

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

April/May/June 2011

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,
We just returned from the annual Testimonial tribute to our State Commander Lloyd Putman II and our State President Patricia Patterson. There was a good showing and many thanks to our leadership for keeping the VFW and Auxiliary on course so far this year.

Don't forget the year is not quite over and our membership goes on until June 30, 2011. We are always looking for new or reinstated members. According to DoD numbers, there are thousands of veterans in the State of Michigan that are eligible for membership in our great organization. We just need to ask them. As the weather gets better and we start getting out and around our communities, we need to hold open houses at our Post homes and invite local veterans to come out and join us.

Camp Trotter Director PSC Ernest Meyers is doing a great job at our camp. We have come a long way, but still have a ways to go. If you haven't had a chance to come up to camp, take the time to come and see it. We will have the annual Veterans Training Seminar at Camp Trotter May 20th and 21st, with the golf outing on the 20th. Please try and provide a hole sponsorship from your Post or District. This is a large fundraiser for our camp and all the money raised goes directly to the camp.

By the time you receive this *MOV*, your

Jack Pray
Senior Vice Commander



Post, District and county council officers will have been elected and installed. Remember to make sure you send an election report into Department and National.

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers and chairmen. I hope you took the leadership position for the right reason, and not just to fill the chair. We have changed our officers training seminars to include everyone and not just VFW officers. There will be one at Camp Trotter in Newago on May 21st, another session at Department Headquarters June 4th, and we will also have one in Marquette in the UP June 18th.

Remember, the Department Convention will be a little different this year. The vote for new officers will take place on Saturday, June 11th with installation immediately after. The first C of A meeting for 2011-2012 will take place on Sunday, June 12th, with a reception in the afternoon at 2 p.m.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention and as always good luck, good health and God bless our active duty service members, even now in harm's way.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,
I would like to start this article by thanking our State Commander Lloyd Putman II for his many years of service to our organization and to our veterans throughout the state. It is really hard to appreciate the many hours that a volunteer in our organization puts in week after week.

When in the position of going through the Department Chairs, the time doubles...and even triples. Commander Putman, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE to the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars.

By the time the *MOV* hits the streets, our year will be basically over. The ways we measure success vary from program to program. As far as membership, we are where we have been for many years, roughly coming in at approximately 95%. VOD and Patriot's Pen are measured by the number of entries. This year, we had many entries. We measure success at Camp Trotter by the number of campers we entertain. We really need to improve on how many campers we get this coming year. Did all the Posts report in all other categories this year? No!! Improvement in these areas is essential to keep the organization on the right path to success. You do the work...please report it.

Kirk Kennedy
Junior Vice Commander



Incoming State Commander Jack Pray has some goals that he wants to achieve during the year. It is up to us as members to help accomplish these goals; the sooner we start our programs, the sooner we will finish. Do not wait until the year is half over before you start. Every category for reporting that we have can, and should, be done before December 31st. There is NO reason for this not to be done by then. The only program that requires the entire year of working is membership. It is always an ongoing project.

To achieve success for the upcoming year, we need to use all the resources that are available to us. Use all the Department Chairmen. Use all the resources that are on our Web site. Use your District officers and chairmen and then use the Department officers. Someone in this vast list can answer your question or help with whatever program you need an answer for. Let us look forward to having a successful 2011-2012 with Commander Pray. VETERANS SERVING VETERANS.

Thomas T. Tradewell, Sr. Commander-in-Chief 2009-2010, National Rep. for State Convention

Thomas Tradewell was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 20, 2009, at the VFW 110th National Convention held in Phoenix, Arizona.



Tradewell served in the U. S. Army from 1966-1968 and earned VFW eligibility while serving with B Company 26th Engineers 198th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) in South Vietnam as a demolition specialist. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.

Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels, culminating with his election as Department Com-

mander 1999-2000. He served as National Inspector General in 2001-2002. He also served as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005.

Tradewell earned an associate's degree in industrial safety.

Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service.

He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Cootie, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Tradewell married Sharon in 1966 and they make their home in Sussex, Wisconsin.

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

The State Convention is fast approaching. Remember that this year the delegate registration will close at 12 Noon on Saturday, June 11, 2011. After lunch, we will have a "Meet the Candidates" in one room and then we will reopen the Convention for election purposes. Immediately after the elections, the officers will be sworn in.

Sunday, June 12, 2011 will be the first Council of Administration meeting where we will set the budget for fiscal year 2011-2012.

We are changing the name of our training program from "Officer Training Seminar" to "VFW Training." We are finding that many of our members believe that they cannot attend because they are not officers. The training that we put on is for everyone, not just officers. We want everyone to

Rob Weiss
State Adjutant/
Quartermaster



have a better understanding of what the VFW is all about.

We will have VFW Training in Lansing at the Department Headquarters on June 4, 2011 and one in Marquette on June 18, 2011 for Districts 14 and 15.

The Ladies Auxiliary will not be submitting reports on Community Service to their national organization. All reports will be combined with the VFW, so make sure that you get reports from the Ladies and Men's Auxiliary to turn in with your Post reports.

See you at Convention.

STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

In a TV show, *The Myth Busters*, hosted by Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage – and co-hosted by Tory Belleci, Kari Byron and Grant Imahara – they mix scientific methods with gleeful curiosity and plain old-fashioned ingenuity to create their own signature style of explosive experimentation.

Sometimes we have those that are in the veteran community, who share myths as fact, and although they are not an explosive experimentation such as the TV show, they sometimes produce havoc with those that believe them.

One of the most common myths that a veteran may share with a spouse is that, “When I die, you will get the same thing I got from the VA.” Not true. When a veteran passes, the claim dies, and the spouse must file in their own right. There is no guarantee that a spouse will be entitled to anything unless certain eligibility requirements have been met, and a claim has actually been filed.

Some think that the VA can take away the grant of entitlement to the issue of service connection for just about any reason. This is not true.

§3.957 Service connection. *Service connection for any disability or death granted or continued under Title 38, United States Code, which has been in effect for 10 or more years will not be severed except upon a showing that the orig-*

inal grant was based on fraud, or it is clearly shown from military records that the person concerned did not have the requisite service or character of discharge. The 10-year period will be computed from the effective date of the Department of Veterans Affairs finding of service connection to the effective date of the rating decision severing service connection, after compliance with §3.105(d). The protection afforded in this section extends to claims for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), or death compensation. (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1159).

Another common myth is that veterans who have had a service-connected disability rating in effect for a long period of time (20 years or more) think that if they ask for an increase from the VA, they will be reduced. This, too, is not true.

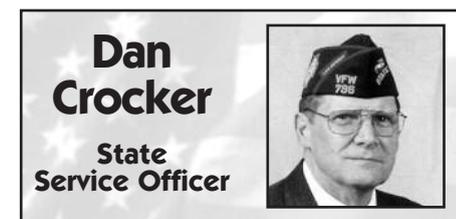
38 CFR 3.951 (b) preservation of disability ratings (b) A disability which has been continuously rated at or above any evaluation of disability for 20 or more years for compensation purposes under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs will not be reduced to less than such evaluation except upon a showing that such rating was based on **fraud**. The 20-year period will be computed from the effective date of the evaluation to the effective date of reduction of evaluation. (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 110).

Another issue that seems to surface from

time to time is that a veteran will request an entire copy of their VA claims folder, then send that copy back to the VA to consider an issue that has already been dealt with by the VA. This is redundancy. In order for the VA to revisit a previous adjudicate issue, new and material evidence must be submitted. That is, new evidence that has never been considered and is germane to the issue being addressed.

Finally, this is more confusion than a myth is, but it deals with when a grant for multiple disabilities and the percentage just doesn't add up. For instance, a left knee condition is evaluated at 30%, a back condition rated at 40%, and a heart condition rated a 60%. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a math wizard to add 60 + 40 + 30 and get 130%. Right? Not really. The VA uses what is called a “combined rating table” under **38 CFR 4.25**.

The Combined Ratings Table results from the consideration of the efficiency of the individual as affected first by the most disabling condition, then by the less disabling condition, then by other less disabling conditions, if any, in the order of severity. Thus, a person having a 60% disability is considered 40% efficient. What this means is that we start with a 100% efficient body. After subtracting the 60% disability, our body's efficiency that is left, is only 40%. Proceeding from this, the effect of a further 40% disability is to



leave 24% efficient. How the heck did you get that you might ask? We multiply the 40% efficient by the additional 40% deficient and low and behold, we get 16%. So add the 16% to the previous 60%, and we get 76%. This 76% is then subtracted from the initial 100%, and we get 24% remaining efficiency. Proceeding with the final disability of 30% multiplied by the remaining 24% efficient, we arrive at 7.2%. This 7.2% is then added to the previous 76% and we get 83.2%. This individual is thus 80% disabled, because the VA rounds up and down accordingly. The veteran's remaining efficiency is 16.8%.

Believe it or not, based on this formula, in order for a veteran to be a scheduler 100%, the veteran would need an additional 70% disabling condition. Yep, only in America!

After reading this three or four times, walk around the room, let the dog out, scratch your head a couple of times, and if you still don't understand it, don't feel bad. It took us a long time, too. Fortunately, there is a chart that we use under **38 CFR 4.25**.

New Assistant State Field Service Officer

Brian G. Maghielse pronounced (magill'see) was hired as an Assistant State Field Service Officer on March 21, 2011 and will be stationed in the Southwestern corner of Michigan. Comrade Maghielse served in the United States Marine Corps and gained his eligibility for the Veterans of Foreign Wars with service in Iraq.

“Mr. Maghielse possesses a strong willingness to learn the role of an Advocate,” stated Daniel J. Crocker, Director of Service.

Mr. Maghielse currently resides in the Grand Rapids area.



New Assistant State Field Service Officer

Michael D. Thompson was hired as an Assistant State Field Service Officer on February 21, 2011, and will be stationed in the mid-Michigan area. Mr. Thompson served in the United States Navy and gained his eligibility for the Veterans of Foreign Wars with service in Southwest Asia.

of our staff and will be a valuable asset to help those who have served,” stated Daniel J. Crocker, Director of Service.

Mr. Thompson currently resides in the mid-Michigan area.



Department Service Officer SUCCESS STORY

Just when you think you have seen it all, a story presents itself that would make many believe that this could not happen!

In January of 2011, one of our Advocates received a call from a veteran regarding a situation that needed our immediate attention. After getting the veteran's phone number, a call was made to get the details. The scenario was that we had a Vietnam veteran who stated that he filed a claim in February of 2008 with another Veterans Service Organization for diabetes and ischemic heart disease, secondary to his service in Vietnam. He also stated that he could not work because of these conditions. In the same conversation he stated that the VA denied his claim in the summer of 2008, because he did not provide medical evidence to support his contentions. He further stated that within a month or so after the denial, he provided the necessary information to the VA.

Our Advocate found out that his claim was submitted to the VA under his social security number and that according to the VA records, three things were apparent. 1) the VA had set up a pending claim for Individual Unemployability (IU); 2) the VA had not verified the veteran's military service; and 3) there were no medical records he said he sent to the VA.

We asked the veteran at length about his military service and tour of duty in Vietnam and it was quite evident to us that veteran was giving us correct information. Our Advocate searched high and low for several days for the claims folder to no avail. We were able to ascertain the initial claim was filed under his social security number. Finally, we located the folder and found it with very limited information. It was obvious to us that there may be another claim folder with other identifying infor-

mation. So the hunt was on! For one week...two weeks...and finally, we found it.

Low and behold, the folder was under a VA claim number. What's the difference between a social security number and a VA claim number? On July 1, 1973 the VA switched from a designated VA claim number (eight digits) to a veteran's social security number (nine digits). What this means is that our veteran either filed a claim for disability or an educational claim, prior to the above note date and was issued an eight digit number. We had two claim folders!

In any event, we still had a veteran not service-connected with a claim for IU for the better part of three years. The question that was proposed to the VA is, how can an issue of IU even be considered when the veteran isn't even service-connected for anything? The answer – does the image of a deer in the headlights come to mind?!

In addition, there were two, count them two, Congressional inquiries that didn't move the mountain. After we were able to merge both files, the VA took the bull by the horn and issued a rating within 24 hours of our discovery!

Due to the severity of the veteran's heart and diabetic condition, the issue of IU was moot. The veteran was granted a 100% evaluation from the initial date of claim and the veteran was sent a retro check in the amount of \$95,000 on March 1, 2011. When contacted by our Advocate to share the good news, the veteran and his wife explained that they had been cutting back on their propane all winter to save for food. Today, they have a full tank, a full tummy and are warm and very thankful for the Advocates of the VFW who exemplify the VFW Motto, “Honor the Dead by Helping The Living.”



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CHAPLAIN

"Now, therefore, give me this mountain," —Joshua 14:12. There are words that are spoken at a certain time or place which take on a special meaning.

The Lord had promised His people a special land that was abundant with milk and honey, meaning all of what they needed to sustain life and prosper. But when they came to the land and found that it was occupied by seven civilizations, many lost hope. Because of their unbelief, they were sentenced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation died off. Now, they come again to possess the land.

Two of the faithful, Joshua and Caleb, are in positions of leadership. Caleb tells how 45 years ago, he stood at the same place and now he is 85 years old. "As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me; as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in." Now he asks for the mountain part where the giants are.

Many of our soldiers have claimed Joshua 1:9 and carry its inscription on a coin for strength and courage.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with you wherever you go."

As State Chaplain of the VFW it has been a great experience to meet many veterans and share a part of their journey over the last four years. This will probably be my last article in the MOV. As I am nearing 80, I look to Caleb as one of the great heroes on my journey, and I want to encourage you to

Elmer R. Liimatta

State Chaplain



continue to trust in the Lord with a simple child-like faith. As we trust in His will, He will not allow anything to happen in our life that is not in accord with His will and for our good. What we face He will provide the strength and courage that we need.

During a caucus when I was campaigning for State Chaplain four years ago, one comrade asked me, "If you don't win, will you be around here next year?" Meaning at the State level. I may not be in his area, but I will be serving to help some veteran and his dependents as much as I can. I encourage you to look to the Lord and place your trust in Him for life, health and every good gift as you face the daily battles of life.

"He gives power to the faint; and to those who have none, might he increaseth strength. But they that with upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint." —Isaiah 40:29, 31.

