

MICHIGAN
OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
SUMMER 24



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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, KIMBERLY NAPOLEON

Greetings Comrades!! Let me start by thanking you for electing me to serve you as your Department of Michigan State Commander during the 105th Department Convention. I am deeply humbled. As I continue serving you and our great organization, I will maintain the vision of unity and my commitment to service while leading with vision, integrity, structure, and accountability. Myself and The Department staff are dedicated and here to help, if needed, in carrying out our organizational mission. Comrades, I want you to know that I am dedicated to serving you, the veterans, and our families. When we work together, not as individuals but as members of one community, I know that we will continue to accomplish great things. We are coming off our Department Convention, in which many Posts and Commanders received public acknowledgments for the hard work put in while volunteering their talents and time to this organization and The Department of Michigan. Congratulations to all All-State and the numerous All-American Post Commanders! Your dedication is greatly appreciated. On September 29th, the Veterans of Foreign Wars US will celebrate our 125th anniversary of serving veterans and their families. That is a long time! And I know we will continue building upon our commitment as we move onward to the next chapter. Many victories have been

achieved and should be celebrated. We have several posts that will celebrate milestone anniversaries since the Department was chartered, and I am looking forward to seeing and reading your highlights in the coming months. My service- I attended the Disabled American Veterans Convention on June 5th as a representative. I was a studio guest with Gary Putnisky and his radio show, promoting VFW and talking about veteran benefits and how to apply. I also attended the Camp Trotters Ice Cream Social at the Campground to kick off its 75th anniversary of camping. Lastly, I was in attendance for the first of three Veterans Training Sessions held in Charlotte, MI, where over 140 Comrades were in attendance. Your attendance on a Saturday morning for 7 hours of training is a testament to the dedication you, as volunteer-due-paying Members, have for this organization. “One Team, One Mission; Still Serving while Changing the Lives of Veterans and Their Families One at a Time” is the theme I’ve chosen for the 2024–2025 year. My vision is that we will move as one unit, in sync, as we carry out our service this year. It is true that, together, everyone achieves more. With our programs of service set before us, let us move onward to retaining our current Members while also increasing on our way to 102% this year! With a goal and structure before us set by our Membership Chairman, Dickey, and your hard work, anything is possible. This can be done! In closing, as we continue this year, I’d like to ask you to think about this quote: “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”

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First off, I would like to thank you for placing your trust in me by electing me your Junior Vice Commander. It is an honor I will not take lightly. I will support Commander Napoleon in everything she does 100%, and next year I will do the same for Commander Yahnka. Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers in the State, Districts, County Councils, and Posts. Your Comrades have



reach out to another Post near you and get a student essay from them. Also, get with your Auxiliary and work with them on the VOD and PP programs together. Get your Buddy Poppies ordered through the Department by using the available forms online at VFWmi.org. You can order the traditional or the new tin-tab Buddy Poppies For your VMS donation, go to VFW.org and go to the dashboard to make your VMS donation of \$100.00. The other thing that I want to stress is communication. Whatever your position is, if you are sent information, please forward it to those below you and above you if it needs to go that way. Don't just send emails and text messages. Pick up the phone, call those Comrades, and check on them to see if they need anything. However you do it, just make sure you keep everyone around you informed. Membership is something that you need to be working on at all times. Don't wait until the end of the year to work Membership; work it every chance you get. Set up a recruiting table at fairs, festivals, and other community events. You have to go where veterans are located to get them to join our great organization. Comrades, I can be reached at (517) 745-3705. If you need assistance or advice, please give me a call. I look forward to seeing you at District Meetings, Fall Conference, and Post visits throughout my travels around the state. Don't forget the Fall Conference in Flint on September 27-29, 2024.



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Comrades, as soon as we receive the Inspection forms from National, we will get them to the District Commanders to get them to the inspectors. This is an important part of our operation and vital for Post survival. Audits are also essential to Post survival; they are due at the end of the month following

BUTCH OGDEN

the close of the quarter. The three trustees must sign the audit, and the Commander needs to sign as well. Please make sure that you clearly print the Post number and the quarter that is being submitted. Also, make sure that you get your 990s done and available for the inspection. Quartermaster

bonds expire on August 31st. Make sure that your bond covers your anticipated assets for the year. I look forward to working with everyone this year. For any questions or assistance, please contact me, William (Butch) Ogden, via phone (517) 304-4069 or e-mail 1950americanpatriot@gmail.com.

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



I would like to thank State Commander Napoleon for the appointment as her Adjutant this year. I would also like to thank you, our Members, for re-electing me as your Quartermaster. I will do my very best to continue to serve our Department as you expect and deserve. We are very busy at Headquarters with the plans and programs for the new year ahead of us. We would like to thank the Comrades who attended the Department VTS sessions. Great participation. The agenda for Fall Conference is posted on the Department website, and we are looking forward to an informative conference. You will note that the Commander and President are bringing back the Fall Conference banquet

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER, BARRY WALTER

on Saturday night. It will be a charity fundraising event to benefit our cancer program and Fisher House. We look forward to your attendance. We continue to expand and improve our Department website as we try to provide the best information on programs and activities to our Members in the best way possible. Our Department Programs on the website are now largely presented in a format that allows them to be downloaded by Posts or Members for easy sharing with minimal copy and paste. Supplemental information for our programs has likewise been largely presented for easy access and sharing. Several of our Department Programs have been combined under one heading, and you will see that when you review the programs on the website. The supplemental information will be updated as appropriate without having to change the core program documents. Please

review those programs you are interested in often and stay current on what is going on. The Department calendar is updated several times a week with National, Department, and many District events and meetings. In addition, we are establishing a new option for Districts to create a District event schedule, which we will post and maintain for each District. This will be completed as we receive the information from the District Commanders. Quartermaster and Post Officer bond applications have been mailed to each Post Quartermaster. Also available on the website is the bond application for Post employees, if appropriate in your Post. Current bonds expire on August 31st, so get your new application in as soon as possible. If we at Headquarters can be of assistance to you, please contact the office. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I'll see you all at Fall Conference.

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Comrades, I hope that everybody is in good health and spirits. I would like to remind everybody that in the National Manual of procedure Section 218 duties and obligation of the Commander paragraph I "assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded" so it is each post Commander's duty to make sure that their Post is properly sending in their reports. I know that I have posted this before, but I just want to make sure that each Commander and future Commanders are aware of it. I would like

to congratulate all the newly elected and appointed Officers. Past Officers please make sure that you assist all the new Officers so there is a smooth transition. The biggest change to this year's reporting is the addition of being able to claim the Auxiliary reports that they aren't allowed to claim. The form for the Auxiliary to turn into the Post monthly is available on the Department website under Programs/Activity Evaluation and can be printed from there. There has been a minor change in reporting these reports. Previously it was

reported that all you must do is report the total number of reports but now they will have to be separated and the information will be on the online reporting sheet, and it is self-explanatory. Also, this year, any District Commander who's District is 100% reported in the Activity reports by the Fall conference will receive a \$25.00 Bass Pro gift card. If you any questions don't hesitate to contact me, Bob Lutz, Department of Michigan Activity Director 2024-2025, (586)924-4591 or activity@vfwmi.org.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES CO-DIRECTOR

Greetings Comrades! Everyone should now be working on Youth Activities. VOD and Patriot's Pen are great ways to provide service to youth. Everything you do for VOD and Patriot's Pen should be reported on your monthly activity report. Whether it's money spent on a brochure or time spent at a school, it's all youth activity. New to this year's program is the Cadet of the Year. Cadets can be from a JROTC Unit, a Civil Air Patrol, or even a Seat Cadet Program. All applications are on

the Department website under Youth Activities. You have lots of time because the deadline isn't until May 31st, 2025. But don't wait until the last minute. Get out, find a unit, and cultivate a relationship. This can also be a great recruiting source. Many of the advisors are prior military. Scouting has been combined with Youth Activities. There is still a separate program for Scouts as in the past, and the Scout of the Year still exists. There are three separate categories for the Scouts: Girl Scout Gold

Award, Boy Scout Eagle, and Venture Scout Summit or Quartermaster Award. Congratulations to this year's award winners: Michaela Witgen, sponsored by Post 1566, who won the Boy Scout Eagle Scout of the Year, and Natalie Thayer, sponsored by Post 9455, who won the Girl Scout Gold Award of the Year. For this year, all applications must be sent to me by April 1st, 2025. If you need help finding a Scout, let me or my co-director, Thomas Weber, know, and we can help.





