

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Michigan

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, PHIL PATTERSON



Our year will be seriously winding down by the time you read this, but we still have some work to do. I would personally like to thank everyone for all their hard work on achieving all the goals that were set before you, not only from the State level but also from National.

We are at 99.09% in membership as of this writing and I know we will make 100%. Congratulations to the 144 Posts that are 100% and Districts 6, 8, 9 & 11 that have achieved that mark as well. I am also amazed at the number of Posts and Districts that are only a few members away from 100%, so I look forward to a lot more 100% Posts and Districts as the year comes to an end. Keep recruiting the new and reinstates and work extra hard on the ones already in that haven't paid their dues yet this year. You may have to get a list of the unpaid and go knocking on doors; sometimes they just want that personal attention. One person cannot do it alone; it takes an entire team and that team is all of us, it is going to take all of us to achieve our goal.

Editor : Stacey Roberts
 mov@vfwmi.org
 VFW Dept. of Michigan
 (517) 485-9456
 vfwmi.org
 924 N Washington Ave
 Lansing, MI 48906
 Facebook.com/vfwmi

I would like to thank the District Commanders for all their hard work this year, we still have some work to do so please do not stop now. You can see there has been a change in the leaders, but everyone is still close; so, keep up the good work. As everyone who has talked to me knows I am a membership person. Without the members we will be an extinct organization without the ability to help our veterans and families, and I know the membership of this organization will not allow that to happen. All of our other programs are a very integral part of this organization and we will still need to continue to keep them at the forefront. Read your programs and keep working, ...
 ... continued on page 2

MAILING ADDRESS



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, PHIL PATTERSON AND DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, SANDY MEDOS

On Saturday, April 13th, many gathered at the fantastic Pohlcat Golf Course in Mount Pleasant for Department Commander Phil Patterson's & Department President Sandy Medos' testimonial.

Quite a few guests arrived on Friday to take part in the golf outing on the champion-style course designed by PGA Tour pro, Dan Pohl. Although the course was amazing, the weather could have cooperated a little better. All in all, fun was had by all participants.

The dinner was phenomenal with brisket, bbq ribs, green beans and more. Dinner was followed by presentations of gifts both to and from Phil and Sandy.

Phil received a custom wood plaque from the 2018-2019 Honor Guard, a gun safe from the Council of Administration and his directors and a quilt of valor from Sandy among many others.

Sandy received a crystal bear from Phil, a beautiful bird feeder from her officers and a trip to Hawaii. Send some sunshine back here to Michigan for us Sandy! Sandy also received gifts from her family and others.

Overall, the event was a huge success and the facility was wonderful. Hope everyone had a nice time.

See more photos on page 10.



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

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CONTINUED ...

... I know that with your help this Department can return to the higher standards we once enjoyed. Make sure you report all the things you do and get the community involved in our great work.

I hope that everyone enjoyed themselves at the Commanders and President Testimonial. Thank you for coming out and celebrating our year with us it was a great time and even better to be able to enjoy each other's company. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention. I would personally like to congratulate all the newly elected officers at the Post and District levels for stepping forward to lead their Posts & Districts on this upcoming year. There have been some very tough decisions that have had to be made this year to get everything back in line with where they should be. Some of these decisions were popular and

some were not but I have done my very best to make this Department better than it was when I took over and I am sure our new Commander will try and do the same.

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 that I have not been out this year actively campaigning, I am asking for your support. My first and only responsibility was to take care of the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and all its members, after all that is what you elected me to do.

I would like to thank all veterans for their service to our great country, the United States of America.

TEAM-BUILDING, TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, MIKE FINEIS



Congratulations to all the All-State winners. Thank everyone who helped you achieve this honor. Teamwork is the name of the game

Comrades this past year as your Senior Vice has been most enjoyable for me. We have shared many laughs, thoughts and ideas, thank you. I'm a firm believer in working hard and playing harder. If this atmosphere is missing in your post lets work together to create it. A post that does not have fun will find it difficult to recruit members.

"I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself. A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough without ever having felt sorry for itself".
 By D. H. LAWRENCE

Comrades the above poem is entitled "SELF PITY". Comrades, too many of us are in the state of self-pity "We can't get enough members to a meeting. We can't get the chairs filled". For those of you in the above situation ask yourself this: do I have a decent Membership Letter? If not try this one ...

Dear Veteran,
 For those of you who have been turned off about the VFW, for whatever reason, know the following. Every organization has a "know it all" that does little---but complain. Every organization has a "ladder climber" who does not care who they step on to climb the ladder. Every organization has those who would take what is not theirs. Allow me to address the negative personnel above. Be above them. Find someone to vent to and then go back to work. Work with me. We need your membership. Your membership helps our National Commander when he goes before congress to fight for our entitlements and benefits. Give him the strength in numbers by renewing your membership.

"I am not ashamed to confess that I am ignorant of what I do not know." By Cicero, Roman Statesman.

Comrades look to the knowledgeable people in your district. Ask them if they would be willing to mentor you. Utilize the assets in your district to get the answers you need. Purchase a new By-Law book. National changes the rules every year, therefore, be current. Try to remember that Department has 270 posts to monitor, most of you have but one post.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH



Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Once more, we come to the final Chaplain's article of our organizational year. Soon will be our Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary Department Convention. May the event rally many to exercise their right to vote, to make voices heard, and to bring forth innovation rather than mere cynicism, as they can. As previously stated, this Chaplain's humble conclusion is that the worst enemy of any organization is aptly epitomized in one word... Apathy. This is not in favor of any candidate or cause but a hope

to see your passion expressed for our Department's future. In addition, this Chaplain likes to visit with you and uplift, so there is that [grin]...

Moreover, your writer extends sincere and humble gratitude for the ability to serve you. The blessing of service unto others is not material or ego-based but instead expressed in spiritual bounty. Truly, the servant receives the greatest rewards. For allowing such an opportunity, your Chaplain is humbled. Romans 12:9-12 ESV, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve

the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Last, while not a long article, hoping this one was worth your time. Lots to write and share with you, but knowing when to limit is sound skill for an author to master. Therefore, will close with a good thought and continuing prayer of fortitude for those struggling, peace for those suffering, strength for those languishing, and comfort for those in need of respite. May your respective faith groups be strongholds of hope and wisdom. Psalm 33:20 ESV, "Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield."

MAY GOD BLESS YOU



DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, LYNN PATTERSON

Here comes the busy season. I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather. Before you know it the summer will be here and gone.

Life Membership Board of Trustees approved the following will be the 2019-20 Life Member payout. The National Council of Administration concurred in that payout at its March 4, 2019 meeting.

Plan ABC - A total payout of \$9.06 for each life member (\$3.02 to each Post, Department and National).

Plan D - A total payout of \$10.44 for each life member (\$3.48 to each Post, Department and National).

Plan E - A total payout of \$21.24 for each life member (\$7.08 to each Post, Department and National).

This information will be placed in the VFW General Orders and other communications; however, I encourage Department Headquarters to also use their resources to inform the Posts in your Department of this payout. As indicated in the By-Laws, payment will be made in September 2019 for all Life Members recorded as of August 31, 2019. In addition, a payment will be made in January 2020 for all Life Members processed during the period September 1 through December 31.

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Post-Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. We highly encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS). Post-Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters. Posts that do not do election reports via VFW website are to forward them to the State Adjutant.

Post Commanders are directed to Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, which provides that each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten-dollar (\$10) delegate fee. Posts are encouraged to register their Post delegate online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or by submitting their National Convention Post and Delegate Registration form that was mailed to all Posts as part of the Election Report/Convention Registration mailing that went out in February. Advanced registration for the 119th National Conven-

tion should be mailed with each delegate's name and address to:

Convention Registration
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111.

Section 222 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure: Provides that Posts shall elect delegates and alternates to District conventions at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District convention at which District officers are to be elected: one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. Delegates and alternates to the Department conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department convention. Posts are entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election. Delegate forms are due back to Dept. Headquarters by May 22, 2019. Please get these back as soon as possible. Enter the delegates names on the back of the form. If their name is not on the form at the Department Convention they will not be able to vote for the post.

Any Post in arrears for National, Department or District dues, Poppy monies, supply monies, or other financial obligations, or failing to have the Quartermaster properly bonded, or failing to submit properly completed Quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Report shall be deprived of all representation in District, Department and National Conventions. Representation will be restored upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

Internal Revenue Service Form 990: Post Commanders should ensure that information returns are filed annually on Form 990. These forms may be obtained by calling Federal Tax Forms & Publications hot-line @ 800-829-3676. The forms must be filed on or before the 15th of the fifth month following the close of the respective annual accounting period. If gross receipts are \$50,000 or less, you need to file e-postcard 990N online. The IRS asks ONLY the heading on page one to be completed, being sure to check Box B and send it to the Ogden IRS Center, Ogden, UT 84201.

All officers are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of each and every continuous member prior to their expiration. Reports showing members 30, 60, and 90 days from expiration can be obtained by the Post Quartermaster through the Online Membership System (OMS). Commanders: On all levels are reminded that according to Section 105 of the National By-Laws, a member whose dues are unpaid after their anniversary date ceases to be a member in good standing and loses all rights of membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They shall not attend meetings or conventions and shall not participate in Post, County Council, District, Department or National functions.

Thank you for all you do daily for your Post, County Council, District and Department of Michigan VFW.

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER



Hello Comrades, Brothers & Sisters,

This year is almost coming to a close. It has been a great year traveling across the Great State of Michigan. Seeing old friends

and making new ones.

Thank you, one and all for everything you do to help our Veterans and communities for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Remember we are a team and family. We need to work together and with each other to keep and make this a great organization. It takes all of us; the VFW and the Auxiliary supporting each other.

Looking forward to seeing you at the State Convention.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, SANDY MEDOS



Hello fellow sisters and brothers.

How time has flown by. Seems like just yesterday I was installed as your Department President.

It's going to be hard to say goodbye. I have met so many great people and I am looking forward to seeing you at our Department Convention in June.

Just a couple of reminders. We still have time to get those dues in. You have done an excellent job, but we are not there yet. I know that each of our Auxiliaries can pay for just two members. That would give us our 100%. If you need help please call me.

A special note to all TRUSTEES. Do not just sign an audit that your Treasurer has handed to you. We have had problems with a few treasurers using your money for other things. Make sure you see those bank statements and receipt books. He or she may seem like the nicest person, but, as you know, money temps a lot of people.

On a better note. I hope I have served you well. I have tried to encourage you to help our Veterans first. This is why we are here. To serve and thank them for all they have done for us and our country. Don't forget to thank their families, too. I tried to help with all your problems and I am very proud to say we instituted 4 new Auxiliaries. Thank you to all of you who that aided those Auxiliaries.

In closing, I want to say thank you to all of you that have supported me throughout the year. Remember any awards we win at National Convention is our award not just mine or the chairman. You worked hard for us and deserve the credit.

See you soon and love you all.

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, KEVIN CONKLIN



Congratulations to the National VOD/PP and Teacher of the Year winners. I had the opportunity to listen to many of these great speeches and essays. The teachers and parents are doing an awesome job.

Congrats to all the posts and districts that have reached 100% in membership thus far.

Comrades, by now Post and District elections have been completed and the new officers are gearing up for the upcoming year. Please obtain the most current National and Department Bylaws. They are both available on-line or printed copies. Roberts Rules of Order is also available for your tablet through Kindle.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention in Flint. Please encourage members, by any means, to attend these conferences. We need members participating in debate, programs and training. These conferences provide opportunities for learning about what the VFW is truly about.

I had the opportunity to travel around the state this year, and I am confident that we are headed in the right direction. I met many new comrades that have some great ideas to promote the VFW programs. This is a great time for younger veterans to get involved at every level. Let's help them with guidance and encouragement.

After serving the last three years, this will be my last article as your Department of Michigan Judge Advocate. I would like to thank the PSC's and other senior members of our department that I have reached out to for assistance. Your guidance is immeasurable. I truly appreciated the encouragement the membership has given me during my tenure. I will continue to offer my knowledge and experience to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the members of the Department of Michigan.

Good luck to each of the new officers of the VFW and Auxiliary for this upcoming year. Let's have a great and successful 2019-2020.

**GOD BLESS YOU AND
GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, SCOTT GLOGER

I would like to thank everyone for all the support you have shown me for the past three years as your Membership Director.

We have been going in the right direction. At the time of, writing this we are at 99.09%.