Someone pointed out to me recently that often the eagle flies alone. Might does not make right, but right makes might. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." —Romans 8:28

Reach out by faith and claim the promises. God bless you, my friend.

URGENT MESSAGE!!!

from the Service Director Daniel J. Crocker

After writing my article for this month's edition of the MOV, we became aware of a situation that may cause a lot of our veterans concern.

There has been a recent publication printed here in the state of Michigan that has alluded to new entitlement for Blue Water Navy veterans to receive benefits under the Agent Orange Act, as a result of service offshore in Vietnam.

The article refers to the *Hass v. Nicholson* case and in previous editions of the MOV, we have advised our readership that this case was overturned.

On May 8, 2008, the Federal Circuit issued its decision in *Haas v. Peake*, 525 F. where it reversed the Veterans' Court, holding that the Veterans' Court had erred in rejecting VA's interpretation of § 3.307(a)(6)(iii) as requiring a service member's presence at some point on the landmass or inland waters of Vietnam in order to benefit from the regulation's presumption. The Federal Circuit issued a mandate in *Hass*, effective October 16, 2008 (setting forth federal rules of appellate procedure with respect to issuance of mandate and staying of mandate pending petition for certiorari).

That same day, the appellant in *Ribaudo* filed a motion for leave to file a motion to modify the Veterans' Court's April 13, 2007 per curiam order to state that the stay effectuated in *Ribaudo*

would expire either when the United States Supreme Court (Supreme Court) denied the petition for a writ of certiorari in *Haas* or decided *Haas* on the merits, rather than expiring on the date that the Veterans' Court issued the mandate in that case. The Veterans' Court denied the motion on November 17, 2008, noting that the April 13, 2007 *Ribaudo* order, which merely stayed the implementation of its own *Haas* decision, had become final upon issuance of the mandate on May 17, 2007. The appellant in *Haas* filed a petition for a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court, which was denied on January 21, 2009. See *Haas v. Peake*, 77 U.S.L.W. 3267 (Jan. 21, 2009) (No. 08-525).

As the *Ribaudo* stay of *Haas*-related cases is no longer in effect, and in light of the Supreme Court's denial of certiorari, VA's Office of General Counsel has advised that the Board may resume adjudication of the previously stayed cases.

The bottom line is that at this current time, there is no entitlement for Blue Water Vets unless they step foot on land or have been identified as part of a ship's crew that has been recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has been previously published in the MOV, and the list continues to grow.

If there is any change in the law, we will be the first to let our readership know!



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Ron Allen
District 4 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Sisters of the 4th District,

My year as 4th District Commander is coming to a close; in two months my term will be over. These have been the fastest three years of my life, but they will always be the greatest three years. I have met a lot of new comrades and sisters from other Districts and states.

I have had the opportunity and privilege to work with the 4th District President Lana Boulouier and her District ladies. Their work for our District, state, and most of all for our veterans, shows how we, as two organizations, can work together.

I would like to thank all my Post Commanders for all that their Posts, officers, and membership has done for the District and for the support they gave me and my District officers this year. Without this support, we could not have achieved our goals. Also, thanks to all Post Commanders who achieved 100% in membership and to all Post Commanders who are still working hard to achieve their 100% in membership.

I would like to thank all my District officers and all my committee chairman for all the hard work that they have given to me and the District. To the 4th District Honor Guard, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do, for our District. As always comrades, you have and will always be number one in the District and in my book.

We have lost some good comrades this year and they will be greatly missed. As comrades, we will keep our thoughts and prayers with their families.

All the support that has been given to me and the District, I ask that you continue to give the same support to the new District officers for the year 2011-2012.

I thank all who served our great nation and served our District and state. The citizens of our great country appreciate all that we have done and will do.

At the start of my year, my theme was "TOGETHER WE CAN." I can stand before you and look everyone in the eye and say, "TOGETHER WE DID." Thank you and GOD BLESS AMERICA.



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

James Galen
District 5 Commander



Comrades, Sisters and Brothers of the 5th District,

Here I am, writing you my final MOV article. I want to first thank all of my line officers and chairpersons for their outstanding work and efforts during my term of office. We could not have accomplished as much as we did together, without having worked as a team.

Sally and I would also like to thank each and every Post in the 5th District for the past three years. Your hospitality and friendship given to both of us will always be remembered in our hearts. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you as your 5th District Commander.

I would like to thank each Post Commander, the Macomb County Council and Oakland County Council for all of their hard work and efforts in making the 5th District successful. You are the 5th District! Without your leadership at Post and county council levels, the 5th District and I could not have achieved our goals throughout the year. I would also like to thank Post 4659, Shelby Twp. and Post 9914, Highland for achieving 100% in Membership. This brings a total of 12 Posts who have achieved 100% in membership during our term. We still have time remaining to achieve 100% in Post membership. There are so many Posts that are so close in achieving 100%. Don't stop! Keep signing up new and reinstated members. Don't forget your continuous members. They can also help you achieve 100%. Make a final phone call or letter to them. We need all the help we can get these remaining weeks!

We just had our Past Commanders/Past Presidents Banquet at Post 2645 Southfield on March 26, 2011. We had a terrific turnout and we had a lot of fun. We honored our Past District Commanders and Past Presidents that attended. Thank you, Past District Commanders and Past Presidents, for all you did for the 5th District over the years!

Now, I would like to get down to busi-

ness. There is only a short time left in this term. If a Post wants to be eligible to vote at the upcoming State Convention in June 2011 at the Troy Marriot Hotel, you will need to have your quarterly audits turned in to Department on time, your delegate fees paid, and your Buddy Poppy orders paid.

On May 1, 2011, we will be having our Loyalty Day program at Post 1146, St. Clair Shores. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and the program will start at 2:00 p.m. We have five (5) terrific speakers scheduled to speak. We also have a 30-member choir who will be singing for us. There will be a luncheon after the program. All veterans and family members, including children, are invited to attend. All Posts should bring their colors to our Loyalty Day event, where they will be posted in front of the audience.

On May 13, 14 and 15, 2011, we will have our Oakland/Macomb Youth Campout at Multi-Lake Conservation Club in Commerce Township. We still need donations for the youth campout. We want to send any needed group of children who cannot afford to pay. Any Post that donates money will receive credit across the board. Please send your donations to Walt Clingan, Chairman.

On May 20 and 21, 2011 is the Camp Trotter Golf Outing and Officer Training for all of our newly elected and appointed officers from Posts, Council and District level. Forms will be on the Department Web site by the time you read this. Please fill them out and send them in.

I would like you to remember our Candidate for State Chaplain 2011-2012, Leon Hinkle, who is our District 5 Chaplain and our Macomb County Council Commander. We want to give Leon our entire 5th District support in order for him to be elected our next State Department Chaplain 2011-2012.

In closing, I would like to congratulate our 5th District elected and appointed officers for the ensuing year. I am looking forward to working with John Bond, who will

— DISTRICT 5, continued on page 4



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

George M. Wygant
District 6 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

This will be my last article as your District Commander. We have completed 9.5 months of VFW Year 2010-2011 and 11 months out of our reporting year. The only thing we need to do is finish strong in membership. This is my third year monitoring membership, and I hope we change a recurring trend. The trend is we gained 123 new members and reinstated 75 for a total of 198. This in itself is good, as the District could meet its 102% goal. Now the downside: we have 311 unpaid members from the last year. That means we have a net loss of 113 members for the District. We still needed 208 renewed members for 100% and 305 members for 102% in the District. Hopefully, we will have attained that goal by the 30th of April.

I have stated before that if the All-State program is "Queen", then our Membership Program is "King". We cannot accomplish the mission of our corporation without members. Members give us the work force to accomplish the All-State program. Members give us the numbers we need to collect the donations to support the All-State program. The All-State program, when reported correctly, provides the proof to the IRS that we are a nonprofit corporation.

How have we fared this year? Donations are down about 30% this year. Membership is down 4.32%. We have 11 Posts that have attained 100-116.87% in membership. We have five Posts who have achieved 130-188 points in the All-State program. We have six Posts that have achieved 90% or greater of the 125 points District goal; two Posts who have achieved 80% or greater, six Posts who have achieved 60% or greater and 13 Posts that scored below the 60th percentile. I will provide my final report to the Post Commanders at the 6th District Caucus at the State Convention in Troy. Every program will have been

completed by then, except membership, which continues until 30 June.

I ask all comrades to examine their Posts and ask yourselves one question. Are we operating as a VFW in accordance with the Bylaws and Manual of Procedures and other Bylaws as approved by the Commander-in-Chief? Or are we operating more like a social club? If it is the latter, than vote to surrender your VFW Charter and become a social club.

I have had the opportunity to visit all the Posts in our District. I have listened to their committee reports and what they have accomplished in the preceding month. All they had to do was report their activities, via the Activities and Hospital Reports to Department on time (prior to the 10th of the month), and all Posts in the District would have reported over 125 All-State Points. This is not a competition, it is the measure to see if you're supporting the established VFW National and State Programs and; more importantly, justify our nonprofit status to the IRS. District stats are as follows: Hospital program: 1,973 Workers, 8615.25 Hours, \$19,922.84 in Donations, \$41,201.00 in Hospital Equipment Loaned, 6,014 Patients Visited, 35,664 Miles Driven, 180 pints of blood were given and cancer donations were \$1,924.62.

Activities Reports: CS Projects 4,323, CS Hours 35,007, CS Value \$321,572.38, AM Projects 2,941, YA Projects 480, YA Hours 4,634, YA Value \$93,666.87, DR Projects 131, SA Projects 97, Legislative Projects 113 and PAC Projects \$1,055.00. Not bad for 11 months of reporting. Just think what the numbers would have been if everyone reported what they actually did.

I would like to congratulate Lloyd F. Putman II and Patricia Paterson on their successful completion of VFW Year 2010-2011 as Department Commander and President. May all your future endeavors be as successful as this year has been.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

PSC Richard "Chic" LaFave and PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr. Board of Managers

The latest happening at our Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHV) and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. First, a very special thank you to the Hubbard's Military Supply in Flint, Michigan for donating a winter coat to a resident Veteran at the D.J. Jacobetti Home. This veteran wanted to thank whoever made the donation. Danny Akers from the Chevy Post 3087 – he made it all happen. A special thank you to Past District 7 Commander Jim Tanner of Bangor, Marcellus VFW Post 4054, and Cass County VFW Post 1855 for their generous cash donations. Veterans at the D. J. Jacobetti Home were very happy to receive all the new personal items, such as underwear, clothing, and socks. The GRHV was very generous in support of the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans with personal

underclothing. A special thank you to Sonja Van Valkenburg and her volunteers that helped her put the boxes together for shipment to Marquette.

Do you know a Veteran who needs nursing care? If you are a veteran, you might be eligible for free nursing home care in a State Veteran's Home. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 70%, or require nursing care because of a service connected disability, are eligible.

For information about this program call the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans at 906-226-3576 or the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at 606-364-5400.

In closing, Chic LaFave and I would like to say thank you for all that you have done and will be doing for the veterans (residents) at the two homes.

DISTRICT 5, continued from page 3 —

be an excellent 5th District Commander for 2011-2012. I will continue to be involved with the Veterans of Foreign Wars at District and Council levels. I will still be a National Sergeant. I have a new appointed position as Assistant Director for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year

Programs 2011-2012. I will be assisting new Director Harry "Les" Croyle. So you see, I am not going away, but just doing different things for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Thank you for all that you do, each and every day, for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Lastly, please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who are guarding the gates of freedom for us.



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

George Paul Yung
District 7 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

Well this will be my last article for the MOV as the 7th District Commander so I will get right to the point – MEMBERSHIP. We have 21 Posts in the 7th District; 3 Posts over 100%, 1 Post needing 1 member, 2 Posts needing 3 members, 2 Posts needing 4 members, 2 Posts needing 5 members, and the other 11 Posts needing 6 or more. Please sit down and go through your membership book, and start calling to get these veterans back to the organization. We need them and they need the VFW to keep working for them. We need 141 members to get the District to 100%. Right now, we are at 94.75% and we are 3rd out of the 12 Districts. Keep up the good work. Remember you have until June 30, 2011 to get 100%; so, let's try and do it.

It was my pleasure to serve as 7th District Commander and I wish to thank Ladies Auxiliary President Lou Ann Conklin for her assistance, and also to thank all of her officers who made this a successful year for the VFW. As every man knows there is always a good woman behind us who

makes us look good.

I would like to apologize to all the Posts that I did not get to visit. Unfortunately, it looks like Agent Orange is finely catching up to me. I spent more time at the VA in Battle Creek, Ann Arbor and in the hospitals, than I wish to remember.

I would also like to thank Sturgis Post 1355 and their Commander, Donald Rains, and their Ladies Auxiliary for their assistance in hosting the 7th District meeting on short notice.

Again, thanks to all veterans for making this a good year for me and I hope that you give incoming Commander Kevin Conklin all of the cooperation that I received from you. Remember the purpose of the VFW is fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational, and to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members.

I hope to see some of you attend the State Convention in Troy, Michigan, June 8th-12th; hope all of you have a good and safe summer.

God bless all of you, all of our troops and the United States of America.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Terry Dowdell
District 9 Commander



Greetings, Comrades and Sisters:

First of all, I would like to apologize for not getting my article in, in time for the last MOV. I hope that everyone had a great year. We finally made it through February and March with all the snow and ice that we got.

I would like to congratulate State Commander Lloyd Putman and State President Pat Patterson for a successful year, and you had a wonderful turnout for your Testimonial Dinner.

My year is just about over with, and I would like to wish the new officers the best of luck and success in their year. I would like to thank all the Posts for ordering Buddy Poppies. You made the 9th District 100% again this year for the third year in a row.

I look forward to seeing most of the comrades and sisters at the State Convention in Troy, Michigan, June 8th through the 11th.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

David Gay
District 10 Commander



The year is fast winding down. Hopefully, all Post Commanders are in a position to present to Department their check sheet showing all requirements have been fulfilled for consideration for a White Hat. This is a symbol to show the completion of activities that are required and the dedication to VFW.

As always, membership is a major part of this to show strength in numbers and what this organization represents, our veterans and the benefits to which they are and should be eligible for. It is a sad situation when numbers and not names, faces and volunteering to protect our great country, impress the individuals we vote to represent us. Sad, but true.