MENTAL HEALTH/VMS DIRECTOR, DOUG BRINKER

Greetings, Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers, I pray this finds you in good health and spirits. The Mental Health Welfare Team has been busy preparing for some new ways of providing Posts and Districts opportunities across the state. We participated in a 90-minute panel interview live on Kiss FM in Saginaw, compliments of our State Commander's vision to bring mental health to the forefront this year. Thanks to Darren Humes, my co-director, and Tracy Nagy, 4th District Commander, for the insightful time spent being interviewed. In the coming months, more panel interviews will occur, providing more opportunities to reach across our state and save lives. We are wrapping up PTS Awareness Month as well as having our presence at the State Convention, which basically wiped us out of everything. We are humbled that those who visited took the materials as part of our psychoeducational efforts. Thanks to Darren, there is a new format for All-State point recognition. Also, the Department website has been overhauled to reflect the incentives. As your MHW Team, we

are urging each Post and District to host a mental health type of event, especially with September being Suicide Prevention Month. Contact us for more details on the ideas you have. Remember to ask for the Program you must go through Department and fill out the Department Representative form, which must be approved by the Commander. At Fall Conference, there will be a special mental health presentation featuring a Mental Health Professional. Hint: Everyone who signs in and attends will receive credit; they must stay for the entire session. A reminder: the Jackson County Military Coalition, which I co-chair, will host our 2nd Annual Ruck to Remember Veterans Suicides on Saturday, August 24th, at Jackson Fairgrounds, 200W Ganson St., Jackson, MI, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is an opportunity to participate and earn All State points. Tons of resources, support, food trucks, and a 100-car classic car show are on hand. With respect to VMS, most of our Posts failed to meet the minimum donation requirement of \$100. Less than 50. This donation goes to fund Unmet Needs and provide, yes, some of our own Department's Comrades and their families in extreme crisis. Please contact us about implementing VMS Programs in your

Posts for the 24–25 VFW year. This year will see the MAP pins return; there will be a limited number of them, and each pin is \$20. These will be available once I return from the National Convention. We will be devising an Incentive Program before Fall Conference for VMS programming. All StateIncentivesforMentalHealthWelfare: 5 points for submitting a Mental Health Advocate of the Year Award; 10 points for holding a Mental Health Forum in your community (which must include pictures and outreach resources with at least one Certified Mental Health Professional and be submitted within 48 hours after event completion). 5 points if you donate your Post to a community mental health event. The Department Mental Health Team will host two panel discussions (time and locations, tba). If a Member volunteers as a panelist, your Post will receive 5 points, maximum 15. 2 points for each Member of your Post that attends approved Suicide Prevention training such as SAVE, SAFE TALK, QPR (Question Persuade Refer), or completes Mental Health First Aid training, maximum 10 points. We honor and remember all our Comrades who've taken their lives in the Dept. of Michigan, VFW. Till Valhalla, Comrades. Let us be the ones who bring about change!



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



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, TERRY KUNST

Greetings Comrades! Thank you, State of Michigan, for electing me to be your Department Chaplain for 2024–2025! I am sorry I was not able to be at State Convention, as I am currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments and need to be careful of crowds! The good news is that all seems to be going well, and I plan to see you all at Fall Conference in Flint. I just want to share with my veteran Brothers and Sisters a little about what is important to me and hopefully to all our VFW Members. First is a priority list for my life (because in order to travel life's journey, we have to prioritize what's important)! The priority goes like this: 6 points of priority. 1. Spiritually: I believe

every person needs to ground themselves here first (we all need to discover who or what that is). 2. Physically: We need to take care of ourselves physically (proper diet, exercise, and being careful of substances that can harm us). 3. Emotionally: How we act and think about our emotions. We need to have an attitude check each day because our attitude will determine our altitude, and your attitude is one of the things only you and I can choose. 4. Mentally: How are you mentally feeling? One great way to deal with your mental attitude is to think about others more than yourself! One of my mentors, Zig Ziglar, puts it this way. "You can get anything in life you want if you just help enough other people get what they want!" When you help others, everyone wins! 5. Financially: If your outgo exceeds your income, you are putting undue stress on your life! So, if that

is your position, start using budgeting to get that area of your life in balance (income = outgo = balance)! 6. Relationally: How are you doing with family and friends? If there is friction in your family and/or friends, this will negatively impact your life as well. Try to mend those relationships as best you can, even though you may not be successful. This may not be your priority list, and if not, I encourage you to put your own list together! Every day, mentally, go through your list and give yourself a "check-up from the neck up"! May God continue to bless America!



FLAGS OF REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Port Sanilac VFW Post 8872 presented a check for \$2,000 to the students of Sandusky Jr./Sr. High School for their fundraising efforts to bring a permanent monument to the Sanilac County Courthouse grounds. This monument will contain all of the names of the Veterans that currently have a Flags of Remembrance plaque. Additional names of living or deceased Veterans can also be

added to the list before the monument is built (see attached order form). The 500+ flags will also continue to be placed around the grounds on the patriotic holidays each year. Please see the flyer to the right that contains the renderings of the proposed monument and a link to make donations to the project. We are currently over 60% of the way to the fundraising goal of \$50,000!



NEW WAR MEMORIAL

On Memorial Day, Adams-Rockey VFW Post 6056 dedicated a new War Memorial at the Springport Cemetery. The Memorial came about after the Post received a \$2500 donation from Harold Webb's Trust Fund. Harold was a Past Post Commander and Life Member of VFW Post 6056. Harold's children asked that the Post do something special with the donation. VFW Members William (Bill) Gibbs and Jerry Riske came up with the idea for a new War Memorial at the cemetery and presented it to the Membership, and the Memorial was approved. Royal Monument of Springport acquired the black granite from India and

did the engraving. On the back of the Memorial are the names for whom the VFW and American Legion are named: Thomas Adams, Max Rockey, David Bernheisel, and Thomas Riley, who were KIA Killed In Action, and Kenneth Parker, who is a MIA Missing In Action from the Korean War and was Cyndy (Parker) Wright's father. The other veterans on the Memorial donated \$500 to have their names on it. The Memorial was unveiled by Harold's daughter, Anita Brown, her daughter Allison, her son Aaron, and VFW members Bill Gibbs and Jerry Riske. There are plans to sell brick pavers to be

placed in front of the Memorial. Bricks will have veteran's names only and will be sold for \$125.00. More information on bricks will be available soon. There are also plans to install six flag poles behind the Memorial, with each branch of service represented, and three flagpoles set out in front with the American flag, POW/MIA flag, and State flag. Some benches are also planned for the Memorial. Lastly, there is limited space for veterans's names on the left side of the Memorial for \$500.00 per name. For more information, you can contact Commander Reinold E. Yahnka at (517) 745-3705.





SERVICE DOESN'T STOP WHEN WE'RE DONE SERVING.



Today'sVFW.org

CAMP TROTTER GOLF OUTING



A woman and a young girl are smiling and holding a drink. The girl is holding a yellow cup. They are outdoors, possibly at a camp or festival.

A circular logo with a tree in the center and the text "Celebrating 75 Years!" around it.

CAMP TROTTER FAMILY DAY

Saturday, August 17
5566 E 86th St Newaygo, MI 49337

Join us to celebrate the conclusion of VFW Camp Trotter's camping season and 75th Anniversary!

Lunch at 12:00
Hamburgers, condiments and water provided.
Please bring a passing dish and your own drinks.
No alcoholic beverages please!

- Activities**
- Corn Hole Tournament
 - Swimming - Life guard on duty
 - Fishing - *equipment available*
 - Pontoon Rides
 - T Shirt Tie Dyeing
 - Raffle (*drawing 1pm*)
- Festivities begin at 9 am!**

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POST REPORTS

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POST 582 - ORTONVILLE



POST 2645 - SOUTHFIELD

Dunham Ray VFW Post 2645 Southfield members were invited by the Dunkin Donuts Director of Operations Aaron Piper and District Manager Linda Harris to their Dunkin Donuts store in Southfield, Michigan, on June 7th, 2024, to help celebrate “National Donut Day.” Attending were Past State Commander and Post 2645 Trustee Jerry Gorski, Post 2645 Commander Don Kuffner, Past Post 2645 Commander Al Stabrava, and Post 2645 Chaplain Lonnie Bennett. The VFW 2645 Members were told the history behind “National Donut Day” by Dunkin Donut District Manager Linda Harris. She said it started when the Salvation Army distributed baked goods to the U.S. soldiers serving overseas during World War I. Dunkin Donuts Corporation continued this tradition by giving away a free donut to veterans on June 7th of every year. Aaron Piper is the Director of Operations for Dunkin.



POST 4139 - LAPEER

I would like to say it has been a pleasure serving as Auxiliary President for 8 years for Lawrence W. Smith Post; Lapeer Post 4139. It has been an honor working with the veterans and the community not only taking care of them but their families as well. I look forward to many more years of volunteering to see that all veterans' needs are met. I also will continue to be a volunteer driver for Lapeer County veterans' affairs as they continue supporting veterans with rides to and from their medical appointments as it is a joy meeting and talking with veterans. Thank you veterans! – Kim Leach



POST 8846 - MUSKEGON

The “Quilts of Valor” Committee along with VFW Post 8846 in Muskegon presented quilts to Dennis D. Cobler and Raymond Meloche in ceremonies at the VFW Post 8846 prior to its monthly meeting. A “Quilt of Valor” is a quality handmade quilt that is awarded to a veteran for their distinguished service and dedication to our country.