We are also, number 1 in the Big Ten Conference. We have 144 Posts at 100% and four Districts (6, 8, 9 and 11).

Congratulations to all for all the hard work and let's keep it going!



BIG TEN CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, JERRY GORSKI

I would like to begin by once again THANKING EVERY member throughout the Department of Michigan for allowing me to continue serving you and representing you as your Big Ten Conference Chairman for 2018-2019. It is truly an honor to be from Michigan and representing Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin with 304,659 Members as of today (3/26/19). Thank you for allowing me to continue serving you!

I would like to talk now about membership. "Our Life Blood of our Great Organization". At the Big Ten Conference on October 20, 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri, 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% 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.

First, I want to CONGRATULATE State Commander Phil Patterson, State Membership Director/State Junior Vice Commander Scott Gloger and EVERY Member throughout the Department of Michigan for helping State Commander Phil Patterson "achieve" Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence's 2nd Membership Goal of 97% by March 31, 2019. On March 7, 2019, MICHIGAN "achieved" 97.01% in Membership. Today, March 26, 2019, there are (5) Departments out of (10) Departments that have achieved 97% and MICHIGAN (97.86%) is one of the (5) Departments. The other (4) Departments are Minnesota (97.73%), Wisconsin (97.70%), Ohio (97.59%) and Missouri (97.49%). Iowa is at 96.71%. I am looking forward to seeing Iowa State Commander Carol Whitmore and the Iowa Members to achieve 97% by March 31, 2019.

The last membership goal of Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence is 100% by June 30, 2019. His goal is for every Department Commander to achieve 100%. Today (3/26/19), Michigan is at 97.86%. We only

need (855) Members to Achieve 100%. I know with everyone's help, State Commander Phil will be able to achieve this goal. Thank you!

As of March 26, 2019, the results are the following: National is at 97.64%, Big Ten Conference is in 4th Place at 96.69%, Michigan is in 1st Place in the Big Ten Conference at 97.86%, Michigan is in 20th Place in the Nation at 97.86%, District 8 is in 1st Place at 100.12%, District 9 is in 2nd Place at 100.02% and District 11 is in 3rd Place at 99.06%.

CONGRATULATIONS to District 8 Commander Laverne Blauwkamp & District 8 members and District 9 Commander Shane Houghton & District 9 members for ACHIEVING 100%! I know we will have more Districts throughout the Department of Michigan who will achieve 100% by June 30, 2019! District 11 (99.06%) could be our next 100% District, I know District 11 Commander, Terry Inosencio, and District 11 members will achieve 100% by June 30, 2019!

We are doing VERY GOOD! We just need everyone's help throughout Michigan to increase our Membership even better. I know "WE CAN DO IT".

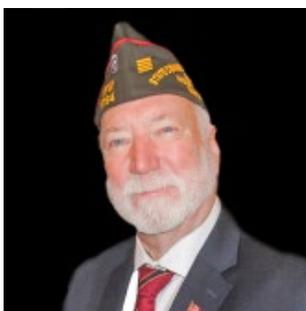
GOOD LUCK to all Districts, County Councils and Posts throughout the Department of Michigan!

Please remember, membership for 2018-2019 started on July 1, 2018 and ends on June 30, 2019. Please continue to go after the NEW, REINSTATE and CONTINUOUS members. Thank You!

Lastly, I am a Candidate for National Council of Administration for 2019-2023. I hope you will endorse me, support me and vote for me at this year's State Convention on June 8, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre 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 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.



DEPARTMENT SURGEON, DON MARTINDALE

Comrades I want to ask you to please send your activity report on the activity report form, and the hospital report on the hospital form.

Way too many comrades are sending their hospital report to Comrade Bob Lutz, Bob does not do hospital.

Remember if it smells like a hospital, looks like a hospital and quacks like a hospital send it to me. Any work you do at a hospital, nursing home, visit a sick friend at home, take a comrade or friend to a DR. appointment, or

to the hospital, send it to me using the hospital report form. If you send a hospital report to Comrade Lutz, you are causing him to do extra work to get your report to me. He usually gives me two to three sheets of paper with hospital reports on them each month.

Please think before you send in your reports activity reports go to Bob Lutz, hospital reports to Don Martindale.

Thank you all for sending your hospital reports this fiscal year and those Posts that have not reported it isn't too late. Remember report early and often.

Hospital@vfwmi.org

MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE

PGC ROBERT E. WILSON

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Members! – Throughout our travels we are asked by our VFW Comrades and friends “What is a Cootie”. The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization. We are known as “The Honor Degree of the VFW” and our members are comprised of the officers and leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is recognition of outstanding service to the VFW and its programs.

Founded in New York City on September 17, 1920, the MOC is based on the principals of good humor and fun. Over the past 100

years, the Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an Ancillary unit within the organization. Since 1923, our first year as a part of the VFW, the Cooties have worked hard to further the aims of the VFW while adding to it the frivolity known as Military Humor to the serious work of our parent organization. What would ultimately become known as the VFW National Home for Children, a sprawling campus of homes located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, started out as the brainchild of the MOC. We firmly believe in caring for the widows and children of our Armed Forces. Literally millions of dollars have been raised and donated to help “our kids” over our history;

starting with the library, swimming pool, Fire Department and a host of other projects designed to make life fun and educational for the children during their stay at the National Home.

Our service program is described as a directive to “Keep ‘em Smiling in Beds of White.” Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA Hospitals and domiciliary throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities, and their fellow comrades in arms and their families. Our distinctive red hat and unusual uniform sets us apart and draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. We sacrifice a little of ourselves to bring a smile or a laugh during what is normally a difficult time for our heroes.

We seek others like us to join and help our comrades in their times of stress and anxiety. The Grand of Michigan is proud of our new Cooties and look forward working with them in the coming months. If you would like more information about the Cooties you can check us out at our national web page lotcs.org or you can also reach us on the Grand of Michigan web page www.mocgrandofmichigan.com



“Michigan Nitpickers” for 2019-2020”

A few years back Cootie PGC Robert Routhier Jr; created the “Michigan Nitpickers” Program to provide additional funding for the Grand. This fund has helped the Grand in many ways. With our membership dropping and funds hard to come by, this program is very vital in supporting our programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request or donation to PGC Bob Routhier Jr., P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420.

In closing, Welcome aboard all our new Cooties and we look forward to hearing a lot of great works from you. Remember - membership. Without it there will be no VFW or Military Order of the Cootie. Have you brought in a new member to the organization today? If not, yet not. If so, great job! Sign a new member up today!

- KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE -

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY DIRECTOR, BOB LUTZ

Comrades here are the changes made to the activity reporting, as you can see, the far-right column explains the changes made.

I will be mailing out to all the district Commanders a packet with the dos and don'ts of reporting, every District Commander should have blank report sheets at every meeting

and should not let a post leave without filling one out, if we do this, all the Posts should be reported after the first District meeting.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at **(586)924-4591** or email me at activity@vfwmi.org

ACTIVITY DRAFT FOR 2019-2020	CS	Am	Ya	D	S	L	CHANGES
Donations to youth organizations	X		X				
Donations to other non-Veteran group	X						
Gold Star Mothers	X	X					
Donations to Veterans Groups	X	X					ADDED CS
Donate to non-Veteran funeral dinner	X						
Attending non-Veteran funeral	X						
Military Funerals	X	X					
Memorial Service for Veteran at funeral home	X	X					ADDED CS
Flag donations to youth group/school	X	X	X				
Drug program/youth	X		X	X			SEPARATED
Drug program/adults	X			X			YOUTH
Safety program/youth	X		X		X		AND
Safety program/adults	X				X		ADULTS
Flying American Flag	X	X					
Flying POW/MIA Flag	X	X					
POW/MIA Table	X	X					
Youth groups/schools	X	X	X				
Scouts	X	X	X				ADDED AM
Youth sports etc.	X		X				
National Home donations/projects	X	X	X				
National Home Michigan Day W/Colors	X	X	X				
Scholarship awards/youth	X		X				
Projects to help other organizations/individuals	X						
Projects to help other Veteran organizations/Veterans	X	X					ADDED CS
Marching in Parades	X	X	X				ADDED YA
Letters to Legislators/attending functions	X	X				X	ADDED AM
Day of Challenge	X		X				
Camp Trotter donations or work	X	X	X				ADDED AM
Sending children to Camp Trotter	X	X	X				ADDED AM
Recognition of Police/Fireman/EMT's	X	X					
Attending other Veterans meetings and discussing Veterans issues	X	X				X	
POW/MIA Remembrance	X	X					
Operation Uplink/MAP	X	X					
DELETED YOUTH PARTIES AND STATUE OF LIBERTY DONATION							

DAY OF CHALLENGES / BUTCH PAAVOLA

Thank you to everyone who sent their children to spend the day with us at the VFW/MTU/ ROTC Day of Challenges. They represented your families and their schools so very well. Special thanks to parents & cadets who were present in supervising the youth as they moved throughout the events of the day.

We had 21 teams compete this year and would have had room for more. Hancock Middle school/Homeschoolers won the overall Jr. Division trophy, while the Sr. Division was won by Copper Country Christian School.

The day was full of personal achievements,

team successes, creative efforts, and a lot of fun. We started in the deep pool with a noodle-carry swim, an equipment drop w/ weighted vest, and a push-up/dive-for-the-ring-relay. Unfortunately due to mechanical problems the high board & pool were closed.

Teams then moved to the Multi-Purpose Room for an Obstacle Course and the PT Test (relays of sprints/push-ups/sit-ups/squats, followed by a lap run carrying a large, heavy water jug).

Well-designed challenges were held in the racquetball courts: Night Vision and the

Escape Room (both new).

Laser Tag competitions were held in the Wood Gym from 10-12 and then the students were transported down to the ROTC Building on campus for a lunch put on by VFW Post 6165 South Range & Auxiliary, with assistance from posts 3900 Calumet and 6507 Chassell.

I want to thank those people and everyone who donates time and money to make this a success especially the C of A and the Dept. officers. Thanks to JR. Vice Scott Gloger who just escaped the biggest blizzard of the year for coming up and representing Department.



AUXILIARY BUDDY POPPY CHAIR, KATHY HUBBARD

Dear Members and Friends,

Hopefully all Auxiliaries are preparing for their Buddy Poppy distributions for our Veterans. A Buddy Poppy is the best way to honor our Veterans. Be sure to wear it proudly!

I am hopeful the Auxiliaries and the Posts will work together in their distributions, however it is ok for the Auxiliary to purchase and distribute them independent of the Post.

I encourage all Posts to consider ordering 500 Anniversary poppies when they reach their eligibility to use internally for special occasions.

Be sure to check your guide sheets and have everything you accomplished for the past year reported by April 20th Let's Stand United and Be Proud of what we have done for Our Veterans.

On Sunday August 4th is Michigan Day at our VFW National Home. Be sure to encourage all your members to attend. There will be a full day of fun planned for everyone. Many activities for our children and grand children along with the big challenge the Department of Ohio has with Michigan. We have been challenged to see who can reach the largest \$\$\$ value of cleaning supplies. You can get with your District Presidents for the list of needs or you can make a monetary donatio, Michigan, we can do it. We are the state of patriotic hearts helping our veterans!

Look forward to meeting everyone on Sunday August 4th. Oh, by the way, bring your walking sneakers and take part in the .1K Run. Also you can go online and be a sponsor.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR, ANDY CONKLIN

National Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Committee Member, Andy Conklin met with Michigan District 1 Congressman Jack Bergman in Washington D.C. to discuss Veteran related issues.

Shown in the image below is Mike Fineis, Department of Michigan Senior Vice Commander, Congressman Jack Bergman, Aux-

iliary Member, Lou Ann Conklin and myself (Andy Conklin).

Bergman is a retired Marine, Three Star General and a member of the Veterans Affairs committee, as well as the House Armed Services Committee. Congressman Bergman is always fully supportive of Veteran related issues.



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT VFWMI.ORG -OR- FACEBOOK.COM/VFWMI

**AUXILIARY YOUTH CHAIR,
HOLLY ALLYSON**

It has been my pleasure promoting the VFW National Auxiliary's Youth Program this year. The VFW National Auxiliary organization gave us the tools to promote patriotism in young people around the State of Michigan.

Our Auxiliaries took the guidelines and implemented them to create a positive program directed at educating and working with young people in our areas. This also benefited our Veterans and currently serving military personnel.

