

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •



January/February/March 2010

Volume 77 Number 3

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

I have a bone or two to pick. When we open a meeting the Commander recites a paragraph that reads, "Comrades, we are assembled again to transact business of mutual benefit. **Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations.** Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and the government of the United States of America." To me that statement has a great deal to do with the way this organization is run and how we conduct ourselves. However, I have heard too many comrades complain about decisions that were made by a higher authority. In my opinion, once a decision has been made that item is settled. You can only appeal the decision to the next higher authority, and once that is done the item is no longer to be debated. I have heard too many rehashes of some items and I'm really getting tired of them. I was always told that if you have nothing good to say about someone or something, then say nothing. I know we are not perfect and I have made statements that I was sorry for later, but some things need to be finished.

We also seem to be having some problems with determining what the function of the men's auxiliary is and in what

Lloyd Putman II

Senior
Vice Commander



capacity they function. A SOP (standard operating procedure) was published and there are copies out there. If you cannot find one, contact the Men's Aux Liaison, Jim Niner, and I'm sure he can get you one. The other thing is communication between the men's aux and their respective Posts; if we don't communicate, we get nothing done. I was at a District meeting the other day and a question came up about the men's aux election report. Being a past Post Quartermaster. I know for a fact that the Post Quartermaster receives a packet from the National organization with the Post election report in it and an election report for the men's aux. That election report is also available on the Department Web site.

We have been working hard on membership, but we still have a ways to go. We need to get out there and knock on doors and bring the members back that we let slip away. We have a new recruiting tool that every post should have by now, so let's get to work.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, we just completed our Mid-Winter Conference at Kalamazoo. Our National Representative, Wally Hogan, Past Commander-in-Chief from Wisconsin summed it up in one word when he gave his remarks after the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year awards were finished. He started his remarks by saying, "WOW!" Many of the attendees were overwhelmed by the reading of the winning speech. Such a powerful message from such a young person. Congratulations to all the students that took the time to enter our scholarship programs and a big thank you and a job well done to the Post and Auxiliary chairmen that get the program out to the schools in their areas and do the work needed to get their Post winners to the District level. We can rest easy knowing that our future leaders, these young students, know what veterans are and that they are aware of your sacrifices.

We are halfway through the 2009-2010 VFW year and February brings a new round of District meetings. Post Commanders, make sure your Post is represented at the District meetings. Try to come away with some new knowledge about the VFW and our programs that you either forgot or didn't know in the first place. Every District Commander was given a new brochure at Mid-Winter that highlights the various VFW programs and gives a brief talking point and should be used to talk to people about joining our great combat veterans organization.

Membership. The Department of

Jack Pray
Junior
Vice Commander



Michigan is above 90% for this year and about 4,700 members short of last year's 100% mark. We show some 8,900 members from last year that did not pay their dues for this year for whatever reason. How do we find out why these valuable members decided not to belong to the VFW? Let's try to contact them either by phone, mail or in person and ask them to reinstate their membership.

If you have new members, make sure they know about their benefits as veterans. They need to get with a VFW Service Officer and file a claim. This is very important for young veterans returning from current war zones. The sooner you are registered with the VA, the better chance you will have to get the help needed when and if you need it. My Post has a Service Officer, Dave Gay, who visits with and assist veterans every third Friday of the month. Last time he was there, he helped 21 veterans file claims. Many of them are WWII veterans that should have been helped years ago. They just didn't know the help was available.

Let's continue working on our membership and for our veterans to be sure they know we are there for them. God bless those serving all over the world and God bless the USA.

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

March will begin the process of nominations for next year's officers. The Bylaws now state that nominations for elective offices shall be held in March and elections shall take place in April. The newly elected officers will not take charge of the office until the State Commander is sworn in at the State Convention.

A Bylaw change to do away with the July Council of Administration and hold the first C of A meeting on Sunday for budget purposes (to pass the next year's budget and to cut our budget back on the conferences) will be reintroduced at this year's State Convention. Remember, in 2012, the National Convention will be held in July and the State Convention will be moved back to the middle of June. It is important that we make the change now, rather than later.

We have a new Webmaster. His name is Dave Marin from the 8th District; he has also worked with the Department Employment program. Dave is familiar

Robert D. Weiss

Adjutant/
Quartermaster



with Web pages and has already made changes on our Web page.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Gary Brown for all of his time and effort that he has put into our Web page in the last 12 years. Gary received no pay for any of his work and spent many hours after work on his computer making our Web site what it is today.

We have some new training programs that we will be presenting this year. Paul McIvor and I have collaborated on meeting motions and will continue to keep you all up to date on procedure. Please make an effort to attend these training seminars for the betterment of your Post, District and Department.

Michigan's No Smoking Law Effective May 1, 2010

Date: February 3, 2010

To: Michigan VFW Posts and Affiliates
Michigan VFW Officers & Members

From: The VFW Department of Michigan

Subject: No Smoking Law Compliance

**Non-Exemption
(No Michigan Post is Exempt)**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan, hereby notifies all Michigan Posts and/or lounges, they are **not exempt** from the State's new no smoking legislation as passed by the Michigan Legislature and signed into

law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and are expected to be in compliance. Michigan is now the 38th state to adopt this type of no smoking law.

Effective May 1, 2010, the Michigan Public Code is amended to prohibit smoking in public places, in places of employment, and in food service establishments.

The new law further requires that a no smoking sign or the international no smoking symbol be clearly and conspicuously posted at entrances to and within every building.

Additionally, the new law requires that ashtrays and other smoking paraphernalia be removed.

Thank you for your compliance.

STATE CHAPLAIN

One of the great benefits of being in the service is becoming aware of discipline and self-discipline that is important to get anything done. In our journey of life and aging – a measure of self-discipline can be a great help for life, health and every good gift.

There are three essentials to aging gracefully: 1) To eat right, 2) To exercise, and 3) Keep a good attitude. These sound simple, and yet the success involves a measure of being consistent to these three principles. These areas have been discovered through various studies and observations.

Recently when I was reading, "War As I Knew It" by General George S. Patton, Jr. I came across an interesting illustration. He never believed in digging fox holes or trenches. His view was that it was a waste of time and energy. Digging is primarily defensive. He said, "Wars are not won by defensive tactics." It has a negative effect on the soldier who has to think that the enemy is stronger. Also, it announced to the enemy that he was stronger than you and you were going to stay where you were. His belief was that you kept the enemy on the move and get the campaign won. Don't let the enemy get the upper hand.

I thought of this as a great illustration how when we face life's battles, especially with sickness. Life is more than pain or some limitation. Health is normal to the body, not sickness. Our body does everything it can to fight illness. Many of life's experiences can be tempered by our attitude. The scripture reminds us, "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." –Proverbs 23:7 and "Keep your heart

Elmer R. Liimatta
State Chaplain



with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." –Proverbs 4:23.

Many who study human behavior say that one of the most important things in our life is our attitude. Attitude affects everything we think and do. We cannot control many of the life experiences that we face, but we can control how we deal with them. Perhaps faith is an attitude, love is an attitude. Somewhere in our life we make decisions as to how we will deal with life's issues. Many studies indicate that we develop our attitudes of love, trust, anger, etc. before we are five years old – and they are very hard to change. I believe the Lord is trying to teach us a better way, but we are slow to learn – unless there is a life-changing experience.

I had a friend who knew the insides of several jails, attended many AA meetings, knew the street language, and visited soup kitchens. One day he came to me with a big grin and said, "Gratitude changes attitude." He had discovered that it made a big difference to him how he looked at life and its experiences.

This maybe why we have the Beatitudes in the Bible, Matthew 5, 6 and 7. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." –Matthew 5:9

No Foxholes!

Department Service Officer SUCCESS STORY

In the summer of 2006, one of our staff members had the opportunity to participate in the Annual Memorial Day Services conducted at our State Capitol at the request of State Senator, Valdi Garcia. After the service was over, a light luncheon was provided by the good Senator and our staff member was introduced to a WWII veteran from the Greatest Generation, by his son.

In the conversation, time was not an issue; our advocate was captivated by this gentleman who shared his experience from a time when most of us were not born. A time when fighting for the rights of others was not taken for granted. A time when veterans got discharged, they went back to their home towns, got a job, raised a family, and in most cases, did not speak ill of anyone.

As people came and went from the luncheon area and as the veteran's stories came and went, it was apparent that this

veteran had a chronic condition that he may have or may not have ever filed a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Our advocate told the veteran that if he could, he would help, because it sounded like a valid claim that needed to be developed. In fact, a few days after this learning experience by our staff member, he sent the veteran the necessary paperwork to start what would become a long journey, one where the veteran could never have visualized the outcome.

After a lengthy delay and numerous attempts in securing the veteran's claims file from the Records Storage Center in St. Louis, it finally arrived at the Detroit Regional Office in December 2007. After an extensive review of the file, it was determined that the veteran never filed for the condition. In February 2007, a claim was completed by one of our Field Advocates and finally submitted for the claimed condition.

Almost a year later, the file was transferred to Cleveland, Ohio and assigned to the Tiger Team which had jurisdiction over older veterans' claims. On February 12, 2008 a decision was rendered by the Tiger Team and it wasn't good. The decision was denying the claim because it was a "fire-related" case and that no service medical records were available. This was interesting in itself because the rating decision that denied the claim, listed service medical records as evidence used. Huh!

In a fire at the NPRC (MPR) on July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military

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STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

This past year has been very trying and challenging as we move into the New Year and face a new way of doing business. As you may or may not be aware, the Michigan State Legislature passed Senate Bill 250 and became part of Public Act 112 of 2009.

The provisions of SB 250, Section 501 creates, a five member advisory board made up of two large Veterans Service Organization (VSO's), 2 medium VSO's, and 1 small VSO. A large VSO is defined as one that can certify that its membership exceeds 30,000 members. A medium is defined as a VSO that can certify its membership is between 2,500 and 29,999 members. Finally, a small VSO is defined as a VSO that can certify its membership is between 1,000 and 2,499.

On November 10, 2009 at a meeting of the Commanders Group held in Lansing, and based on the criteria above, the VFW and American Legion automatically were seated on the Advisory Board. The DAV and AMVETS, through a group vote, were selected to fill the medium VSO's and the Marine Corps League, through a vote of the group, was selected as the small VSO.

This Advisory Board met to offer input for the criteria on the grants that the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) would oversee. The initial grants will be for the period of April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010, and in all likelihood, may be extended through September 30, 2011. This, of course, is all dependent on the economy here in the State of Michigan. The five grants will consist of two large, two small and one specialized grant for paralyzed veterans' issues.

After careful consideration, and in an effort to continue efficient and effective Service Programs here in the State of Michigan, a meeting was held on January 5, 2010 at the DAV Department Headquarters in Fraser, Michigan. State Commander, David Hutson, Adjutant/Quartermaster, Robert Weiss, myself, and the leadership of the following VSO's: The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart have agreed to petition as a coalition to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for all available grants. With all due respect to the other VSO's involved that are not part of our coalition, we are confident that we can provide the service needed to ensure that the requirements of the grants are met with excellence in the delivery of service.