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF HELPING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

VFW is commemorating its anniversary in many ways this year! This year marks the beginning of VFW’s celebration of its 125th anniversary. Founded on Sept. 29, 1899, VFW has made a legacy in the lives of veterans and their families – it is a legacy that endures. As the nation’s oldest combat veterans organization, VFW has many opportunities this year for its members to recognize this momentous occasion. All VFW Posts are invited to be the catalyst to get their communities involved in commemorating the contributions of all veterans and their family members to our country during this anniversary year. In accepting this invitation to become a VFW 125th Anniversary Commemorative Community Service Post, such VFW Posts will receive due recognition. Additionally, Posts are asked to encourage the communities to study the history of this era to help ensure a safer and better tomorrow. To become a VFW 125th Anniversary Commemorative Community Service Post, visit vfw125.org. Also at this anniversary site, check out the VFW Destination Posts section. As part of the celebration, VFW Magazine is featuring 125 Posts throughout the year. These VFW Posts are active in the communities and are located in destination locations. Checkpoint would love to hear how your Post plans to celebrate. Email Jdyhouse@vfw.org and you may find your Post story in a future issue of Checkpoint.





AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, JANE DADY

Thank you to the Michigan Department Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the honor and privilege of being elected as Department President for the 2024–2025 year. Thank you, National Auxiliary President Carla Martinez, for installing me. Thank you to my Auxiliary 5678 Tawas City and District 11 for your continued love and support. I could not have accomplished this without you. Congratulations to all

newly elected Officers on every level. We have an exciting team of Officers, District Presidents, and Chairmen ready to lead and share their ideas. Please join us in working together to assist our veterans and recognize our Members. Welcome to our new Treasurer, Cathy Sasse; our new Guard, Denise Arnold; and welcome back as the Department Secretary, Cindy Peto. I look forward to working on every level with VFW Commander Kimberly Napoleon and her team. I appreciate the leadership and kindness the VFW has shown me. I am sure we will have a fantastic year. Mark your calendars! The 111th National

Convention will be held in Louisville, KY, July 27–August 1. National Home Michigan Day will be August 11th. Camp Trotter Family Day is August 17th. The National C.A.F.E. will be at the National Home on September 6–7. National President Brenda Bryant will be visiting Michigan on September 12–14. The Fall Conference will be September 25–29 in Flint. Please utilize our website, www.vfwauxmi.org, for details and updates. Our success this year will come from hard work and dedication, but more importantly, from loving what we do. “Nothing can dim the light that shines from within.”



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT, JASON MANKE

Let me start out by saying thank you to the Members for electing me as your Department VFW Auxiliary Jr Vice President! I pledge that I will do the best I can to help move Michigan forward and represent

each Member of this great state. Congratulations to Larry Thayer on being elected Department VFW Jr Vice Commander. I look forward to working with Larry these up coming years. To give the Members a heads-up, Larry and I are planning on doing a Gun-A-Day Raffle for the month of October, this will be a fundraiser for us. We’re hoping we can count on your support.

I’m looking forward to seeing a lot of you at the VFW National Home for Michigan Day, which is always a great time. At the Fall Conference I will be meeting with the newly elected District Jr Vice President, please watch for the schedule when it comes out. Department President Jane Dady I wish you the best year, and I’m here for you if you need anything.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF, JAN PASSMORE

Welcome to the 2024-2025 year! My name is Jan Passmore and I am now your Department VFW Auxiliary Chaplain and Chief of Staff. I am looking forward to meeting more of our Brothers, Sisters, and Comrades in my travels this year. Your Department leadership is here for each and every one of you. You are the foundation of

our organization, and we are hoping that you will be an active participant with us. None of us can do it all, but all of us can do something and that will ultimately assist us in reaching our goals. We want your voice to be heard so please feel free to contact us with your concerns or questions. Our organization must work together as a team and alongside our VFW Comrades at all levels. Working together is what helps to make us strong as an organization overall and with it each person has something

to offer. That is mentoring and one of the fundamental goals of our Auxiliary and VFW. I ask that you assist in growing our organization by working within your community, which helps to get our message out there of what we have to offer for veterans and their families. I am hoping to see you at the VFW National Home Michigan Day on August 11th, VFW Camp Trotter Family Day on August 17th, and our Fall Conference in Flint on September 26th to September 28th.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES/CAMP TROTTER, APRIL LOWERY

It is my pleasure to serve as the Auxiliary Department Youth Activities and Camp Trotter Chairman this year! There are so many great opportunities to connect with our youth in our communities through connecting with various youth groups. Groups can include youth sports teams, faith-based youth groups, after-school programs, and so many more. Do not forget to include those in homeschool programs as well. One focus of our year is patriotism through literacy. Connect veterans with youth through reading, and don’t forget to document it! Our national goal this

year is to host events where youth read to veterans, or veterans read to youth. Your Auxiliary can donate the books for this event. Unfortunately, the Red, White, and Blue singing contest is no longer available, but we are continuing to host the Illustrating America contest for students in grades K–8. Be sure to give your schools, churches, homeschool organizations, and other youth organizations plenty of notice. Art can take time. Submissions are due to your sponsoring VFW Auxiliary by March 31st, 2025. Bringing youth to many of our scheduled events in the VFW Post Home is a terrific way to involve the public in your events. Remember to hand out your Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) cards to the younger children you see demonstrating acts of patriotism in

the community. For those older children you see demonstrating patriotism, be sure to award them a Patriotic Youth Award. We cannot forget about Camp Trotter! Celebrating 75 years of service to our great state of Michigan! If you are available, please join us at Camp Trotter Family Day on August 17th. How wonderful would it be if we had representatives from all Districts that day? If you are not able to attend, consider donating to the camp scholarship fund, sponsoring a camper, or sending a donation for the golf outing. Registration for the golf outing has passed, but all funds raised will go toward supporting Camp Trotter this camping season. Keep an eye out for future camp clean-up days to prepare for the 2025 camping season.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT, SCOTT COLLINS



Thank you, Madam President Jane Dady, for giving me my choice of this important Chairmanship ahead of time a year ago. Veterans and Family Support was my first Auxiliary 3165 Level Chairmanship back in 2017, and Jane Dady helped me immensely by saying, “Everything we do is reportable under Veterans and Family Support.” Another thank you goes out to 2023–24 Chairman Christine Senko for graciously helping me get acclimated. I intend to do my best as Chairman for the 2024–2025 year. Hopefully everyone enjoyed our brief Michigan summer months and is ready to continue helping our military, veterans, and their families in the upcoming colder months. Great job by all Districts in reporting on our Department’s website so far. Remember to include the cost of gasoline when reporting your travel miles. This year’s Veterans and Family Support Program Chairmen have plenty of activity achievement goals to ensure that our military, veterans, and their families get all the assistance that they need and deserve. Please review your guide sheet and bulletins often. Here are some programs and military/veteran resources that hopefully your Auxiliary can incorporate into your activities this year:

VFW National Veterans Service, or NVS: Helps veterans, service members, and their families get the benefits that they deserve—at no cost. NVS uses accredited Service Officers to help navigate the Veterans Affairs system.

VFW Veterans and Military Support Program: Includes the Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, and Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship; these programs serve active-duty and recently discharged military personnel.

Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness: Make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis by educating yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide.

Operation Bottom Cover: This is our National President Brenda Bryant’s special project this year; there is a need for diapers for both babies of military and veteran families as well as adults. Donations can be made to Malta under NP special project or directly to the military or veteran family of your choice.

Honor Flights: Auxiliaries are encouraged to raise funds for the Upper Peninsula, Mid-Michigan, and Talons Out Honor Flight programs. Funds raised can go directly to your choice(s) of Honor Flight and/or be used to assist a chaperone.

Fisher House: A safe and comfortable place where military, veterans, and their families can stay while receiving care at our VA hospitals, free of charge. Fisher House is in dire need of our support. Ann Arbor has one, and Detroit is in the process of building another. For more information or to donate, go to <https://www.fisherhousemichigan.com>.

Heroes to Hives: This unique program was started by MSU and is now being coordinated for veterans of Michigan by Gary Brown of VFW Post 2406. Heroes to Hives helps veterans with PTSD or other issues by offering professional training, community development, and personal wellness through beekeeping. For more information, go to www.heroestohives.org or e-mail garybrown@outlook.com.