My hearty congratulations to the Posts who have reached 100% and above: Post 116, Bad Axe; Post 203, Berville; Post 822, Flint; Post 2409,

Otter Lake; Post 2777, Burton; Post 3243, Fenton; Post 3791, George Washington Carver; Post 3901, Algonac; Post 4139, Lapeer; Post 4164, Caro; Post 5585, Emmett; Post 6965, Ubyly; and Post 9344, Harbor Beach. Many Posts are within reach of 100%. Now is not the time to slow down, let's reach for 100% in the 10th. Please, as always, remember if you need assistance, the District officers are here for that purpose.

Don't forget upcoming Loyalty Day, Poppy sales the first week of May, and the District Convention on the 15th of May at Post 3087, Chevrolet. The Department Convention will be earlier in June this year. Check your calendars.

I wish you all success in your endeavors and truly hope all Commanders receive their White Hat. It has been a good year!



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

John Harrow, Jr.
District 11 Commander



Question: Are we proud to be members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars? Then, why do we find it so hard to ask someone to join our great organization? I do not understand how we can stand by and watch membership drop, year after year, and not worry about it. We need every member to be concerned and start signing up new members to prevent such big losses. The good news is that we have a few Posts that have reached 100% or more in membership. Post 1071, 3033, 3724, 6466 and 8215 have saved us from a shutout. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have a few more.

Our reporting has been a little brighter. All Posts have done a great job on reporting. Donations have been down, but if you do not have the funds, it is pretty hard to give much.

I would like to remind all Posts that District dues and Department delegate fees must be paid in order to be able to vote at the Department Convention.

Thank you for letting me serve as your District Commander this year. We may not have reached all of our goals, but we tried. This will truly be a year that I will remember.



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Stan Preidis
District 12 Commander



It is hard to believe that as you read this, the year will be almost over. I am writing this in April and it is hard to see what membership will be in June. Seven Posts are at 100%; 2053 White Cloud-103.02%, 3314 Arcadia-112.28%, 5095 Custer-100.8%, 6017 Pentwater-101.6, 6864 Cadillac-103.13, 9388 Muskegon Heights-100% and 10770 LeRoy-102%.

I have a promise from 7729 Muskegon that they will be 100% shortly, and I will take Comrade Stancroff's word for it. There are six Posts that need only four or less to make their 100%; Bitely, Mecosta, Fruitport, Big Rapids, Ludington and Freemont. Then we have four of our larger Posts that need a total of 200 to meet 100%; a large chunk of the 333 the District needs to make our goal. We are at 92.9% as I write this and have a total of 347 unpaid, so if every Post at least gets its membership paid up, we will make our goal and then some.

The Department Convention is June 8-12 and all Posts need to make sure their audits are in and dues paid, so they can vote. Past District Commander and 7729 Post Commander Billy Stancroff is run-

ning for Department Junior Vice Commander and it would be nice if District 12 had all its Posts there to vote for him. You can't vote if your Post does not have a registered delegate present. The more Posts that are present the better.

Checking on donations to Department programs, there are still an awful lot of zeros. For example, only three Posts have donated to Gold Star Mothers. I know through my visits that some Posts are sitting on rather large sums of dollars in their Relief Fund. Use it. You can get more during your Poppy Days. Speaking of Poppies, seven Posts have not ordered their Poppies for the year. You can find all of this data on the Department's Web site at www.vfwmi.org. Go to electronic reporting, and then donations to Department office (close to the top). Anyone can do this; you don't have to be the Commander or Quartermaster to find Post data.

As I wrap this up, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Commander. I have learned so much attending the District and Department functions.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen DeRousha
District 14 Commander



Comrades and Sisters of District 14,

My time as your Commander is coming to an end with the election of new officers. I would like to thank all the officers, inspectors, and committee chairmen for their hard work this year. I hope that you will help the new Commander as well as you did me. Thanks again. It was an honor to meet and serve with the people from the state, other Districts and Posts. We still have to get membership; the District is at 94.46%. Three Posts as of April 3rd are 100%; Post 6 Marquette, Post 9023 Brimley and Post 9714 Chatham. Let's all push for 100%.

Buddy Poppies are in the mail. Comrades, get your members and Auxiliary out, and pass out as many as possible. We have a lot of members in distress these days and the money sure will help. Remember to keep up all your reports to Dept. Headquarters. All Posts have been reporting on community service, hospi-

tals and youth activities. Keep up the good work.

I would like to congratulate the Voice of Democracy winner, Amber Lafave, 12th grader from Gwinn High School. She placed 8th in the State, for a \$1,000 Dept. of Michigan scholarship. I also want to thank the six students who did essays for V.O.D. and Patriot's Pen. It was a job well done.

I would like all Commanders to remember our National Home. Life Memberships are \$40, Camp Trotter Life Memberships are \$35. These make good thank yous for someone special. Both places need your help to keep going. Also you can sponsor a child (ages 7 to 12) for a week at Camp Trotter for \$200.

In closing, I will be turning command of District 14 over to Richard Robitaille at the State Convention on June 12th. Good luck, Dick.

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Patricia Patterson

This is my final article in the *MOV*. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of Michigan for allowing me this great honor to serve as your President.

I have traveled all over this great state and I cannot tell you what a privilege it has been to meet and greet all the Auxiliary sisters. You have been so very kind and gracious. Each and every one of you should be so proud of all that you do for this organization.

A special thanks to the line officers and the District Presidents for all their hard work this year. It is no wonder Michigan is such a great Department. A

special thanks to the Department Chairmen – you did a great job promoting the national programs. And to all the Auxiliary sisters who accepted a position this year, thanks so very much for your time and effort.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Testimonial and I want to thank Karen Aune and Pam Croyle for being such great Chairmen. They did a great job. It was a night I will always remember.

Commander Lloyd, thanks for the memories. It has been an honor serving with you. Your Department officers are always there for the Ladies Auxiliary.

Please remember we are not done yet, we still need to **recruit-recruit-recruit**. **Membership is our number one goal.**

I wish Mariann and Jack the best of luck next year. I am sure they will fulfill all their goals.

Again, thanks so much for allowing me this honor.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP



Val Mikkelsen

Sisters,

As I am writing this, I have just taken a break from the process of recording the information on your year-end reports. So far, I have received only about 75 reports, and

there is less than a week to get them in. I have high hopes that I will receive a report from EVERY AUXILIARY, even if it is late. It is important to hear from every Auxiliary.

At this time, we have yet to have a 100% District. However, District 6 needs fewer than 11 to accomplish this goal and several other Districts are hot on their trail.

Mid-Winter Convention turned out as I had hoped. A big thank you to my husband Norm, my daughter, Wendi, my granddaughter, Brittani, my sister Luann, and yes, even my great-granddaughter, Sophie (she slept throughout the program). Without your help, it would not have been the program that I had envisioned. To the 12 District Presidents, I don't know what

to say. You all worked very hard. The program would not have been complete without all of you earning 90% and the right to take part in the Medallion Ceremony and your "Night Out on the Town." An extra special thank you for the beautiful bouquet of flowers that I received from you, the week following Mid-Winter. It was a delightful surprise!

We are currently behind the membership percentages, for the same time period, for the last two years. I have high hopes that we will catch up to, and surpass, those percentages. We need to make gains, every year, to keep this great organization alive. I am asking all of you, one last time, to go out and give it that one last push. Michigan does not want to be known as a "Dying Organization." PLEASE HELP THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN OUT.

If any of you have any membership questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Being a Department Chairman is always an excursion into life. I wish to thank everyone for my "travel" this year. It has been a delightful "adventure." THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN



Ruth Later

I'd like to share with you some thoughts from National Legislative Director Francine Cornish. We are making a difference! Through education regarding legislation, connecting with our members

and communities and by providing information about our legislators, our influence has been felt.

For example, a member of Congress

backed down after proposing to cut millions from veteran's expenditures that would drastically affect our veterans' and military families. A major bank **apologized** for improperly raising the mortgage interest rates and foreclosing on thousands of military and veteran customers and will also "significantly enhance its programs to help military and veteran customers."

This is why we need to be vigilant as to legislation pertaining to our veterans and military personnel. Keep the VFW Priority Goals handy and refer to them often.

— **LEGISLATIVE**, continued on page 6

CANCER AID & RESEARCH



Sandy Medos

Time sure flies. June is just around the corner. I want to thank everyone who helped me with my cancer booth and who supported the Cancer Aid & Research Program. It would not have been a success if it wasn't for our generous Auxiliary sisters. We still have time to reach our goals. Remember, we need to get the word out to the community. As I have said before, we cannot do this alone, we need the community to get involved. Send out those letters asking for donations. You may be surprised who will be happy to donate. Cancer affects everyone.

I'm hoping everyone had a great time at Mid-Winter. Everyone that played the Wii bowling had a wonderful time. Some of us did very good, and others just had fun. I will be giving out the prizes at the June Convention. I want to thank everyone who supported the Wii

Bowling for Cancer. Everyone seemed to enjoy the pink bag raffles, too.

As of January 31st, National has reported that Michigan has donated \$72,341.00 and has given out 101 Grants totaling \$43,700.

Just a few reminders: at Department Convention we will be having the District basket raffle and the regular cancer booth sale. Please try to bring either new or slightly used items for the tables.

I am doing fine from my fall. I was more embarrassed than anything else. At least I got you a little break from the meeting. I will try to make it up the steps without falling at Convention.

We need to remember to help not only the person with cancer, but also their caregivers.

I want to thank all the people that helped me out at our Cancer Booth. Without you, we would not have been able to do so well. There just aren't enough words that I could use to thank you enough. I enjoyed this chairmanship very much. I got to meet some wonderful people.

DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES/JUNIOR GIRLS CHAIRMAN



Bonnie Pray

Wow, can you believe how fast time is passing? Here we are processing all the Year-End reports to get them recorded and placed for the awards to be given at the Department Convention June 9th through the 12th. I have received quite an abundance of Patriotic Art entries to be judged this week and sent on to National for final judging. The pictures are all excellent art and that makes it hard for the judges.

I received only 58 National Citation requests for "Youth Groups Supporting our Troops" out of all the Auxiliaries in Michigan. I know there are groups of students all over that have done different programs to help support the troops that just weren't noticed by area Auxiliaries.

We did institute a new Junior Girls Unit in Lambertville, Post and Auxiliary 9656. We are hoping for a large group of the Michigan Junior Girls Units to attend our yearly outing at the VFW Camp Trotter. The Junior Girls also work with the Auxiliary programs. They will be our future Auxiliary members, and I am sure they will make us even more proud as we

pass knowledge on to them and they pass theirs on to the future. I am really enjoying the Units and what these girls are doing for our veterans. They are fun.

I have already received Year-End reports, and it is so interesting to see what some of our Auxiliaries are sending in. There are so many things that the Auxiliaries have done during the year to earn their points and credits by participating in all the programs. If you read the guide sheets at the beginning of the year, you can see the ideas and things we should do to show how much we care for our veterans and earn our Auxiliaries the recognition they deserve. It does take some time to do some parts of the programs, but if we don't make an effort we will eventually start fading, and where will that leave our veterans and their families after they have given us so much and made sacrifices for this country?

I hope we all will try harder again next year to bring in more membership and work on our programs to show others that we will take care of our veterans, their families and our communities.

As we complete another year of great work and changes, I hope we continue to try hard to keep up on the good work and volunteerism we do, because the basic reason we do this is for our veterans, active duty and their families.

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Lana Bourlier



Great State of Michigan!
It's been a great year full of experiences, lessons and meeting new friends! It takes a lot of hard work, dedication, and most of all, heart! I wish to thank all who helped me survive the year, whether you gave me

advice, support or just let me vent to you. Thank you so much!

It has been a pleasure being District President for the mighty 4th. You are a wonderful group of ladies and I am proud to be part of it!

To Lloyd and Pat: "Good Luck" at National!

Please remember one thing: "The year has come and the year has gone, but our work is NEVER done!"

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Joyce Hinkle



Greetings to all my sisters of the Great 5th District,
This year is passing so quickly and it has been inspiring for me, personally, to see everyone working so hard to achieve their goals. I'd like to congratulate each of you for all your hard work and I hope you were able to submit your audits and annual reports on time to the appropriate chairman. Remember fellow sisters, you can't get credit for all of your hard work and effort, if we aren't properly reporting your accomplishments.

As spring finally starts to win out over winter, the robins I see in my front yard are a sign that, just as time marches on, my year as your District president marches on, as well. Even though the end of the year is in sight, it doesn't mean we can, or should, rest on our laurels when it comes to supporting our veterans and what you can do for them. If you know of someone that might be a little down on their luck, they might appreciate your help in getting their spring clean up done. A little kindness is always appreciated, especially to those that gave so much for this country.

Growing the organization through

increased membership is crucial to the long-term success of this organization. While 100% membership would be a fantastic accomplishment, we should always be looking to sign up new members. While we came close to reaching that elusive goal of 100%, I know each of you worked hard to recruit new members to this great organization. There is now a "Members-at-Large" list, which is broken down by Districts. What a great source for potential new members. If you would like this list, let me know and I will send this to you.

Thank you so very much for everything you have done this year. Your support, friendship and kindness directed toward me have made my year as your President one of my most proudest moments. It was a pleasure meeting so many of you. The projects you are working on are important, and I look forward to hearing about them and their effects, for those we work so tirelessly to serve. Please don't give up on your projects, see them through to fruition. Our veterans appreciate our efforts.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Michigan Department Convention that will be held in Troy from June 9th through June 12th. You'll be able to get a great deal of information at the Convention.

God bless and keep all of you safe always! Thanks for a wonderful year.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Carloyn Jenkins



While checking my calendar to see if I had the winning number, I noticed how busy these next months were going to be, starting with the March 19th District meeting. This was the meeting where we honored our District Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year winners. Fourteen Posts participated. There were 209 Voice of Democracy entries and 405 Patriot's Pen entries. Thank you to the judges who took on this challenge to decide the winners. Congratulations to first time District Chairman Rick and Heather Shepherd for a great job.

On March 27th, the institution and installation of a new Junior Girls Unit to VFW Post 9656 was held. It has been some time since District 6 had a Junior Girls Unit. The last one was out of Fowlerville 6464. I hope the District Auxiliaries will support this Unit, so that they can be around a long time. These girls are our future!