So, by the time that this article goes to press, our coalition will have submitted our first request for the two large grants by January 20, 2010, and this will be shortly followed in early February, with the second request for the two small grants.

You may wonder how much the grants are going to be. At this time we are anticipating that the two large grants will be \$500,000 apiece. We will not know how much the two smaller ones will be until they are announced.

In my last article, I indicated the following three conditions would be added to the presumptive list as a result of Vietnam service and herbicide exposure – B cell leukemia's, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease. The regulations governing these conditions and secondary issues have not been published. Until the regulations are in place, claims for these conditions cannot be adjudicated by the Department of Vet-

Dan Crocker
State Service Officer



erans Affairs. Once the Regulations are in place, the VA will process accordingly.

The Department of Veteran Affairs has initiated a program to collect data on Vietnam naval operations for the purpose of providing Regional Offices with information to assist with development in Haas-related disability claims based on herbicide exposure from Navy Veterans. To date, the VA has received verification from various sources showing that a number of offshore "blue water" naval vessels conducted operations on the inland "brown water" rivers and delta areas of Vietnam.

In addition the VA has identified certain vessel types that operated primarily or exclusively on the inland waterways. The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, exposure to herbicide agents (Agent Orange) is conceded, and if the veteran has one of the conditions listed in 38CFR3.309 (e), service connection can be granted.

All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS] Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour:

USS *Carronade* (IFS 1)

USS *Clarion River* (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]

USS *Francis River* (LSMR 525)

USS *White River* (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces]

All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour.

All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters]

All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]

USS *Ingersoll* (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]

USS *Mansfield* (DD-728) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]

USS *Richard E. Kraus* (DD-849) [Destroyer] [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]

USS *Basilone* (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]

USS *Hamner* (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-September 1, 1966]

USS *Conway* (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, early August 1966]

USS *Fiske* (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]

USS *Black* (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]

USS *Providence* (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon

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CAMP TROTTER

Trotter Tales

Thanks to all of you that attended our Camp Trotter meeting. I was disappointed there weren't more Ladies Auxiliary members there, as their input and support is always very welcome. Those that were there must have noted how committed the members of the Camp Committee are to the progress and successfulness of the Camp. We had two generous donations: one for \$24,150.00 from the Ladies Auxiliary and one from The Foundation of American Veterans for \$5,000. WOW! As we all are aware, times are difficult all over the nation so it's monumental to have received these large donations. We are committed to getting the camp in pristine condition and making it a comfortable and a pleasant experience for our kids. The buildings are in need of major renovation to accomplish this goal and we are trying. To get a proper perspective of the Camp, you need to come and visit it. Plan to attend Trotter Days or the June OTS and golf outing at Camp Trotter. If you have a camper, come up and stay a few days and get the total picture. We are centrally located in the state so if you're headed north, make it an overnight rest stop.

At the Mid-Winter Conference, we accepted the highest bid for the old pontoon boat. It was in bad condition and had not been used in several years. We are currently holding a raffle for the

Andy Conklin
Camp Trotter
Director



speedboat. The proceeds will be used as a nice down payment on a newer pontoon boat for the enjoyment of our kids and guests. All can help by purchasing a ticket for \$5. If you can't use the boat, and you win, you can sell it to raise money for your Post. It's a small investment that can pay off for you and benefit the Camp. If anyone has a decent pontoon they would like to sell or donate, contact one of the committee members.

We are faced with many challenges this year, the first of which is filling all the positions at the Camp with qualified and responsible people. We met with the head of the State of Michigan Camp Consultant and were brought up to speed on the rules and regulations we need to comply with. We need to finish the siding project, new heating and cooling, paint, and repair all the interiors as needed. I think we should dedicate the entire month of May to fixing up the Camp. If you can help, please feel welcome. If you can't, consider making a donation so we can have the funds to do it. Thank you for all you do for this organization and thank you for supporting Camp Trotter!

SUCCESS, continued from page 2

Personnel Files. The records affected were Army Personnel discharged from November 1, 1912-January 1, 1960, and Air Force Personnel discharged from September 25, 1947-January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) So this fire affected the veteran's claim.

However, in 1988, a collection of computer tapes containing ten million hospital/treatment facility admission records was transferred to National Personnel Records Center. These records, originally created by the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office (SGO), were discovered by the National Academy of Sciences and offered to the National Archives for use by NPRC. Between 1988-1990, NPRC was able to salvage 7.8 million records of individuals' admissions for use as a major supplement to other smaller sources of medical information.

In July of 2009, we were finally able to retrieve the file back from the VA to do another review with the SGO records in mind. When the original claim was filed in 2007, the VA requested service medical records, but the fire-related issue became the issue. What the VA failed to do was to review a one page document that was sent

twice. It appeared to the VA that the envelope that it was sent in was empty, but in fact contained the following information: Veteran hospitalized in 1944 for an extended period for the claimed condition.

A letter was sent to the VA by the VFW addressing the above information and requested that the claim be reconsidered and that the original filing date be protected for payment purposes. The file was then brokered to Togus, Maine for a rating decision.

On December 2, 2009, the VA granted the veteran's condition and on December 14, 2009 he got an early Christmas present deposited in his checking account in the amount of \$7,700.

In another conversation with the veteran on January 7, 2009, he called to say thank you and that he never thought that this would ever happen! In fact, he thought our staff member was just "blowing smoke" at him back in 2006. He also stated that we are one of the "good guys" and he wanted the claim to go back to 1945. He was told, unfortunately, that could not happen because he never filed a claim until 2007. His comment was, "Listen, I never thought that I could get what I got and inasmuch as the VFW was able to do this for him, we could do that also." We informed him that we are good, but not that good!

SERVICE, continued from page 2

River 3 days during January 1964]
USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] [Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]

USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] [Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and August 5-6, 1968]

USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April

22-25, 1968]

One final note, we know there are many of you who have expressed concerns regarding our Receptionist/Claims Consultant Jane Kanyo. She wanted each and every one of you that sent cards, e-mails and lifted her up in your prayers, to know that she has been truly blessed by the love that has been shown by the VFW family. She continues to receive treatment and we ask that you continue to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

Greetings Comrades,

Quartermasters, when submitting your audits, please make sure your Post and District number is in the upper right corner of the paper. This makes the filing process much easier for all concerned.

I'd like to commend a number of Quartermasters and trustees and Commanders in this article. The number of returned audits for correction has dropped quite a bit. Thank you comrades. We still, however, have a few that are continuing to have the same errors on the quarterly audits. Comrades, if you are having problems in this area, please contact your District Quartermaster or past Post Quartermaster for assistance. You can also attend one of the classes at the Department Conferences or one in your District, if they have one.

The most common errors on the audits are:

1. Starting balances of the quarter (column 10) do not match the ending balances on the previous quarterly report (column 13). These figures must match.
2. All accounts are not listed, i.e.; Bingo, lottery, keno, savings, lounge, cash on hand and such.
3. Reconciliation of funds balances (box 17) is not being completed.
4. The totals in the net cash balance at the end of the quarter (box 15) **MUST MATCH** the total in the reconciliation of funds balance (box 17).
5. The totals across for column 10 plus

Rick Zellman
Department
Inspector



column 11 minus column 12 must match the totals down in column 13.

6. Numerical figures are illegible or the copied form is very dark.

7. Trustee's signatures. All three trustees.

Lastly, we still have a few audits that were returned for correction (through respective District Commanders) and were due in March, 2009, that have not been returned as corrected. This also holds true for audits due in June. Comrades, errors on these uncorrected/unrevised audits can, and will, affect your current audits. Please see what can be done about these, as those incorrect audits can be the reason some audits were returned. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 734-586-4685 or 734-625-2566.

All Post inspections have been reviewed and have been returned to the respective District Commanders for dissemination to their Posts. You should be receiving your Post copy (if one was provided) in the near future. The areas of attention on the inspections are highlighted in either blue or red, depending on the importance. Please try and correct these items quickly, so you'll be prepared for your next inspection.

Military Order of the Cootie

"I Care, You Care, We All Care"

80th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party of 2009

Greetings, Comrades and Sisters! In December, The Grand of Michigan had its 80th VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party. Our Grand Commander Earl Teft and the Grand of Michigan



would like to thank all our comrades and Aux sisters for their help in making it happen. We had a great turnout and the kids enjoyed the day.

The VFW has been very helpful in supporting the Grand of Michigan and its projects. But we can't stop now. We still need your assistance in supporting our June program. We will be sending our National Home kids on a trip to Sandusky, Ohio. We could really use your help with this project, too.

Please, when sending your contribution, make your checks out to: Grand of

Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forwarded to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050 or call him at 810-735-7920.

You have heard it before and will hear it again. The lifeblood of our organization is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW or Cooties. Also remember this year's motto: I Care, You Care, We All Care in order to "Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White."

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison

STATE POOL LEAGUE

We are on the home stretch for our 2010 Men's State Pool Tournament at the Manistee VFW Post 4499, which will be held April 22, 23 and 24, 2010. I must admit this has been a real ride for me as your first time State Pool Director. We have had our ups and downs getting everything in place, but with the help of our Past Director and past and present staff, we assure all of our players another great event!

All of the Districts are in full swing with their playoffs. I would like to remind

Dennis Craycraft
State Pool
League Director



the players that our Pool League Programs are totally supported by your ticket sales. One point of information: all of the

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DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Walter L. Clingan
District 5 Commander



Comrades,

This article finds us seven months into this command year. A lot has been accomplished in that time, yet much remains to do in the five months remaining. During the last seven months, both my officers and myself have expended a lot of time and energy trying to impress upon each Post the importance and the need to protect their nonprofit status by reporting both their community, as well as their hospital service. On the whole our message has been well received. The great majority of our Posts are doing a great job of reporting their activities, but a few remain. We will be redoubling our efforts to get this message out to these Posts. It is our goal to be reported in all categories across the board by Convention. With a little help from our delinquent Posts this is well within our grasp.

While reporting is important, it is only a first step. One that gives each Post a firm position from which they can reach out beyond to do that which the Veterans of Foreign Wars is now asking. I speak here of those core issues that make us who we are: Military Assistance, Poppies and our Political Action Committee.

Military Assistance needs no explanation. It is simple what we do, why we are here. There are programs at both the department and national levels that do a fine job in this area. Each of our Posts needs to support their efforts. We can best do this by donating to our Military Assistance program. I encourage each Post in our District to consider making a donation. The need here is great and grows greater by the day.

Poppies are another program that needs no explanation. Distributing poppies each year helps to fill the relief funds of our various Posts. I encourage each Post to purchase a minimum of 500 poppies. Most have already done so, but many have not. This is a win-win situation. By purchasing poppies you support those veterans who produce them and by distributing them you fill your relief fund for use in veteran relief at your Post level.

The last program that I would like to

speak of is our Political Action Committee. At first glance there seems to be no benefit for our veterans here, but we need to remember that it is our politicians that eventually enact the laws that affect us all. A strong Political Action Committee helps us in our continuing lobbying of Congress for veteran benefits and rights. We may not like the game of politics, but it is one we need to master if we are to succeed in protecting our veterans' rights. I hope that each Post will support this program with a donation.