I plan on doing a Veterans and Family Support presentation at our Fall Conference, which will be held September 26–29 at the Gateway Hotel, Grand Blanc/Flint. I hope to see all of you there and answer any questions you may have. You can always contact me personally; my contact information is on the Veterans and Family Support guide sheet and bulletins. Finally, please remember to check in on our elderly or shut-ins during the upcoming holiday season and report all that you do for our military, veterans, and their families. Thank you, and thank a veteran.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, MARIAN BELAIRE

Hello, veterans and family members of veterans. I’m Marian Belaire, and I am the Membership Chairman for the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary for the 2024–2025 year. First, I would like to thank all the veterans for their service. Let’s face it, family members of veterans have served as well, just not in harms way. What I love to do, more than anything, for this organization is to support veterans and their families in so many different ways. The VFW Auxiliary is the oldest veteran service organization. Since 1914, the VFW Auxiliary has been

bringing services, information, and help to veterans at home and abroad, as well as to their families. Each year, the Auxiliary Members do things such as volunteer at VA hospitals, march in parades, work with youth groups to teach patriotism, and write to legislators in support of veterans’s issues. In addition, we support the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, where there are forty-two homes. Were you aware that there’s a camp in Newaygo called Camp Trotter on Bills Lake, where children from ages 7 through 12 can go and have an amazing time in a safe environment? There are also scholarship opportunities that are open to children from Michigan. These scholarships can be lucrative and involve

multiple opportunities in writing and the arts. Of course, none of this happens without the hard work and dedication of our Members. As our Membership base ages, we’re in need of new Members. We need Members with a wide array of skills. But what we need more than anything are Members who have the passion to help. If you’re unaware, since 2015, men have been eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary. There’s no better way, in my opinion, to honor your veteran than to join us in our mission-critical efforts to help veterans. Please help us help our heroes. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (248) 345-2442 (call or text) or via email at mbelairemvf@yahoo.com, or go to www.vfwauxiliary.org.



AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN, DENISE ARNOLD

Welcome to the 2024–25 VFW Scholarship Year. This should be another exciting year of scholarship opportunities. My name is Denise Arnold, and I am honored to once

again be working with Mike Martin, the Department VFW Chairman. It is never too late to begin promoting all of the scholarship programs. VOD/PP: Both are due to your Post or Auxiliary by October 31st, 2024. Themes for this year: Voice of Democracy (VOD): Is America today our forefather’s vision?; Patriots Pen (PP): My Voice

in America’s Democracy? TOY: Due to your Post or Auxiliary by October 31st, 2024. Continuing Education: Due by February 2025. Patriotic Art, both 2D and 3D, is due to your Post and Auxiliary by March 31st, 2025, and to Department by April 15th, 2025. Thank you for your continued support of our veterans and our programs.

AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN, ANN BACKHURST

The year was kicked off at the April 2024, Department Convention programs presentation by Nurse I. B. Feelingood, who, in her nurse’s outfit, outlined how to keep the Hospital fun and lively while we do the program work. The Hospital program is the oldest program in the VFW Auxiliary and one in which we are working toward making it fun for the veterans while honoring their service. We doubt we have not seen the last of Nurse I.B. Feelingood and her medical staff as they think outside the box to keep our veterans smiling whether they are in a VA or non-VA facility. Stay tuned to find out which Auxiliaries become MASH units!



ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

LISTED BY	POST NUMBER	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SERVICE	WAR
565 Battle Creek	1888 Trenton	2891 Crystal Falls				
Townsend, John F. 90 Marines/Korea	Kolakowski Jr., Thomas 80 Army/Vietnam	Colombino, Donald L. 98 Army/WWII				
582 Ortonville	2051 Petoskey	2964 Reed City				
Kengerski, Donald J. 93 Army/Korea	Bennett, John R. 80 Navy	Grubb, Dale F. 85 Air Force				
607 Rogers City	2052 Romeo	3033 Midland				
Hartwick, Neil R. 71 Army/Vietnam	Hernden, David 93 Army/Korea	Artibee, Timothy L. 57 Army/Iraq				
667 South Haven	2144 Holland	3134 Iron River				
Bromberek, Joseph 77 Marines/Vietnam	Baker, Michael R. 82 Navy/Vietnam	Vassar, Robert W. 88 Army/Germany				
702 Grandville	2233 Detroit	3165 Negaunee				
Broek, Douglas J. 76 Air Force/Vietnam	Holland, Charles 93 Korea	Uitto, Stanley A. 92 Army/Korea				
1008 Waterford	2269 Wixom	3623 Cheboygan				
Cicinelli, Robert W. 75 Air Force/Vietnam	Lisiski, Dennis S. 79 Army/Vietnam	Tryban, Peter T. 75 Army/Vietnam				
Conlen Jr., Charles 91 Navy/Korea/Vietnam						
Rushing, Wallace 76 Army/Vietnam						
1136 Wyandotte	2335 Mecosta	3672 Albion				
Preston, Donald R. 79 Marines/Vietnam	Boroff, Carlton D. 81 Navy/Cuba	Wheeler Sr., Calvin W. 92 Army/Korea				
1138 Monroe	2406 Charlotte	3701 Lakeview				
Myers, Clarence L. 80 Army/Vietnam	Rayston, Lyle S. 93 Army/Korea	Broe, Merlyn R. 88 Army/Korea				
Vandavelde, Oscar M. 92 Army/Korea						
1146 St. Clair Shores	2496 Alpena	3901 Algonac				
Caudill, Kenneth E. 77 Army/Vietnam	LaFleche, Donald J. 92 Army/Korea	Sprague, Donald L. 90 Army/Korea				
Gower, Dale E. 96 Air Force/WWII						
Kolb, Ralph 77 Army/Vietnam						
1518 Gaylord	2532 Paw Paw	4054 Marcellus				
Franckowiak, Jerome 77 Army/Vietnam	Guritz, George A. 98 Army/WWII	Boele, Frank 74 Army/Vietnam				
1669 Royal Oak	Ogden, William H. 80 Marines/Vietnam	Kenitzer, Michael R. 73 Navy				
Zayance, John E. 92 Korea						
1887 Menominee	2780 Traverse City	4162 Hamtramck				
Weinschrott, William 94 Army/Korea	Hamilton, Lorraine D. 102 Army/WWII	Webb, Paul 84 Army				
	Mausolf, Gerald 92 Marines/Korea					
	Tompkins, William A. 93 Army/Korea	4164 Caro				
		Brinkman, Robert E. 93 Army/Korea				
		Caverly, Jay A. 87 Army/Korea				
		Freiburger, Myron J. 78 Army/Vietnam				

4249 Newaygo	5065 Sheridan	7546 Dearborn Heights
Waldo, Patrick E. 73 Army/Vietnam	Perkins, Arville L. 95 Army/Korea	Tajak, Patrick J. 76 Army/Vietnam
4406 Belding	5114 St. Ignace	7573 New Baltimore
Tuinhoff, William R. 76 Air Force	Brown, John R. 72 Marines/Vietnam	Beauvais, Vincent R. 96 Korea
4461 Lake Odessa	5191 Waldron	7581 Wayland
Sandbrook, Lyle H. 94 Air Force/Korea	Rininger, Leroy 76 Army/Vietnam	Hogue, Robert J. 73 Army/Vietnam
4499 Manistee	5319 Athens	7731 Lake Leelanau
Stamp, John H. 90 Army/Korea	Carmichael, Jack 85 Army	Couturier, Gene J. 93 Marines/Korea
4573 Ishpeming	Smith, Robert 78 Navy/Vietnam	
Baggiore, August 100 Army Air Corps/WWII	Sult, Kenneth 83 Navy/Vietnam	8846 Muskegon
Randall, Marshall C. 96 Army/WWII/Korea		Bushong, Jack C. 95 Korea
4581 Norway	5670 Gwinn	Conroy, Lonnie V. 75 Army/Vietnam
Povolo, Ernest 97 Navy/WWII	Linnee, Roger 86 Vietnam	Middleton, Richard E. 73 Army/Vietnam
4646 Lyons	6248 Decatur	9363 Flat Rock
Maybee, Gary L. 76 Vietnam	Siskaninetz, Paul 91 Navy/Korea	Greyczk, Joseph E. 77 Navy/Vietnam
4659 Shelby Township	6333 Kaleva	9411 Homer
Bonanni, Cataldo 79 Navy/Vietnam	Eisenlohr, Robert L. 92 Navy/Korea	Milliman, Richard D. 78 Army/Vietnam
Hooper, Douglas 98 WWII	6864 Cadillac	Winchell, Elden C. 91 Army/Korea
4952 Berrien Springs	Tidey, Kenneth N. 90 Army/Korea	9885 Westland
Alsbro, Donald E. 83 Army/Vietnam	7302 Hemlock	Hinckley, Martin J. 63 Marines/Gulf
	Wenzel, Thomas J. 83 Army/Vietnam	9914 Highland
		Ward, Phillip A. 79 Army/Vietnam

DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER, TRACY NAGY

As the newly elected Commander of District 4, I am thrilled to outline the exciting events and initiatives we have planned for the year ahead. Our goal is to foster unity, collaboration, and excellence among our Members while making a significant impact on our community. Here’s a glimpse of what’s in store for District 4 in the coming year.