Congratulations to all the newly-elected officers for 2011-12. May your year be successful and fun-filled. Annual reports are in, so now we wait for the results at Convention in June.

Membership is now in the "begging stage" of our program. There are eight Auxiliaries that have yet to reach 100%. For those members who have not paid their dues, remind them that they are considered to be "members not to be in good standing" and are not eligible for a

cancer grant, if needed. If they are financially strapped or ill, make a motion to pay their dues. There is a challenge that has been put forth from District 6 Commander George Wygant as to who can reach 100% first in the District. Ladies, the boxcar has been attached to the Apple Blossom Express and we need to fill it.

May's District meeting will be at VFW Post 9656, Lambertville. At the meeting we will be electing new officers for 2011-12, so I hope to see a good attendance. Buddy Poppy Days are May 5, 6 and 7th. This is how we raise money for the Relief Fund, so please get out and volunteer for your Auxiliary. Also, be sure to promote the program in the community.

This year has gone by fast, and I have a lot of memories and friendships to remember. A thank you goes to Department Membership Chairman Val Mikkelsen. Once again, you have outdone yourself as a chairman. Thank you for a beautiful program at Mid-Winter Conference and our "Night on the Town."

A big thank you goes to my friend Ruth Later. Without her advice, guidance and ideas, I would have been lost. She is also my mentor and traveling companion. Thanks also go to Past Department President Millie Swartz for her ideas and advice. To all my officers and chairmen, you also helped make this year memorable. To all the Auxiliaries in the District, thank you for your friendship and hard work - you made it a fun year. Please support the new District officers and chairmen for 2011-12, as you have supported me. We need to remain together and stay a strong team.

LEGISLATIVE, continued from page 5 —

Recently, I was watching the Oprah Winfrey show which featured the sacrifices of military families when their spouse has been deployed. Oprah *admitted* that, like most Americans, she had not considered the meaning of those sacrifices and she vowed to do more.

I would like to thank all my Auxiliary sisters in Michigan who have supported and promoted the Legislative program this past year. Keep doing what you're doing in contacting our legislators.

Don't forget to keep checking the National VFW Web site at www.vfw.org to keep track of vital pending veteran's legislation.



DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Lou Ann Conklin



Ladies, we now come to another end of the year. I hope everyone had a good year. It's hard for me to say that I have. I worked very hard for our District

and tried very hard to keep upbeat, but it's sad to see how our Auxiliaries are more interested in serving only their own Posts, rather than all veterans and our great organization as we have given an oath to do. I hope and pray that things turn around; we have so much to

do, since our work will never be done. We shed a sigh of relief that we have completed another year, but it's not the end for the Ladies Auxiliary; so just take a deep breath and get ready for a new and exciting year!

I would like to thank President Pat, Secretary Jan, Treasurer Jan; all line officers, all District Presidents, my District officers and Auxiliary officers for your help, your leadership and your friendship. I also thank all chairmen at all levels. You work very hard to keep our programs exciting! Keep up the good work!

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Carrie Watkins



Dear Sisters of the Great 8th:

Congratulations to all of you for a VERY successful year! You have done many amazing things in your commu-

nities and for veterans, active duty military personnel and their families. You should all be VERY proud of your accomplishments. I'm sure that many of you will be recognized at the Department Convention at the Troy Marriott, June 9-12; please plan now to attend this event. There will be no summer conference this year, so program information will start coming out at the Dept. Convention and I'm

sure there will be some important changes and information that will help you start off your new year on the right foot.

District 8 has had a hard time with membership this year. Unfortunately, we lose members every year who pass away and the economic situation in Michigan has had a huge effect on our communities and families. Paying dues comes last on the list when a member is worried about rent/house payments, utilities, food and the ever-rising price of gas. We may need to get creative to help them find ways to pay their dues and remain active in our organization.

I also believe this can be used to strengthen our membership and attract
— *DISTRICT 8, continued on page 10*

Uniform Committee Gives Search Update

Post Date: 3/16/2011 12:00:00 a.m.

At the National Council of Administration Meeting at the Mid-Year Conference, Uniform Committee Chairman Kathy Schreiber updated members on the struggles they have faced in talking to new uniform companies. The contract with Cintas Uniform Company has been officially terminated, and the current marine blue uniform is no longer available to order. The Committee was formed by National President Cortina Barnes to investigate new possibilities.

"It's been very difficult," Schreiber acknowledged. The Ladies Auxiliary VFW had certain requirements: broad range of sizes, reasonable prices and no potentially restricting contract. They quickly found out that the marine blue of the current uniform is a custom color and would be priced as such. Nearly everything presented to the committee was too expensive, close to or more than the current uniform.

"We're not prepared to make a recommendation at this time," Schreiber said at the Council Meeting. "But we would like you to consider this option." The committee

members then modeled an option that would fit all the criteria of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW: Each committee member wore her own version of a black suit, chosen in her preferred style (and price range), pants or skirt, with different styles of shirts, from white to red to royal blue. Some wore scarves, but all had on a sample of the possible new Ladies Auxiliary VFW uniform pin. (See photo below.)

"The shirt or scarf could be at the discretion of the National President, Department President or Auxiliary President," Schreiber explained. "Members would be free to find a black suit in their price and size range, and the national organization would not be locked into any contracts."

The Uniform Committee is still looking at a few options and will have their final recommendation for vote at the 2011 National Convention in San Antonio.

**DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT**

Pat Klockziem



Greetings to all my Auxiliary sisters in District 9 and throughout the great state of Michigan,

The tulips and daffodils have bloomed. The snow is gone and new grass is growing, trees are blooming and we see lots

of fresh growth. We will also be seeing new growth in our District. New officers and new ideas will be springing up. It's been an exciting year and next year will be just as exciting.

I have been busy all year. Inspections were lots of fun and I traveled many miles throughout the District to visit each Auxiliary. Thank you all for all the hard work you have done this year. I met a lot of people and have made new friends. I want to thank you for the hospitality and kindness you have showed me. I am proud of each and every Auxiliary in this

District. I know that you will continue to work for the benefits of our veterans and their families. You make this organization what it is. I want to thank all my line officers and chairmen for all their hard work. You have been there to help me and made this year great. At this time, our Auxiliary is in 4th Place in membership with 94.43%. I am very excited and proud of how hard you have worked to reach this goal. Let's continue to keep our Auxiliary strong with membership.

I would like to congratulate all the new officers and chairmen for the upcoming year. I know you will do a great job. Let's all continue to support our Auxiliary by participating in District and state meetings, working with our Auxiliary at the local level and working closely with our VFW. Let's keep this organization alive and active. Once again, thank you for the great year as District 9 President. God bless each and every one of you.

DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

Diana Ward



Greetings, Sisters:

Greetings to the 10th District and everyone in the Department of Michigan. It's hard to believe that this year has come and gone. It went by very quickly and I have had a wonderful

time representing our District. I would like to thank all of you for a wonderful year and for all the work you do for our veterans.

Despite all of your hard work, we didn't quite make 100%. We currently stand at 95.79% and are 6th Place in membership in the state. It's not too late to send in those straggling dues – let's help the Department of Michigan to gain a little ground. I would like to congratulate Auxiliaries 203, 796, 822, 1452, 2382, 2777, 2945, 4139, 4837, 6965 and 10884 for achieving 100% in membership this year. Good job, ladies!

Your Year-End reports were due by April 25, 2011 to the Department chairmen. If you did not send one, please do so now – even

late, the Department chairmen can still count you toward their 100% reported. Make sure your Auxiliary gets counted for all the hard work they have done this year for each of the programs.

Please make sure that you pay the delegate fees to District and Department. It is important that you pay your delegate fees, so that your Auxiliary is counted during District and Department Conventions. Even if you don't have anyone going to Convention, your votes all count as long as the delegate fees are paid.

I would like to thank all of you ladies for doing such a great job this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed being your District President, meeting several new ladies and renewing friendships with those of you that I've known for a while. The veterans need each and every one of you, and it is good to see all the hard work that all of the Auxiliaries do for the veterans and the community. Large or small, you are doing a great job!

Finally, I would like to wish the officers-elect for the coming year a great and successful year.

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Judy Schafer



Greetings Sisters of the Mighty 12th,

Well, this will be my last article for this year. I have enjoyed traveling in the 12th District, meeting more of the Auxiliary sisters and renewing acquaintances

of friends that I do not see often. I want to thank everyone for their generous hospitality and the great food.

We had the Past President/Past Commander banquet this past Sunday, April 10th. This is not only for PP/PC but for all Post and Auxiliary members. Next year, we hope

to see more of you attend.

I hope all Auxiliaries remembered that your annual reports had to be in the hands of the Department Chairman by April 25th. I'm sure that you all reported.

The next District meeting will be on May 15th at Post 4499 in Manistee with a memorial service at 11:00 a.m., dinner at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Please try to have each Auxiliary represented. This meeting will be election of officers. I want to wish Beth and her officers a great year.

The Department Convention will be June 8th through June 12th in Troy at the Marriott Hotel.

Thanks to all of you.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Nancy LaVigne



Sisters of District 13,

Time passes by so quickly and before you realize it, your term of office is over.

We will be starting a new year in July. Congratulations to all who have accepted offices for

this organization whether it be as an officer or a chairman. We are in tough times and we need leaders who are going to work hard and accomplish goals that are set before them.

If by chance you elect a new member into office, by all means, PLEASE don't leave her

to learn on her own. Each individual Auxiliary sister has a responsibility to help and guide her to see that her year is successful.

We all joined this organization for the same reason – our VETERANS. Let's strive to keep our problems outside of the Auxiliary and concentrate on our mission. We may not always agree, but we should be able to come together for the betterment of our Auxiliary. Remember the member's obligation we took when we came into this Auxiliary? We made a promise of the following: "In the presence of Almighty God – and the members of this organization here assembled – I, _____, do

— *DISTRICT 13, continued on page 10*

Southfield, Michigan Vascular Surgeon Provides "Hands-On" Support for the Troops

CHICAGO – For two weeks, vascular surgeon Kevin Nolan of Southfield, Michigan, volunteered to treat wounded American soldiers transported from Afghanistan and Iraq to the U.S. Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in Germany.

"I volunteered – both this time and back in June 2008 – because it was an opportunity to demonstrate to the men and women who are being asked to do their jobs in a hostile environment (often times getting injured or killed) that American civilians like myself and my vascular surgical colleagues appreciate and respect the sacrifice they are being asked to make and will support them with our time and our surgical skills," said Dr. Nolan, Chief of the Section of Vascular Surgery at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers in Southfield, Michigan.

"There is no doubt that being able to help these courageous individuals is personally rewarding. The emotion felt among the caregivers – and there are many providing care from every discipline in medicine and nursing – is not easily described. Suffice it to say, it's a moving experience, and one in which I am both humbled and privileged to have been involved."

From January 22 to February 6, 2011, Dr. Nolan volunteered at LRMC – the largest American hospital outside the United States. Since 2004, 66,000 military personnel have been treated at LRMC.

Since Sept. 2007, 72 Society for Vascular Surgery® (SVS) members have volunteered to supplement the limited number of vascular surgeons at the medical center. "Speaking on behalf of SVS leadership and all of its members, we are extremely proud of the vascular surgeons who donate their time to help treat war injuries," said 2010-2011 SVS President Dr. Robert Zwolak of New Hampshire.

"Vascular surgeons repair damaged arteries and veins through traditional



open surgical techniques. Our member volunteers are determining the value of endovascular methods in these most challenging and difficult cases."

In 2007, SVS member and retired U.S. Army Col. David Gillespie of the Office of the U.S. Army Surgeon General and professor of surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., asked Society members to share their medical expertise as volunteer surgeons at LRMC. Immediately, SVS members responded to support the troops. Currently, there is a waiting list for SVS surgeons who are willing to volunteer at LRMC during 2011.

About the Society for Vascular Surgery®
The Society for Vascular Surgery® (SVS) is a not-for-profit professional medical society, composed primarily of vascular surgeons, that seeks to advance excellence and innovation in vascular health through education, advocacy, research and public awareness. SVS is the United States advocate for 3,350 specialty-trained vascular surgeons and other medical professionals who are dedicated to the prevention and cure of vascular disease. Visit its Web site at www.VascularWeb.org and follow SVS on Facebook and Twitter.

Dept. of Michigan, VFW Supports Karmanos Cancer Center

Karmanos Cancer Institute is one of the top cancer research institutions in the world. Because of the cuts that may take place here in Michigan to the State Universities, Karmanos stands to lose

about \$4 million, which will hamper their research efforts. Their research not only covers prostate cancer but also covers many other types of cancer, including breast cancer.

The Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars cancer program began back in 1982 when Past State Commander and Past Commander-in-Chief James N. Goldsmith initiated the program. Since that time, the VFW has donated approximately \$1.2 million to the program.

This program is essential in finding cures for cancer. Please make every effort to put on a program at your Post to support this research. Maple City Post 2406 puts on a Cancer Smorgasbord every Palm Sunday and raises approximately \$6,000.00. If all of our Posts would do something similar, we could support the research more than we do now. Everyone knows of someone who has died from this dreaded disease. Let us do something to remember them.



Pictured, L-R: Nick Karmanos, Vice President of Development for Karmanos Cancer Institute; Rob Weiss, VFW State Adjutant/Quartermaster; Kirk Kennedy, State Jr. Vice Commander; Dr. Gerold Bepler, President and CEO of Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute; and Dr. Elizabeth I. Heath, Director of the Prostate Cancer Research Team.

Operation Valentine

The Operation Valentine's Day event took place at AJ's Café, 240 West Nine Mile, Ferndale, Michigan on Saturday, February 12, 2010.

Department of Michigan VFW Surgeon, Leonard Milewski, presented a

Department check in the amount of \$500 to Roz Cooperman for a donation to the Women Marines Association MI-2. The money donated will help with postage to mail the many donated items to our troops.



Pictured in back, L-R: Anne McLarahamore, member MI-2 Women Marines Association; Leonard Milewski, Department of MI VFW Surgeon; Debra Drummond, President of MI-2 Women Marines Association; and National Membership Secretary Roz Cooperman, Event Director.