Finally, before I let you go, I would like to address the subject of membership. If you know me or have ever met me you know that the last thing I speak of on my way out the door is membership. Membership is everything! Without it all of our programs, all of our veteran support, all our youth programs, all our community service suffers. This organization needs – and must have – a strong and committed membership to accomplish our goals. In the first seven months of this year, our District has made great strides in this area. Today we stand at 94.56 percent, second in the Department. November and December were great months for us. We were able to bring a large number of our unpaid members into the fold for another year, along with recruiting new and reinstated members. Now it seems the January doldrums have set in and our growth has slowed. We need our Commanders, along with their officers, to redouble their efforts to retain our remaining unpaid members as well as recruit. We are in a position this year to achieve our 100% goal and to begin to grow again. This District, along with our Department, has experienced a decline in membership over the last several years. This is the year to stop the slide and to reverse it. You have all done a great job so far this year in this area, but now is not the time to stop. My officers and I are here to help. Rest assured we will be there for the rest of the year, pushing each of you to excel in this area. With a little effort we will accomplish all we have set our sights on.

April 10th at 1:00 p.m. This is because the original date, April 3, is Easter weekend and only three (3) days after the deadline for all rosters to be in.

Your District Chairman has all the information on hotel/motel rooms. When reserving your rooms, make sure you inform the hotel/motel that you are with the VFW State Pool League to receive the discount!

If your District wishes to submit a rule change, it must be submitted to me 30 days prior to the Tournament.

Lastly, I have assigned Bob Hubert from the Shepherd VFW Post as our new Head Referee. I urge all of the shooters to keep up with our progress on the Website, www.vfwstatepoolleague.org

I'm looking forward to seeing all of our pool players (which I only get to see once a year) and sharing the great sportsmanship we have.

If any one of you has any questions, please feel free to contact me at 616-550-6990. I'm looking forward to seeing "my family" at Manistee.

POOL, continued from page 3

District chairmen have been given the tickets you are required to sell to play in the State Tournament, as well as the tickets for the three-day stay at the Little River Casino in Manistee or any other hotel in Manistee. These tickets can be used anytime in 2010. The drawing for the hotel stay will be held at the Belding VFW Post on Saturday, February 27, at 2:00 p.m. Anyone interested in receiving a chance to win the hotel stay should contact their District chairman.

All rosters, entries, raffle tickets and monies must be in the hands of the State Pool League Quartermaster by 12 Midnight, April 1, 2010.

A State Pool League Committee meeting was held on January 9th at the Swartz Creek VFW Post to make sure everything is done and in line for our tournament. One item was changed – the pool draw was re-scheduled to be held at the Belding VFW Post on Saturday,



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Ralph "Rusty" Benschoter
District 6 Commander



We are well into our winter and looking real hard for spring. By now every Post has had a chance to get things in order and know where you stand for programs that must be completed. All the Post commanders and officers are doing an outstanding job. The audits are being turned in and adjusted within the deadline time period and everyone has been seriously involved in all the necessary programs that are required by the Department. Thank you all for your hard work.

As the District goes, we are doing real well on the membership program. We need to really push this program into high gear. Remember the reinstate members. Once they are members, we want to keep them. Our membership is very important. As of the 1st of January we have three (3) Posts that are 100% in membership and our District is at a very respectful 91.62%. Thank you for your hard work in the membership drive. Remember, without members we have nothing. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a tremendous amount of benefits that are offered to the veteran and their family. If you look at our organization from Post, District, State and National, we have a lot of good people that have one goal in mind: to protect our veteran's rights and to make sure they

receive the benefits that are due.

Our District meetings are very important and each Post must have a representative at the District meetings. This is a requirement; if the Post Commander cannot make the meeting, then you must find a member to attend the District meetings.

Please remember the Veterans of Foreign Wars motto: "Veterans Helping Veterans." As long as we keep this principle in our thoughts and actions, then membership will grow. As our State Commander's theme states: "Be all you can be." And when you follow this theory, only good things will come your way.

I apologize if I missed anyone in the previous *MOV*, when I thanked the people for helping out with the Texas Hold 'em events. Everyone that helped out was very important and their help was very much appreciated. To everyone that worked on this, I want to thank you again.

So far everything is going well in our District. I have visited all of our Posts and have met many of our Post officers and members, and I am here to tell you we have some very dedicated and hard-working individuals within our District.

With the start of a New Year I hope and wish for nothing less than the best for everyone. Have a great year.



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Jim Tanner
District 7 Commander



Comrades,

We are now halfway through our 2009-2010 year. We just had our Mid-Winter Conference at the end of January in Kalamazoo. At the conference, a wide range of issues were covered such as membership and Bylaws, reports, and all areas that enable the Veterans of Foreign Wars to continue to support our fellow veterans and honor our deceased comrades.

It behooves us all to know our National, State, District and Post Bylaws. With this knowledge it enables us as members of this great organization to fulfill properly the goals that this organization established over 100 years ago.

At our conference in Kalamazoo, Commander Dave Hutson announced that he was very pleased with the membership standings. All Districts are

above 90%. If we all get busy getting new members into our Post we not only could bring our District up to 100%, but it would also help put the state closer to 100%, as well. We have another five to six months to accomplish this, so let's do our very best to be at 100% by June for our State Convention. As of February 4, 2010 the Dept. is at 93.34% with the 7th District at 90.96%. There are four Posts in the District that are at 100% or more.

Our State Service Officer Dan Crocker has set a date of May 13, 2010 to conduct a service officer class at Dept. Headquarters. I hope all Posts take advantage of this and send their service officers. Since the State of Michigan cut the annual funding by 25% that they provide to the Service Office, the workload has increased for the office, due to the loss of most of the Field Service Reps.



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Douglas Broek
District 8 Commander



Comrades,

I would like to say 'Thank You' for your continued support. As of January 31st, our membership is over 93%. GREAT!!!!!! Keep up the good job and see if we can hit 98%. Your Quartermaster can run an unpaid listing and just pay the per-capita for those names, but be careful of those veterans that have passed away. As of the Mid-Winter, we have five (5) Posts that are at 100% or better.

Hopefully by this time, all Posts have

reported Hospital and Community Service at least once. Continue to turn in your reports each month. Each member should be turning in their activities to the Commander for the month, so your monthly activities reports for the Post can be turned in so you get the proper credit.

Auxiliary President Lancea Daly and my Testimonial will be on May 22 at the Otsego Post 3030. Social hour will be at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Cost will be \$10.00 or less.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Ron Deveraux
District 9 Commander



Comrades,

By the time you read this, Mid-Winter Conference will be over and there will be only a few short months left in this year. I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all of the students for your Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essays and hope to see you back next year.

As of this writing the 9th District membership stands at 94.58% with 12 Posts in the District now at 100% or higher. I thank all the Post Commanders and their membership chairmen for the effort they have made to membership this year. Without membership, we will no longer be able to reach out and help veterans in need or their families. We use the numbers in our membership in Washington to pass legislation to help veterans, to improve the VA system, and see that no veteran is left behind or forgotten. Comrades, this is why we are here.

Keep reporting what your Post is doing on your activity and hospital

reports. If you don't know if it can go on the activity or hospital report, report it anyway and let Department be the judge. Just keep reporting.

Remember that the nomination of officers is in March with nominations staying open until election of officers in April. After the election, send one copy of the election report to National, one to Department, and one to the District Commander. If you have a Men's Auxiliary at your Post, a copy of their election report must go to Department and one copy to the District Commander. They must be done by the end of April.

Let me leave you with something that one of the members in the 9th District gave to me just before he died this year: *"The VFW is not really an organization. It is a concept – an idea – an endless devotion – a rallying point – a center of patriotic concern and love of fellow man such as the world has never seen."*

Don, you will be missed.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Rick Young
District 10 Commander



To the Comrades and Sisters of the 10th District,

To start off, I would like to remind all Posts to attend all District meetings as set forth in our Bylaws. If Commanders are unable to attend, you need to contact me and make sure to arrange for a representative to attend in your place. I would encourage all of you to attend the District meetings and Department functions to learn the programs and what it takes to succeed in your year.

Our membership is our biggest priority. We are losing a number of current members and not bringing in new members to replace them. So how do we do this? We need to get out and recruit. We have a number of returning Afghanistan and Iraq veterans and we need to tap into this resource. Visit the local armories, VA hospitals, and University of Michigan-Flint has recently opened a Student Veterans Office; this would be an excellent place to begin. Let's get mentoring working. Talk with your fellow Posts that are already 100% and get tips from them on recruiting, reinstating or gaining new members. It is only by maintaining our numbers that we will remain a thriving organization and have a powerful voice with our legislators and congressmen to encourage support of veterans' issues and benefits.

It still isn't too late to report your hospital activities, youth activities, community service and Americanism projects. This is what the IRS looks at for your nonprofit status. If you are not adequately reporting, it will catch up with you. Any monetary donations are reportable. Be sure to get full reports into Doug Masseur, Activities Director at the Department HQ located at 924 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. Reports must be submitted by the 10th of each month.

The deadline for submission of reports for consideration for All-State is 30 April 2010. Each Post Commander should be striving to achieve All-State recognition. Please refer to your Commander's Roster for all requirements needed to be met, and contact me with any questions. You can reach me by phone at 810-569-2193 or by e-mail at rickyrambo2928@yahoo.com

Our quarterly audits are doing better, but we aren't 100%. We need to pay attention to the details such as Block 17, reconciliation of fund balances, which should match Block 15, total fund balance. If you need help, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I can get someone to assist you. Be sure you get your quarterly audit mailed or faxed to the Department Headquarters by the last day of the month immediately following the quarterly period.

At the writing of this article, over half the Posts in the District have not ordered Buddy Poppies. This program is designed to help you. The money goes into the relief fund to aid and assist your fellow comrades in need. Do you have members who are experiencing financial difficulties? This fund may be used to pay their dues. Refer to Section 704 in the Manual of Procedure for details on how to use your relief fund.

Our next 10th District meeting is 28 February 2010 at the Caro Post 4164. There will be a service officer class at 10:00 a.m. The last District meeting under my command will be 16 May 2010 at the Davison Post 4087, which will include a Quartermaster class at 10:00 a.m. All District meetings will start at 1:00 p.m. with a luncheon from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We have to work like we fight...all together, team up and help those in need of a hand or two because WE HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Chet Cousins
District 11 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Sisters,

By the time you read this, our Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo will be over and our District meeting on February 7, 2010 will be done. Right now we are working on our membership, which is still under 100%. Post Commanders, this is where I need your help the most. I believe we can still get 100% membership before my term is up.

Thanks to all the students who took

part in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Program. The Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner for the District was Priya Vedula from Mt. Pleasant, Post 3033. The 1st Place Patriot's Pen winner for the District is Matthew Voss from Mt. Pleasant, Post 3033. Both winners got to go to the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo on January 30, 2010. Congratulations to both.