Posts. These checklists will help ensure that we are meeting our objectives and staying on track throughout the year.

Community Engagement and Outreach: Engaging with our community is a top priority this year. We will be organizing various outreach programs and community service projects to strengthen our ties with the local community.

Member Collaboration and Feedback: Listening to the ideas, concerns, and suggestions of our Members is essential for our growth and success. We will be hosting regular meetings and forums to provide a platform for open communication and collaboration. Our Membership’s unique perspectives and skill sets are invaluable, and we encourage active participation in District activities.

Encouraging Active Participation: To further our commitment to excellence and community engagement, we encourage all Posts to get an early start on soliciting entries for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, and Teacher of the Year programs. These programs are vital in recognizing the achievements and contributions of students and educators in our community.

Other Upcoming Events:

- District 4 Picnic at 12:00pm, July 27th-August 10th, 2024, Southgate VFW Post 9283, 16200 Dix Toledo Rd, Southgate, MI 48195
- District 4 VOD/PP Banquet, January 4th, 2025, Southgate VFW Post 9283, 16200 Dix Toledo Rd, Southgate, MI 48195
- District 4 Loyalty Day at 1:30pm, April 19th, 2025, Conroy-Renye-McNeil VFW Post 4422, 11590 Pine Street, Taylor, MI 48180
- District 4 Joint Memorial at 1:00pm, May 10th, 2025, City Of Wyandotte Post 1136, 633 Ford Ave, Wyandotte, MI 48192

District 4 is poised for a year of growth, unity, and impact. Together, we will strive for excellence, foster a supportive and inclusive environment, and make a positive difference in our community. I am honored to lead this incredible District and look forward to working with each of you to achieve our goals. Let’s make this year unforgettable!

Monthly Post Checklists: To achieve our All-State / All-American goals, we will be sending out monthly checklists to all



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER, JON ADAMS

Hello Comrades. I am honored to address you as the Commander of the 5th District Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Circumstance has allowed me the rare opportunity to serve in this position longer than most—nearly two consecutive years. It is with both pride and humility that I write officially, knowing the sacrifices each of us has already made in service to our nation, communities, and the VFW organization. Congratulations to the District and Post Officers in their new positions. Our District 5 goals this year are simple yet profound: to continue to educate our Members, to leave each Post healthy and whole, to promote unity of VFW and Auxiliary, and to strengthen our ability to support our fellow veterans. Your participation, your voice, and your experiences are invaluable assets to our success. I chose education to

discuss first because, as most of you know, education has been one of my professions for over 30 years. Through education, we strive to ensure that veterans receive the recognition and resources they deserve. Comrades with years of experience get to share their knowledge, and we provide every opportunity to uphold the traditions and legacy that define the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Specifically, I propose Veterans Training Session (VTS), possibly in the morning session of our District Meetings. The program held in Charlotte, MI, was an excellent start; however, we need to take the enthusiasm from that meeting and provide greater opportunities for Post Senior and Junior Commanders to participate. My plan is to offer sections of the VTS program from 10:00 a.m. to noon, starting with the District Meeting on August 25th, 2024. Subsequent District Meetings will be on December 8th, 2024, February 16th, 2025, and May 4th, 2025. Please check the calendar on Facebook, and your Post Commanders should have a copy

that was mailed to them. We must work to understand how this fine organization works for veterans and our communities. VTS and supporting each other are ways to meet that objective. Posts will be held to the standards of Article I and Article II. Do you know what they say? I encourage every Post to work toward 102% Membership. When you are proud of your organization, you invite others to share your experience. Find a new sense of ‘Pride’ in the VFW. From Unity, Comes Strength, For Service. Again, there is strength in numbers. The strength of the organization determines the services we can provide for our veterans. We volunteered to become part of a nationwide network dedicated to honoring our military heritage and supporting the needs of our veterans and their families. I thank you for doing this work, your commitment, and your unwavering dedication to the United States of America. Thank you for working together to make a difference in the lives of our fellow veterans and our communities.



DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER, SCOTT HOLMES

Comrades of the 7th District, I would like to start by saying thank you all for reelecting me as your District 7 Commander for the 2024–2025 year. I would also like to congratulate Kimberly Napoleon, VFWMI Department Commander, and all the appointed/elected Department Officers for 2024–2025. I am looking forward to having a great year and working with all of you. We should all be attending Michigan Days at the VFW National Home on August 11th. Bring

your Colors and Post Banner to receive All-State points. If you haven’t been to the VFW National Home, you should stop by and see all that happens there. Fall Conference in Flint is fast approaching. Get your reservations made soon if you plan to attend. The time is now for all Posts to start working towards being All-American and All-State. We can all do this; these are all the things your Posts should be doing and reporting. If you have questions about these programs, use the Department or National websites for more information, or contact me. I would like to remind all Commanders that District Meetings are mandatory, unless your

absence is approved prior. In which case, a representative may attend on your behalf. District Meetings will be held as follows:

- August 4th - Post 9411 Homer**
Lunch at 11:00 am Meeting at 12:30 pm
- November 3th - Post 667 South Haven**
Lunch at 11:00 am Meeting at 12:30 pm
- February 9th – Post 6248 Decatur**
Lunch at 11:00 am Meeting at 12:30 pm
- May 4th - VFW Post 5319 Athens**
Lunch at 11:00 am Meeting at 12:30 pm



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER, AARON MCCLUNG

Comrades of the Mighty 9th, I would like to start by congratulating Comrade LaTarte on his year as District 9 Commander. I would also like to congratulate the District 9 Posts that achieved All-State honors: Ovid Memorial Post 8964 and Owosso VFW Post 9455. I would like to additionally congratulate them on achieving the honor of All-American Posts this year. We had a great State Convention this year. I would like to congratulate State Commander Kimberly Napoleon, our first female State Commander for the Department of Michigan. I would also like to congratulate Comrade Larry Thayer for being elected as the Department of Michigan Junior Vice Commander. As many

of you are already aware, both Comrades are out of the Mighty 9th District. I, of course, would also like to congratulate and thank Comrade Barry Walter for another year as Department Quartermaster/Adjutant. Barry is also from the 9th District and is a great asset for our State’s Membership. It was nice to see many of you at our Department VTS training in Charlotte recently. It is important to note that for this year’s All-State program, the Post Commander, Senior Vice, and Junior Vice must all attend an in-person, Department-sanctioned VTS training. There are a couple more scheduled; please look to our Department web page for more information regarding the upcoming VTS trainings. I would also like to remind everyone that the new reporting year has already started for Department. Please ensure you are completing all of your reporting by the 10th of each month, immediately following

the month you are reporting for. If you need any assistance or help with reporting and how to do it, please reach out, and myself or one of our representatives from District 9 will come to help. I am hoping to see many of you at Michigan Day at the VFW National Home on August 11th. The VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids is a place of pride for the Department of Michigan, and we should have a strong attendance for Michigan Day. I am looking forward to a great year this year. I look forward to seeing you all at our next District Meeting on August 10th. We will have training at 0930, lunch at 1100, and then the meeting will start at 1200. Please remember that it is a requirement that Post Commanders be present at District Meetings, or send a representative, in accordance with the National Bylaws. Thank you all for allowing me to represent the Mighty 9th. I look forward to seeing you all soon.



DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER, FRED VANTROOSTENBERGHE

Comrades of the 10th District, I am pleased and privileged to have you elect me as the new District Commander. I am hoping for a great year working with every Post in our District. I would like to thank all the new Officers for volunteering their time for each Post. I would also like to thank the Officers who elected to stay in their positions. It shows the pure dedication that we all encompass as Members of the VFW. I would also like to congratulate Kim Morrish on her election to become 10th District President of the Auxiliary. With all that aside, I have a few goals that I would

like to see accomplished from our District. The first one is Membership. Some of our Posts are 100% or higher, with some close, but our District still needs some hard work from each Post. We have slipped from two years ago to last year. Let’s continue to push and work hard to get our percentage up. Secondly, please remember to make sure all your reporting is submitted. If you need help or are not sure how to do it, I encourage you to give someone a call and ask for help. You can call another Post or someone from the District, and someone will be more than happy to help you. All reporting is done online, so please do not mail reports in. Lastly, I am looking to create a new chairperson for a new program for the District. It will focus on mental awareness, PTSD, and

suicide awareness. The Department has implemented a Director for mental health, and I truly believe that our District should have a chairperson. This is a very important position that I think is needed. This is a highly important issue that should never be forgotten about. Our District has a lot of knowledge, and we shouldn’t limit our capabilities. Any Post that has questions should ask them. It will make it easier for you and everyone in the upcoming year. No question is frivolous. Expanding our knowledge will only benefit the hard work we perform for our veterans. Again, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your support and nomination. I will give it my all and hopefully be a Commander that you can be proud of. I want to wish all my Comrades a great year.