I have read many wonderful Requests for National Citations that were presented to youth groups around the state, such as;

- Classrooms creating cards and writing letters to hospitalized veterans and currently servicing military here at home as well as overseas
- Civics classes planning, presenting and participating in Veteran's Day events
- Bands, choirs, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts participating in Memorial Day and 4th of July parades as well as Veterans Day events.
- Classrooms and Youth Groups compiling, assembling and sending care boxes to military service personnel
- Youth Groups assisting with visits to hospitalized veterans

Our Auxiliaries have also presented Youth Patriotic Awards to various young people who have stood out for their individual patriotism.

RAP (Random Acts of Patriotism) cards and coins have been distributed to demonstrate how much VFW Auxiliaries appreciate the assistance, words and actions of young people in our local areas.

Teaching our young people the value of our veterans, their families and currently serving military is a goal of the VFW National Auxiliary and our Auxiliaries took that goal and succeeded in positive relations with our communities, our schools, our youth groups, their leaders and parents and especially for our veterans by showing them honor and appreciation.

When our troops return home, they are not receiving proper evaluations or medical care. One out of every three Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans suffer from PTSD, TBI or a combination of them due to combat trauma. Some veterans are disabled and cannot work due to combat trauma. It is usually left up to them to find the help they need.

They become frustrated and they end up in a financial mess and some become homeless. The VA claims process is very complicated and very frustrating for them to navigate. They are not automatically enrolled at the VA.

Auxiliaries have Resource Rack Cards that

VETERAN SERVICES - SUCCESS STORY**JOE GREENE**

It has been six months since my appointment to be the Director of the Department of Michigan Veteran Service Office. While it has been an absolute honor to lead this incredible organization and the outstanding team we have, I am truly humbled by the weight of what we accomplish on a daily basis. How a society treats its disabled is the true measure of a civilization, and in this regard, the VFW is truly top-shelf!

A young American enlists into the U.S. Navy and serves honorably during the first Gulf war. Presumption of soundness both mentally and physically are conceded at this time, and he completes training to be an aircraft mechanic. Within 2 years, his mental health had suffered to the point the U.S. Navy felt it in the best interest he be discharged in 1994, without any severance or transition to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It wasn't until 2009 when he filed his first claim through the VFW.

Given the time distance from service to filing, VA examiners first opined personality disorder which is excluded from compensation, and not service related either. He was only awarded 10 percent for tinnitus, denying bilateral hearing loss, and mental health condition. The VFW Service Officers have been working with this veteran since that time completing all the required forms to successfully navigate the VA's labyrinth of appeals, not once or twice, but three separate times to the Board of Veterans Appeals. Over this period of time, arguments were made, presented, and articulated by no less than 5 Veterans Service Officers, along with the ad-

ministrative staff providing documentation and listening to his ever-growing frustration.

The first BVA decision granted mental health condition as service connected. The second BVA granted an increase to 30 percent. Throughout this period, this veteran had applied for and granted SSI, and all the evidence one federal agency took to warrant occupational incompetence, the VA still felt he was fully functional even though he has not held a job since 2010. This final BVA Hearing in December reached receptive ears willing to thoroughly review not only the VA examiner records, but those records Social Security utilized as well, granting 70 percent for mental illness with individual unemployment back to his last actual job in 2010 resulting in over \$250,000.00 net award!

This is an extreme case of dogged determination and tenacity both by the veteran and the entire VFW Service Office and it turned out to be successful. However, as stated earlier, until we, as a society, can mitigate the time lapse from honorable service to benefits earned and not deal with three appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals, there is still a great deal of work for all of us in order to be truly successful.

Please feel free to contact the VFW Service Office for additional assistance at:

**477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. #1215
Detroit MI 48226**

**Ph: 313/964-6510
Fax: 313/964-6545**

Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov

NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR, JAMES HUBBARD**Dear Comrades and Friends,**

Now is the time to get ready for the New Year at the National Home for Children. Many projects need to be accomplished this year, one of the main projects this year is to see that field trips during the Summer months are accomplished, plans are being made to go to Potter Park Zoo, Andy T's Farm and MSU 4-H Children's Garden. Also remember the older children like to attend Summer Camp at Camp Trotter please plan on supporting as many children as you can from the National home as well as in your Community.

Michigan Days are coming on Sunday August 4th they will be having the annual .1K Run sponsors are needed as well as runners and walkers please sign up on line and have your Post Name on the Shirts as a Sponsor. Come and enjoy the Day bring your American Flag and Post Colors many activities are being planned this is a great time to attend and bring members who have never had the chance of visiting the National Home.

Look forward to seeing ALL Posts in Michigan there. Be sure to not miss this GREAT Time had by All.

AUXILIARY VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT, JANE DADY

have websites and phone numbers of 20 organizations and agencies that offer support.

VFW National Veterans Services (NVS) provides Service Officers at NO charge. Those officers can navigate the system and get the assistance and/or health care you need. The VA also offers Homeless Veterans services. Go to their website at www.vfw.org/assistance or you can also ask any Post member.

If you are in financial trouble, the VFW Unmet Needs program can help you with basic life needs. This is a grant not a loan. They can help with up to \$1500 help for mortgages, rent, insurance, vehicle repair, utilities, food, clothing, diapers, formula and more. Go to the

VFW website, under assistance, then financial grants.

**If you are in crisis, call
1-800-273-8255 and press 1**

To tell you "Thank you" is never enough for all you have endured. Compassion without action is just a word. The VFW and Auxiliary's compassion is shown through all the actions they provide for you.

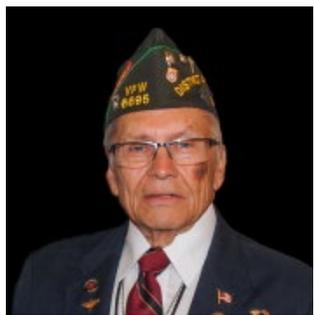
"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-- John F. Kennedy

And we do.



District Commander REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER, BOB CALDWELL

Comrades, as you are reading this, we are well into the New Year of 2019. Hope everyone enjoyed their holidays!!! District 4 was excited about making history by having the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy winners as a brother and sister. They are Michael Vena an 8th grader and Aria Vena a 10th grader both attending Divine Child. They attended our Mid-Winter Conference.

We are also very excited for District 4 to be at 95.22% in membership. Just one more big push and we will be at 100%, which has not happened in our Department in years.

As we look at the past year, it is good to reflect back and see what was positive and not so positive in our District, Posts or our personal lives. We must not lose vision of our Mission, Vets helping Vets.

In this organization, there is no room for "I" statement or actions. The VFW works as a whole team, supporting each other and looking out for one another.

Moving forward, let us remember that PTSD, anger, depression are with a lot of us and we need to think about this when we are communicating to members, not to trigger any of these emotions.

There is no room for dictatorship, micro managing, bullying members or pulling the rug out from someone and starting rumors about any member. Dirty politics do not be-

long in this organization; for every action, there is always a reaction.

We must remember the VFW is a volunteer Organization. Comrades are here because they believe in this Veteran organization. We need to keep the respect and compassion towards our members at all levels if this organization is to keep growing. Members do not want to belong to a Post, District or Department where there is finger pointing or battling over ideas. A Post with clicks makes others feel unwanted and becomes a dead Post which is cause for transfers or members-at-large. Our actions and attitudes can push members away.

The Department of Michigan is the best Department in the VFW Organization so lets keep fighting hard to keep the star shining!!!!



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER, NORMAN MAULDIN

We are almost done with my year as Commander and this will be my last article. I would like to say "Thank You" to the Fighting 5th. You have all made my

time as commander enjoyable and memorable. I am proud to have been your commander and it has been my honor to represent you.

Congratulations to George Navarrette and his crew. I wish you great success in the coming year. Thank you for keeping me on as part of your team. To all the newly elected Post Commanders, don't forget the May report is your first one for the ALL-State Program. Don't forget to report so you can get credit. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at

the podium being awarded All-State Honors.

To all the Posts that have attained 100%, keep up the hard work. As I have stated previously, membership is our organizations life blood. Post 1146 CONGRATULATIONS to you and the Auxiliary for both attaining 100% and keep up the good work. Your perseverance and dedication are commendable.

I would like to take a moment to recognize a few "hard chargers." These VFW and Auxiliary members have had to deal with and overcame significant life issues during my time as commander. Never once did they falter or hesitate in the performance of their duties or responsibilities. Rudy Wade always there and meticulous as ever as the Captain of the Honor Guard; Jim Muys stepped up to the plate for the POW/MIA remembrance service just a week after his heart attack; Gloria Dobbie I

know Bill is extremely proud of the job you did with the VOD, PP, and TOY programs; Karen Rasey with your 10 years of service as the President of Macomb and Oakland County Service Officers Association ensuring our 5th District Service Officers have the latest and greatest training; and Linda Gloger, not only the way you support the "Old Man", but the way you have ram rodded the MOV and ad books amongst other assigned duties. You guys are an inspiration to us all and one we would all do well to emulate. May the good Lord bless you richly and keep you in his care. From myself, you have my deepest respect and admiration. "Thank You" so much for all you do for our veterans.

To my VFW Wife, it has been my honor and pleasure to work with you. You will always be near and dear to my heart.



DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER, LAVERNE BLAUWKAMP

Wow what a year the 8th District is having!!! 100% for membership on March 21, 100 days before the end of the fiscal year. Congratulations to all the District officers, Post officers and members that made it happen! 16 Posts out of 26 are 100% or above, Nashville is 11 over their goal, Holland is 20 over, in total 13 Post are over 100%. 8 Posts need 5 or less, let's get those last couple of members renewed. We have signed up 58 NEW members this year let's not forget

them, talk with them and make sure they receive your Post newsletters and that you stay in touch with them and they will renew next year. Unlike we see on the news so often of Posts that are closing, we are growing! Keep up the great job and thank you so much for making it happen!

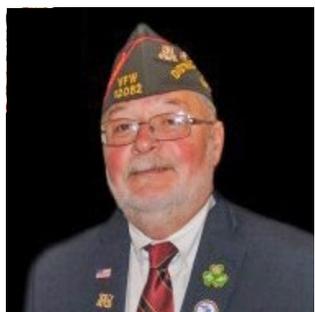
Elections should have been held already, congratulations to all our new and continuing officers making things happen. Please ensure that your election reports are filled out and sent to Department. The sooner you Commanders do it, you will not have to worry about it anymore. Let's support and mentor our new officers so they are prepared to step

up later.

Quartermasters audits are due in April lets please get them in, so they are finished and don't have to worry about getting it done and me calling you. Also don't forget to pay your Department Delegate dues if you haven't already done so.

Spring is in the air and before we know it Memorial Day will be here. Let's get out in our communities and pay tribute to our fellow Veterans that have given the ultimate sacrifice. It is great exposure for what we are all about, Veterans of Foreign Wars, No One Does More For Veterans!

Once again Thank You for all you do!!!!



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER, SHANE HOUGHTON

It's getting close to the end of my term as your district commander. I want to thank everyone who supported me and helped the district have a successful

year. The good news is 18 posts and the district have achieved 100% in membership. The first time in about 10 years.

Let's not stop here. We all can be 100% in membership.

Quartermasters, please run your list of 30,

60 and 90-day members due date report for review in your meeting. Put together a team to contact them for their dues. If you have a problem running the report, contact me and I will help you.

The years 1st quarterly audit is due the end of April. Please let me know if there is an issue with this deadline. Maybe I can help.

I would strongly urge each post quartermaster to be as transparent as possible by presenting your trustees with all the documents they need to do their job. Receipt book, Checkbook, bank statements, invoices, deposit slips, monthly reports, monthly ledgers. If you have

a canteen and gambling, they will need all of those documents also.

Trustees, your job is one of the most important in the VFW. You may be the quartermasters best friend but during the audit you need to set that friendship aside (friendship is friendship and business is business do not mix the two) Treat the audit as if it was your own money. Insist on access to all the documents you need to do this very important job. If you have a question, ask the quartermaster. Report your findings at the next post meeting.



DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER, BILLY STANCROFF

By the time this MOV gets out Richard Schafer will have been elected as 12th District Commander. This will be his third time as Commander of the District. You

would think out of the membership in the district there has to be a Comrade that would be interested in being commander? If so call me or one of the other past district commanders. If there is a member or post that needs help with the Internet we will have computers to show you how things work. Buy going to vfwmi.org you can do your reports check a list of things. Call me if you need help with this any time.