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Richard Rought
District 12 Commander



Greetings, Comrades and Sisters of the 12th District,

This year is moving along very rapidly. Seven months are behind us already. Everything is still running relatively smoothly.

As always, membership is a high priority. As of February 1, two of our Posts have passed the 100% goal. Congratulations to Arcadia and White Cloud. Almost all of our Posts are above 90%. 100% for all Posts is definitely within reach. There is a new recruiting brochure available for use. This brochure will be an extremely helpful tool when talking about the programs that the VFW supports. Each Post will receive a packet of them at the District meeting.

Monthly reporting has improved. However, we are still a little lax in Hospital and Youth Activities reporting. I am sure that we are all involved in these activities. However, they are not getting reported.

Elections will be upon us very soon. Our Bylaws require that nominations for the 2010-2011 officer positions are to be made

at the March meeting with the elections to be held at the April meeting. Comrades, please consider it an honor to be nominated for a position as an officer in your Post.

I would like to congratulate Gold Bar Post 5096. Their teacher of the year nomination from the Mason County Central Middle School was chosen as Michigan's Teacher of the Year for grades 6 through 8.

I would like every Post to consider sending a delegate to the upcoming State Convention to be held in Dearborn on June 24th through 27th. Our past District Commander, Billy Stancroff, is a candidate for the office of Department Junior Vice Commander. The more Posts that are represented, the more support we can show.

Michigan Day at our National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids will be held on August 1st this year. Plan to show your support for the kids and have a good time, too. Keep up the good work. District 12 is one of the best!! "Be All You Can Be"

Wreaths Across America

VFW Post 702 and Auxiliary were honored to host the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on December 12, 2009 at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, with the laying of the wreaths taking place in their cemetery. With this ceremony taking place at the Veterans Home, the residents have an opportunity to not only attend the ceremony, but to participate. Wreath cookies were provided by the Patriot Guard Riders and one of our local Boy

Scouts, Ricky Conklin, played *Taps*.

Our guest speakers for the day were VFW Department of Michigan Commander Dave Hutson, VFW Department of Michigan Auxiliary President Jan Meyers, Chairman Pro Tem of Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Board of Directors Ernie Meyers and Keith Sikkema from the Civil Air Patrol. Also in attendance were VFW District 8 Commander Doug Broek and VFW District 8 Auxiliary President Lancia Daly.



Pictured holding wreaths, L-R: Dave Hutson, VFW Dept of MI Commander; Ron Oakes, VFW 702 Commander; Steve Van Valkenburg, Dept. of MI Hospital Representative to Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; Jack Allen, Patriot Guard Riders; Larry Foster, Dept. of MI Hospital Representative Deputy to Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; and Doug Broek, District 8 Commander.



Pictured laying a wreath, Dave Hutson and Jan Meyers.



DISTRICT 13 REPORT

Larry Marchlewski, Sr.
District 13 Commander



Hello again, Comrades and Ladies of District 13. How time is flying by. Four more months and we will be changing Commanders again. I almost think this office should be a two-year position. I no more get things rolling and working well, and we are doing a turnover. If the officers had to do two years, we could accomplish a lot more and the going out Commander would have gotten more done with more time. Oh well, we will just have to do as much as we can with what time we have.

Let's talk recruiting and retention of new and established members. Comrades, I know for a lot of the Posts, it is hard to get those new members if you don't have any in your area – but they are there. You just have to seek them out and inform them of our great organization and what we do for them and all who have served our great nation and are still serving. Then there are the ones that have been members and just got sidetracked for the past year or so. Get those Post rosters out...call these members...go to their homes, see where they hang out and hang out with them. Tell them you have missed their presence around the Post. Remind them of what we do and that we need them; how important it is that they get back involved and help to spread the message of our great organization and country. Let them know how important it is they stay focused and work

to keep our present soldiers, sailors and airmen supported in their mission and help their families while they are protecting our great country and our way of life.

The next thing I would like to remind everyone of is to pay your Post dues by December 31st of every year. If we have to chase you down to remind you, it just makes things that much harder on the officers and others that are involved. I would remind all officers that if your dues are not paid by that date, you will be relieved from office and will not be eligible to run for office until the next year.

I have been making my way around to a lot of the Posts in our District. If I haven't been to yours – watch for me – I will be there as much as I can get around. I like what I have been seeing and I know you all need assistance from time to time. If you need my help on any matter, please call me and I will make special arrangements to meet with you or have one of our other officers come to assist you. I have been called on quit a few times, and I appreciate those that seek me out. Together we can solve a lot of problems but if you don't ask, I will never be able to help.

I will close here and wish you all the best of health and hope to see you all at the next District meeting at Post 2051-Emmit County on 6 February 2010 at 10 a.m. God Bless you all and stay safe and well.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Joseph Frappier
District 14 Commander



Comrades and Sisters,

Hello from the U.P. of Michigan. January of 2010 is already ending and February is closing fast. So let's all get reports in on time and keep after membership. Also remember NMS, PAC, Activity and Hospital reports, Americanism and Buddy Poppy.

Buddy Poppies should have been purchased by now. May is right around the corner, so let's get out there and sell more than ever. Remember, you can sell Buddy Poppies all year long. When your communities are having a celebration, set up a booth and get the Poppies out in the community.

Now for some big news! The VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, MI celebrated its 85th birthday on January 13, 2010. The momentous occasion brought people from across the country to honor the rich tradition of the National

Home and its years of service to our veterans and their families. VFW National Commander-in-Chief Tommie Tradewell, Ladies Auxiliary National President Jan Tittle, and the National Home Board of Trustees, along with 200 guests, filled the Home's community center for a birthday party unlike any other at the National Home.

The National Home Board of Trustees announced a special flag project. The trustees of the home will work to obtain a state flag from each department for display in the National Home's community center.

The National Home thanks everyone who attended and made this special night possible and is grateful for everyone that has honored veterans and active-duty military by providing their children and families with help and hope since 1925.

Now you know the news that is the news. Remember, keep 'em rolling out to sea...

B.V. Goodell VFW Post 552 and Local Elks Lodge Work Together to Help Those in Need

B.V. Goodell VFW Post 552 Members, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary teamed up with Allen Park Elks Lodge 2194 to donate over 200 unwrapped new toys to the Blessed Hope Christian Church of Lincoln Park, MI.

B.V. Goodell Post also donated food, clothing and other items to the church. The Blessed Hope Christian Church is a community outreach providing all those in need.



Pictured in back, L-R: Duke Johnson, Blessed Hope Volunteer Worker; Pastor Gary Schipling, Michael Ball, Commander VFW Post 552; Mike Powers, Allen Park Elks; and Jason Ball, Men's Auxiliary Post 552. Pictured in front is Rose Koneczal, Ladies Auxiliary 552 and Shawn Garcia, Ladies Auxiliary 552.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Bud Whipple
District 15 Commander



Greetings, Comrades and Sisters of the 15th District,

Here in the Western U.P. we are in the middle of winter. So far, we have seen everything: lots of snow, some very cold days, some warm days, some sleet and some rain. By the time you read this, we will be looking forward to some springtime weather. Please mark your calendar for the next District meeting. This District meeting will be held in South Range on April 24 and 25, 2010. Everyone should attend Spring Convention, as this is election time for our District. Traveling is easier at this time of year, so I expect 100% of the Posts make the meeting. If you have members in your Post that would like to become active in District, contact our Sr. Vice Commander, Dan Caron, in Calumet.

It is late in the year, but never too late to think about membership. At the end of January only Post 4624-Hubbell was at 100%. The District stood at 90.6%, with 226 more members needed to reach full strength. It is time for your Quartermaster to log in to the national Web site at www.vfw.org and download your list of unpaid members. The unpaid are the best chance for increasing your numbers.

All Posts in the District have been reported in community service for many months. As I look at the content of the reports, there remain some areas where we could do better. These areas are youth

activities, and drug and safety. Many Posts have members that do not attend the meetings, but are still active in the community. Ask your attending Post members if they know of members that are involved in these types of activities. It might take a few phone calls, but good reports are what we are striving for.

Hospital reporting has improved from 95% reported last quarter, to all Posts reported as of 1/25/10. Thanks to all of the members that have made this possible. Keep up the good work and keep the reports coming.

Before closing, I must say a little on donations. I know every Post does not have the ability to donate to everything. Those Posts looking for All-State status know which donations earn the most points. Here in the 15th District, we host the Day of Challenges and many students from around the U.P. attend and have a lot of fun. Only six Posts in the District have donated to this event. I would like to see every Post donate. The donation can be small, but it shows your dedication to this great event. I also believe that all Posts should be donating to the Military Assistance Program, MAP. All that is needed is to sell a few pins to your members or friends of the Post. My Post has an open bar and we use it to sell our pins to the customers.

I will see you in South Range for Spring Convention at the end of April.

Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary and Foundation for American Veterans Make Donations to Camp Trotter



Department Auxiliary President Jan Meyers, PDP Sheryl Proteau and PDP Sandi Onstwedder presented a check for \$24,150 from the Ladies Auxiliary to Camp Trotter Chairman Andy Conklin, along with 4th District Commander Joe Tebor presenting a \$5,000.00 check from the Foundation for American Veterans. The generous donations will be used for building renovations. Missing is PDP Linda Burton, who along with Sheryl and Sandi raised this money during their tenure as Ladies Auxiliary Department Presidents. Pictured, L-R: 4th District Commander Joe Tebor, PDP Sandi Onstwedder, Camp Trotter Chairman Andy Conklin, PDP Sheryl Proteau, Dept. Auxiliary President Jan Meyers and Dept. Commander Dave Hutson.

Camp Trotter is a Children's Summer Camp located on the shores of one of west Michigan's beautiful and picturesque lakes. It is owned and operated by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The management and oversight is carried out by a committee of elected members of the Michigan VFW. We take pride in keeping our camp in pristine condition to ensure the comfort and safety of our guests. The camp is fully licensed and insured with the State of Michigan. Camp Trotter exists primarily for children of veterans, but is not limited thereto; we offer five weeks of camping to children seven to twelve years old from all over the United States. The

camp includes summer activities on site including swimming, boating, hiking, biking, arts and crafts, archery, softball, volleyball, as well as campfire activities. The children are given a general knowledge of science, art and nature, and taught patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues. We try to further instill upon our campers morals and values by combining educational activities with fun. Our goal is to guide and assist our youth to build a more conscientious, responsible and productive society. The generosity of donations like this help us accomplish this goal. THANK YOU!

The Camp Trotter Committee

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Jan Meyers

It's Time for America's Military Heroes!

The Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary is alive and well. We continue to recruit and reinstate members. As of today, we are at 94.39% with more than 70 Auxiliaries over 100%. Many Auxiliaries just need a couple more members to make 100%. Let's keep the momentum rolling...we can make 100%, I

am quite confident that we can!

Mid-Winter conference was a huge success. Thank you to the program chairman for going over your annual reports and for answering questions on how to fill them out correctly. Remember, the chairman must receive your annual report before April 25, 2010.