Pictured, L-R: Department of MI VFW Surgeon Leonard Milewski; Anne McLarahamore, member MI-2 Women Marines Association; "Big Al" Muskovito from the Dick Purtan show; and Roz Cooperman, Event Director.

Fallen Soldier March

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, Price-Crane-Robinsons VFW Post 4642 served as the starting point for a march honoring Michigan's fallen heroes.

The Fallen Soldier March began at the Linden Post and ended 13 miles later at Great Lakes National Cemetery with a wreath-laying ceremony and the playing of *Taps*. Seventy-five soldiers and civilian supporters participated in the 3-1/2 hour walk and were greeted by the Michigan Patriot Guard Riders as they

entered the cemetery grounds.

Post member Mary Dunkley and her husband, 2LT Rick Dunkley, spearheaded the planning of the event as a way to remember the ultimate sacrifice of military members, as well as the ongoing sacrifices of their families. They hope to make the Fallen Soldier March an annual event.

1-125 Infantry Battalion (Michigan Army National Guard), headquartered in Flint, comprised the majority of the participating Soldiers. Since 2005, 1-125 Infantry has lost 13 Soldiers in the War on Terrorism.

More photos can be found on the VFW Post 4642 Web site at www.vfwpost4642.org



Post Quartermaster Craig Newberry (far right) offers a prayer before the departure from Post 4642. Joining Newberry (from left) are Post member Mary Dunkley and 2LT Rick Dunkley.



Participants depart VFW Post 4642, led by 2LT Rick Dunkley.

VFW Post 701 Hosts Job Fair

These are pictures from the Job Fair held at Morley S. Oates Post 701 on April 14, 2011.

Any Post that is interested in holding a Job Fair, needs to contact the Department Headquarters.



POW/MIAs Recovered

WWII MIA Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Air Forces Capt. George W. Grismore, of Salt Lake City. On March 12, 1945, Grismore and five crewmembers aboard a C-47A Skytrain departed Tanauan Airfield in the Philippines on a resupply mission to guerilla troops. The aircraft did not return to base, and no evidence of the aircraft was found. The six men were presumed killed in action and their remains were later determined to be non-recoverable. Read the full DoD press release at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14057>

Korean War MIA Identified: DPMO also announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Cpl. Floyd E. Hooper, of Stratton, CO. Fighting as a member of the 24th Infantry Division, he was captured on Feb. 4, 1951, and died of malnutrition and dysentery a few months later. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200-400 servicemen. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command used dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA – matched to his brother – to identify Hooper. Read the full DoD press release at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14041>

WWI, Korean War MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains of two soldiers who had been missing-in-action from World War I and the Korean War. Army Private Henry A. Weikel, of Mt. Carmel, PA, was killed on Sept. 16, 1918, when his unit came under attack east of Paris near Jaulny, France. He was assigned to the 60th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division. Army Sgt. First Class Wallace L. Slight, of Yates City, IL, was killed on Nov. 1, 1950, when enemy attacks collapsed their defensive position in North Korea, along the Nammyon River. He was assigned to M Company, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Read about their recovery and identification, and that of others, on the DPMO Web site at http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/news/news_releases/.

Korean War MIA Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Air Force 1st Lt. Robert F. Dees, 23, of Moultrie,

Ga. On Oct. 9, 1952, Dees was piloting an F-84 Thunderjet against enemy railcars near Sinyang, North Korea. All contact was lost with him after an explosion near the target was observed by other flight members. In 1954, North Korea turned over remains reportedly recovered from Sinyang, but Army mortuary affairs was unable to identify the remains, which were subsequently buried as “unknown” in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. For more information on the recovery and identification process, read the DoD press release at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14224>

Eleven WWII MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains of an 11-man B-24D Liberator crew that had been missing in action since Nov. 20, 1943, when the aircraft took off from Port Moresby in New Guinea but failed to return to base. Subsequent searches failed to uncover any evidence of either the aircraft or crew, so in June 1949, the Army Graves Registration Service concluded that all were unrecoverable. Read about how they were recovered and identified at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14260>

Korean War MIA Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Cpl. John W. Lutz, 21, of Kearny, NJ. From May 16-20, 1951, Lutz was captured when hid 1st Ranger Infantry Company was attempting to infiltrate enemy lines near Chaun-ni, South Korea. Lutz would later die from malnutrition in a North Korean POW camp. Read more at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14403>

WWII MIA Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office also announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Martin P. Murray, 21, of Lowell, MA. On Oct. 27, 1943, Murray, along with 11 other crew members, took off in their B-24D Liberator on a reconnaissance mission of shipping lanes in the Bismarck Sea. The aircraft failed to return to base. Read more at <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14407>

Information obtained from “VFW WASHINGTON WEEKLY”

War Dog Cemetery

By Brian Bell, Whitmore Lake, Michigan

When one hears the word cemetery we all think about where mom, dad or Uncle Ralph are buried. However, have any of us thought that military “hero dogs” have their own area for their eternal rest?

Located outside of South Lyon, Michigan at the corners of Eleven Mile and Milford Roads is an acre sanctuary devoted specifically for these “hero dogs” that are popularly known as military service dogs. The



site gives honorable tribute to these four-legged unsung heroes who would have given their lives, if needed, to protect their masters and fellow troops.

The cemetery began in 1946 in honor of “Sparks” who fought with the Marines on Guadalcanal in 1943. Many others have joined Sparks since his interment in the past 65 years. An erected five-foot monument at the burial site pays tribute to the K-9’s who served their country in both World Wars. The stone marker reads, “Dedicated to the memory of THE WAR DOG erected by veterinarians, humane organizations and the dog loving public to perpetuate kindness to man’s most faithful friend for his heroic services in World War I and II.”

We can only hope that many of these four-legged heroes returned to the United States after their service was completed and lived a happy remaining life with their masters as a just reward for their valiant service; and for those that died in service to their country, recognition has been given to them for a job well done.

Veteran Borrowers in Delinquency Quick Reference Sheet

General Guidance

The US Department of Veterans Affairs urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their servicers as soon as possible to explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers really do *not* want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran’s specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- Repayment Plan – The borrower makes regular installment each month plus part of the missed installments.
- Special Forbearance – The servicer agrees not to initiate foreclosure to allow time for borrowers to repay the missed installments. An example of when this would be likely is when a borrower is waiting for a tax refund.
- Loan Modification - Provides the borrower a fresh start by adding the delinquency to the loan balance and establishing a new payment schedule.
- Additional time to arrange a private sale – The servicer agrees to delay foreclosure to allow a sale to close if the loan will be paid off.
- Short Sale – When the servicer agrees to allow a borrower to sell his/her home for a lesser amount than what is currently required to payoff the loan.
- Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure - The borrower voluntarily agrees to deed the property to the servicer instead of going through a lengthy foreclosure process.

Access our Web site at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/veteran.asp for additional information on VA loans and to watch videos of veterans who have completed the workout options listed above.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

Veteran borrowers may be able to request relief pursuant to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). SCRA is intended to ease the economic and legal burdens on military personnel during their active service. In order to qualify for certain protections available under the Act, the borrower must request protection under the Act, and the loan must have originated prior to the current period of active military service. SCRA may provide for a lower interest rate, or prevent foreclosure or eviction up to nine months from period of military service.

Assistance to Veterans with VA-Guaranteed Home Loans

When a VA-guaranteed home loan becomes delinquent, VA provides supplemental servicing assistance to help cure the default. The servicer has the primary responsibility of servicing the loan to resolve the default. However, in cases where the servicer is unable to help the veteran borrower, Loan Guaranty has Loan Technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and two special servicing centers who take an active role in interceding with the servicer to explore all options to avoid foreclosure.

Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans can call 877-827-3702 to reach the nearest Loan Guaranty office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan.

For more information go to www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans or call 877-827-3702.

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

Veterans who feel they may be facing homelessness as a result of losing their home can call 877-4AID VET (877-424-3838) or go to www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp to receive immediate assistance from VA.

Assistance to Veterans with non-VA Guaranteed Home Loans

For a veteran or service member who may have obtained a conventional or sub-prime loan, VA has a network of eight Regional Loan Centers and two special servicing centers that can offer advice and guidance. Borrowers may visit VA’s Web site at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans or call toll-free 877-827-3702 to speak with a VA Loan Technician. However, unlike when a veteran has a VA-guaranteed home loan, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on the borrower’s behalf. It is imperative that a borrower contacts his/her servicer as quickly as possible.

VA Refinancing of a non-VA Guaranteed Home Loan

Veterans with conventional home loans now have new options for refinancing to a VA-guaranteed home loan. These new options are available as a result of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. Veterans who wish to refinance their subprime or conventional mortgage may now do so for up to 100% of the value of the property, which is up from the previous limit of 90%.

Additionally, Congress raised VA’s maximum loan guaranty for these types of refinancing loans. Loan limits were effectively raised from \$144,000 to \$417,000. High cost counties have even higher maximum loan limits. VA County Loan Limits can be found at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans. These changes will allow more qualified veterans to refinance through VA, allowing for savings on interest costs and avoiding foreclosure. A VA refinancing loan may help a veteran who is facing a big payment increase.

Other Assistance for Delinquent Veteran Borrowers

If VA is not able to help a veteran borrower retain his/her home (whether a VA-guaranteed loan or not), the HOPE NOW Alliance may be of assistance. HOPE NOW is a joint alliance consisting of servicers, counselors, and investors whose main goal is to assist distressed borrowers retain their homes and avoid foreclosure. They have expertise in financial counseling, as well as programs that take advantage of relief measures that VA cannot. HOPE Now provides outreach, counseling and assistance to homeowners who have the willingness and ability to keep their homes but are facing financial difficulty as a result of the crisis in the mortgage market. The HOPE NOW Alliance can be reached at 888-995-HOPE (888-995-4673) or by visiting www.hopenow.com

For more information, go to www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans or call 877-827-3702.

Patriotism Program

On February 24, 2011, VFW Post 6950 and its Ladies Auxiliary conducted a patriotism program at Zion Elementary School for the students and faculty. The

school was presented with a standard American flag and two wall flags. Americanism, youth activity and drug safety material was given to all the students.



Pictured, front row, L-R: Principal Dennis Schmidt; Ladies Auxiliary President Joan Elenbaas; Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Mary Jo Sheldon; and Ladies Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Angela Krzyminski. Back row, L-R: Post Commander David Dunn and Post Chaplain Ronald Pischel.

VFW Post 1278 Member Named Outstanding Resident of Oakwood Commons

Detroit Police & Fire VFW Post 1278 member, Robert Flaugher, was named the Outstanding Resident of Oakwood Commons in Dearborn, Michigan.



Honoring Comrade Robert Flaugher (C) are: Post Quartermaster/Adjutant Robert Siedlik (L) and Post Commander John Sosa (R).

Last Surviving WWI Veteran Has Passed

The following is a statement from VFW Commander-in-Chief, Richard Eubank.

February 28, 2011

The passing of Mr. Frank Buckles marks the final departure of the last surviving link to the more than 2 million American men and women who served during World War I. Sadly, this generation of heroes has surrendered to time and the day has come when they no longer walk among us.

World War I unleashed an unrestrained, methodical and mechanized destruction of human life leaving more than 8 million dead and 21 million wounded. Our late entry into the war in 1917 helped stop the slaughter in Europe, but at a heavy price to the nation; 126,000 deaths and more than 200,000 wounded by the end of the war in 1918. Despite the extremes of the war: fear, courage, cruelty and compassion, America made a conscious decision to fight for the ideal of freedom.

The full scope and stark reality of that war was beyond all of us, with the exception of one man who represented an entire generation assigned to history. Frank Buckles' service and that of his now-absent comrades was borne from neither bravery nor bravado. It came from within; a sense of selflessness...doing something good for others, despite the danger. They faced fear and accepted it, challenged it, fought it, and then acted with honor. That is their legacy to us.

And that's why we must ensure the memory of their courage and sacrifice won't fade or disappear into anonymity. That would be an irretrievable loss to the nation, one that we cannot afford to pay.

Editor's Note: *Mr. Buckles was a lifelong VFW member who was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Out of respect for his passing and that of his entire generation, the President ordered the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff on the day of his interment.*



Together We Can

On Wednesday, December 23, 2010, a Christmas dinner was served and a small gift was given to the 100 veterans that reside at the Michigan Veterans Foundation located in Detroit.

Working together – VFW Romanski Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Donovan Post and Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Allen Park, Lincoln Park and Melvin-

dale, Allen Park Elks, Southwest Athletic Club and Dearborn Heights Applebee's made the dinner and items donated to the shelter possible.

Special thanks to Mark and Julie Little for organizing the event and to their grandson, PFC Stephen Kiss, for helping with the dinner while on leave.



DISTRICT 8, continued from page 7 —

new members. When the VFW Ladies Auxiliary was formed, there were no social services, and government didn't pay for many things that it does today. The ladies worked to support all kinds of things in their communities – we provided the means to make important projects happen. Times changed and taxes and government paid for many of the projects and needs of communities. But that is changing again, government is cutting back. We will have to work together to make sure our schools have all they need, our community library continues to exist, our kids have safe parks to play in, that our nursing homes and veterans homes have what they need to care for patients, our military personnel continue to receive comfort items, etc. Our organization has always done these things, and I think if we continue to publicize it and use those reasons when talking to potential members, they will relate to those things and want to be a part of it. But we have to share the good things we do and invite others to join us!

Another way to attract new members...the object of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars...

The object of this organization shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to assist the Post and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of

America and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women; and to preserve and defend the United States of America from all her enemies, whomsoever.

I have never known a time in my lifetime where the above beliefs have been in such peril. America is under attack, overseas and at home. We are a nation at war, from inside and out. American men and women are fighting for freedom and we must support them, while other Americans barely acknowledge their sacrifice. Schoolchildren are not being taught these principles as we were; we must make sure these patriotic values live on in them. Elected officials are making choices that go against these principles; we must stand and fight for them. I believe potential members could relate to these issues as well, and it could encourage them to join us.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has a tremendous history of service and dedication in all these areas! WE MUST continue to inspire new generations to join our cause and to keep our programs and ideals working far into the future. Best wishes to all who have been elected to fill the offices in your Auxiliaries, your hard work and dedication makes a difference! Thank you for all you do to support veterans, active duty military personnel, their families and your communities...God Bless America!