231-740-3131

At the end of March the 12th District has ten posts at 100% in Membership and ten

Posts that need 5 members or less to be 100%. Commander we have 233 unpaid members in the District at this time and we need to call these members and get them paid up. It would be nice to have the District at 100% by the end of April. If not we need to be there or more by the end of June so that maybe the Department of Michigan VFW will be 100%.

All Post needs to send their officer to Veterans Training School at Camp Trotter on June 22, 2019.

DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER, STEPHEN OLSEN

We had a very hard winter in the U.P. I hope everyone survived. I lost my front and back decks, they collapsed from the snow and ice. Good news was we had a fabulous snowmobile season, and my wife is happy, she gets 2 new decks out of it.

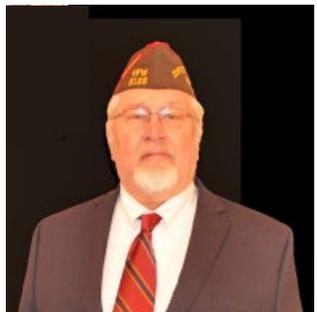
Jacobetti weathered the winter too. Bingo went on every Wednesday by the VFW, which the residents look forward to. Marquette Post 6, Gwinn Post 5670, Negaunee Post 3165, and Department all contribute to make it fun and profitable. Negaunee and Gwinn supply homemade goodies (cookies, bars, cakes) which the residents love. After bingo we serve goodies, coffee and juice and visit

with all of them. They appreciate the support they get from the VFW. The new volunteer coordinator, Sarah Johnson, is doing a great job, communicating via emails, putting out calendars, and engaging the volunteers. Memorial Day—We think of our fallen Veterans with sympathy- Our hearts go out to their families - We hope you know that quietly, tenderly, your sadness is shared. It does remind us how fragile life is

up to meetings, and no one wants to take on more work. We need fresh new leadership, but it's hard to recruit. District 14 is in the same boat. I am trying to remain positive that we will have members step -up and save our District. No one wants to see District 14 dissolve. So, I urge our members in all of our 12 posts, to take a strong look at where you could help out and take an officer's position.

I am looking forward to the June Convention in Flint and seeing everyone. I recommend, if you haven't attended a Department Convention, to do so. It is a true learning experience, plus it is a lot of fun. Have a good summer everyone!

With elections coming up, it's a battle to reverse the decline to take-on the leadership positions- the officers. The rural posts are struggling with this even more-so. Its hard to elect officers when only 4-6 members show



DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER, BUTCH PAAVOLA

We have reached the conclusion of another year with mixed results. I want to thank all those who work and donate their time in keeping the VFW the premier organization that it is. I encourage everyone to not only seek new

members willing to serve at the Post and District level as officers. Every year we are stressed to find new candidates for officers' positions. We have 5 members who have served 3 terms as District commanders, that's 15 years total and I don't consider that a good thing because new people & ideas aren't coming in.

The daily three fundraiser went extremely well this year selling all but a few tickets and those were not returned to be sold, so the District continues to be in good financial health. Thanks to everyone who sold tickets

On District business the Day of Challenges went well again and there should be an accompanying article in this paper.

Finally I want to thank and wish the best of luck to all newly elected officers at every level, and thanks to those who worked with me over the years.



VA RECOMMENDS DROPPING BLUE WATER NAVY LEGAL BATTLE

WASHINGTON (March 27, 2019) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie for saying during congressional testimony yesterday that he would recommend the Justice Department not contest a recent federal court ruling that will benefit some 90,000 so-called Blue Water Navy veterans. His support to move forward potentially paves the way for the return of earned disability benefits that regulatory changes

arbitrarily stripped away in 2002.

In Procopio v. Wilkie, Secretary Wilkie was sued by Navy veteran Alfred Procopio Jr., who was denied service connection for prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus because he never stepped foot on dry land or served within Vietnam's inland waterways. Procopio, a life member of VFW Post 6587 in Spring Lake Park, Minn., was assigned aboard the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, which was stationed inside Vietnam's 12-mile territorial waters. Both of his illnesses are listed among the VA's 14 presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange.



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit focused on the intent of the 1991 Agent Orange Act, which was to grant a presumption of service connection for certain diseases to veterans who "served in the Republic of Vietnam." At issue was whether service within territorial waters constituted service "in the Republic of Vietnam." By a 9-2 decision, the Appeals Court ruled it did.

"The VFW salutes Secretary Wilkie for his support to move forward and take care of this group of forgotten Vietnam veterans," said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. "We also support his recommendation that some type of historical research division be created within the Department of the Navy to ensure that all such ships are fully accounted-for in the VA's list of exposed ships," he said. "After a half-century, we need to get this done to reinforce to tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans that our nation is willing to provide them the care and benefits they have earned and deserve, and we urge Congress to pass H.R. 299, the Blue Water Veterans Act of 2019, to ensure the VA can never again arbitrarily strip veterans of their earned benefits."

Contact your members of Congress here.

[Http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=80598036](http://capwiz.com/vfw/issues/alert/?alertid=80598036)

PHIL PATTERSON

Candidate for Department National Council of Administration 2019-2023



Supported & Endorsed by Districts 4 & 6, Post #6695 and his wife & family

JERRY GORSKI

Candidate for Department National Council of Administration 2019-2023



Endorsed by Macomb County Council, Oakland County Council, Post #1146, Post #2645, District 5, family & friends.

KEVIN CONKLIN

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2019 - 2020



Respect | Integrity | Honor Endorsed by Districts 4, 5, 7, 10 and 12, along with Post #6248 and his family

JOHN GRIFFITH

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2019 - 2020



Endorsed & Supported by District 6, VFW Post #4093 and his family

PHOTOS FROM PHIL & SANDY'S TESTIMONIAL - APRIL 13TH / POHLCAT GOLF COURSE



Golfers brave the wind and cold for the testimonial golf outing at Pohlcatt Golf Course in Mount Pleasant



Lynn & Phil with his quilt of valor, gifted by Dept. President Sandy Medos



Sandy receives a crystal teddy bear from Dept. Commander Phil Patterson



JENNIFER L. SMITH

Candidate for
Department Chaplain
2019 - 2020



Selfless Service through Faith.
Endorsed by her Post #701,
Dist 6, her husband,
her family and her church

DON MARTINDALE

Candidate for
Department Surgeon
2019 - 2020



Endorsed by his Post #1794,
5th District,
Macomb and
Oakland County Councils

BONNIE J. PRAY

Candidate for National
Council Member Area B
2019 - 2020



Supported & Endorsed by
District 10 Auxiliary and
Curtis-Wolverton
Auxiliary #3243

**NOMINATIONS AND
ELECTIONS WILL BE
HELD SATURDAY OF
CONVENTION,
JUNE 8TH.**

**IF YOU ARE NOT A
POST DELEGATE,
YOU WILL NOT BE
ABLE TO VOTE.**

**GOOD LUCK TO
THE 2019-2020
CANDIDATES!**



VFW NATIONAL HOME / EATON RAPIDS, MI

Today's military and veteran families face different challenges than years past -- post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others -- and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs.

In addition, we understand that the impacts of war can be generational. The National Home is here to help veteran connected families as well who are directly related to a VFW or Auxiliary member or are eligible to become one.

Resident families can accomplish significant life goals by participating in our program. We offer case management services to help families establish their plans for the future and set goals, education, recreational, and enrichment opportunities for parents and their children, as well as free housing and daycare. Community resources and counseling provided as needed.

**You're Invited to
VFW National Home for Children
MICHIGAN DAY!
August 4th, 2019**

**Visit vfnationalhome.org/michigan-day-2019
for more information**

VFW MAKES SURPRISE DONATION TO KC'S DISABLED VETERANS HOCKEY TEAM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (February 1, 2019) – During its recent Military Appreciation Weekend, the Kansas City Mavericks, along with fans, raised an impressive \$7,745 for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW), a Kansas City-headquartered nonprofit who specializes in veterans, military and community service programs.

Today, the VFW is proud to announce it will donate those proceeds to the Kansas City Warriors hockey team who took the ice in its

first exhibition game last Saturday against the Minnesota Warriors at Silverstein Eye Centers Arena.

The Kansas City Warriors is a new organization operating under the mentorship and guidance of the Minnesota Warriors, an established program with 10 years of proven success and a leader in the disabled veteran's hockey community who operates in conjunction with the USA Disabled Hockey Program. Both Warriors teams are comprised of dis-

abled American veterans who find healing through the sport.

"We want to thank all the fans who came out in support of the Mavericks and Warriors, and for their generosity. It's clear this is a community that cares about our veterans," said B.J. Lawrence, VFW National Commander. "After meeting with some of the Warriors' players and hearing the stories of the adversity they've had to overcome, then watching their strength on the ice, we are proud to pass the donation along to this budding organization."

Fans contributed donations via Chuck-a-Puck events, a live jersey auction & specialty tickets purchases. This is the second year the VFW and the Mavericks have joined together in support of Military Appreciation Weekend.

"We are proud to partner with the VFW to support military service members and their families. As an organization, we'd like to thank all current and former service members. We are excited to see the Kansas City Warriors Hockey program grow, and to continue to provide an outlet for these American heroes to have a therapeutic release through the game of hockey," said Brent Thiessen, President and General Manager of the Kansas City Mavericks.



VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence addresses fans and players following the Warriors' exhibition game.

★ AUXILIARY District President REPORTS ★

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT, NANCY GAGLIO

Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,
This will be my last article as Dist. 5 President. It was a wonderful year, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our members and our Veterans. I've learned so much and made many new friends. It was a year I will never forget.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my Commander, Norman Mauldin, for all the Love and support he has given me over the past 3 years. Norm, your friendship

is a blessing.

This year the 5th Dist. is celebrating 75 Years. Our Past Commanders, Past Presidents dinner was very special, including a pictorial salute to those who have led us this far. The decorations were beautiful, and a special token was given to each of them.

Our last meeting was April 28th and elections were held.

Look forward to seeing you in Flint, June 6th - 9th for our Department Convention.

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT, LISA BLAUWKAMP

Hello everyone! Talk about time flying, well it sure did for me. Now we're winding down for the year.

Just wanted to thank all District 8 Auxiliaries for all your hard work to bring membership where it is. Our membership is 97 percent, we need 50 more to make 100 percent

Elections should be done by now. Congratulations to all incoming President's and Officers. Have a great year ahead. God bless.

DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT, KATHRYN DORAN

Spring is here!! The robins and other birds are chirping, chirping, chirping. Hopefully the last of the winter snows and ice are gone. This is the last fiscal quarter for the VFW and Auxiliaries. Elections at the local and district levels will be taking place in April and May.

There have been many banquets to honor the students who participated in the VOD (voice of Democracy) and Patriots Pen scholarship contests. The District 9 winners who went on to the Department contest, then to the National contest were Rachel Dahl (host Post 9455 Owosso) and Jesse White (host Post 3306 Howard City). Rachel Dahl came in 9th place at the National presentations. Congratulations Rachel and Jesse.

The 2019-2020 theme for both the VOD and Patriots Pen will be "What Makes Amer-

ica Great"

All our auxiliaries have been holding a lot of wonderful events and support for our veterans, families and communities. There are many Lenten Friday night Fish Fries going on at the posts. The first week of April will be send-off events for a battalion from the Owosso/Corunna area including a banquet and parades by the posts/auxiliaries and communities.

April 13-14 will be the Department Commander and President Testimonial honoring Commander Phil Patterson and President Sandy Medos. It is being held at the PohlCat Golf Course in Mt Pleasant, MI.

April 20 is the deadline for this year's programs reporting. Be sure that your auxiliary is reporting, reporting, reporting. That gets

you credit for what you do.

Other upcoming events are:

- Mother's Day, May 12
- Armed Forces day, May 18
- MEMORIAL DAY, May 27
- Department Convention, Jun 5-8
- Father's Day, Jun 16
- Flag Day/Army Birthday, Jun 14

District 9 is doing very well in membership this year. As of writing this article, we are in 3rd place standing in the State with 100.18%. If you haven't paid your dues, please pay them as soon as possible.

Our next District 9 meeting with elections will be held May 5, 2019, 10am, Sheridan Post 5065.

I hope to see you at the upcoming events. God Bless our troops and our veterans.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT, SHELIA PICKFORD

It's that time of year again for nominations and elections, I guess I am it again for 2019-2020 year. I had fun and meet lots of wonderful people, been places I have never been it's been great.