Commander Hutson and I will have the honor of escorting our Voice of Democracy winner, Alyssa McAlvey from District 9 (sponsored by Post/Auxiliary 5065), and wish her the best as she moves on to the National competition. We also send best wishes to Patriot's Pen winner, Sydney Elmer, from District 10 (sponsored by Post/Auxiliary 4642), as she moves on to the National competition.

We are very excited and honored to have our Grade 1-5 Teacher of the Year, Patricia Mazure, win at the National level, as well.

Congratulations go out to Cindy Peto. Cindy was appointed by the National Home Board of Trustees to fill the office vacated by the passing of James N. Goldsmith. Cindy was endorsed by the delegation at the

Mid-Winter conference. Good luck, Cindy, as you seek the election for the remaining two-year term of office.

The Department Office has hosted three Texas Hold 'ems in an effort to raise funds. It seems that every time we have the event, we are challenged with snowstorms; consequently we have not been able to raise the funds we had hoped for. We will have one more Texas Hold 'em on February 18-21 and hope to have a break in the weather. Our 3-digit lottery fundraiser in November was a success, and we will be holding another one in April. If you wish to purchase a \$10.00, 3-digit lottery ticket, please call the Department office.

Congratulations go out to the Carrick-Jarosz Jr. Girls Unit 9411 in Homer. This unit was instituted in December.

More exciting news – Newport Auxiliary 3943 has been reactivated, and these ladies are enthusiastic and ready to go. The Department will be instituting two new Auxiliaries, one in District 9, Ionia and the other in District 8, Pullman. Thank you to Rosemary Lehner and Joyce Redfern for helping to organize these Auxiliaries. We welcome all of you to our organization.

By the time you receive this edition of the *Michigan Overseas Veteran*, we should have our new Web site up and running. Check it out at lavfwmj.org; we hope you will find it user-friendly and loaded with information that you find helpful. We continue to be open to new ideas. Please let us know if you are looking for something on our Web site and are unable to find it.

Thank you for all you do for our Ladies Auxiliary, but most of all for all you do for our Veterans. "By Bridging Together in Service" we can continue to make a difference.

AMERICANISM



Barbara Milewski

I hope you had an opportunity to attend the student's reception for the Voice of Democracy winners, Patriot's Pen Winners and the Teacher of the Year winners held on Saturday afternoon at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo and enjoyed seeing the students involved in the Americanism program.

As Americanism chairman for the Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary VFW, I received a copy of a letter

from Steve Van Buskirk, Programs Director, for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States regarding a Loyalty Day Pictorial Cancellation for May 1, 2010. I also received a copy of the letter from Commander-in-Chief, Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr. addressed to the local Postmaster giving permission to use the VFW emblem for a Pictorial Cancellation and the information about the U.S. Postal Service Pictorial Cancellation.

There is no charge to the VFW for the production of the hand stamp or for the Postal Service's staffing of the temporary station. Additional Loyalty Day materials are available at www.vfwstore.org, under citizenship education.

The VFW Posts and its Ladies Auxiliaries in Michigan have an opportunity for a one-day Pictorial Cancellation by applying to your local post office no later than March 1, 2010. Participating with your Post to hold this event for Loyalty Day on or around Saturday, May 1, 2010, will publicly reaffirm the complete loyalty of the citizens of Michigan to the United States by commemorating this date in U.S. history. This would be a statewide Loyalty Day event.

In June, we will present the Department Awards for the chairmen achieving the best overall program. Be sure to let me know what your Auxiliary did. As the Americanism/Patriotic Chairman for your Auxiliary, you will be bringing your American flags to the Department Convention at the Hyatt. This June, our Department President Jan Meyers would like to have the small American flags (Color Bearer flags) brought to Convention to usher in your Auxiliary president. If your Auxiliary no longer has these flags, please check with neighboring Auxiliaries to see if they have two you may borrow. Since most Auxiliaries use four flags for floor work, there should be some to share. Please check on the flags early so we can have an excellent Aisle of Flags for our President Jan.

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans.

CAMP TROTTER DAYS CHAIRMAN

*Spring is in the Air
and It's Time to Think
of Camp Trotter Days
Weekend!*



Laura Laney

The annual Memorial Day fundraiser will be held May 28-30th, 2010 with the raffle drawing at 4 p.m. on May 29, 2010.

Have you heard of all the improvements that have been made at the Camp from your generous donations? This would be a perfect time to bring your family and neighbors to spend a few days! If you have a child that will be attending the camping season, let them see firsthand of what the camp is offering.

We have cabins with 16-32 beds that are available at a cost of \$5.00 a night and \$1.00 a person per bed (you need to bring your own bedding).

If you have a camper, we have electrical hookups at \$5.00 a night. Also, you can bring your camper out earlier in the week, and stay an extra day or so. We also have space for tents.

We start off the weekend with a Potluck on Friday about 6 p.m., then S'mores by the campfire and fellowship time with friends. Saturday morning, the Newaygo Honor Guard will raise the flags at 9 a.m., followed with a welcome from the Camp Trotter Board of Directors and Days committee chairman. If the docks are in and we are able to hire a life-guard, there will be swimming Saturday afternoon.

Registration for the children's games will start at 10 a.m. with an admission cost of \$1.00 per child. Games will start

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT



Mariann Hamann

This is an exciting time for Jr. Vice Presidents at the Auxiliary, District and even Department levels! Time is flying by and we will soon be installed as Sr. Vice Presidents.

It is important that you learn all you can about our National Bylaws and Ritual. Become familiar with the President and Sr. Vice President responsibilities, along with the election process. The Sr. Vice President

may choose not to move up to the office of President. You or another officer may be asked to skip a chair.

The 2010 Version of the Bylaws and Ritual are now available from the National Supply Department. If your Auxiliary does not purchase this important reference

tool for you, you can purchase it on your own or ask if you can use the 2009 version when the Auxiliary buys the new version for your incoming President.

Remember that the VFW, Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Auxiliary Supply Departments have merged. You may shop online at www.vfwstore.org, call 1-800-821-2606 or order from the 2009-2010 VFW Store Catalog, page 93.

- The Ladies Auxiliary Podium Edition (Stock Number 4007) includes the Bylaws, Booklet of Instruction and Ritual in one spiral-bound book. Price: \$8.00
- Purse-size Ritual book (Stock Numbers 4005) Price: \$3.50
- Bylaws with the Booklet of Instructions (Stock Numbers 4006) Price: \$3.50

I look forward to serving with you as Sr. Vice Presidents. May God continue to bless the USA, our veterans and all of you!

LEGISLATIVE/PAC CHAIRMAN



Diana Ward

Greetings, Sisters and Comrades:

First of all, I'd like to start out by thanking all the Auxiliaries for all the hard work that they are doing to promote this program. Your generous donations make it possible for us to support our Posts and veterans through contacts with our legislators and lawmakers to develop better laws to benefit

the veterans and that is our primary goal. It is one of the ways that we can truly show our appreciation and consideration for their service and sacrifice for our country.

Each year at the National Convention, the VFW establishes a set of Security and Priority Goals. These are issues that the VFW has determined should be the focus for passing through Congress to better the lives and benefits to our veterans, active duty military and reservists. It is essential that we get our voice heard so

that Congress will act on these issues. Please write or personally contact your Congressmen regarding the following issues. It is sufficient to just ask for their support of these VFW approved issues.

VA Health Care

- Ensure a sufficient VA budget that properly meets the health care demands of all veterans.
- Establish sufficient, predictable and timely VA funding.
- Ensure unique health care and benefits challenges of Iraq and Afghanistan war vets are met, including increased funding for traumatic brain injuries and improved access to care.
- Hire specialized health care providers for women veterans who provide training for gender-specific care, mental health care and military sexual trauma.
- Improve VA outreach so that all veterans – especially female, minority and rural veterans – are aware of the range of health care services and benefits available to them.

LEGISLATIVE/PAC, continued on page 8

CAMP TROTTER, continued on page 8

Cancer Aid & Research



Deb Eernisse

Winter is waning and spring will be here soon. Three of our four conferences are complete. Our VFW year is going by fast!

The Cancer booth at Mid-Winter was a great success! I want to thank

everyone who contributed – whether it was money, items or your time helping in the booth – you all helped to make it a success!

We are heading into the home stretch! Annual reports will be due soon. You have a little time to get out your guide sheet

and start looking closely at any points you can still work on.

REMEMBER your report *must* be in my hands by April 25.

March is National Colorectal Cancer Prevention Month – if you are over 50 you should be screened. Screening saves lives!!

We aren't done yet. We can send donations to National until May 15. Let's have one last fundraising push, and get as many donations as we can. Remember, if Michigan is 1st Place in our Membership Group we will receive 25% of our total contributions to present to a local cancer research institution here in Michigan! Let's work together to bring home a big check for Michigan!

CAMP TROTTER, continued from page 7

shortly after – RAIN OR SHINE. Please remember, if it's raining in one area it may not be in another. We live in Michigan!!!

Saturday at 8 a.m. we will serve pancakes, sausage links, coffee and juice for \$4.00 a person.

For lunch, we will serve sloppy joes, macaroni and cheese, chips, Jell-O and cookies. Adults: \$6.00; Children 10 years and under: \$3.00.

Dinner will be a New York Strip (select your steak and cook it to your liking at the barbeque pit), baked potato, salad and dinner roll for \$10.00 or a hamburger for \$5.00. Banana splits with all the fixings and campfire later is included. Coffee and

lemonade are served all day.

Sunday morning a continental breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. with cereal, fruit and more for a donation from each person. This will leave you time to be packed up and on the road for your Posts' Memorial Day events.

If you would like to join our committee, we only work the one weekend a year – we would love to have you! I'll be at Camp May 25th if you would like to come earlier in the week.

All money earned goes for the upkeep of our camp after costs. For more information and reservations, contact Merridy Lewis, Camp Trotter Days Chairman, 5120 Solvel Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1915, phone 269-344-5469, e-mail: merridyl@netzero.net

LEGISLATIVE/PAC, continued from page 7

VA Benefits and Compensation

- Ensure Congress provides adequate resources to enable VBA to reduce current backlog of disability claims.
- Call on congress to use its vial oversight to ensure true leadership and accountability within VBA.
- Call on VA to determine which disabilities, and level of disability, adversely affect a veteran's quality of life.
- Adjust VA's Schedule for Rating Disability to ensure that veterans are adequately compensated.

Military Quality of Life

- Ensure that active duty, National Guard and Reserve troops receive increased pay, affordable health care and adequate housing and work facilities for themselves and their families.

Seamless Transition

- Encourage seamless transition for vets transferring from DOD to VA, including electronic medical records that travel from duty stations to wherever veterans receive VA health care.
- Improve veterans transition services and benefits, including viable training, employment and education programs to provide meaningful careers.

Military Affairs

- Seek to improve the quality of life for all active duty troops, reservists and their families.
- Provide a military base pay raise to restore full comparability with private sector wages.
- Support efforts to lower the Guard and Reserve retirement pay age from 60 to 55.
- Oppose any TRICARE fee increases.