DISTRICT 11 COMMANDER, SCOTT TAYLOR

Greetings, Comrades, from the 11th District. With another productive and successful Department Convention behind us, we have our Command Lineup in place for 2024–2025. Congratulations to all our Department, District, and Post leaders who have been nominated and elected to represent the VFW at all levels within Michigan. I would personally like to congratulate each of you on your elected or appointed positions and to thank you for your willingness to serve not only our fellow Comrades in the VFW but also our fellow Brothers and Sisters within our veteran community. This past

year has been not only filled with grief in the loss of our District Commander Timothy Artibee, but it has also been a year of resilience and success as different leaders and Post Members from within our 19 Posts, as well as throughout the state, stepped up to help the Mount Pleasant Post (3033) leadership and Membership heal, overcome, and succeed in the loss of their Post Commander as well. I want to thank those Comrades who stepped up to assist during this time and to show what being a member of the VFW is truly about. On May 17–19, 2024, our Department Rider’s Group Director, Charlie Cline, along with the Mount Pleasant and Harrison Riders Group Members, assisted with cleanup and the dock installation at Camp Trotter. Department Commander Ray Lopez and

incoming and now current Commander Kimberly Napoleon were there as well, and it was great hanging out around the campfire in the evening, sharing stories, making new friends, and catching up. We are off to a great start for the ensuing year, and I look forward to serving the 19 Posts and Members within District 11 as well as representing our District on the Department’s Council of Administration. Our next District Meeting will be August 4th, 2024, at the Kawkawlin Post #6950, 132 E. Beaver Rd., Kawkawlin, MI 48631. Training will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., with the meeting following at 10:00 a.m. I look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Conference. In closing, “Leadership is a responsibility to do more, not an excuse to do less.” – CSM Scott Schroeder.



DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER, MAX RIEKSE

Those of you who have attended our District Meetings these past 30–40 years know me as the 12th District Legislative and POW MIA Chairman, and my passion regarding the POW-MIA issue will continue. On that note, I urge VFW and Auxiliary Members to contact our United States Senator Gary Petters, 110 Michigan NW Suite 720, Grand Rapids, MI 49503; (616) 233-9150; and the primary Congressman covering the 12th District, John Moolenaar; Claire (989) 802-6040; or in Washington, D.C., (202) 225-3561. Please urge them to promote American veteran-

to-Russian veteran contact meetings in either Iceland or Switzerland to come to an agreement and/or understanding asking the Russians to repatriate the remains of the over 23,000 POWs held by the Germans during World War II and taken by the Russian communist military at the end of the war. Also, we, American veterans, would also like to see the repatriation of the over 2,500 Korean War American POWs that ended up in Russia, along with the many Cold War shoot-down Americans who were known to have parachuted from their shot-down planes by the Russians. We want their remains returned to their loved ones here in the United States; they deserve no less. I sincerely believe the Russian people, Russian veterans, and

the Russian government, if approached correctly, would be willing to work with us as American veterans on this issue. I’m willing to pay my own way to either Iceland or Switzerland to meet with fellow Russian veterans to help facilitate the return of our veterans. On another note, the VA now has a copayment exemption for American Indian and Alaska Native veterans. Please pass that on. They may be eligible for a copayment exemption and reimbursement of copayments for health care and all urgent care visits. Call 1-888-698-2411. Finally, if you want a hard copy of the MOV, you must write the Department of Michigan VFW at 924 N. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906, or call the Department at (517) 485-9456.

@VFWAUXMI & @VFWMI
FIND US ON FACEBOOK



DISTRICT 13 COMMANDER, DEREK BRAUN

Thank you, District 13, for the confidence you have placed in the Officers and me to lead us through the next year. We look forward to strengthening and growing each Post in terms of facilities and Membership, setting each Post up for success. It all starts with you, the individual Comrade. I look forward to working with every Post to achieve your goals and missions while maintaining a focus on the goals and missions of the VFW and the Department of Michigan. To achieve our goals, the District Leadership and I have grouped our goals into four focus areas: The first focus area is Membership. This includes conducting District recruiting events to support more than one Post's Membership goals. At the time of this article, I am proud to announce the successful completion of three District recruiting events. The first in Indian River, second at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, and the third at the Brown Trout Festival in Alpena. The help and assistance from those involved was greatly appreciated, and we look forward to the continued benefit of these events. We have one additional District recruiting event left on the fall calendar at the Emmet County Fair in Petoskey on August 24th. Our second

focus area is reporting. All Posts need to submit their Activity and Hospital Reports online by the 10th of each month. We held a VTS on the submission of the Activity Report at the May District Convention. Please follow up with your attendees from that meeting to ensure we are submitting them properly and on time. These reports are your opportunity to highlight all the great things your posts are doing and help National in their reporting as well. The third focus area is Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year. Let's not only rely on schools and teachers to provide applicants for these programs and scholarships. Ask yourselves: How many of our Members have children, grandchildren, or nieces and nephews in school? Each of those children should be a scholarship applicant, and their favorite teachers should be nominated for Teacher of the Year. The final area of focus for the District is community outreach. Creating and building partnerships with local organizations, charities, first responders, and our sister veteran organizations will help ensure the future of our organization, so when we need assistance, someone will be there to lend us a hand. Take the time to partner with your sheriff for a car seat fitting or host your County Veterans Affairs Mental Health Symposium. Get out into your community and show them who we are and what we fought for. Maximizing

all four of these focus areas will not only keep your Post on the path to success but will also set your Post up for All State and All American status. Remember, it's not about a special cover for your head; it is an outward demonstration of the level of commitment you have to the community and your veterans. It becomes a recruiting, fundraising, and donation tool for your Post. To be successful, it takes your involvement. It starts at your Post and extends to our District Meetings. These meetings will be moved around the District to allow each of you the opportunity to showcase your Post while balancing the travel and time commitments. We will be taking volunteer Posts and voting on the location of the additional meetings at the First Quarter Meeting on August 3rd, 2024, at Post 2496 in Alpena. The Second Quarter Meeting will be on November 2nd, 2024, and the District Convention will be on May 3rd, 2025. We will be adding a Third Quarter Meeting, per the new Bylaws approved at the District Convention this past May. The date and location will be determined at our August 3rd, 2024, meeting, as it currently conflicts with the Mid-Winter Conference. All meetings begin at 10 a.m., with a social hour serving coffee, etc., starting at 9 a.m. If you have any concerns, questions, or feedback, don't hesitate to reach out to your District Leadership at district13.vfwmi@gmail.com.



DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER, DEAN MAKI

Greetings Comrades, I am once again honored to be the District 14 Commander, especially since this is such a historic year with the Department of Michigan's first female Department Commander, Kimberly

Napoleon, and the first female National Senior Vice Commander in Chief, Carol Whitmore. History is being made! I would like to thank Past District Commander, Mike Brady, for all his hard work during the past two years, and since I've made him my Chief of Staff, I'm sure he will continue to work hard for the District. I encourage all Posts to keep current with their audits, remitting the proper dues

and fees, and monthly reports on Hospital and Activity's. The next three District Meetings are: August 4th at Post 4573 in Ishpeming at 10:00 am; November 3rd at Post 3676 in Sault Ste. Marie at 10:00 am; and the Spring Convention is from April 4-6 at Post 5670 in Gwinn. Thank you in advance for adhering to the Department's requirements and, as always; Recruit, Retain, and Renew.



DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER, ARTHUR KREIVI

Greetings from District 15! Comrades, I hope all are doing well. I am looking forward to the up coming VTS in Gwinn on the 13th of July with District 14. I hope to see all the Posts in the District well supported with all of their Officers, as this is a very good time to learn about all of the programs in the Department and some of

the things that, as a Post, you can report on. Summer is already upon us, which is a great time to do some recruiting for your Post at the various events going on in your area. This is also a good time to make your Post more visible to your communities by getting involved with or support of those events. Remember that are new recruiting goal is now 102% in Membership each year, not only for All-American but also All-State and to grow the VFW to continue fighting for our Members and all veterans benefits.

I would like to say thank you to all the Posts in my District for all your hard work for the past year. I am looking forward to the 2024-2025 year being an even better year for the District. Remember, if you need any assistance just reach out to me and I will help you to the best of my ability. The last thing I would like to say is, let's get an early start with getting the word out about our great programs like Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Essay Competitions to our schools and communities!