Thank You Sue Champlin for being with me in my adventures and to my District officers, and auxiliaries for all your hard work we made 100+ in membership(yeah).

And special thanks to Nancy Lavine and

Judy Mays for helping with Inspections. Could not have done it without you.

Love to all.

Thank You for Your Service.

Use #VFWPostPride when sharing your story, photo or video to Facebook or Instagram!

INCOMING DEPT. VFW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR (2019-2020), GARY GAMBLE

Greetings,

First, I would like to thank Senior Vice Commander Fineis for his trust and confidence by appointing me as your next VFW State Membership Director. It will be a team effort and the entire membership is on the team.

"Together We Can Build a Stronger VFW"

Next, I would like to remind everyone that the 2019-20 VFW Membership Program is posted on our VFW State website. (www.vfwmi.org) Or, it will be posted very soon after reading this edition of the MOV.

On our first full day of the 2019-20 administration, we have a special VFW Membership Seminar planned and all VFW members are invited to attend. Specifically, we will have Associate Director, Tara Fajardo Arteaga from our VFW National Membership Department on hand to conduct a special membership seminar. I am certain all attendees will walk away with the tools and confidence to be more effective working membership.

What: VFW Membership Seminar

When: Sunday, June 9 from 9am – 2pm or longer depending on attendee interest.

Where: Adams\ Jefferson Room at the Holiday Inn, 5353 Gateway Centre, Flint.

Lunch: Will be provided for all attendees.

We have a limited number of seats available and we are asking that everyone to RSVP your seat ASAP. Please let me know if you attending in advance. Please call, email, or text the following information to reserve your seat as well as receive any updates: Name, Post #, and phone number\email. Also, each attendee will receive Ten (10) All-State Points for attending this seminar for your post!

The 2019-20 VFW Membership Program will have special awards for our VFW Auxiliary.

- The Auxiliary that submits the MOST referrals (name and contact information) for VFW Membership will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the VFW Store. Deadline is May 15, 2020.

All referrals MUST be sent to the VFW Membership Director.

- The TOP individual and TOP AUX District with the MOST name referrals will receive a "Special State Commander Award" at the 2020 VFW State Convention.

We are simply asking any VFW Auxiliary to submit names and contact information for any veteran they think may be eligible to join the VFW. No worries if you're unsure if they are not eligible. We just need your help with locating veterans to contact about joining the VFW.

Remember the work we do today supporting membership ensures we have a strong membership for tomorrow! With that being said, I would like to thank each every one of you in advance for your help and support with VFW membership in the future.

Let us all work together to recruit, retain, and keep our membership engaged in the VFW mission.



Post 334 presented a check for \$3,000.00 for the continued growth and maintenance of the Veterans Memorial. Pictured: Chuck Haskin, Dr. Joe Mastromatteo, Chairman of the Memorial & Jim Hubbard.

POST #334 LAKE ORION



Post 334 presented a check for \$1,200.00 to sponsor a shelf at Orion/Oxford Fish Pantry for the adopt-a-shelf program.

Post will sponsor the pasta and related items shelf.

The Fish Pantry is for those in need of food assistance.

Pictured: Laurene Baldwin, Jim Muys, Chuck Haskin, Jim Hubbard, and Michelle Behn



Post 334 made a donation to the Lake Orion Police Department of \$1,000.00 for the purchase of Kevlar vests for K-9s.

Lake Orion Police Department made the request on behalf of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for the K-9s on patrol who assist the Lake Orion area as needed.

Pictured: Chuck Haskin, Lake Orion Police Chief Jerry Narsh, and Jim Hubbard.



North Oakland Post 334 and Auxiliary donated a check for supplies and postage to send boxes overseas to the troops. The Post donated \$1,009.42 to the Women Marine Association and the event was held in Romeo, Michigan. Just over 200 boxes were prepared and readied for mailing to those deployed overseas. Attending the event for the Post and Aux. were Chuck Haskin, Jim Muys, Bob Mahan, Mike Racer, Mike Ryckman, Vicki Haskin, Kathy Hubbard, and Gail Ryckman.

POST #2233 DETROIT

The comrades of VFW Post #2233 are working to get our 100% membership because 99.5% won't do! We are now at 92% but we have a goal to be 100% by April 15th.

Post members attended a birthday gathering for 86 year old Airforce Veteran, Leonardo Turner and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for service to his country and a United State Flag. Mr. Turner's health has

been declining and is currently under Hospice care. Thank you to those who attended.

On March 11th, the Detroit Police Dept.'s 11th Precinct held a luncheon for the community outreach program. Our Post was presented with a certificate of appreciation for our exceptional commitment and support.

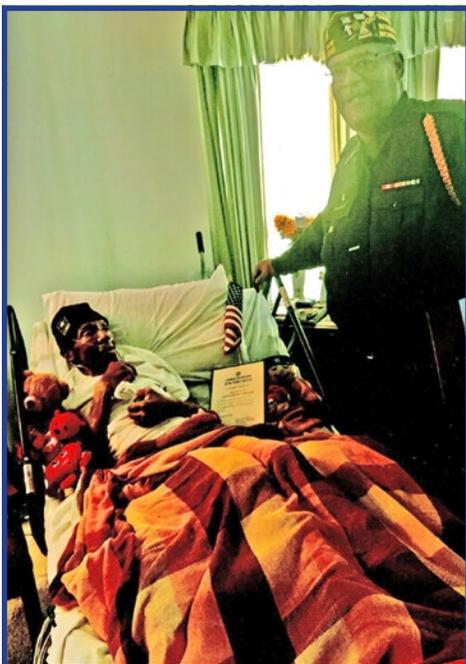
We recently created a program called, Flag for Flag. Our mission is to identify US flags in our community that

are considered unserviceable and report them to the Post. The Commander will then contact the business and request to replace their worn flag with new. We stand by the mission to see that Old Glory flies beautifully as it has and still does in all of our Nation's battles. We are the Veterans of Foreign Wars!

On February 22nd, our Clothing for Veterans Project team delivered 47 twin bed sheet sets and 36 pairs of socks to the Volunteers of America.



L-R: 2 ROTC Cadets, Curtis Clark (Honor Guard Captain), Louis Thomas, Tommie Payne (Sergeant), Antonio Lockett, Excell Moore & ROTC Cadet.



Leonard Turner and Post Commander Hawkins



P.O. Hill, his assistant and Commander Hawkins



L-R: President Beverly Burton, veteran resident, SV President Barbara Wilson, Trustee Brenda Hawkins, VOA Director Bruce Johnson & Elaine Coleman

POST #2406 CHARLOTTE

Charlotte VFW Post #2406 honored their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship Program winners and participants on Saturday, March 2nd. Also present was Charlotte High School Band Director, Jerry Rose, who won the VFW Post 2406 Teacher of the Year Award. Commander Gary Brown spoke to the group about the rewards and merits of the programs and presented the awards.

Our Voice of Democracy First Place Winner was Ashley Beck, a senior at Charlotte High School.

Our Patriot's Pen First Place Winner was Isabelle Goodrich, a 6th grader at Charlotte St. Mary's School. Isabelle read her award winning essay at the presentation. Her entry went on to win First Place in District 8 and Fourth Place at the VFW Dept. of Michigan.

Patriot's Pen Second Place Winner was Mary Tennes, a 7th grader at Charlotte Middle School and Third Place was Caleb Ramey, an 8th grader at Charlotte Middle School.

Congratulations to our winners and those who participated.



Commander Gary Brown with Post 2406 Teacher of the Year, Jerry Rose



Post 2406 Patriot's Pen Winner, Isabelle Goodrich, reads her award winning essay



Resource Officer, John Terry



Assistant Fire Chief, Chris Bunker

POST #2645 SOUTHFIELD

The Dunham-Ray VFW Post 2645 hosted a birthday celebration for Jon Adam, Post 2645 Adjutant/Quartermaster, and Arthur Anderson, Post 2645 member, on March 2, 2019. It was the seventy something birthday for both of them. Entertainment for the gala affair was provided by the Dale Robertson Blues Band. Comrades Nate Powell and Horace Frazier, among others, were invited to jam with the band.



Little Arthur Anderson and Jon Adams with the Dale Robertson Blues Band, Buzz Anderson, Dale Robertson, Brenden Linsley, and Neno Brag



Horace Frazier and Nate Powell jam with the Dale Robertson Blues Band



Rhunell and Jon Adams pose for a picture celebrating Jon's birthday

POST #3701 LAKEVIEW

On March 22nd, Congressman John Moolenaar and his staff, along with Representative Jim Lower, Pat Outman representing Senator Rick Outman and Post Commander Stacey Roberts, thanked local veterans for their service during the Vietnam era at Post 3701 in Lakeview. Each veteran received a Vietnam Commemorative Pin and Certificate from Mr. Moolenaar along with a tribute from Senator Rick Outman.

On the front of the pin is an eagle, which represents courage, honor and dedicated service to the United States. Surrounding that eagle are six stars — which represent the United States' six allies during the war — and a laurel wreath that stands for victory, integrity and strength. The words "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" are engraved onto the backside of the pin, which is then

meant to be placed over the wearer's heart. "The bottom line is that I believe courage is found where courage is honored," Moolenaar said. "It's imperative that we honor our veterans so that future generations know that their own courage will never be forgotten. I'm proud to join Post 3701 for this special celebration and to honor those of you who have and to honor those of you who have served our country, especially during the Vietnam era. With your service, you made the world a better place and continue to make a positive difference in our communities today."

Congressman Moolenaar also presented Post Commander, Stacey Roberts with a Congressional Certificate of Recognition for efforts and support of Post 3701 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



L-R, Representative Jim Lower, Congressman John Moolenaar, Vietnam veterans Randy Huckins, Chuck Doren, Bill Simon, Dennis Bacon, Jerry Walls, Lynn Keilholtz & Dennis Parker, Pat Outman representing Senator Rick Outman & Post Commander Stacey Roberts.

On February 22, Commander Stacey Roberts and Quartermaster, Jessica Wright (also State Safety Director) presented local Public Service Officers with certificates of appreciation.

Awards were presented to the following officers:

Lakeview School Resource Officer John Terry of the Lakeview Police Department.

Officer Terry has served in Law Enforcement for over 25 years and was nominated by Lakeview's Chief of Police Darin Dood

Lakeview Assistant Fire Chief Chris Bunker. Assistant Chief Bunker has been with the Fire Department for over 20 years and was nominated by Fire Chief Pat Carr.

MSP Trooper Matt Rose also received a certificate but was unable to attend the dinner.