Veterans Employment

- Urge Congress to immediately address the highest unemployment rates among veterans in recent history by requiring all federal programs to adhere to already existing veterans'

employment and small business laws.

- Solidify Uniformed Service Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA) and reverse legal decisions that tend to favor employment.
- Urge the Department of Labor to be more thorough and timely in its USERRA investigations.
- Urge Congress to mandate that all federal agencies fulfill the 3% government-wide procurement goal for service disabled veteran-owned small businesses and require agencies to report their procurement levels and be held accountable if they fail to meet the 3% goal.

Defense and Homeland Security

- Support U.S. troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism around the world.
- Increase defense spending to fund personnel initiatives, troop end-strength requirements and needed weapons programs.
- Halt development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and material.
- Urge the continued development and deployment of a ballistic missile defense system.
- Secure U.S. borders, shorelines and all ports of entry.

POW/MIA

- Archive the fullest possible accounting of all U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure the U.S. government keeps the POW/MIA issue elevated as a national priority.
- Urge the President and Congress fully fund the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command through a dedicated single line item appropriate in the Defense budget.

Many of the Auxiliaries have yet to get their pins. Please contact me so that I can get those in the mail to you. Please remember that you need to take donations for five pins. You should be reviewing your guide sheet and finalizing your program.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Karen Rasey



Dear Sisters of the 5th,

Well, Mid-Winter is over. I hope everyone who attended had a good time and your trip home was a safe one. I

want to thank all of you for doing so well with your membership.

We made our 90% before December 31, but DON'T stop now. There is still a lot of work to be done. It would be great to make our District 100%. Currently we are in 7th place in the state. I thoroughly enjoyed my "Night on the Town." It was a murder mystery dinner. I like to say everyone else went to a "who done it." I went too, and "I did it." Be sure to ask if

you want to hear more.

Congratulations to Alyssa McAlvey, our State winner of the Voice of Democracy Essay contest from Post 5065 of the 9th District. The whole 5th District wishes Alyssa good luck at National in Washington, D.C. in March. Our District winner Erin Donohue, who was sponsored by Post 6802, came in a very close 2nd Place.

I want to thank all of you for welcoming myself, Joyce and Linda at your meetings for your inspections. We left each of your meetings with ideas to take back to our own Auxiliaries. I hope to see you at our District meetings. I'll enjoy getting to know you better.

Be sure to hug a veteran and thank them for all they have done for us. Remember we are here to remember our dead by honoring the living.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Linda Woda



Hello Ladies of the 6th District,

It simply amazes me how time flies. We are fast approaching the home stretch of our year together. I am simply having a wonderful time

with all of you and am so proud of all that our District has accomplished.

Because of you, our District had a successful VOD/PP campaign this year. Congratulations to all our winners. VOD winners are 1st Place Dewey Kemp 701-Lansing, 2nd Place Luke Anderson 1584-Adrian and 3rd Place Nicolette Desimone 1138-Monroe. Patriot's Pen winners are 1st Place Elena Bruck (she earned a place at Mid-Winter) 3943-Newport, 2nd Place Alexa Cordray 9656-Lambertville and 3rd Place Carrie Ginther 3925-Erie. Thank you, Matt and Ivette David, for an outstanding job as our District Chairmen for this once again.

I would like to thank Lambertville-9656, Petersburg-6509 and Lansing-701 for all their hard work hosting our District meetings. I feel we are a better organization when we travel to places such as these and see how the other Posts and Auxiliaries function. We always take something home from these meetings. Remember ladies, without your input our District will suffer in the long run. We must always stand together for the

greater good of our organization.

We have struggled throughout the year in membership. Losing three Auxiliaries last year really hurt us. At this most difficult time with this struggling economy, we must fight back and gain new members. If each one of us takes on a personal challenge of just one new member for this year (and it is not too late), we can achieve our goal and show just how resilient we are. Please take this challenge. I am only a phone call away for assistance, ladies.

I was in contact with Lambertville-9656 President Kay Lynch. During our conversation, she spoke to me about a monthly gathering the ladies have started. This is an informal get-together. Some bring sewing machines, hospital projects or any other projects they are working on. It sounds like a wonderful time for the members to share in their work and socialize. I would like to hear from you on the ways your Auxiliaries promote fellowship. Please e-mail (royforlinda@yahoo.com) or write me and I will compile a list of ideas to bring to the May meeting. We all benefit from different ideas and can use these to promote our programs and camaraderie.

A few thoughts: Keep in mind annual reports are due before April 25th, we must achieve at least 95% in membership by April 30th, send your delegate sheets in as soon as possible and keep sending in those community service projects. District 6 rocks, and so do you!

DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT

Carley Raleigh



Greetings Sisters of the 9th District,

I am so happy to report that our District did reach at least 90%, so I was able to enjoy my "Night on the Town" during Mid-

Winter Convention. Thank you so much ladies for all your hard work. Our congratulations to President Jan as Michigan also made 90%. I hope she enjoys her "Night on the Town" as much as we did. As usual, everyone learned a lot at Mid-Winter, while enjoying time with our sisters from around the state. The 9th did it! Congratulations to Alyssa McAlvey from Post 5065, who came in 1st in our state in the Voice of Democracy essay contest. We all wish her well when she

goes to Washington, D.C. in March.

Auxiliary Presidents: Please remember to go over the annual reports and complete those items not yet done. Plan a meeting with your chairmen to get the reports completed and in on time. The date for the reports due into the Department chairmen is April 25th.

President Jan and Commander Dave will be having their joint testimonial on April 16th through April 18th at the Ramada Inn in Lansing. If possible, plan on attending...I'm sure you will have a good time!!!

Don't forget our District meeting in May, as it is the Installation for the incoming District President.

Everyone take care of yourselves as the winter ends, so you can continue to offer care and support for our Veterans.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Jane Dady



Big, warm fuzzies! Congratulations to all the Auxiliaries who achieved 100% in membership! The rest of you are so very close. Please make some extra effort to contact any

sister who hasn't paid yet. Find out if they need help. We don't want to lose a single sister. Every one of you is important to this organization.

All of you have done a fantastic job in reporting your community service. Please keep the reports coming in. You all work so hard for our veterans. I am very proud of all of you.

The Voice of Democracy has been a wonderful experience. From handing out applications at the schools to giving out the awards at our District awards presentation. I wish our winner all the luck in Kalamazoo.

By the time you read this, Mid-Winter conference will be over. We had a fantastic "Winter Fun" basket that raised money for cancer. The Buddy Poppy entries from the Auxiliaries and Junior Girls were beautiful.

Believe it or not, it is time to start

working on your annual reports. At your next meeting, or call for a special one, get together with all the ladies to make sure everything you have done is reported. There is some time left, so if you need to do something to complete the report, you can still get it done. Make sure you send the reports in on time so you can be recognized for everything you do.

For upcoming dates, like St. Patrick's Day, pin a shamrock on a veteran – you just might get a smile or a hug. For Easter, let us never forget our veterans and those in service. Invite one to dinner; send a care package or a card. Always show your gratitude for all they have sacrificed.

Our Commander Chet Cousins and my testimonial will be April 10th in Hale. I really look forward to seeing you and letting you know how absolutely amazing each and every one of you are. President Jan's testimonial is in May. I hope many of you can attend and let Jan know what a fantastic job she has done and give her our heartfelt thanks.

Memorial Day is just around the corner. Participate in a service with your Post or attend one. Please remember and pray for the POW/MIA's.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Arvella Peterson



Dear Sisters:

Here we are in a new year, 2010, and I hope everyone had a great holiday and a happy new year. I attended Mid-Winter and I want

to congratulate all our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners. District 13 submitted Andrew Smith, Alpena as the Voice of Democracy winner and Sara Marsh, Millersburg as the Patriot's Pen winner. A good time was had by all and getting a refresher course on all our programs was a plus.

I want to thank each and every one of you for working on your membership as I was able to have my "Night on the Town." We all had a great time spending the evening with our Depart-

ment President, Jan. In February, we had our District meeting and we went over getting ready for our Annual Reports. Don't forget to double check your Guide Sheets and make sure you have everything done that needs to be done. Your Annual Reports must be in to Department by April 25th and Chairmen...let's not be late. Also, I want you to keep working on membership and bringing in those new members. Remember our year does not end until June 30th.

If you need help with anything, don't forget I am just a phone call away. In May, we will be having our final District meeting, and I hope I will see everyone there. It will be held in Indian River at Post 7439. It would be nice to have 100% of the Auxiliaries represented. Look for more information in your packet that will be coming.

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Deborah Paavola



Greetings Sisters of the 15th,

Here we are more than halfway through the year and it is wonderful to see so many Auxiliaries at 100% or over

in membership. Sisters, you are doing a wonderful job!! It is because of your hard work the District made 90% by December 31 and I got to take part in the "Night on the Town" at Department Mid-Winter –Thank You!

Community service reports are coming in and most Auxiliaries are reported. I know all the Auxiliaries are doing community service, so please get those reports in!!

March 31 is the deadline for the Patriotic Art Contest. I hope the 15th will be well represented, and remember to make your donation to the Patriotic Art

Escrow Fund.

All chairmanships should be in full swing with their programs and working toward their year-end goals. Working together will help accomplish these goals because many programs overlap.

The Day of Challenge will be held at Michigan Tech University on March 20th. Come and cheer the 30+ teams sponsored by the VFW as they are challenged in physical fitness, coordination and leadership. It is an event you will not forget!

District 15 Spring Convention will be held on April 24th and 25th in South Range at Post 6165. Please make plans to attend, as it would be great to have all Auxiliaries participate. This will be your chance to congratulate the VOD and Patriot's Pen Contest winners from the 15th District. More information on the Spring Convention will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your support for our veterans. Let us work together to help those who are in need.

Ladies Auxiliary VFW Purchases Silver for USS New York

The Navy has a tradition of carrying "ship's silver" on board for special occasions and diplomatic events. Tiffany & Co. has long been a part of that tradition. Working with the Navy, they set up a registry to allow the public to take part in this historic event.

"It is a privilege to help the Ladies Auxiliary VFW recognize

the importance of this ship by purchasing something from the registry," National President Tittle said. "Not only are we paying tribute to those who died that terrible day in September, but we are helping launch a ship whose mission it will be to protect our shores from it ever happening again. And the sailors on that ship are America's Military Heroes."

National President Tittle chose a Regency service tray that will be engraved with "USS NEWYORK," as well as saying "A Gift from The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars." The Ladies Auxiliary VFW's gift will be accompanied by a card that reads, "In Honor of Our Military Heroes, Jan Tittle, National President, Ladies Auxiliary VFW."

To learn more about the USS New York, go to www.ussny.org

National President Jan Tittle purchased a piece of silver from Tiffany's gift registry for a very special recipient, a U.S. naval ship. On November 7, 2009 the USS New York was officially commissioned in New York Harbor at Pier 88. The ship is especially significant because of the materials used to make her bow; 7.5 tons of steel from the wreckage of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at the Twin Towers site.