DISTRICT 13, continued from page 7 —

of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise – that I will never wrong or defraud this organization – nor a member thereof – nor permit either to be wronged

– if in my power to prevent it.” We need to keep that promise to ourselves and to this organization.

I would like to thank all of the sisters for your kindness, hospitality and your friendship through the year.

USAA Provides \$250,000 Sponsorship for VFW Foundation's 'Return the Favor' Campaign

Campaign provides assistance to military personnel.

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 7, 2011 – Retired Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Speakes presented a \$250,000 check on behalf of USAA to VFW National Commander Richard Eubank for VFW Foundation's "Return the Favor" campaign. USAA is now an official co-sponsor of the campaign.

"Return the Favor" provides assistance to military personnel and their families providing services that include financial assistance grants for housing, medical or basic assistance needs, prepaid phone cards, assistance filing disability and benefit claims, and "welcome home" and "send off" events for troops.

"It's an honor to support an organization that stands up for America's combat veterans," said Speakes, USAA's executive vice president for strategy and planning. "Our country needs organizations like the VFW, because vets and active-duty members face special challenges. At USAA, we understand that military families have unique financial needs and our

sponsorship of the 'Return the Favor' program will enable VFW to give the very best to the people who dedicated their lives to serving our country."

"We are deeply appreciative of USAA's extraordinary and generous support. This sponsorship reflects USAA's ongoing total support for those who have served and continue to serve our nation," said VFW National Commander Richard L. Eubank, a retired Marine and Vietnam combat veteran from Eugene, Oregon. "USAA's exceptional benevolence on behalf of America's service members and veteran communities is truly remarkable."

USAA offers insurance, banking, investment and retirement products and services to 8 million members of the U.S. military and their families. USAA membership is open to those who are serving or have honorably served the nation in the U.S. military – and their eligible family members. For more information about USAA, or to learn more about membership, visit usaa.com

VFW Presents the 2011 Bataan Memorial Death March

Each year about 5,000 supporters turn out for the rigorous march.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 22, 2011 – VFW is pleased to announce it is the presenting sponsor of the 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March to be held at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, March 27, 2011.

The March was created to honor the American service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II. These soldiers endured horrendous conditions, including malaria-infested regions, no medical attention, meager rations and outdated equipment. On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of soldiers were surrendered to the Japanese and were forced to march for days to a war camp, enduring the high heat of the Philippine jungles and extreme brutality of their captors, causing many to perish.

This tragedy became known as the Bataan Death March.

The Memorial March is open to the public and each year about 5,000 supporters turn out for the rigorous march.

"Supporting this march is a great example of one of the many focuses of the VFW: keeping the memory of those who've lost their lives in the name of freedom alive. The march offers a unique way of honoring the memory of so many brave soldiers," said VFW National Senior Vice Commander, Richard DeNoyer.

Twenty-five Bataan Death March survivors are also expected to attend and will receive recognition from VFW's Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Richard DeNoyer, on behalf of the organization.

VFW National Commander Urges Congress to, 'Do What is Right for America's Only True Heroes'

VFW pays visit to Capitol Hill to remind leaders of its high priority issues.

March 08, 2011 – Richard L. Eubank, the National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., delivered testimony today before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

In his presentation of the VFW's national priorities, Eubank, a Marine Corps retiree and Vietnam combat veteran from Eugene, Ore., urged congressional members "to do what is right for America's only true heroes" by fully funding the VA, even as lawmakers wrestle with efforts to rein in federal spending. Eubank, who leads the nation's largest and oldest major combat veterans' organization, reminded committee members of the heavy burden placed on current service members, veterans and their families.

"There is a tremendous cost of war, most especially on those men and women who fight it. And that the consequences of defending America do not end when the last bullet is fired."

Eubank reiterated the legislative concerns of the veterans' service organization.

"Thousands dead, tens of thousands wounded, and hundreds of thousands more who came home to unemployment, broken families, and memories that will be there for the rest of their lives," he said. "Suicides are at record highs in the military and in the veteran's community. PTSD, TBI, substance abuse...the list of ailments and challenges our veterans face is a long one, and it goes hand-in-hand with a decade of serving faithfully in two wars on the other side of the globe. In no uncertain terms, the VFW believes the aftermath of war on service members and their families must be recognized as a cost of war."

In his testimony, Eubank praised the VA healthcare system, but was critical of the Veterans Benefits Administration. "While

the VA health care system is a 21st century health care system delivering world-class care to America's veterans, the Veterans Benefits Administration continues to struggle with the greatest workload in over 50 years, and the worst quality in decades."

Eubank explained that the current backlog of claims for compensation and pension, education, and those on appeal, currently sits at almost 1.5 million, and that the reported adjudication error rate of 16 percent is much higher for claims dealing with such as Traumatic Brain Injuries, PTSD and diabetes.

The VFW National Commander thanked VA Secretary Eric Shinseki for his "courage and steadfastness" to add three new illnesses to the list of presumptive illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. "His determination to do what was right for veterans has earned him our admiration and gratitude," he said.

Other VFW high priority issues include the proper care and treatment of returning servicemen and women with severe injuries to mind and body, the need for an integrated information technology system, veterans' unemployment and education, military caregivers and survivor benefits, and the need to sustain and enhance government search and recovery efforts for unaccounted-for Americans from all wars. Eubank also provided testimony regarding further traumatic brain injury research and treatments, suicide awareness and prevention, and women veterans' health care needs.

Joining Eubank at the hearing were hundreds of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary leaders from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Europe, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. It was followed by individual meetings between VFW members and their respective members of Congress.

VFW, USAA Pair Up on Credit Card, Investments

USAA Bank Offering Co-branded Credit Card to VFW Members.

March 28, 2011, SAN ANTONIO – USAA and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) are joining forces to offer a uniquely designed credit card and USAA's investment solutions to more than 1.6 million VFW members.

The new co-branded credit card allows VFW members to apply for the Veterans of Foreign Wars USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard®, which will help support the organization's activities and programs. Additionally, USAA is now the VFW's preferred provider of investment solutions for its membership.

According to Nathan McKinley, USAA vice president of military affinity, the relationship expands USAA's efforts to serve those who served the nation during times of war, along with organizations committed to advancing veteran benefits and care.

"We're proud to be working with the Veterans of Foreign Wars to help meet the financial needs of its members," said McKinley. "We know VFW members and their families will be drawn to USAA because they want to do business with a financial services provider that understands their unique needs and appreciates their service."

It is a sentiment echoed by Richard L. Eubank, National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"We are extremely pleased to provide VFW members this opportunity to further support important VFW programs and our mandate of service to veterans, service members and their families," said Eubank. "Our relationship with USAA is built upon trust. USAA has proven to be a company that veterans and U.S. service members can always rely on."

To learn more about USAA, call 800-274-8839 or visit usaa.com/vfw

About USAA

USAA provides insurance, banking, investment and retirement products and services to 8 million members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving or have honorably served our nation in the U.S. military – and their families. For more information about USAA, or to learn more about membership, visit usaa.com.

Michigan Overseas Veteran - 2011

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Please Remember!

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
July/August/September	August 1, 2011	January/February/March	February 1, 2012
October/November/December	November 1, 2011	April/May/June	April 15, 2012

- Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
- Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.
- Do not write on back of pictures. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. Try to limit number of people in photo to five or six, at most.
- Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
- We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
- Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.
- Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.
- DISTRICT COMMANDERS – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
- MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:

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Auxiliary Editor
Marion Belaire, mebelaire@yahoo.com



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The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level;

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members.

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

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

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(Last Name)
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(Age)
(Date of Death)
(Post #)
(City)

Branch (Circle One):

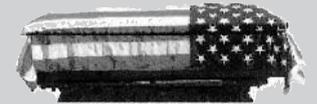
USA USAAC USN
USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):

WWI WWII Korea
Vietnam Gulf Other

Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A VETERAN DIED TODAY



78-DEARBORN HEIGHTS

TRAXLER, EUGENE, 89, USA/WWII

171-LIVONIA

GAUGHN, WILLIAM, 88, USA/WWII

345-REDFORD

DEVORE, ROBERT W., 61, USA/VIETNAM

DUVALL, JOHN A., 88, USMC/WWII

JENSEN, CHRISTOPHER B., 64, USN/VIETNAM

OLLIS, EDWARD R., 82, USA/WWII

SPENCER, EDGAR, 85, USA/WWII

STIPAK, JOHN A., 90, USA/WWII

446-MUSKEGON

DAHLSTEDT, ARTHUR W., 85, USA/WWII

ESTEPP, RAYMOND G., 77, USAF/KOREA

GRIGGS, ALLEN D., 77, USA/KOREA

HODGES, ED, 80, USA

MAIN, ALBERT, 82, USA

MCPHALL, DONALD, 83, USA/WWII

PANOZZO, MATHEW B., 86, USA/WWII

SEBRING, WAYNE D., 88, USA/WWII

ST. AMOUR, CHARLES D., 64, USA/VIETNAM

STUCK, D.O., 86, USN/WWII

525-LINCOLN PARK

BAGIAN, SIMON, 87, USA/WWII

BALOGH, CHARLES, 90, USA/WWII

BRICKEY, MILES, 89, USAAF/WWII

FLORESCU, STEFAN, 83, USA/WWII

HOWIE, BURTON S., 91, USA/WWII

JACKSON, CHARLES, 84, USAAF/WWII

JACOBOWSKI, EDWARD, 90, USA/WWII

JESSE, RICHARD, 84, USA/WWII

LEATHERMAN, STEVEN, 62, USN/VIETNAM

PULASKI, EUGENE, 87, USA/WWII

SMITH, CHARLES, 59, USA/VIETNAM

WANAT, FRANK, 83, USA/WWII/KOREA

WEST, ORVILLE, 90, USA/WWII

WISE, RAYMOND, 77, USN/WWII

582-ORTONVILLE

DUMAN, WILLIAM, 86, USN/WWII

607-ROGERS CITY

SELKE, ROGER G., 66, USA/KOREA

702-WYOMING-GRANDVILLE

LONCKI, THEODORE, 85, USA

702-GRAND RAPIDS

MARTINEZ, CHARLES, 87, USN/WWII

STRATTON, KETIH, 85, USMC

822-FLINT

ALEXANDER, FRANKLIN, 85, USN/WWII

1136-WYANDOTTE

BURT, ROBERT JR.

COATES, RONALD J.

DUCLO, RUSSEL C.

FRASIER, AUSTIN P.

GLINKA, ANTHONY SR.

HARRISON, RAYMOND G.

IOTTE, RODNEY A.

KENWORTHY, HAROLD

KUZNETZ, JOSEPH, 60, USA/VIETNAM

LEWINSKI, RAYMOND P.

MORRISON, RONALD E.

NEROWSKI, JOHN F.

PARKER, WILLIAM J.

ROBERTSON, LAVERN G.

RUSHING, THOMAS, 68, USN/VIETNAM

TRUSEWICZ, ANTHONY

WOLKINS, RICHARD L., SR.

ZAJAS, LEONARD

1138-MONROE

MURPHY, RALPH, 87, USN/WWII

WEIER, FLOYD, 85, USN/WWII

1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES

AIELLO, PIETRO J., 82, USA/WWII

ALTOBELLI, ROBERT L., WWII

BELL, FRED A., 87, USA/WWII

BRINKMAN, ANDREW J., USA/KOREA

DEN DOOVEN, DONALD A., 94, USA/WWII

DEN DOOVEN, THOMAS J., 77, USN/KOREA

ESPER, ROBERT, 88, USAAF/WWII

LANGELOH, WALTER E., WWII

LEONE, ANGELO D., USN/WWII

LINGEMAN, JAMES N.

MARINELLI, SAMUEL, 81, USMC/KOREA

MC CANN, HENRY

MIHALICH, RONALD, 67, USA/VIETNAM

MILLER, ARTHUR A., 90, USA/WWII

MORLEY, DELBERT E., 95, USA/WWII

PARKS, BERNARD B.

PERROTTA, ANTHONY R.

PETERSON, ROBERT J.

SAVINSKI, JOHN J., 89, USA/WWII

SHANLEY, JEROME, 76, USA/WWII

TRINGALI, SEBASTIAN, 87, USA/WWII

VENTIMIGLIA, JOSEPH D.

VERCRUYSSSE, OSCAR

WERTMANN, RICHARD P.