★ DEPARTED AUX. MEMBERS ★

334 Lake Orion
 Greta Baldwin
 Lynz Blandino
 Bonnie Burdette Wood
 Joan Fisher
 Carolyn Fisher
 Evelyn Hooper
 Tia Martin
 Ivy Reinhardt
345 Redford
 Daniel West
422 Delton
 Veronica Cimala
 Leona Gillespie
 Sue Green
 Scott Seaver
423 Ann Arbor
 Laureta Boyer
552 Lincoln Park
 Michael Ball
607 Rogers City
 Jacklyn Spens
667 South Haven
 Larry Lammert
671 Dewitt
 Michael Logan
 Howard Robbins
 Al Smith
701 Lansing
 Natalie Bruinsma
 Carolyn Gabrion
 Sharlene Ann Gamelin
796 Port Huron
 Bradd Ferns
 Anna Kelly
 Judith Struthers
 Barbara Wagor
1136 Wyandotte
 Dorothy Maldonado
 Regina Milewski
1138 Monroe
 Delores Asam
 Dominic Cicero
 Eileen Craven
 Viola Eby
 Kathy Goetz
 Ruth Kiebler
 Ann Mexico
 Ruth Meyer
 Shelia Parriet
 Victoria Stininger
1146 St. Clair Shores
 Marie Kosuth
 Marie Krupinski
1224 South Lyon
 Thomas Balden
1355 Sturgis
 Elaine Bupp
1370 Pontiac
 Frances Dismuke
1407 Madison Heights
 Georgia Cooper
 Linda Nettler
 Margaret Pankow
1452 Clio
 Shirley Cragg
1454 Alma
 Clara Holcomb
 Diane McNeil-Paul
 Jean Reed
 Shirley Willey
1566 Saginaw
 Mabel Kotenko
 Jean Thomas
1584 Adrian
 Betty Rinehart
 Jane Waldo
 Virginia Woodard
1669 Royal Oak
 Lucille De Mello
 Dorothy Paluch
 Capitola Daron
1855 Dowagiac
 Lonny DeGraff
 Margaret Mc Kinney
 Oleta Winchester
1859 Saginaw
 Gary Polzin
 Bonnie Scherzer
2051 Harbor Springs
 Ernestine Austin
 Dorothy Corpe
 Juanita Ann Francis
 Marjorie McNamara
 Leona Reissener
2052 Romeo
 Kathleen Docherty
2144 Holland
 Ella Essenburg

2233 Detroit
 Gayle Rolling
 Mary Warren
2269 Wixom
 Rose Daly
 Ann Esser
 Patricia Meloche
 Nancy Moyer
 Mary Pickens
 Harriet Spisak
2272 Durand
 Ella Bush
 Alice Howard
 Robert Jones
 Maxine Lewis
 Nancy Miller
 Rosemary Mulnix
 June Roddy
 Delores Tyler
2284 Edwardsburg
 Derek Kulwicki
2326 Grand Haven
 Joan Japenga
 Hazel Snyder
 Carol Verploegh
2406 Charlotte
 Mary Beals
 Amy Brown
 Frances Christensen
 Mary Jane Howe
 Helen Minier
 Cheri Smith
2492 Imlay City
 Ramona Jean Boadway
 Lavonne Bristol
 Evelyn Henderson
 Lorraine Hillman
 Margaret Jurn
 Frances Sexton
2496 Alpena
 Geraldine Lafleure
 Janice Lindros
 Lillian Scheske
2645 Southfield
 Karan Cooper
2777 Burton
 Doris Ballge
 Stella Thompson
 Katherine Woods
2780 Traverse City
 Gwendolyn Durga
 Olive Pickard
 Doris Skipski
 Peggy Walter
2891 Crystal Falls
 Fern Bourgo
 Helen Burke
 Donna Ebner
 Beverly Hill
 Jamie Janov
 Mary Neault
 Jeanette Sliva
 Dorothy Stachowicz
2964 Reed City
 Mary Devereaux
 Susan Eggenberger
 Loretta Kohn
 Emily Jo Richmond
3023 Grand Rapids
 Edith Drudy
 Evelyn Wierzbicki
3033 Mt Pleasant
 Paula Albrecht
 Willene Brown
 M Clevenger
 Dorothy Driver
 Laura Eastling
 Donna Flaughner
 Dorine Ruth Koopman
 Dorothy Kowallic
 Sue Lackie
 Martha Munsell
 Sharla Peffer
 Barbara Schaar
3055 St Louis
 Joyce Hyde
3134 Iron River
 Debra Olson
3165 Neganee
 Judith Dobi
 Shirley Dunstan
 Rose Herrala

Diana Higgins
 Nora Holman
 Robert Jandron
 Madeline Kauppila
 Gail Longtine
 Marlene Parkkonen
 Laila Poutanen
 Margaret Winter
3243 Fenton
 Evelyn Bertschy
 Mamie Both
 Constance Favreau
 Barbara Glover
 Elizabeth Jackson
 Elna Kanyak
 Barbara Roeder
 Loretta Smith
3256 Montague
 Coral Hamann
 Andrew Hegedus
 Blanch Mason
 Evelyn Wilkinson
 Esther Young
3306 Howard City
 Lois Smits
3323 Westland
 Ray Workman
3651 Midland
 Barbara Hancock
 Mark Matuszak
 Suzanne Myers
3676 Sault Ste Marie
 Norma Emery
 Alice O Neil
 Jane Stacks
3720 Swartz Creek
 Agnes Phelps
3724 Standish
 Lourene Bellor
 Terry Schmidt
 Donna Watz
3727 Holt
 Joan Dempsey
 Jean Goodwin
3733 Fowler
 Ermaline Fedewa
 Greta Sali
3734 Muskegon
 Mary Deater
3735 Oscoda
 Thelma Beischer
 Joanne Booth
4005 Corunna
 Marjorie Jenkinson
 Lucille Richardson
 Dorothy Ann Theile
4012 Northville
 Bonnie Rudolph
4034 Houghton Lake
 Eva Hose
 Virginia Kalis
 Pauline McClain
4054 Marcellus
 Mark Motter
 Carol Riggs
 George Siskaninetz
4087 Davison
 Beverly Jean Ash
 Maxine Astbury
 Barbara Ballard
 Eva Joyce Betts
 Eva Grace Brown
 Gail Cusmano
 Shirley Daly
 Elizabeth Essy
 Frances Follen
 Patricia Lou Frasher
 Julia Helms
 Myrtice Ignace
 Shirley Macina
 Elizabeth Manchester
 Lois McKay
 Betty Miller
 Mary Jane Mooney
 Lorraine Morse
 Florence Nichols
 Frances Pankonin
 Gregoria Perez
 Evon Perry
 Gene Reid
 Annamae Roster
 Mary Rumbold

Eleanor Schafer
 Jane Sloat
 Elsie Statzer
 Caroline Striler
 Lola Williams
 Carol Woodruff
 Della Zrakovi
4090 Portland
 Sandra Bayne
 Mary Martin
4093 Carleton
 Mary Champion
 Thelma Sachs
 Marjorie Wasilewski
 Marian Whiteaker
4106 Weidman
 Geraldine King
 Helen Martin
4139 Lapeer
 Maxine Williams
4159 Roscommon
 Betty Scott
4164 Caro
 Norma Berry
 Linda Moore
4187 Tecumseh
 Edwinna Gove
4357 Brighton
 Ruby Brown
4406 Belding
 Dorothy Babcock
 Helen Beyer
 Sue Edmonds
 Marcella Sower
 Sandy Treynor
4420 Manistique
 Florence Brofka
 Dolores Hawthorne
4422 Taylor
 Mildred Secan
4461 Lake Odessa
 Achsah Blochowiak
 Betty Hines
 Doris Lambert
4499 Manistee
 Donna Dalke
 Ruth Krusniak
 Frances Miehle
 Stanley Skocelas
4573 Ishpeming
 Barbara Duham
 Alice Haapala
 Ellen Korpi
 Dorothy Waters
4646 Lyons
 Catherine Pline
4659 Shelby Township
 Bernadine Berner
 Garnett Bulloch
 Ann Fishell
 Virginia Grobbel
 Clara Rodgers
5065 Sheridan
 Marilyn Anthony
 Edith Beard
 Sally Brunette
 Norma Bussell
 Jacolyn Christensen
 Charlene Clements
 Betty Cooper
 Daryl Decker
 Phyllis May Dennis
 Helen Green
 Edwina Greenway
 Julia Hawes
 Dora Herald
 Dorothy Hosner
 Pearl Johnson
 Sheryl Lund
 Betty Norman
 Wava Lee Schachtele
 Hilda Shindorf
 Donna Slock
 Mary Spooner
 Arleen Townsend
 Charleen Vincent
 Martha Vovilla
 Donna Williams
5096 Custer
 Leona Davis
 Clara Drost
 Jacquelyn Ferney

Clarice Gordon
 Ruby Schneider
 Nioma Silvis
 Kathleen Spalding
5315 Baldwin
 Elsie Betka
 Philip Kretschmar
5319 Athens
 Charlotte Lynd
 Ruth Mortensen
 Virginia Neal
 Tonita Perry
 Barbara Shiarla
 Barbara Young
5670 Gwinn
 Winnie Dellies
 Betty Havnen
 Marsha Lynn Vara
5680 St. Helen
 Delores Iverson
5855 Portage
 Edna Fry
6015 Marion
 Betty Wilson
6056 Springport
 Donna Brusseau
6165 South Range
 Naomi Fish
 Esther Miller
6248 Decatur
 Margaret Brown
 Billie Fretz
6252 Comstock
 Nora Anderson
 Hilda Cook
 Dorothy Erickson
 Deborah Givans
 Katherine Hairston
 Billie Howard
 Betty Lamorandier
 Sophia Marvin
 Patricia Pardee
 Elaine Richards
 Marian Slusher
 Beverly Starr
 Alice Jean Staten
 Helen Tyler
6333 Kaleva
 Janine Mc Kee
 Lenore Wlodkowski
6464 Fowlerville
 Betty Douglass
 Rita Lewis
 Berenice Simmers
 Bernice Vealey
6507 Chassell
 Minerva Hietala
6509 Petersburg
 Mary Dunham
6691 Fraser
 Helen Gerner
 Lois Laffey
 Carol Wendland
6695 Plymouth
 Ann Demsky
6756 Warren
 Vivian Martin
6802 Richmond
 Gayle Brinlefield
 Anna Burkacki
 Rita Eberwein
6950 Kawkawlin
 J Gentle
 Joan Gesquiere
 Helen Grandy
 Deanna Pischel
7303 Gladwin
 Annabell Chesney
 Bertha Garvie
 Irene Jakovac
 Edrie Peters
7435 Hale
 Rosellen Bursick
7439 Indian River
 Shirley Millay
7542 Birch Run
 Mildred Dodak
7546 Dearborn Heights
 Ethel Korona
 Rose Marie Murphy
 Irene Siedlik
 Lottie Zwalesky

7573 New Baltimore
 Jean Pettipren
7581 Wayland
 Monica Baker
 Marie Beck
 Delores Belka
 Sandra Carpenter
 Evonne Koben
 Catherine Milheim
 Charlotte Sanok
 Susan Sensiba
 Elaine Wagner
7646 Pelkie
 Sharon Hamann
 Mary Nankervis
 Betty Patterson
7729 Muskegon
 Vickie Chase
 Delma Gresley
 Margie Lamberger
 Shirley Ann Rahn
7804 Posen
 Sophie Kozdron
 Eleanor Misiak
7956 Augusta
 Virginia Drobny
 Dorothy Dunithan
 Bonnie Finkbinder
8465 Port Huron
 Carol Butler
 Evelyn Edwards
8684 Kalkaska
 Susan Walter
8846 North Muskegon
 Ardeth Burr
 Rosemary Ferguson
 Stephanie Lakatos
 Joel Miles
 Alberta Minyard
 Beverly Woller
8945 Covington
 Lillian Ahola
9021 Warren
 Lorraine Arnot
 Rebecca Jacobs
 Marie Neveau
 Joan Novey
9023 Brimley
 Lois Bell
 Charlotte Cameron
 Peggy Chandler
 Fay Elsholz
 Audrey Lyons
9084 Wakefield
 Elizabeth DeFrancisco
9283 Southgate
 Robert Chernick
 Judy Webb
9363 Flat Rock
 Eleanor Alberts
9411 Homer
 Thelma Face
 Hilaria Luna
 Patricia McGill
 Karen Peace
 Cinda Yates
9455 Owosso
 Linda Eldridge
 Christine Walter
9656 Lambertville
 Pamela Gerding
 Margaret Gould
 Pamela Hamilton
 Shirley Maldonado
9914 Highland
 Barbara Gustinis
 Herbert Hollingdale
 Catherine Stowe
 Frances Turner
 Susan Williams
 Dorothy Bays
 - At Large -
 Evelyn Carpenter
 Doris Cherro
 Rita Cichowski
 Pat Eller
 Jo Ann Fusee
 Genevieve Gearhart
 Madlyn Heise
 Shirley Johnson
 Mary Kuligowski
 Alice Magiera
 Kathy Murzynowski
 Dora Rastello
 Maudie Root
 Agnes Schnick
 Bernice Scott
 Laura Snyder
 Charlotte Vallance