Three new U.S. naval ships were made with the wreckage steel and the USS New York was the first to be commissioned. As the site www.ussny.org says, "Her bow, forged from steel salvaged from the wreckage of the World Trade Center, embodies the strength and determination of the people of New York – to recover, to rally, and to take the fight to the enemy."

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Yolanda Lyons



By the time you read this, Mid-Winter Conference will be over. However, I want to thank each and every member of District 12 who made it possible for our District

to reach 90% by December 31st. I know how difficult it was, but you all need to know how much your efforts were appreciated. Not only did we top 90%, we also helped Department exceed its goal of 90%. Thank you so very much for everything you accomplished. You are a wonderful group and I am so impressed by your accomplishments. I needed to be able to tell all of you that before I got into other business. Once more, thank you for what you do – not just for yourselves, but for our heroes. Without membership goals, we would not be able to continue doing the things we do best – working to make things better for our veterans, our youth and our communities.

Our next District meeting will not be until March 7th, but make sure you get the information on your calendars and out to all of your members. The meeting will be at Post 2335 in Mecosta, and dinner will be at 11:30 a.m. The Auxiliary meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. I hope to see many of our Auxiliary sisters from the western part

of the District at the meeting. After all, any business conducted at our meetings has a direct impact on all of the Auxiliaries in the District; if you aren't there to provide input, your District officers have no way of knowing what your feelings are about a given issue. So please make every attempt to attend and make your voices heard.

The District Past Commanders/Past Presidents dinner will be held on Saturday, April 10th, at Post 5315 in Baldwin. A social hour will begin at 2:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 3:00 p.m., with the program to follow. More information will be sent out soon by Commander Rought and myself regarding costs, menu and reservations. I hope you will mark your calendars now and avoid any possible conflicts with other plans later.

It doesn't seem possible that half of the year is gone already; I have so enjoyed meeting and talking with all of you during the inspections, and I really look forward to seeing how the rest of this year progresses. After all, you have shown me that we can perform miracles with hard work and dedication, so I am sure there will be a few more pleasant surprises before the end of June. Keep working on your membership numbers, keep doing the special projects that result in community service hours/money/time, keep supporting our programs and our veterans, and keep a smile on your faces.

Wixom Post 2269

out the stockings to the patients at the kidney dialysis and chemo rooms, community living center and the urgent care waiting room.

On Monday, December 21st, the Ladies Auxiliary from the Wixom Post 2269 visited the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Pictured, L-R: Pam Young the VAVS Rep, Kay Ash, Judy Warren and Marian Belaire. The 100 hand-sewn Christmas stockings made by Marian Belaire were filled with assorted toiletries, candy, oranges, socks and a heart-shaped pillow. They handed

Ladies Auxiliary 4499 Helps Toys for Tots



Sponsored by 5-CAP TOYS-FOR-TOTS, this benefit was hosted by Post 4499. This three-day event, held in the Post hall, collected \$5,500 in cash, as well as toys valued at over \$30,000. Along with other organizations during that time, we served 724 children from 298 households within Manistee County. Char, Bonnie and Phyllis were the committee members from the Ladies Auxiliary.

National Home Secures Mini-Bus, Passes Goal

At National President Jan Tittle's Homecoming in September, she announced that the National Home was in need of funds to purchase a mini-bus for the Home campus in order to comply with Michigan transportation laws. The members responded immediately at Homecoming, adding nearly \$500 to President Tittle's surprise donation of \$5,000 to start the fund. President Tittle then asked members to consider sending the Home an 85th birthday card, tucking a donation inside and perhaps including a key chain, one of which will be chosen in June for the keys to the mini-bus.

National President Tittle learned during her recent trip to the Home that the goal of \$50,000 for the bus fund had been exceeded, and as of January was at more than \$100,000. The bus has been purchased and the remaining funds will be set aside, specifically for maintenance. The Home would still like to add to this fund, so they know the mini-bus will be taken care of for years to come.

Send your birthday card or donation to:
VFW National Home for Children
 3573 S. Waverly Road
 Eaton Rapids, MI 48827



National President Tittle and VFW Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell stand with VFW National Home residents by the newly acquired mini-bus, which the Home needed in order to comply with Michigan transportation laws.

National President Attends Veterans Day Events, Presents Donation for Memorial Restoration

Kansas City, MO – Ladies Auxiliary VFW National President Jan Tittle of South Carolina represented the 550,000 members of the Ladies Auxiliary VFW in Washington, D.C., for Veterans Day events.

On Veterans Day morning, President Tittle attended a breakfast at The White House, where she was able to speak with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden about their mutual concerns, including active-duty military and their families. "We are so fortunate to have an ally in Mrs. Obama," President Tittle said of the First Lady's commitment to military families. "Those who give their lives to the military have unique stresses, and we want to work to make their lives better."

Later that morning in the wind and rain, President Tittle attended services at Arlington National Cemetery with VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank of California, where they presented a wreath. They were accompanied by VFW and Auxiliary members from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

President Tittle's next stop was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where she and Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Eubank presented a wreath on behalf of

all members in honor of the men and women who fought in the Vietnam War.

After the ceremony, President Tittle had the honor of giving a \$10,000 donation to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) for restoration work to be done on The Three Servicemen statue, which is featured on the cover of President Tittle's *National Program Book*. VVMF President and Founder Jan C. Scroggs accepted the donation, and National President Tittle is asking members to consider giving a gift toward restoration efforts in honor, or in memory, of their Vietnam veteran to VVMF. Millions of dollars in renovations are needed for the entire Vietnam Veterans Memorial site, including The Wall, The Three Servicemen statue and surrounding areas. For more information about the memorial and restoration efforts, go to www.vvmf.org

Ladies Auxiliary VFW members volunteer millions of hours and give thousands of dollars to supporting veterans, military service personnel and their families. Members also fund cancer research, offer youth scholarships and serve in their communities in numerous ways. Learn more at www.ladiesauxvfw.org

Breaking Big Ground at the Little Post

The gray-bricked building sits atop a hill across from the Shiawassee River in the small mid-Michigan town of Linden (pop. 3,500). It is a picturesque scene complete with a gazebo, working waterwheel and an old 1840's mill and dam. The building has been home to the Price, Crane, Robinson's VFW Post 4642 since 1949. We may be Post 4642, but the Linden community often refers to us as the "little Post."

Linden's Post is truly having a monumental year. They are setting one record after another of historical firsts. In just three months, the Post has had three groundbreaking events. At a regular meeting in November 2009, the Post swore in a third generation Hogan. More than 30 years separate VFW member Woody Hogan from his son, Dennis, and another 28 years separate Hogan from his grandson, Aaron. Woody Hogan served with the Navy in World War II, his son Dennis served with the Army in Vietnam, and his grandson Aaron served with the Army in Iraq. Aaron Hogan, 33, was sworn in before 28 VFW members in a private ceremony, joining his father and grandfather as active members of the Post. Affectionately known as "Hogan's Heroes," Woody, Dennis, and Aaron made history as the 4642's first VFW members representing three generations.

In December 2009, the Post swore in the first female member since it was chartered on December 16, 1945. Marine Sgt. Mary Dunkley, 40, and her husband Richard, also serving as a member of the Army National Guard and attached to the 125th Infantry Brigade in Flint, Michigan, moved to Linden in 2003. Mary enlisted in 1987 and was active until 1993, during which time she was deployed overseas serving in the Gulf War, Desert Storm and Desert Shield. When she arrived in Saudi Arabia in 1990, she was part of the Surveillance Recognition Intelligence Group (SRIG) and the first female to arrive there. Mary has two sons and was honored that she was the first female member of the Post.

On January 14th, 2010, the Post marks another precedent by swearing in the first husband and wife, Robert and Cheryl Stewart of Linden. Cheryl was in the Army from 1984 to 1988 and from 1989 to 1992. She served in Desert Storm from December 1990 through March 1991 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion as a personnel sergeant and photojournalist. Rob was in the U.S. Army 1983 to 1988, the U.S. Army Reserve February 1993 to February 1994 and then the U.S. Army from February 1994 through

July 2000. In July 2000, he began serving in the U.S. Army National Guard (Active Guard Reserve), retiring from active duty February 2009. Cheryl said "We met in the Army, but after having children we did not want to both be in (the service) at the same time," which explains breaks in their service time. She added "We took turns going to war and being civilians...we lived both sides of the coin."

In the past several months, Linden's Post 4642 has added 10 new members. Total membership is 102...82 Life Members, 6 new transfers, 1 reinstated and 13 annual. This puts the Linden Post at 104%. I say, "hats off to the little Post in Linden, Michigan!" If you are ever in this area, please feel free to visit us. Business meetings are the second Thursday of each month and our social (dinner) meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month. Our door is always open.



Veterans Mary Dunkley (right), Don Villiard and Terrell Callebs were sworn in at the Linden VFW Post 4642. Dunkley is the Post's first female Marine.



Aaron Hogan hugs his father, Dennis, at the VFW meeting after being sworn in. Aaron's grandfather, Woody, is on the left.



Rob and Cheryl Stewart became the first husband and wife members of the Linden VFW Post 4642.

National President Tittle Maintains Ties to Taiwan

National President Jan Tittle continued the Ladies Auxiliary VFW's annual trip to the East to maintain the friendship between the Auxiliary and the Republic of China's Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC). While in the country, the Vice President of the Republic of China, Siew Wan-Chang, met with her. President Tittle's visit coincided with a visit by the Commander and President of The American Legion and Auxiliary, who all met with the Vice President and were briefed on the Taiwan and U.S. relationship.

Sites during President Tittle's trip included the Taipei Veterans Hospital, where physicians are given housing on site, so as to make care for veterans as accessible as possible. The hospital has also recently

responded to the increase of female veterans by opening a special center for women. The hospital's slogan, posted over the main entrance of the hospital is, "Long Live People, Long Live Generations."

A trip into the mountains brought President Tittle and her daughter, member Jamie Godfrey, to the Ching Jeng Veterans Farm, which is a working sheep and tea farm open to the public. All the proceeds from the farm go to veterans' care. "What this country does for its veterans is amazing," said President Tittle. "They put an incredible amount of thought into how best to serve their veterans and their citizens."

More on President Tittle's trip to Taiwan will be featured in the March 2010 issue of *Ladies Auxiliary VFW Magazine*.

Veterans Day

At 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of November, 1918, the guns fell silent over the trenches of the Western Front in Europe bringing the Great War, later called World War I, to an end.

Approximately 37 million soldiers and civilians on both sides lost their lives in five years of war. Of those, 116,708 were Americans. Originally called Armistice Day, it was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all veterans.

Detroit Veterans Day Parade

On Saturday, November 7, 2009, the Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Coalition hosted the 4th annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade. Veterans' organizations from around

the area participated with an estimated 1,000 people marching in the parade. It is the goal of the Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Coalition to make the annual Detroit

Veterans Day Parade the largest in the country. If you would like more information, check out their Web site at <http://metrodetvetcoalition.t35.com/parade%20info/>



State Honor Guard leading the Dept. of Michigan VFW delegation in the Detroit Veterans Day Parade.



