90 ARMY/WWII                                   | <b>5666 FLUSHING</b><br>DENEEN WILLIAM 89 ARMY/KOREA           | <b>9656 LAMBERTVILLE</b><br>SCHMIDLIN CHARLES 86 NAVY/KOREA   |
| <b>3293 GRAND LEDGE</b><br>CHAMBERLIN TERRY L. 74 NAVY/VIETNAM | <b>5822 BYRON</b><br>BRADEN ROBERT E. 96 ARMY/WWII             | <b>9714 CHATHAM</b><br>NUMMELA URHO 96 ARMY/WWII              |
| <b>3673 BESSEMER</b><br>ROONI MELVIN D. 81 ARMY/KOREA          | <b>5977 MILAN</b><br>PRICHARD CHARLES 93 NAVY/WWII             | PRAZNIK LOUIS 93 ARMY/WWII                                    |
| <b>3674 IRON MOUNTAIN</b><br>HOSKING ROBERT P. AIR FORCE/WWII  | <b>6165 SOUTH RANGE</b><br>KIISKILA JOHN A. 87 ARMY/WWII/KOREA |   |
| KEGEL ROBERT K. 96 ARMY/WWII                                   |  |   |
| PACKMAN THOMAS W. 79 ARMY                                      |  |   |
| <b>3676 SAULT STE MARIE</b><br>BELANGER GARY W. NAVY/VIETNAM   |  |   |
| PRISTELSKI JOHN J. 62 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM<br>PERSIAN GULF        |  |   |

**VFW - NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

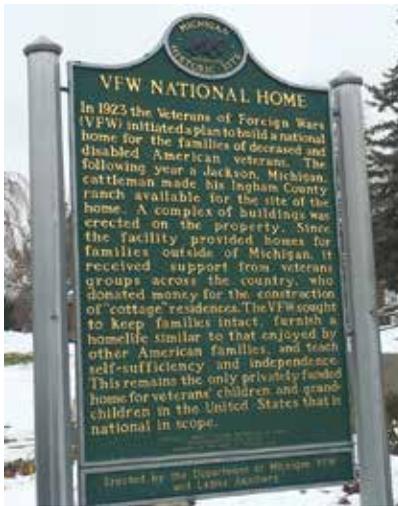


**State District Commanders Receive High Honors at the VFW Department of Michigan Fall Conference and the VFW 119th National Convention**



*Past District 4 Commander Gary Gamble (left) was the only District Commander in the VFW Department of Michigan to earn the coveted All-American Team District Commander honors (2017-2018). Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman (center) honored Gamble in July 2018 at the 119th VFW National Convention in Kansas City, MO. Gamble holds his All-American Team District Commander cap in his hand. Only two District commanders received All-State District Commander. They were Gamble and Past District 5 Commander Michael Oleksiak (right). They had their photo taken with Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman at 90th Fall Conference in September 2018 wearing their All-State District Commander cap in Boyne Highlands, MI.*

**Annabelle Furgason Elected to the Board of Trustees of the VFW National Home for Children**



Eaton Rapids, MI –Annabelle Furgason was installed on Saturday, October 27nd, 2018 as one of two new Trustees on the VFW National Home for Children’s Board of Trustees. Anabelle was elected by National Home Life Members to represent VFW and Auxiliary Departments of Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin as District 7 Trustee. She replaces Merridy Lewis from Michigan. Her term will expire in 2024.

Annabelle was born in Eaton Rapids, MI. Her father was a WWII Prisoner of War and she learned love of family God and Country from his inspirational story. Her mother brought her to the National Home as Auxiliary Jr. Girls Chairman in 1982 and Annabelle held that chairmanship for ten years.

Annabelle became a Life Member of the VFW Auxiliary in 1996 and has held many officer and chairman positions within the Auxiliary and District. Annabelle achieved Department of Michigan Auxiliary President in 2012-2013. For nearly fifteen years, Annabelle volunteered at VFW Camp Trotter for Children and subsequently became an employee of the camp for two years. Annabelle was Department of Michigan’s National Home Chairman and cooks each year for Ohio Day at the National Home.

Professionally, Annabelle graduated from Baker College of Business. For thirty years she was employed as head accountant overseeing eight newspapers for Booth Newspaper Group.

Since 1925, the VFW National Home for Children has provided Help, Hope and Honor for the children and families of our nation’s military and veterans. For more information please call toll-free at (866)483-9642 or visit [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org).



**Christmas Blessings to the VFW National Home for Children from the MOC-MOCA**

The Military Order of the Cootie and the Military Order of Cootie Auxiliary held their National Home Christmas Party for the “kids” at the VFW National Home for Children on December 1st, Eaton Rapids, Michigan. It was a merry success. Every child received a present from Santa whether naughty or nice. Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary President Sandy Medos had her hair shaved by the lucky raffle winner, Robert Routhier. Sandy consented to having her head shaved by the raffle winner only if Michigan Grand President Ivey Schafer, raised \$500 for the National Home for Children’s special project. Sandy’s loss was the children’s gain. On a positive note, Sandy said, “It will grow back!”