★ ★ AUXILIARY DISTRICT REPORTS ★ ★



DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT, MELISSA SELTERS

My name is Melissa Selders. I am the District 4 Department of Michigan President. My goals this year are to make being a Member fun and to encourage those who are hesitant to participate in activities they may want

to but are nervous about stepping in. I am recommending for every Member looking to volunteer to grab an assistant and show them why it's fun to serve our veterans. My special project this year is providing help to the satellite Veterans Affairs in Michigan. I look forward to serving our veterans and continue to make District 4 as successful as we have always been.



DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT, DAWN SHOCK

Hello from District Super Six! This year we are banding together as "Team Super Six". We want to accomplish as much as we can for our veterans and their families, by joining forces as a team. Helping each other by getting the information we all have to share with one another will make for a better group effort. Our main goals are: Working with our youth to better understand our

Democracy and the Pledge to the Flag; Letting the community know about the scholarships available through Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and other local programs; Telling our legislators how to better serve our veterans; Visiting hospitals and nursing homes; Keeping the public up to date via social media and newsprint. We want to make sure the community knows we welcome new Members, and we are looking to make a difference. Here's hoping we can all be a part of making a difference, together. Have a great year!



DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT, APRIL LOWERY

First, I would like to thank Blanche Brown for her dedication to District 8 over the last 2 years. She has done an excellent job. I would also like to congratulate her on receiving Circle of Excellence for District at the June convention. It is my pleasure to serve "The Great 8" as President this year. It is my first time serving as District President and I am looking forward to all the great things we will do for our veterans this year! My main goal is to work with Auxiliaries who are already completing activities on reporting that information to get credit for it! My chairman and I will be reporting quite a bit of information on our Facebook page, so if you haven't joined that page yet, please do! You can find the page by searching "VFW Auxiliary Dept of Michigan District 8" in your Facebook search bar. Our

August meeting will be held on August 1st, at the American Legion Boat and Canoe Club. District Chairman will be sharing information about Department programs that were presented at the School Of Instruction on the last day of the June Convention. Our next meeting after that is scheduled for November 2nd in Nashville, Michigan at VFW Post #8260. At each meeting we participate in a 50/25/25 (50% to district and two 25% prizes to Members) drawing as a fundraiser for the District. This income helps keep our District healthy! Our District will also be participating in Michigan Day on August 7th at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. We will be donating raffle baskets and selling 50/50 tickets, the proceeds of which will go to the VFW National Home. We will close out the same week by participating in Camp Trotter Family Day on August 17th. There are so many great things happening this year!



DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT, VICKIE BUSHONG

Greetings! I am a Lifetime Member of the VFW Auxiliary Post 3033. I am eligible for Membership under my father, who was a WWII veteran;

my husband was an Army veteran but not VFW eligible. This is my third time serving as District 11 Auxiliary President. We have a strong team throughout our District, and I am excited to be working with all our Auxiliaries. I am most excited to be working with Jane Dady, Department of Michigan President, who is also from District 11. I



DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT, DON MCNICHOL

Greetings from the Fighting 5th District. Congratulations to Commander Napoleon, President Dady, and all the new incoming Officers. Congratulations to Commander Lopez and President Manke on a successful year, and thank you for your leadership. As our Membership gets older, it's important to recruit new Members to help fill our ranks. Mentor them and make them feel that they are a part of our team. It is the lifeblood of our organization. The 5th District has a great team this year, and we are here to help you all.



DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT, ROBERT BROWN

Greetings from District 9! Let me first say thank you to all for reaching 101.13% Membership. What a great feeling, and a big thank you to all the Members who made this possible. District Meetings are scheduled for August 10th, November 16th, February 15th, and May 10th. Meetings will take place at Post 3055 St. Louis. I hope to see everyone there, plus let's encourage new Members to attend. The Fall Conference will take place from September 25-29, and Mid-Winter will be held in Kalamazoo from January 25-28. If possible, please attend, even if it's for one day. Lastly, on a personal note, District 9 would like to thank Nichole and Sandy for all their years of dedication and good luck on their new journeys in life.

**DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT, ANN BACKHURST**

District 14's Auxiliaries were busy making no-sew blankets which were given to each veteran on the May 2nd, 2024, Honor Flight from the U.P.

At the April 2024 District Meeting at VFW Post 3165, Negaunee, the blankets were presented to the Honor Flight representative with Channel 6 filming the presentation. This coming year we will again be collecting pounds of coffee to send to the Cuppa Joe monthly program held at the VFW National

Home. During the snow-bound winter months, the District Auxiliaries are busy with programs to help veterans and their families. The next District 14 Auxiliary meetings will be August 4th, 2024, at VFW Post 4573, Ishpeming and April 6th, 2025, at VFW Post 5670, Gwinn.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY 2024 POSTER

The 2024 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster is here! You will have the option of ordering the small 11"x16" poster in increments of 2, 5, 10, 20 or 40 or the large 20"x30" poster in increments of 2, 5, or 10. If you want more posters than the given increments or both small and large posters, you will have to place multiple orders. (E.g. if you want 40 small posters, you will have to place two orders of 20 posters each. If you want 2 large posters and 5 small posters, you will have to place two orders, one for the large posters and one for the small posters.) Please note that asking for more posters in the comments section of the order form will not get you more posters. Please use the following web address to place an order:

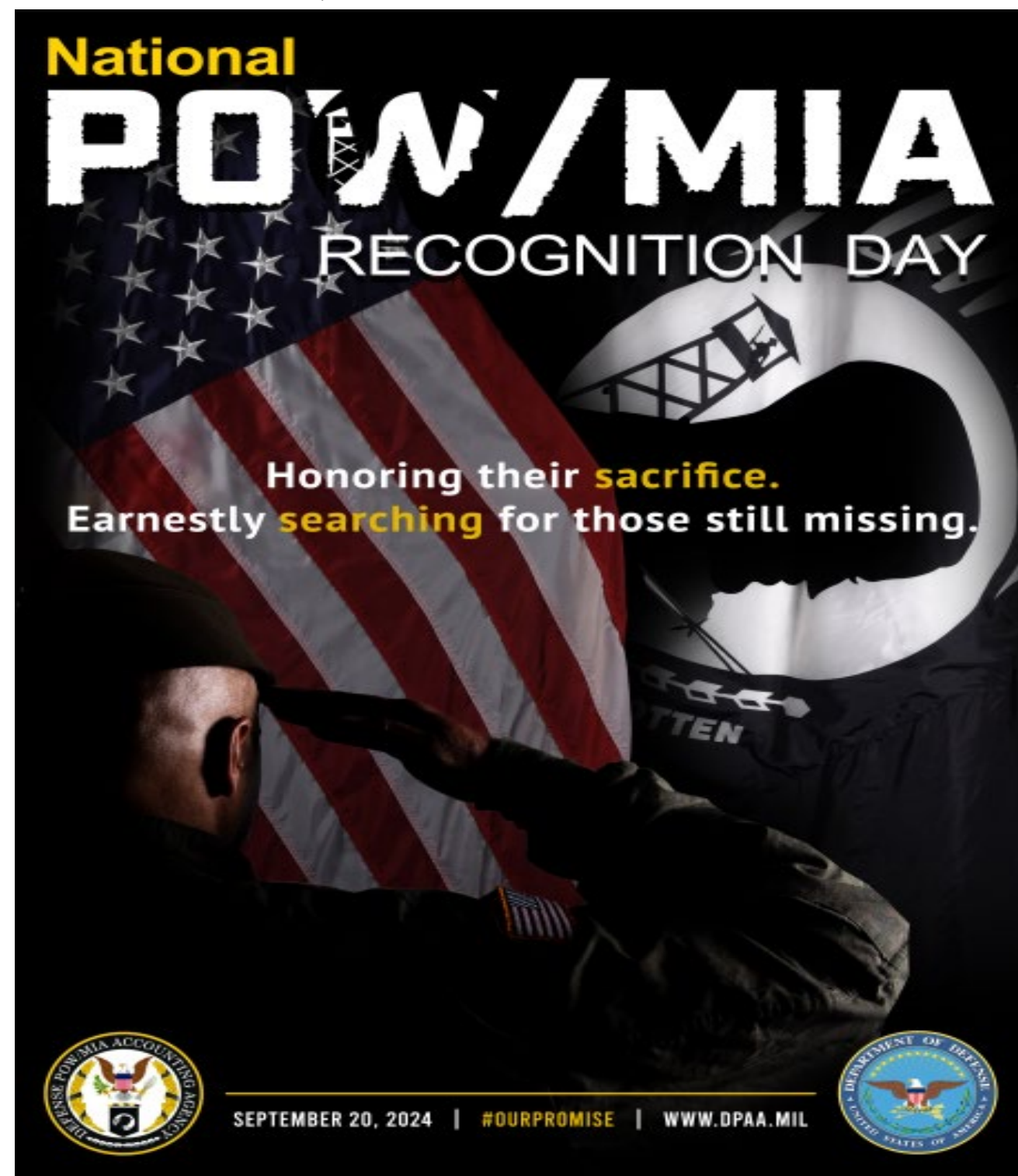
National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established in 1979 through a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, each subsequent president has issued an annual proclamation commemorating the third Friday in September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. A national-level ceremony is held on every National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally held at the Pentagon, it features members from each branch of military service and participation from high-ranking officials. In addition to the national-level ceremony, observances

of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. No matter where they are held, these National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies share the common purpose of honoring those who were held captive and returned, as well as those who remain missing. Since 1999, the POW/MIA Accounting community has created a poster commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The annual edition of the poster continues to honor this tradition.