1224-HAMBURG

KANTZLER, EDWARD, 84, USN/WWII

1278-DETROIT

BLAKESLEE, DONALD R., 85, USMC/WWII

TUJAKA, EDWARD J., 89, USMC/WWII

1329-HART

DERKS, RICHARD, 79, USMC/KOREA

FITZ, BILLIE, 82, USA/WWII

LEEMHUIS, WILLIAM L., 88, USA/WWII

OOMEN, JOHN, 91, USA/WWII

PADECKY, ROBERT E., 86, USN/WWII

1355-STURGIS

KEESLAR, JACQUES, 85, USN/WWII

MC KENZIE, JAMES, 67, USA/VIETNAM

VAN ZILE, CHARLES, 91, USA/WWII

1407-FERNDALE

HOCKERSMITH, CHARLES L., 76,

USAF/VIETNAM

1452-CLIO

BIGELOW, CHARLES P., 91, USN/WWII

LONG, GEORGE C., 86, USA/WWII

WEIDMAN, WILLARD L., 78, USAF/KOREA

1454-ALMA

COLE, ROY, 87, USA/WWII

VAN DEMARK, BERNARD, 80, USA/KOREA

1519-LIVONIA

STEINIGER, WILLIAM E. JR., 85, USA/WWII

UNITIS, MICHAEL L., 91, USA/WWII

1573-SAUGATUCK

GUDITH, HENRY W., USA/WWII

1669-ROYAL OAK

DURING, THOMAS, USN/CUBA

MALLOY, LEONARD, 84, USN/WWII

MAZUR, RAYMOND, 86, USN/WWII

1859-SAGINAW

LEPPIEN, ALBERT R., 82, USA/KOREA

SHADEAU, FLOYD, 83, USN/WWII

1887-MENOMINEE

TORREANO, DENNIS J., 67, USN/VIETNAM

1888-TRENTON

RACZKOWSKI, STANLEY, 95, USA/WWII

2053-WHITE CLOUD

PERRIN, MIKE R., 65, USMC/VIETNAM

2144-HOLLAND

BLISS, LESTER, 89, USA/WWII

SLENK, ROBERT, 80, USCG

VAN WIEREN, DONALD, 62, USA

2272-DURAND

LAMAR, ROBERT, 63, USN/VIETNAM

2292-EDMORE

GUNDERMAN, MERRILL, 83, USA/KOREA

2356-HILLMAN

BROWN, ROBERT, 80, USA/KOREA

2358-ROSEVILLE

GLERTZ, FREDERICK E., 78, USN/KOREA

SAPUTO, SEBASTIAN C., 85, USA/WWII

2382-LEXINGTON

HARRIS, THOMAS F., 83, USN/WWII

2406-CHARLOTTE

ANDREWS, EDWARD J., 89, USA/WWII

BINKOWSKI, PAUL A., 82, USA/KOREA

BUDD, RICHARD H., 90, USN/WWII

GONZALEZ, JUAN A., 64, USMC/VIETNAM

HICE, DONALD H., 81, USA/WWII

KENYON, MELVIN J., 79, USAAF/KOREA

LOUCKS, JOHN R., 82, USMC/USA/WWII/KOREA

SIMEK, EDWARD J., 86, USA/WWII

SMITH, ROBERT E., 89, USA/WWII

WESEMAN, SIDNEY E. JR., 82, USMC/WWII

WILDREN, GEORGE, 84, USAAF/WWII

2496-ALPENA

LEMIEUX, FORD W., 95, USA/WWII

MARZEAN, RAPHAEL, 81, USA/KOREA

NOWAKOWSKI, ADOLPH, 89, USAAF/WWII

ROBARGE, ORVILLE, 80, USN/KOREA

SPLEET, DONALD, 82, USA/KOREA

SYLVESTER, DONALD, 86, USA/WWII

SZATKOWSKI, NORMAN, 84, USA/WWII

SZATKOWSKI, RICHARD, 77, USA/KOREA

2891-CRYSTAL FALLS

MEYERS, DONALD R.,

SIMS, GEORGE D., 92, USA/WWII

2945-SANDUSKY

CARMAN, EUGENE W., 85, USA/WWII

TETTER, ALVIN E., 88, USN/WWII

2964-REED CITY

JORGENSEN, LYLE, 84, USA/WWII

LUCAS, DONALD, 89, USA/WWII

SCHROEDER, NORMAN, 86, USA/WWII

STULTS, PAUL A., 91, USA/WWII

3023-GRAND RAPIDS

KOSTEN, KENNETH, 80, USA/KOREA

3030-OTSEGO

DECKER, WAYNE A., 87, USMC/WWII

LOVELAND, WILLIAM H., 87, USN/WWII

3033-MT. PLEASANT

BOWERS, KEITH W., 89, USN/WWII

RAU, WALTER J., 91, USA/WWII

3055-ST. LOUIS

BOYD, DONALD E., 84, USN/WWII

CRUZ, JESSE, 92, USA/WWII

3243-FENTON

BRIGGS, CHARLES J., WWII

BURCH, RICHARD J., KOREA

COTTERMAN, JOHN A., WWII

DOLL, WALLACE E.,

DUNNING, JAMES B.,

GRABOWSKI, ALEX P.,

TROUT, GEORGE,

3293-GRAND LEDGE

GALVIN, CARL C., 87, USN/WWII

3323-WESTLAND

RUZICKA, WILLIAM, 89, USA/WWII

SMITH, KEVIN B., 86, USA/WWII

3667-ALLEGAN

BARTZ, ROBERT D., 75, USA/KOREA

KROTZ, ARTHUR, 95, USA/WWII

3673-BESSEMER

PELISSERO, BRUNO, 79, USA/KOREA

3676-SAULT STE MARIE

QUENNEVILLE, EARL J., 74, USAF/VIETNAM

SAVOIE, RAYMOND E., 89, USA/WWII

SOMMER, GERALD F., 86, USMC/WWII

3723-HOLT

WALTERS, JOHN, 90, USA/WWII

3724-STANDISH

WHITNEY, ROBERT E., 97, USAAF/WWII

3791-FLINT

MC QUEEN, GEORGE, 80, USA/WWII

3897-L'ANSE

CRESS, DANIEL, 76, USA

GOLDEN, EVERETT, 83, USMC/WWII

GRGURICH, LODY, 92, USA

HEINONEN, CLARENCE, 89, USA/WWII

JOHNSTON, ROBERT, 89, USN/WWII

LYBERG, LANE, 86, USN/WWII

SPRINGSTEAD, DONALD

Auxiliary TAPS

203-BERVILLE ROSE, MARLENE	2052-ROMEO HYSLOP, JULIA	3256-MONTAGUE DEYMAN, ELEANOR	4644-DEARBORN HEIGHTS DYTYNIAK, HELEN	7581-WAYLAND LUTOSTANSKI, FELICE
423-ANN ARBOR POOL, CATHY	2358-ROSEVILLE WALTERS, CONNIE	3306-HOWARD CITY GREINKE, MAE	5065-SHERIDAN CANNON, JANICE, 76	8260-NASHVILLE GRIFFITH, ELEANOR
582-ORTONVILLE WILLET, SANDRA, 65	BANNASCH, VIRGINIA BOYD, LOTTIE	3736-GRAYLING PEABODY, MARIE	GLEASON, BETTY, 81 HARPER, MARGARET, 86	HAYNOR, BERNICE HUSS, DELORES
701-LANSING SMITH, KATHLEEN	GIBSON, HELEN PLETTA, MARY	4005-CORUNNA SMITH, ALMA	6165-SOUTH RANGE HEPP, KATHLEEN	SCHOUAN, GENEVA SCHWAB, BERNICE
823-JACKSON, STASZUK, DOLORES	WOJYTNIAC, CATHERINE 2645-SOUTHFIELD DEMONTIGNY, THELMA, 76	4012-NORTHVILLE PENCAK, SHIRLEY, 75	6248-DECATUR GOODELL, LOUISE	8275-AUGRES DANILOW, DORIS
BOLLINGER, ANITA HENDRICK, RUTH	2780-TRAVERSE CITY EMERSON, BETTY	4005-CORUNNA BIRD, CAROLE	6464-FOWLerville LEFFLER, ANNE	9023-BRIMLEY TENYCK, MARION
1075-HARRISON WEAVER, LEEANN	3030-OTSEGO MULLEN, MAXINE	4093-CARLETON COLEMAN, MARION	6462-DUNDEE ROD, CLARIBEL, 98	UPONEN, LORRIANE WISER, LILLIAN
1136-WYANDOTTE MARCISUK, WANDA	2891-CRYSTAL FALLS NYLUND, LORRIANE, 81	4187-TECUMSEH WAGNER, ALBERTA	6579-NEW LOTHROP GROSEPHEND, JUDITH	9084-WAKEFIELD HELBERG, ANNIE
PARKER, MARY 1137-BENTON HARBOR STIEVE, VIOLET	3023-CRESTON ADAMS, THELMA	4012-NORTHVILLE BEDFORD, MARIE	6754-SPRUCE LABELL, GEORGIANA, 83	WILLIAMS, MIRIAM 9455-OWOSSO DANEK, LORA
YESKE, HELEN 1138-MONROE BARTON, ELEANOR	HAMMOND, EVELYN MAZZERELLI, MARIAN	4230-ROCKWOOD GILDERSLEEVE, MARGARET, 90	7546-DEARBORN HEIGHTS BARANOWSKI, DOROTHY, 87	CUNNINGHAM, MABLE HABER, ALICE
STEPHENS, SARAH WOOLACE, ALICE	3030-OTSEGO RAPA, BEVERLY	4187-TECUMSEH IRELAN, MELBA, 92	6579-NEW LOTHROP CRILLY, DOROTHY	JONES, JACKIE QUINN, HAZEL
1452-CLIO NORTON, CLEDA, 83	3033-MT. PLEASANT COUNTERMAN, MARJORIE	4230-ROCKWOOD GILDERSLEEVE, MARGARET, 90	7573-NEW BALTIMORE FISHER, KATHRYN	QUINN, HAZEL RICHARDSON, RUTH
1519-LIVONIA SPARR, PAULINE	3165-NEGAUNEE HOCKIN, BETTY, 83	4249-NEWAYGO WOLEVER, FERN	7575-GARDEN CITY THERASSE, GERALDINE, 78	SMADES, BARBARA, 59 15023-AT LARGE HALLIGAN, GARNET
THIESMEYER, PATRICIA 1584-ADRIAN MICKELSON, BARBARA	JOHNSON, JANICE, 67 JURVELIN, KAYE, 94	4406-BELDING MAKI, MIRIAM	ZANG, DOROTHY, 84	HOLLINGSWORTH, ALICE
	3243-FENTON GORTE, ANNE, 90	4422-TAYLOR REETZ, SHERRY		

TAPS, continued from page 12

4624-HUBBELL LANCOT, LAWRENCE H., 78, USA/KOREA	5680-ST. HELEN BRETHAUER, WILLIAM J., 90, USA/WWII	6896-WESTLAND CAPERS, DOUGLAS, USA/WWII	8275-AU GRES ARCHAMBEAU, GLEN E., 84, USN/WWII
4644-HAMTRAMCK SASINOWSKI, HENRY, 90, USA/WWII	WITHUN, RUSSELL E., 85, USA/WWII 5855-PORTAGE VEKICH, EMIL, 81, USA/KOREA	CHOLEWA, HENRY F., USA/WWII DANIEL, CHESTER, USA/WWII	MC CREADY, WILLIAM H., 83, USA/KOREA MECOMBER, JOHN A., 88, USA/WWII
ZALEWSKI, EDWARD, 88, USA/WWII 4646-LYONS ROGERS, CLYDE, 82, USA/KOREA	VAN DE WERKEN, NICHOLAS J., 91, USA/WWII 5966-DAGGETT KISZELY, WILLIAM S., 89, USMC/WWII	DIAZ, ANGEL O., USA/KOREA DUDEK, EDWARD, 70, USA/KOREA	8372-ENGADINE HALL, WARREN, 89, USAAF/WWII
4837-MARLETTE KITELEY, ROBERT E., 88, USA/WWII	6013-ELKTON LE PAGE, FRANCIS R. JR., 87, USAF/WWII	DZIEGOWSKI, JOHN S., USA/WWII FOREIT, BRUCE W., USA/WWII	8846-MUSKEGON HAMIL, ROELOF H., 94, USA/WWII
MEAD, GEORGE P., 79, USAF/KOREA 5065-SHERIDAN BRUNDAGE, ROBERT K., 85, USN/WWII	REIBLING, CALVIN, 86, USN/WWII 6132-LANSING STEVENS, CLAYTON, 73, USN/VIETNAM	FREDRICK, PATRICK F., USA/WWII GOLENIAC, STANLEY P., USA/WWII	8872-PORT SANILAC HOWARD, WALTER, 80, USN/KOREA
KNICKERBOCKER, BERNARD J., 81, USA/KOREA SMITH, HERMAN, 91, USCG/WWII	6248-DECATUR CHYBIK, JOHNNY, 84, USA/WWII	KISCHUK, EUGENE, 80, USA/WWII KURDZIEL, FRANK, USA/WWII	8964-OVID CROSSON, REGINALD, 89, USA/WWII
TATE, ROBERT E., 82, USA WALTERS, WESLEY W., 90, USA/WWII	6248-DECATUR DONTJE, BERNARD A., 89, USAAF/WWII	MARECKI, VINCENT, USA/WWII ROMANOWSKI, EDWARD A., USA/WWII	SCHMIDTMAN, FOSTER, 95, USN/WWII 9023-BRIMLEY BEAMISH, ROBERT C., 84, USA/KOREA
WARD, LYLE C., 86, USN/WWII 5096-CUSTER HERLEIN, ROBERT, 84	GRIFFARD, NORMAN, 88, USMC/WWII HOWELL, ESLIE, WWII	SKORA, CHARLES, 80, USA/WWII WALEGA, EUGENE, USA/WWII	9084-WAKEFIELD CHARLEVOIX, ROBERT, 83, USN/WWII
LUND, LOUIS, 87 5114-ST. IGNACE SAUNDERS, RICHARD, 79, USAF/KOREA	6464-FOWLerville KNICKERBOCKER, PATRICK E., 83, USA/WWII	6965-UBLY WALSH, JOHN, 91, USA/WWII	HAMPSTON, QUINLAN, 87, USA/WWII 9293-EASTPOINTE BROWN, TEDDY J., 81, USA/KOREA
5315-BALDWIN BERNIER, URBAIN	6466-HARRISVILLE KEYSER, WESLEY, 84, USA/WWII	7302-HEMLOCK BABECHENKO, EDMUND, 67, USA/VIETNAM	PARADOWSKI, HENRY, 91, USN/WWII 9344-HARBOR BEACH SIEMEN, CLEMENT, 84, USA/WWII
REAUME, NELLIS ROSS, CLIFFORD	6691-FRASER KOTILLA, RUSSEL, 69, USA/KOREA	SCHREM, BENJAMIN, 81, USA/KOREA STACK, BRYAN, 64, USN/VIETNAM	9656-LAMBERTVILLE BURMEISTER, DANIEL W., 61, USA/VIETNAM
SHAFER, DAVID WATTERS, DANNY	6754-SPRUCE LISKE, LESLIE, 80, USA	SZABO, FRANK JR., 93, USA/WWII THOMAS, WILLIAM, 82, USA/WWII	9973-DEARBORN HEIGHTS COLLINS, CHRIS, 87, USA/WWII
5585-EMMETT POWERS, JAMES D., VIETNAM	6756-CENTER LINE COLE, ERNEST, 86, USA/WWII	7309-MASON HAGEDORN, EARL, USA/WWII	10194-GRASS LAKE WARREN, FREDERICK C., 90, USA/WWII
5600-ONTONAGON GIESAU, GARHARDT, 88, USA/WWII	GOLAN, JOHN, 90, USA/WWII HILDEN, DUANE, 74, USN	HARDY, WILLIAM, 90, USA/WWII 7310-GROSSE ILE JOLIFFE, EDWIN	10329-MANCHESTER SCHOOK, JOHN, 83, USA/KOREA
ONGIE, GORDON, 78, USA/KOREA 5602-SIX LAKES DENMAN, FLOYD, 80, USA		KING, ROBERT L., KREGER, JESSE, 86, WWII	10770-LEROY BLANCHARD, DALE, 85, USA/WWII
LIPPERT, REX, 77, USA/KOREA 5670-GWINN KNIGHT, RICHARD R., 60, USAF/VIETNAM		WYDECK, WALTER, 7486-AKRON MC CLOY, JOHN C., 77, USAF	10884-MAYVILLE HARRIS, RONALD, 43, USN
MOSELLE, DEAN, 82, USA/WWII SOMA, MAYNARD, 77, USAF/KOREA		7581-WAYLAND FOOTE, DALE R., 64, USA/VIETNAM	HATFIELD, LEWIS, 69, USMC HAVER, RICHARD, 91, USMC/WWII
		BELKA, EDWIN, 87, USA/WWII 7805-ITHACA JOHNSON, CARL R., 83, USA/WWII	SEIDLER, MITCHELL E., 81, USA/KOREA
		8236-FLINT BUBEN, MIKE, 85, USN/WWII	

Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary 2012 Calendar

Orders are now being accepted for the 2012 calendar!