ROLL CALL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES



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

6 Marquette	Fouse, Dale 69 Army/Vietnam	Honsinger, James R. 71 Army/Vietnam	Wilcox, Jeffrey T. 68 Army/Vietnam
Constance, Donald W. 92 Navy/WWII	2335 Mecosta	Rankin-Justice, Michael L. 68 Vietnam	6134 Pullman
334 Oxford	Minkel, George W. 84 Army/Korea	4054 Marcellus	Anderson, Edward A. 72 Navy/Vietnam
Cline, Edward C. 74 Army/Vietnam	2406 Charlotte	Seager, Robert 72 Army/Vietnam	6165 South Range
Ledford, Michael T. 70 Marines/Vietnam	Mascho, Lonny G. 65 Navy	4063 Perry	Coponen, William J. 85 Army/Korea
Smokoski, Edward J. 90 Army/WWII	2496 Alpena	Fender, Michael L. 71 Navy/Vietnam	6248 Decatur
Thomas, Leo E. 88 Army/WWII	Gill, George G. 82 Marines	4073 Marshall	Myrkle, William S. 93 Navy/WWII
446 Muskegon	Teckman, Edward E. 78	Grable, Robert B. 86 Navy/Korea	Vliek, Robert 89 Army/Korea
Bloomstrom, John W. 90 Navy/WWII	2645 Southfield	4076 Chelsea	6250 Sterling Heights
Clark, Morton H. 95 Army/WWII	Wirkus, Timothy 71 Air Force/Vietnam	4087 Davison	Paulus, David 82 Navy/Korea
Olejarczyk, Michael J. 69 Vietnam	2777 Burton	Nutt, Wesley E. 91 Army/WWII	Walowicz, Leszek 69 Army/Vietnam
552 Lincoln Park	Eggert, Ralph H. 99 Army/WWII	4090 Portland	6252 Comstock
Jakubowski, Edward 90 WWII	Jordan, Homer R. 81 Army/Vietnam	Ackerson Bruce 86 Navy/Korea	Bell, James E. 97 Marines/WWII
582 Ortonville	2891 Crystal Falls	4093 Carleton	6333 Kaleva
Rockwell, Charles A. 72 Marines/Vietnam	Hegstrom, Lawrence R. 84 Army/Korea	Kopietz, Harold F. 86 Army/Korea	Stauch, Stanley F. 86 Korea
Shelton, Leach 89 Army/Korea	Leppiaho, Eugene L. 76 Army/Germany	4113 St. Johns	6507 Chassell
607 Rogers City	Morton, Lawrence V. 84 Navy/Korea	Cornell, James A. 94 WWII	Soumis, Walter H. 88 Army Air Corps/WWII
Blosdale, Carlyle A. 96 Army/WWII	2945 Sandusky	4139 Lapeer	6579 New Lothrop
Hopp, Larry D. 73 Marines/Vietnam	Kuk, Daniel 89 Army	Cook, Lyle A. 85 Army/Korea	Beckman, Clare M. 92 Army/WWII
Vogelheim, John C. 76 Army/Vietnam	2964 Reed City	Gibson, Kevin V. 57 Army	Birchmeier, Raymond 96 Army/WWII
702 Wyoming	Earnest, Norman C. 92 Navy/WWII	4164 Caro	6691 Fraser
Mast, John P. Jr. 89	Wein, James A. 72 Army/Vietnam	Brill, Ronald 72 Army/Vietnam	Kuechenmeister, Richard L. 71 Vietnam
796 Port Huron	2998 Escanaba	4187 Tecumseh	6756 Center Line
Morrison, Archiebald B. 99 WWII	Lippens, Rene P. 90 Army/Korea	Coffey, Lee P. 91 Navy/WWII	Stutzky, Harold T. 86 Korea
Wilton, George E. 95 Army/WWII	3030 Otsego	4230 Rockwood	6864 Cadillac
830 Grand Rapids	Bennett, Hershall F. 86 Korea	Pluff, Hayden D. 94 Army/WWII	McDaniel, Raymond F. 91 WWII
Butler, Floyd C. 85 Army/Korea	3039 Farwell	Root, William H. 91 Navy/WWII	6896 Westland
1008 Waterford	McLane, Wilbur T. 92 Navy/WWII	4249 Newaygo	Dingell, John D. 92 Army/WWII
Grumka, Mitchel F. 79	3055 St. Louis	Bakhan, Joseph J. 69 Vietnam	Hughes, Stanley J. 95 Army/WWII
Jeske, Michael A. 70 Vietnam	Bunting, Robert D. 87 Marines/Korea	Williams, Roland L. 78 Vietnam	Leiva, Lazaro 86 Korea
1136 Wyandotte	3165 Negaunee	4357 Brighton	Polak, Walter 93 Marines/WWII
Thompson, Kermit 73 Vietnam	Collins, Charles H. 86 Army/Korea	Bentley, Thaddeus W. 71 Army/Vietnam	7302 Hemlock
1138 Monroe	Ghiringhelli, Louis C. 97 Army/WWII	4406 Belding	Beecham, Herbert L. 95 Navy/WWII
Frick, Eugene W. 93 Marines/WWII	Hewitt, Robert L. 88 Army/Korea	Matthews, Paul A. 68 Navy/Vietnam	Michels, Pauline M. 95 Air Force/WWII
Van Demark, Paul V. 91 Army/WWII	Manginen, Howard W. 84 Army/Korea	4420 Manistique	Nothelfer, Harvey F. 75 Army/Vietnam
Yensz, Alfred T. 89 Army/WWII	Prosser, Frank K. 72 Army/Vietnam	Bouchard, Lyle A. 72 Army	7303 Gladwin
1146 St. Clair Shores	Savolainen, Jarmo F. 93 Navy/WWII	Bowler, Duane C. 72 Army/Vietnam	Beagle, Gerald 93 Navy/WWII
Dobkowski, Edward 94 Navy/WWII	Torreano, John D. 98 Army/WWII	Renton, Edwin J. 93 WWII	Hillier, Donald E. 95 Army/WWII
Howarth, Warren J. 94 Air Corps/WWII	White, Clarence J. 99 Army/WWII	4422 Taylor	Jakovac, John F. 95 Army/WWII
Kepling, Robert L. 91 Army/WWII	3243 Fenton	Browning, Jay F. 79 Navy	Peter, Frank C. 82 Army/Korea
Kokuba, Stanley G. 95 Army/WWII	Braun, Frank A. 91 Army/WWII	Scott, Richard E. Sr. 93 WWII	7309 Mason
Whitbread, Arno G. 90 Army/WWII	McCarty, Gerald P. Jr. 82 Marines/Korea	4434 Belleville	Hughson, Raymond C. 99 Army/WWII
Wroblewski, Thomas G. 85 Korea	3256 Montague	Cripps, David E. 77	7546 Dearborn Heights
1355 Sturgis	Runyan, David 69 Army/Vietnam	4461 Lake Odessa	Vanderwill, Leslie R. 76 Vietnam
Harker, Richard D. 91 Army/WWII	3306 Howard City	Barrett, David 81 Korea	7573 New Baltimore
Holst, Daniel E. 91 Army/WWII/Korea	Hoover, Robert O. 84 Air Force/Korea	Bever, Freeman 95 Army/WWII	Coulon, Richard 85 Army/Korea
Maystead, Donald A. 78 Army	3314 Arcadia	Goodmoot, Dennis 70 Army/Vietnam	7581 Wayland
Watters, Paul R. 96 Navy/WWII	Henry, Fred A. 88 Marines/Korea	Leonard, Steven 73 Army/Vietnam	Coppens, Robert D. II 59 Marines
1519 Northville	3323 Westland	Rairigh, Vivian 88 Army/Japan	Lenard, Roger J. 84 Army/Korea
Foisy, Frank J. 95 Army/WWII	Dobrowolski, Thomas J. 74 Army/Vietnam	4499 Manistee	Manning, Paul R. 87 Air Force/Korea
1527 Kalamazoo	3623 Cheboygan	Baker, Robert H. Army/Vietnam	7911 Fennville
Amey, Henry M. 94 WWII	Jensen, Adolph E. Jr. 93 Navy/WWII	Boyajian, Richard D. 93 Air Corps/WWII	Hoyt, Warren M. 94 WWII
1566 Saginaw	Sampson, Floyd E. 94 Army/WWII	McKinney, Paul G. Air Force/Vietnam	Roseboom, Calvin G. 82 Navy/Korea
Asmus, Harold K. 89 Air Force/WWII	3651 Midland	Meador, Michael J. 68 Army/Vietnam	7956 Augusta
Konesko, Jerry M. 72 Army/Vietnam	Bloomfield, Donald L. 97 Army/WWII	Wagoner, George F. 83 Navy/Vietnam	Balzer, William A. 67 Army/Vietnam
Wehner, Charles J. 94 Air Corps/WWII	3673 Bessemer	Wilson, Robert J. 89 Navy/Korea	8135 Barton City
1584 Adrian	Allen, Lindy O. 94 Navy/WWII	4573 Ishpeming	Lince, Philip A. 78 Navy/Cuba
Kern, Allen F. 95 Army/WWII	3676 Sault Ste Marie	Marra, Louis J. 94 Navy/WWII	8684 Kalkaska
1669 Royal Oak	Eckardt, Donald C. 96 Coast Guard/WWII	4659 Shelby Township	Grody, Elmer 93 Army/WWII
Lamsa, Arnold 91 WWII	Rohr, Franklin E.	Bulloch, Walter R. 83 Navy/Korea	8846 Muskegon
1794 Mt. Clemens	3701 Lakeview	Dobbie, William A. 71 Army/Vietnam	Galy, Albert J. 97 Army Air Corps/WWII
Nistor, Joseph J. 104 Army/WWII	Morse, Louis O. 85 Army/Korea	Obarzanek, Walter J. 100 Army/WWII	Hazekamp, Paul A. 93 Army/WWII
1855 Dowagiac	Olmstead, John L. 92 WWII/Korea	4803 Felch	McCabe, Earl E. 87 Navy/Korea
Fester, Dennis E. 71 Navy/Vietnam	3720 Swartz Creek	Cootware, John C. 92 WWII	Wolffis, Jerry J. 82 Army/Korea
Schar, Gunnar D. 80 Army	Flavin, Edward 70 Army/Vietnam	5065 Sheridan	Woodring, Orville L. 95 Navy/WWII
1859 Saginaw	3727 Holt	Brown, Shurley J. 85 Army/Korea	8872 Port Sanilac
Griffor, Floyd R. 71 Army/Vietnam	Graham, William M. 92 Navy/WWII	Dickinson, Ferris A. 90 Army/Korea	Bartniczak, Arthur 87 Army/Korea
Likam, Robert 96 Army/WWII	3735 Oscoda	Hansen, Lawrence C. 94 Navy/WWII	Dawson, Thompson E. 90 Navy/WWII
1887 Menominee	Lindke, Charles R. 75 Air Force/Vietnam	Harnish, Paul L. 81 Army	9084 Wakefield
Peterson, Howard Jr. 70 Army/Vietnam	3775 West Branch	5315 Baldwin	Linn, Robert J. 92 Navy/WWII
Wickman, Roger G. 71 Army/Vietnam	Delpier, Charles H. 94 Army/WWII	Crysler, James E. 69 Navy/Vietnam	9363 Flat Rock
2144 Holland	3900 Calumet	Keesler, Max H. 90 Navy/WWII	Council, Robert T. 91 Army/Korea
Buikema, Roger 88 Army/Korea	Jarvela, Carl R. 93 WWII	5666 Flushing	9411 Homer
Van Fleeren, Clifford W. 70 Vietnam	3901 Algonac	Mynsberge, George A. 93 WWII/Korea	Todd, Gale 90 Navy/WWII
Wiegerink, Albert 91 Army/WWII	Gianasciol, Francis 96 WWII	Smith, Claude T. 87 Air Force/Korea	9455 Owosso
2272 Durand	3941 Livonia	6017 Pentwater	Peo, Robert L. 97 Army/WWII
Brooks, William H. 73 Navy/Vietnam	Moritz, Michael J. 69 Navy/Vietnam	Bates, Bruce E. 94 Army Air Corps/WWII	9809 Saginaw
2284 Edwardsburg	3946 Rockford	6132 Lansing	Dupuis, Edward G. 91 Navy/WWII
Jakubiak, Michael J. 69 Army/Vietnam	Chambers, Sylvester 79 Army/Vietnam	Hallenbeck, William 89 Army/Vietnam	9885 Westland
2292 Edmore	4012 Northville		Wahlstrom, Dennis L. 91 Navy/WWII
			12082 Ionia
			Schmidt, Earl E. 93 Navy/WWII/Korea
			15023 Lansing
			Dzendzel, Raymond D. 96 WWII
			Johnston, James R. 86 Air Force/Korea
			Ladley, Thomas D. 80 Army
			Love, Gordon H. 93 Army/WWII
			Savage, Harry R. 70 Army/Vietnam
			Shipe, Lyle K. 87 Navy/Korea

May We Never Forget

Connect with us online at
FACEBOOK.COM/VFWMI or VFWMI.ORG

CONDITIONALLY REVIEWED UPDATE TO DEPARTMENT BYLAWS

VFW NATIONAL

To the Department of Michigan from David Prohaska, National VFW Director of Administrative Operations

We are in receipt of your proposed amendments to the Department Bylaws to provide for the Judge Advocate & Surgeon as elected officers, a Chief of Staff as appointed officer and to provide for the Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chief of Staff and Inspector as the composition of the Department Council of Administration.