<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaPosters>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **2024 National Convention:** July 27-August 1, 2024 in Louisville, KY
- **VFW National Home Michigan Day:** August 11, 2024 in Eaton Rapids, MI
- **Camp Trotter Family Day & 75th Anniversary:** August 17, 2024 in Newaygo, MI
- **16th Annual Golf Outing - Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council:** August 24, 2024 at Lapeer Country Club (3786 Hunt Rd. Lapeer, MI 48446)
- **VFW National Home Charity Golf Outing:** September 13, 2024 at Medalist Golf Club (15701 N-Drive N, Marshall, MI 49068)
- **2024 Fall Conference:** September 27-29, 2024 in Flint, MI
- **2024 Big Ten Conference:** October 18-20, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN
- **2025 Mid Winter Conference:** January 31-February 2, 2025 in Kalamazoo, MI
- **2025 State Convention:** May 29-June 1, 2025 in Kalamazoo, MI



2024-2025 VFW & AUXILIARY SHIRT ORDER FORM

Kimberly Napoleon and Jane Dady's Department polo shirt will be pink polyester with a purple VFW logo. Neither style comes with a pocket.

To have shirts available for pick up at State Convention, orders must be received at Department by April 19, 2024.



Men's



Women's

Men's (Runs true to size)

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2X _____ 3X _____ 4X _____ 5X _____

Women's Cut (Sizes run small)

XS _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2X _____ 3X _____

Shirts are \$30 with no extra embroidery.

Shirts are \$35 with extra embroidery. List below lines for embroidery (up to three lines only).

Mail order form and check to:
VFW Department of Michigan
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

To pay with credit card complete information below and fax to 517-485-6432 or email to Jan: bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet or Amanda: amanda@vfwmi.vet

Credit Card # /
Expiration Date

3 Digit Code Zip Code Email for Receipt

Name _____ Phone _____

Fill in address ONLY if you want your order mailed to you (add \$10.00 for shipping):

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



VFW AGENDA

Thursday, Sept 26		
9:00am	Golf Outing, Fenton	
6:00pm-10:00pm	Department Hospitality	Fillmore
Friday, Sept 27		
8:00am-4:00pm	Registration (Closed for lunch 11:30-1)	McKinley
8:00am-4:00pm	Committee And Vendor Tables	Taft Taylor
8:30am	Joint VFW/Auxiliary Program Presentations	Washington Lincoln Monroe
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
12:00pm	VFW CofA Lunch	Oval Jackson
1:00pm	Service Committee Meeting	Adams Jefferson
1:30pm	Budget Committee Meeting	Adams Jefferson
2:00pm	VFW CofA Meeting	Adams Jefferson
5:00pm	CofA Closing Ceremony	
6:30pm-8:30pm	Auxiliary Fundraiser Bingo, Silent Auction, Raffle	Washington Lincoln Monroe Fillmore
7:00pm-11:00pm	Department Hospitality	Fillmore
Saturday, Sept 28		
8:00am-10:00am	Registration	McKinley
8:00am	Committee And Vendor Tables	Taft Taylor
9:00am	Welcome by State Commander, Reports from Department Officers & Committees	Adams Jefferson
12:00pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:00pm	Comments by State Commander, Reports from Dept Chairmen	Adams Jefferson
5:00pm	Thank You - Commander	
6:30pm	Commander's Gala Fundraiser to benefit Cancer Program & Fisher House, Raffles, Silent Auction	

VFW AUXILIARY AGENDA

Thursday, Sept 26		
9:00am	Golf Outing	
3:00pm-5:00pm	Pre-Council of Administration	
6:00pm	Dinner with National Rep Dept Officers Only	
6:00pm-10:00pm	Hospitality Room	Fillmore
Friday, Sept 27		
8:00am-4:00pm	Registration (Closed for lunch 11:30-1)	McKinley
8:00am-4:00pm	Aux Hospital & Camp Trotter Fundraiser Tables	McKinley
8:30am-12:00pm	Joint VFW/Auxiliary Program Presentation	Washington Lincoln Monroe
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:30pm-3:30pm	Aux CofA Meeting	
3:30pm-4:15pm	Presentation of Hospital Reps and Deputies	
4:15pm-6:00pm	District Jr Vice Training with Dept Jr Vice Jason Manke	
6:30pm-8:30pm	Doors Open for Bingo, Silent Auction, & Raffle	
7:00pm-11:00pm	Hospitality Room	
Saturday, Sept 28		
8:00am-10:00am	Registration	McKinley
8:00am-12:00pm	Aux Hospital & Camp Trotter Fundraiser Tables	McKinley
8:30am-10:30am	Auxiliary Training	Aux Room
10:30am-12:00pm	Program Chairmen Presentations	
12:00pm-1:30pm	Auxiliary Past Presidents Luncheon	Aux Room
1:30pm-5:00pm	Continue Program Chairmen Presentations	
6:30pm	Department Banquet	Davison VFW Post

VFW AUXILIARY BINGO FUNDRAISER FLYER



VFW Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
"Bingo" Fundraiser

September 27, 2024
6:30 pm

Play 12 rounds of Bingo for \$15.00
Chance to win one of 12 themed baskets
(approximate \$100 value each)
(must be 18 years old to play) (MI raffle license #)

Also - Silent Auction, Raffles, Fun.

Held at the - Gateway Centre Hotel
5353 Gateway Centre, Flint

Proceeds to benefit Dept MI VFW Auxiliary

GOLF OUTING FORM

Department of Michigan
97th Fall Conference
Golf Outing

Fenton Farms
12312 Torrey Rd.
Fenton, MI 48430

September 26, 2024

Registration: 8:45 - 9:45 am - Shotgun Start: 10:00 am

Hot Dog Lunch at the Turn

Four Person Scramble - \$50.00 per Person (Green Fees and Cart)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO
DEPARTMENT WHETHER PAYING IN ADVANCE OR AT REGISTRATION.
ANY QUESTIONS YOU CAN CONTACT RICKY YOUNG AT 810-569-2193.

Captain _____ Contact # _____

Golfer #2 _____

Golfer #3 _____

Golfer #4 _____

Payment Enclosed _____ Pay at Registration _____

To pay by credit card complete the information below and fax to 517-485-6432 or email
to Jan: bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet or Amanda: amanda@vfwmi.vet

Credit Card # / Expiration 3 Digit Code

Name on Credit Card Email for Receipt



AD BOOK FORM

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VFW AND AUXILIARY
97th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE AD BOOK

RATES:

FULL PAGE AD - \$115.00

1/2 PAGE AD - \$85.00

1/4 PAGE AD - \$60.00

PATRON AD - \$10.00 (Name and Post or Auxiliary Number Only)

ALL ADS WILL BE PRINTED IN BLACK AND WHITE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW

Payment can be made by check (made out to Department of Michigan VFW) or by
credit card by contacting Jan or Amanda at Department Headquarters at
517-485-9456. Ads can be emailed to Jan: bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet.

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

DEADLINE FOR ADS IS SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

MESSAGE: (PLEASE PRINT)



DESIGNER / EDITOR
ALYSSA MCELFRISH

Hello All! As Summer is coming to an end, my favorite season Fall is quickly approaching. I hope everyone is staying happy and healthy and enjoying the warm weather while it is here. I look forward to seeing you all at Fall Conference coming up in September at The Gateway Centre Hotel in Flint. Please see below for the next article deadline and feel free to reach out with any questions!

Next deadline = October 15, 2024
Send articles for consideration to:
MOV@VFWMI.VET

The mission of this paper is to provide pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be rejected or returned for revision. *We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.*

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

TAPS FORM

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

Send completed form to:
VFW of Michigan
924 N Washington - Lansing, MI 48906
or Amanda@vfwmi.org

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

Branch of Service :
ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :
WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

CONTACT INFO UPDATE FORM

Members, please print the form to be filled out.
Return information is listed below.

Name: _____

Member number: _____ Post number: _____

Email address: _____

Address (if changed in last two years): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Are you currently on active duty? YES _____

Please complete and return to:
VFW Headquarters
924 N Washington
Lansing, MI 48906
Or email to: adjutant@vfwmi.vet

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

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.



VFWMI.ORG
QUICK LINKS

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

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