Drawings will be held at the Department office, 924 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906 at 10:00 a.m. each Friday and for the 6 preceding days. You need not be present to win. After the 7 tickets have been drawn and winners are recorded, they will be returned to the drawing drum for the next week's drawing. There will be 52 drawings, with a total of 366 prizes awarded.

2012 Calendar Raffle Rules

Prize Distribution of \$13,575.00

\$500 x 6, Honoring: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, 911, Veterans Day

\$250 x 7, Honoring: Ladies Auxiliary Birthday, Statue of Liberty Birthday, Army Day, Navy Day, Marine Day, Air Force Day, Coast Guard Day

\$25 x 353: All other days

52 drawing dates, 1 each Friday for the period Saturday through Friday

Calendars are \$25.00 – complete the order form and return with your check.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

No. Ordered: _____ Total Due: \$ _____

Send orders with check to:
Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary
924 North Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906
517-487-3715

Orders due by October 17, 2011.
All orders mailed by November 30th.



Convention Schedule

June 8-12, 2011

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Golf Outing TBA

Thursday, June 9, 2011

7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Registration Dennison Ballroom
8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Displays and Booths Dennison Ballroom
8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Photo Room Niles I
8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Pick-up Entertainment Tickets Dennison Ballroom
9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Service Officers Grand Ballroom E-H
Budget and Finance
Bylaws & Resolutions
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Internal Revenue Service Grand Ballroom E-H
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch On Your Own
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Registration Dennison Ballroom
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Entertainment Tickets Dennison Ballroom
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. C of A Meeting Grand Ballroom E-H
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Directors Reception (by invitation) Commanders Hospitality-Room 1512
7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Joint Hospitality Room Room 1512

Friday, June 10, 2011

7:30 a.m.-12 Noon Registration Dennison Ballroom
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Photo Room Dennison Ballroom
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Entertainment Tickets Dennison Ballroom
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon VFW Convention Opening Session Grand Ballroom E-H
12 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Joint VFW & Aux Meeting Grand Ballroom E-H
Presentation Recognition
All-State and Achievement
Comments from our National Representatives
1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Registration Dennison Ballroom
1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Entertainment Tickets Dennison Ballroom
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Joint Camp Trotter, VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Grand Ballroom E-H
Joint Legislative Meeting
4:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. District Commanders & District Monitors Mediterranean
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Registration Dennison Ballroom
7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Joint Hospitality Room Room 1512

Saturday, June 11, 2011

7:30 a.m.-12 Noon Final Registration Dennison Ballroom
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Photo Room Niles I
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Entertainment Tickets Dennison Ballroom

You must have your Entertainment Tickets picked up by 12 Noon

8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. General Business Session Grand Ballroom E-H
8:30 a.m.-11:30 Men's Auxiliary Meeting TBA
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

All displays and other items must be removed from area before the 1:30 p.m. meetings

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Meet the Candidates Grand Ballroom E-H
(All candidates in one room)
2:30 p.m. District Commanders Pick Up
Final Reg. Forms Dennison Ballroom
2:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Resume Convention Elections Grand Ballroom E-H

Installation of 2011-2012 Officers after Business Session

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Grand Ballroom A-H
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Entertainment Reception (Cash Bar) Grand Ballroom A-H
8:00 p.m. Entertainment (Begin seating at 7:40 p.m.) Grand Ballroom A-H
10:00 p.m.-12 Midnight Joint Hospitality Room Room 1512

Sunday, June 12, 2011

9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. First C of A Meeting Grand Ballroom E-H

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

Official Publication of the Department of Michigan • Veterans of Foreign Wars
924 North Washington Ave. • Lansing, MI 48906
Subscription rate: \$4.00 per year

Name

Address

City State Zip

Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary VFW 84th Annual State Convention

Troy Marriott, Troy, Michigan

June 8-12, 2011

Wednesday, June 8

6:00 p.m. Hospitality Dept. President's Suite Room 1412

Thursday, June 9

12 Noon-8:00 p.m. Registration Dennison Foyer
Cancer Booth Dennison Foyer
10:00 a.m.-12 Noon Joint Officers and Council Members Meeting Dept. President's Suite
11:00 a.m. Instruction to Pages Grand Ballroom A-C
12 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own
1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Council of Administration Meeting Grand Ballroom A-C
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Floor Practice Grand Ballroom A-C

Friday, June 10

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Registration Dennison Foyer
Cancer Booth Dennison Foyer
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Auxiliary Business Session Opens Grand Ballroom A-C
• Rules Committee
• Introduction of Convention Committee and Pages
• Resolutions
• Program Awards
12 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Joint VFW and Auxiliary Meeting Grand Ballroom A-F
• Presentation and Recognition of Auxiliary and District Achievement Winners and All-State Commanders
• Comments from National Representatives
3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. VFW Meetings, Auxiliary may attend Grand Ballroom A-F
• Camp Trotter Committee Meeting
• VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year
• Joint Legislative Meeting

Saturday, June 11

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 2011-12 Joint Officers and Council Members Meeting, including Budget President's Suite
7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Department Hospitality Room Room 1512

Saturday, June 11

7:00 a.m. Past State Commanders/Past State Presidents Breakfast TBA
7:00-10:00 a.m. Registration Dennison Foyer
Registration will close promptly at 10:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Cancer Booth Dennison Foyer
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon Auxiliary Business Session Resumes Grand Ballroom A-C
• Flag Presentation
• 45-Year Plus Recognition
• Presentation of Past Department Presidents
• Welcome Dept. President (song)
• Jankowski Scholarship Award
• Presentation of Patriotic Art Winner and Jr. Girls Princess
• Nominations
• Candidates Question and Answer Session
12 Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own/Caucus
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Auxiliary Business Session Resumes Grand Ballroom A-C
• Drawing of Dept. Raffle Tickets
• Cancer Transmittals
• Election of Officers
• Installation of Officers
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Treasurers Computerized Ledger Workshop
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Grand Ballroom A-F
and Closing Ceremonies of the 2010/11 Auxiliary Convention
8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Motown Review Party Grand Ballroom A-F

Sunday, June 12

8:00 a.m. 2011-12 Auxiliary Membership Kickoff Grand Ballroom A-C
8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. 2011-12 Council of Administration Meeting Grand Ballroom A-C

(Due to the cancellation of the July Summer Conference, this Council meeting will be the meeting that is usually held at that Conference.)

God Bless Our Troops

Kirk Kennedy
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Sr. Vice
Commander
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 6
Morley S. Oates VFW Post 701
His family

Re-Elect
Leonard Milewski
Department of Michigan
Department Surgeon
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 4
VFW Post 1136
His family

Ronald L. Devereaux
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice
Commander
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 9
Olson-Kiste VFW Post 4406
His wife and family

Billy G. Stancroff
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice
Commander
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 12
Lt. Clement F. Derezinski
VFW Post 7729
His family

Leon Hinkle
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
Oakland County Council
VFW Post 9021
His family

Jennifer Smith
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
VFW Post 701
Her family

Gloria Dobbie
Candidate for
Department Guard
2011-2012



Endorsed and supported by:
District 5
Ladies Auxiliary 4659
Her husband and family



VFW Camp Trotter Application
****Co-Ed Resident Camp for Children Ages 7-12****

Camper's Gender: (Circle one) Male or Female Shirt size: (Check one) Youth Adult (Circle one) S M L XL

Name of Camper: _____ Birth Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: (printed): _____

Parent or Guardian Name (signature): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (cell): _____

Post/Auxiliary No: _____ Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

2011 Camping Season Schedule (children 7-12 years of age)
Week 1: July 10th – July 16th • Week 2: July 17th – July 23rd • Week 3: July 24th – July 30th
Week 4: July 31st – August 6th • Week 5: August 7th – August 13th

DEADLINE: Applications must be received at Department by 10 July 2011.

First Week Choice: _____ Second Week Choice: _____

Camper's Pledge: In making this application, I promise to abide by the rules of the camp, that I will respect the rights of others and that I will cooperate in making this year's camping season a huge success.

Camper's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Health Insurance Provider: _____ Plan # _____ Policy # _____

ALL CAMPER'S MUST HAVE PROOF OF A HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY
Attach Completed forms: Medical Emergency Care Authorization, Camper's Health History and Proof of Health Insurance, Parent "Authorization Sheet" for pickup and drop off of Campers.

Mail this application and all required forms with the fee of \$200.00 payable to:
VFW Camp Trotter earmarked "CAMPER FEE" to:
Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan, 924 N. Washington, Lansing, MI 48906, 517-485-9456

CAMPER HEALTH HISTORY RECORD Rule 127.2

Camper's Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (cell): _____

Back-up Emergency Contact Person (name): _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (cell): _____

CURRENT HEALTH ISSUES AND HISTORY

List any special conditions such as bedwetting, fainting, sleep walking, or allergies the camper may have:

List any Health, Behavioral or Emotional problems that the camper has **INCLUDING CURRENT INFECTIOUS DISEASE:**

Should the camper's activity be restricted because of any physical reason? No _____ Yes _____ If yes, please explain:

List any and all medications that the camper takes:

Name:	Frequency	Dosage
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Immunization Record:

Dates	Type of Immunization
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I CERTIFY THAT THIS INFORMATION IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Authorized Person's Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEDICAL EMERGENCY CARE AUTHORIZATION MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

NOTICE: By signing this card you are granting the operator of the children's camp organization authority to secure emergency medical, surgical treatment for your camper while attending camp if there is insufficient time to contact you. You are giving the camp operator permission to secure routine, nonsurgical medical care for your child while attending the camp.

In accordance with MCLA Act 116 of the Public Acts of 1973 and the rules for licensing children's camps, this authorization must be signed by a parent or guardian unless there is a religious objection.

MCLA 722, 124a, Section 1442 states: A parent or guardian of a minor child who voluntarily places the child in a child care organization shall execute a written instrument investing the organization with authority to consent to emergency medical and surgical treatment of the child. The parent or guardian shall consent to routine, nonsurgical medical care.

OCAL-3978 (Rev. 4-05)

Name of child: _____
(Print Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)

I hereby give permission to the children's camp named below, which is licensed by the Department of Human Services, to secure emergency medical and surgical treatment and to provide routine, nonsurgical medical care, for the minor child named above, while attending camp.

Parent Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date of Signature: _____

VFW CAMP TROTTER, 5566 E. 86th STREET, NEWAYGO, MI 49937

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs, or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your county.

OCAL-3978 (Rev. 4-05) previous edition may be used

PARENTAL/LEGAL GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION

Please be advised that I have authorized the following individual to drop off my Child/Children to the VFW Camp Trotter located at 5566 86th Street (Bills Lake), Newaygo, MI 49337 for the Summer Camp Session _____.

Individual(s) Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature and Date: _____

Please be advised that I have authorized the following individual to pick up my Child/Children from the VFW Camp Trotter located at 5566 86th Street (Bills Lake), Newaygo, MI 49337 after the completion of the Summer Camp Session ending _____.

Individual(s) Name: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature and Date: _____

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
April/May/June 2011 **Volume 78 Number 4**

HE'S ON WATCH. SO ARE WE.

We always watch out for our own. And right now, our fellow veterans need us. Membership dues alone cover only 15% of the cost of VFW programs. With two wars and an aging veterans' population, demand is unprecedented. Please donate to your Department mailings. They're counting on us.

Photo: DoD



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Coming Events 2011

- June 8-12**
Department Convention,
Marriott Hotel-Troy
- July 31, 2011**
Michigan Day
at the National Home
- August 27-
September 1**
National Convention
San Antonio, Texas

STATE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers:
 First, I would like to thank everyone for the cards and well wishes during my small setback; all are truly appreciated.

Our year will be seriously winding down by the time you read this, but we still have some work to do. We are at 94.39% membership, and as of this writing, still quite a way from 100%, comrades. One person cannot do it alone; it takes an entire team and the team needs all your help to achieve this goal.

Congratulations to the 88 Posts that are 100%. I'm amazed at the number of Posts that are only a few away from 100%, so I look forward to a lot more 100% Posts. 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.

Congratulations to the District Commanders for doing a good job so far this year, but we have a long way to go, so continue getting out there. The District membership is now behind last year and still has a way to go. As of this date, the 10th District is leading with 96.23% and 14 100% Posts, 6th District is next with 95.68% and 11 100% Posts, 9th District is next with 94.82% and 9 100% Posts, followed by the 7th with 94.79% and 3 100% Posts, then the 14th with 94.7% and 3 100% Posts, the 4th with 94.59% and 8 100% Posts, the 15th with 94.46% and 4 100% Posts, the 8th with 94.4% and 8 100% Posts, the 11th with 93.86% and 5 100% Posts, the 13th with 93.62% and 3 100% Posts, the 12th with 92.96% and 7 100% Posts, and the 5th with 92.89% and 13 100% Posts. Good work, but we are not done yet. 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



Lloyd Putman II
State Commander

veterans and families, and I know the membership of this organization will not allow that to happen. One person cannot do it, but all of us together can. I'm still working on another incentive for the membership program. I'm going to have a recruiter's drawing at Convention, but the prizes are not going to be announced until then, so keep on recruiting and making our organization stronger.

All of the other programs are an integral part of this organization and we will still continue to keep them at the forefront. Read your programs and keep working, 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.

Remember "TO HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING."