A review of the proposed amendments appears to be in full compliance with Section 516 "Elected & Appointed Officers Chairmen and Committees", and Section 522 "Council of Administration Composition, Powers and Duties" of the National Bylaws.

The proposed amendments are conditionally review, pending adoption by the delegates present and voting at your Department Convention, in accordance with Section 502 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Adoption at the Department Convention will allow the members, without delay, to elect a Judge Advocate and Surgeon during the normal nomination/election sequence.

Upon adoption, you will need to incorporate the language into your Department Bylaws accordingly and submit the updated amended Bylaws to National Headquarters, along with any additional approved amendments for review by the Commander-in-Chief to conform with Section 502 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

DO YOU HAVE THE VFW MOBILE APP?

The official app of the VFW puts the power of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans directly in users' hands. The latest version of the VFW app includes the following enhancements:

- Speed improvements
- Better Find-a-Post search
- Bug fixes for Login with ID.me
- Fixes thanks to your feedback!

The mobile app is available for Apple and Android users. It can be found by searching "VFW" in the Apple App Store or in the Google Play Store.



CHAMPIONING FOR ADVOCACY

JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE DIRECTOR

The Federal Circuit, in a recent decision, *Procopio v. Wilkie*, No. 2017-181 (Fed. Cir. Jan. 29, 2019) overturned the court's previous decision in *Haas v. Peake* and stated that under the Agent Orange Act of 1991, veterans who served within the territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam were eligible for presumptive service connection for herbicide related disabilities. However, Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) does have until April 29, 2019 to appeal this decision to the Supreme Court, and in the meantime has "stayed" or put on pause claims for Blue Water Navy Veterans who served within the 12 nautical miles surrounding the Republic of Vietnam.

A brief background: The VFW has been on the forefront of championing the VA to grant service connected presumptive illness due to herbicidal exposure for "Blue Water" veterans since the beginning. The VA has consistently denied these cases due to the language in U.S.C. Section 1116 which extends the presumption of service connection to veterans who "served in the Republic

of Vietnam". This has been interpreted and expressed in all VA cases to mean the actual land mass, i.e. "boots on the ground". In *Haas v. Peake* this language was challenged yet the court at that time held. In *Procopio v. Wilkie*, it was challenged again in which the term "in the Republic of Vietnam" which all available international law unambiguously confirms it includes its territorial seas. That is where the 12 nautical miles surrounding would allow the VA to concede exposure to herbicides and grant presumptive illnesses.

Please note: We are encouraging affected Blue Water Navy veterans and their survivors to file, continue claims of appeals already on file, or re-file for benefits in order to preserve the earliest possible effective date should benefits be authorized under *Procopio* or the pending bill in Congress, H.R. 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. This latest H.R. has been re-introduced to the 116th Congress but has not been put to the House for a vote. Please note that it is not yet certain whether they will be found entitled to

benefits and the claim will not be decided until the court's judgment in *Procopio* is finalized. It is positive that Secretary Wilkie said he's not recommending that Department of Justice challenge *Procopio*, so it seems very likely that VA will be forced to right the wrong of denying earned benefits to Blue Water veterans. Department of Justice does; however, have the final say on whether or not to challenge, with the final day to do so being 29 April. H.R. 299 is still necessary because it addresses other questions on Agent Orange exposure, like the definitions of "territorial waters" and expansions of eligibility for certain Thailand and Korea veterans.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns regarding these or other issues, please contact:

VFW Service Office
477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. #1215
Detroit MI 48226

Ph: 313/964-6510
Fax: 313/964-6545
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov



1.6 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

40,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2018-19 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

111,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2018-19 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Helping struggling military families

9,884

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004.

\$4,832,596

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

3,259

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Honoring the fallen

9.3 million+

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

\$12 million

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans.



Helping veterans get justice

109,000+

Number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2018.

15,000

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2018 resulting in more than \$155 million in disability compensation.

24

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.

MOV EDITORIAL NOTES

Stacey Roberts, Editor & Graphic Design

Editorial Committee:

- Phil Patterson, Commander
- Mike Fineis, Sr. Vice Commander
- Scott Gloger, Jr. Vice Commander
- Linda Gloger, Aux. Committee Member
- Jessica Wright, Safety Officer
- Jared Roberts, Auxiliary Member

Printing & Distribution:

Stafford Printing

EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be returned for revision. **We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.** The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

Materials for Publication consideration should be sent to:
MOV@VFWMI.ORG

MOV Editor
7901 Backus Road
Greenville, MI 48838

TAPS FORM

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

Send completed form to:

VFW of Michigan
924 North Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

(City)

Branch of Service (Circle One):

- ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
- MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in (Circle one):

- WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
- GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
- OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

THE HOME DEPOT HAS OPENED THEIR COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT FOR 2019

VFW members can receive up to \$5,000 to fund repairs or construction projects at their Post building.

There are of course are no guarantees to being funded, but several VFW Posts have been awarded this grant.

To begin the process, click on the following link:

<https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

The application must be submitted online using the posted hyper-link. Telephone calls, emails or written submissions sent to Home Depot will NOT be accepted, nor will you be able to turn this application in at your local HD store.

Please find the attachment "HDGrant-Guide2019," and carefully read the instructions before attempting to complete the application. We have tried to make the instructions as simple as possible using screen captures and by providing thorough descriptions of how to complete each field. Deviation from this guide could result in the applicant being unable to submit their request.

Pay close attention to the Tax ID Instructions. You will use the Employee Identification Number (EIN) of your Post and upload the Post's 501(c)(19) IRS determination letter at the end of the application. If you cannot locate the Post's 501(c)(19) letter, follow the instructions below under "Lost IRS Determination Letter" on how to request a copy from the IRS.

In previous years, The Home Depot Foundation has accepted the first page of the Post's most recently filed IRS Form 990 tax document in lieu of the IRS determination letter. It is still a good idea to have a copy of your IRS letter, you may need to apply for other possible grants, but using your 990 should allow you to complete the application immediately.

If you receive funding it will come in the form of Home Depot gift cards that can be used to buy materials at your local HD store. You will need to recruit Post members and/or other community volunteers as the use of paid contractors to complete your project is not permitted. The project must be completed within six months. You will also be required to submit a final report. You must be willing to include stories and before-and-after photos of the project. Failure to do so will negatively impact your Post's ability to

receive any future funding from The Home Depot Foundation.

After submitting the application, you should receive an email response after six weeks. The grant is scheduled to be open through December 31, 2019.

Should you have any questions and or concerns, please contact Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants Coordinator, directly at (816) 968-1174 or jcouch@vfw.org.

Best wishes and good luck!

P.S. Home Depot has introduced a new requirement to completing the application. They now require a project budget, that must be submitted as a Microsoft Excel file. This new requirement is covered in-depth in the guide. Please note that an additional attachment has been included with this email, "Home Depot Budget Example." This Excel file is a template that Posts can use to complete their own project budgets.

Lost IRS Determination Letter?

If you have misplaced your IRS determination letter, a new copy can be obtained. Most Posts fall under the "Group exemption" of their Department, meaning their Department's IRS determination letter is also theirs. However, each Post has its own unique Employee Identification Number or (EIN). Your Department leadership should know if you fall under a group exemption. You may also call IRS Customer Service for nonprofit organizations at 1-877-829-5500. They should be able to provide you with a new copy of the letter, but often times will refer you to your Department, which is why I recommend you start your department.

If the IRS representative is unable to furnish you with a new copy of your letter, you can make a written request by filling out a Form 4506-A, "Request for Public Inspection or Copy of Exempt or Political Organization IRS Form," which can be downloaded at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4506a.pdf.

The request can be faxed to the IRS at 513-263-4330 or 513-263-3434, or your request can be mailed to IRS, Room 4024, POB 2508, Cincinnati, OH 45201. Keep in mind that it may take up to 60 days (or more) to fill your request.

Jason Couch
Grants Coordinator, VFW Foundation
VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, Ste. 920
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
Office: 816.968.1174



MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN NEWSLETTER

(ISSN 1067-0661) is published quarterly; January/February/March, April/May/June, July/August/September and October/November/December at Stafford Publishing, 1005 E Fairplains St, Greenville, MI 48838 by the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars at 924 N. Washington Ave., Lansing (Ingham), MI 48906. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT LANSING, MI AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Members receive this publication as part of their dues.

Subscriptions for non-members is \$4.
Postmaster. Send addresses changes to
MOV Editor Stacey Roberts
7901 Backus Rd, Greenville, MI 48838



#ThankBK APPRECIATION WEEK

HELP SHOW THE VFW'S SUPPORT!

Visit your local BURGER KING® the week of Armed Forces Day, May 12-18.



#ThankBK Appreciation Week May 12-18 is the week leading up to and including Armed Forces Day (May 18), your Post and Auxiliary are encouraged to recognize our great friends at

BURGER KING® (BK)

by mobilizing membership to visit their local BK restaurants.

Don't forget to use #ThankBK and #VFWPostPride in your social media postings. A letter of appreciation can be found on vfw.org

2019-2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S ROSTER

If you would like to purchase a Commanders roster, please fill this out and include the \$5.00 charge per roster.

Make checks payable to:

Department of Michigan VFW
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

Name _____

Street _____

City, Zip _____

Quantity _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

2019-2020 VFW SHIRT ORDER FORM

Michael Fineis' Department polo shirt will be a red 100% polyester made in the USA with the VFW logo and it will say "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS, Dept. OF Michigan". The shirt comes with or without a pocket. It is a Men's shirt. Please indicate the size(s) of the shirt(s) you wish to purchase.

SHIRTS ARE PRE-ORDER ONLY.

Men's with pocket S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ 4X ___

no pocket S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X ___

Shirts are \$35.00.

Make checks payable to:

Department of Michigan VFW
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

Enclosed is a check/cash in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ shirt(s).

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Shirts will be available for pick up at Department Convention.



100TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION - JUNE 5-9

AGENDA

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint Michigan

Wednesday, June 5th

8:30 a.m. Golf Outing Registration
9:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
Fenton Farms - 12312 Torrey Rd., Fenton 48430
TBD - 10 p.m. Hospitality Room Fillmore Room

Thursday, June 6th

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Registration Taft Taylor
Directors Displays
9 - 11:30 a.m. Service Office Committee Adams- Jefferson
Budget & Finance Committee
By-Laws & Resolutions
11:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own
1 - 5 p.m. Registration Taft Taylor
1 - 4 p.m. Director's report Adams- Jefferson
4 - 4:30 p.m. Camp Trotter meeting Adams- Jefferson
5 - 6 p.m. Directors/Officers meeting Fillmore
6 - 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Fillmore

Friday, June 7th

8 - 9 a.m. C of A Breakfast J Porters Restaurant
8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Registration Taft Taylor
Directors Displays
Photo Room Camp David
9:15 - 11:30 a.m. C of A meeting Adams Jefferson
Presentations
1:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own
1 - 5 p.m. Registration Taft Taylor
1:30 - 4 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Adams Jefferson
All State Achievement awards
Fire Fighter/ EMT Awards
4 - 5 p.m. SR/JR Meeting
7 - 11 p.m. 100 Year Celebration Fillmore

Saturday, June 8th

8 - 11 a.m. Final Registration Taft Taylor
Photo Room Camp David
9 - 11:30 a.m. Opening of Convention Adams Jefferson
Nominations
Special Awards
Honor Guard
Buddy Poppy Child
11:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own
TBD Past Commanders/President luncheon Fillmore
1 - 4 p.m. Resume Convention Adams Jefferson
Nominations
Meet the Candidates
Elections

Installation of 2019 - 2020 Officers

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. C of A 2019-2020 Adams Jefferson
6 - 10 p.m. Celebration for incoming Hotel
Commander/ President

Sunday, June 9th

9 - 12 p.m. Membership Training Seminar TBD

Dress Code

Thur - State Commander Phil Patterson's grey polo shirt & tan khakis
Fri - State Commander Phil Patterson's grey polo shirt & grey pants
Sat - Past State Commander Matt David's grey polo shirt & tan khakis
Sun - Incoming State Commander Michael Fineis' polo shirt & slacks

* Council of Administration members will be in C of A for all C of A meetings (navy jacket and grey slacks)