Members of the James Europe Post 2233.



Pictured, L-R: State Inspector Rick Zellman, State Commander Dave Hutson and Honor Guard member Philip Gannia after the parade.



The State Honor Guard performs a flag folding ceremony.



Veterans Day Ceremony at Fort Custer National Cemetery

On November 11th, 2009, the Fort Custer National Cemetery held its annual Veterans Day ceremony.



The Honor Guard stands by, prior to being given the command to Post the Colors.



Danielle Hoonhorst of Captain Claude E. Hale, Jr. Post 4073, who also works at the Fort Custer National Cemetery, sings the National Anthem.



The Avenue of Flags.



State Auxiliary President Jan Meyers and State Commander Dave Hutson.

2009-2010 Voice of Democracy Contest and Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Programs

Department of Michigan • VFW and Its Ladies Auxiliary

Voice of Democracy Winners



1st Place
\$6,000.00 Ralph J. Seabold Scholarship
District 9 – Post 5065, Sheridan
Alyssa McAlvey
11th Grade – Fellowship Baptist Academy, Carson City



2nd Place
\$3,500.00 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship
District 5 – Post 6802, Richmond
Erin E. Donohoe
11th Grade – Northville High School, Northville



3rd Place
\$2,500.00 Hazel Park VFW Scholarship
District 10 – Post 2777, Burton
Andrea Walls
12th Grade – Genesee Christian High School, Burton



4th Place
\$1,500.00 James N. Goldsmith Scholarship
District 14 – Post 5670, Gwinn
Meredith Buck
12th Grade – Gwinn High School, Gwinn



5th Place
\$1,000.00 Eric & Delores Halverson Scholarship
District 15 – Post 6165, South Range
Ben J. Jaszczak
12th Grade – Houghton High School, Houghton



6th Place
\$1,000.00 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship
District 4 – Post 1519, Livonia
Alexander J. Hepperle
12th Grade – Franklin High School, Livonia



7th Place
\$1,000.00 Newberry Scholarship
District 8 – Post 1527, Kalamazoo
Zachary F. Terry
12th Grade – Mattawan High School, Mattawan



8th Place
\$1,000.00 Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship
District 12 – Post 446, Muskegon
Amelia Ecker
10th Grade – Mona Shores High School, Norton Shore



9th Place
\$1,000.00 Orvel Walter Memorial Scholarship
District 13 – Post 2496, Alpena
Andrew E. Smith
12th Grade – Alpena High School, Alpena



10th Place
\$1,000.00 Past Commanders Club Scholarship
District 7 – Post 3102, Buchanan
Samuel P. Hagey
12th Grade – Saint Josephs High School, South Bend, IN



11th Place
\$500.00 Dick and Vi Thorp Memorial and
\$500.00 VFW Post 4644 Scholarship
District 6 – Post 701, Lansing
Dewey D. Kemp
12th Grade – Home School



12th Place
\$400.00 John & Shirley Sweebe, \$400.00 Donald Mrjenovic,
and \$200.00 Rob & Marcia Weiss Scholarship
District 11 – Post 3033, Mt. Pleasant
Priya Vedula
12th Grade – Sacred Heart Academy, Mt. Pleasant

Patriot's Pen Winners



1st Place
\$1,000.00 Bond, Wes Longenbach Memorial Award
District 10 – Post 4642, Linden
Sydney M. Elmer
8th Grade – Linden Middle School, Linden



2nd Place
\$750.00 Bond, Ladies Auxiliary Award
District 14 – Post 3676, Sault St. Marie
Madelyn K. Collia
6th Grade – Sault Area Middle School, Sault St. Marie



3rd Place
\$500.00 Bond, 15th District Award
District 6 – Post 3943, Newport
Elena Bruck
7th Grade – St. Charles School, Newport



4th Place
\$400.00 Bond, 9th District Award
District 4 – Post 5572, Allen Park
Elizabeth L. Lewandowski
8th Grade – St. Frances Cabrini, Allen Park



5th Place
\$500.00 Bond, Barry & Pam Walter Award
District 11 – Post 3033, Mt. Pleasant
Matthew D. Voss
7th Grade – Home School, Mt. Pleasant

Does America Still Have Heroes?

By Alyssa McAlvey

"We don't have to turn to our history books for heroes. They're all around us. One who sits among you here tonight epitomized that heroism at the end of the longest imprisonment ever inflicted on men of our armed forces. Who will ever forget that night when we waited for television to bring us the scene of that first plane landing at Clark Field in the Philippines bringing our P.O.W.s home? The plane door opened and Jeremiah Denton came slowly down the ramp. He caught sight of our flag, saluted it, said, "God bless America," and then thanked us for bringing him home."

Ronald Reagan made a great statement then, and it still holds truth for us today. We don't have to look in the past to find heroes, because they surround us today. Two of our greatest heroes are our P.O.W.s and our military families. They sacrifice so much and gain so little. They don't make these sacrifices for the recognition and they aren't looking to be labeled as a hero. They do it, selflessly, for the country that they love.

Prisoners of War, also known as P.O.W.s, are told every day that they no longer have control over themselves, yet they continue to sustain their pride and dignity by refusing to give in to their oppressors. I have no doubt that there are days when these men and women want to just give up and die, but they don't. What drives these men and women? What keeps them from giving in? How can a person in such a state of hopelessness show such perseverance and dedication? They hold onto the dream, the dream that one day they will make it home. One day they will stand side by side with fellow Americans and salute their nation's flag. One day they will be free.

Jeremiah Denton is the perfect example of the persevering and uncompromising spirit of the POWs. Mr. Denton spent seven years and seven months in the hands of the Northern Vietnamese. At one point he was told to do an interview that would be good propaganda for the Communists. When asked his position on the war, he answered, "I don't know what is happening now in Vietnam, because the only news sources I have are North Vietnamese, but whatever the position of my government is, I believe in it, support it, and I will support it as long as I live." He silenced the room with this comment. A week later he was given the worst torture treatment that he ever received. It continued all night long and left, even, the Vietnamese guards with tears in their eyes. Jeremiah Denton was finally brought back home, and the first thing that he did was salute his nation's flag.

I cannot properly articulate the heroic deeds of our military without looking at the

driving force behind them: Their families. Parents, spouses, and children are sacrificing time and those special moments in everyday life with their loved ones. Sons are missing their first baseball game with their dads, daughters are missing their shopping trips with their moms, husbands and wives are, for the time being, raising families single-handedly, and moms and dads are separated from their children for the greatest amount of time in their whole lives. They are all sacrificing these things for one cause, so that the freedoms we have in America will remain in America. You cannot tell me this would be an easy feat for just anyone. I think people often overlook the sacrifices made by military families, yet their sacrifices are so great. Sometimes their sacrifices are the greatest, because sometimes, soldiers don't make it home. Sometimes sons never get that first baseball game, daughters never do go shopping, husbands and wives are left to raise their children on their own, and sometimes moms and dads are forced to give up the dream of having their child walk through their front door. Sometimes lives are taken far before they should've been, and the wake of sorrow they leave behind them never ends. Therefore they give the greatest sacrifice, because I can guarantee you, there isn't one mother or father who doesn't wish they could've taken the place of their child.

If you don't believe me that families take the worst hits in this war, just ask Amanda Jordan, wife of the late Marine Sgt. Phillip Jordan. Amanda not only had to deal with losing her husband, she had to explain it to their six year old son, Tyler. This six year old boy walked around for a week wearing his 6-foot-3-inch father's camouflage shirt, not speaking to anyone. She desperately tried to explain that God needed his daddy in heaven, only to hear him say, "Well, I needed him, too." Tyler, and many other children like him, will grow up without a father, and their mothers will spend the rest of their lives trying to explain why. But at the end of the day they will still stand when their nation's flag is raised, because they know the price it took to have the freedom to raise it.

Does America still have heroes? Are you kidding me? Look at a child in the eye and tell him that his father, who is a POW over in Iraq, is not a hero. Look at a soldier in the eye and tell him that his mother is not a hero for supporting him in defending his country. I'd bet my life on it that you can't. These men and women are sacrificing years, if not all of their lives to making sure America remains a free country. They are giving everything so that you and I can stand and salute our nation's flag. They love America and show it in their everyday lives. I believe America does still have heroes, and they are my reason why.

New Federal Job Site Launched

The Office of Personnel Management launched a new Web site this week to help military veterans and their families find employment with the federal government.

FedsHireVets.gov will become the main source for employment information for both veterans and hiring officials. View the site at <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>

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When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?

By Sydney M. Elmer

When is the right time to honor our military heroes? People of the military risk their lives daily for our freedom and the protection of our rights. They make sacrifices in their own lives to ensure that the lives of the American citizens are not disrupted now or for generations to come. Our military men and women deserve to be respected and honored for their unwavering commitment to preserving the rights that our forefathers battled for so many years ago.

Heroes of military should be honored individually when they return home from war. They should be given a hero's welcome as soon as they touch American soil. Military heroes should also be honored at our nation's capital by the President of the United States. When the military hero returns to their hometown, there should be a welcome home celebration recognizing the sacrifices these military heroes have made.

The United States honors its military heroes collectively on two days of the year: Memorial Day and Veterans Day. These days are set aside to allow American citizens the time to reflect on how blessed our country is and to remember those who have

made sacrifices to secure the lives we lead. Two days per year is a good start but probably not sufficient to express the magnitude of the debt we owe these men and women.

Military heroes should be honored on a daily basis in our actions and thoughts. Americans should behave in a way that exhibits pride and patriotism in the United States. Citizens of this country should respect the rights that have been secured for themselves and others. They should strive to maintain the freedom our military has worked so hard to protect.

My maternal great-grandfather earned a purple heart in World War II for being wounded in battle. When he returned home to Michigan, he was greeted at the airport by his wife, three young children, and his community. He was honored many times in Veterans Day parades and at his burial with a flag-draped casket and a gun salute. He was respected in life and in death as all military heroes should be.

When is the right time to honor our military heroes? As often and as much as we can. Honoring military heroes should know no limits. Anytime we see an American flag, we should think of those who have kept that flag flying high.

Three Teachers Selected for National Awards

Each year for the past eleven years, three exceptional teachers have been recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students.

The VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award recipients are selected from entries submitted by local VFW Posts in every state, District of Columbia and overseas. There are three categories of competition: elementary school (K-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12). During the competition, nearly \$218,000 in awards were presented to more than 1,150 teachers at various levels in the VFW.

Patricia Mazure, a K-5 teacher at William C. Taylor Elementary in Trenton, Michigan, has been named the winner at the elementary school level. At the middle school level, Mark D. Leet, a teacher at Simons Middle School in Flemingsburg,

Kentucky, was named the winner. William V. Melega, a teacher at Chapel Hill High School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was selected at the high school level.

Each teacher receives the VFW Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award of \$1,000 for their professional development and another \$1,000 goes to their school. In addition, all three teachers receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where the awards will be presented during the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Conference, March 6-10, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City.

Steve Van Buskirk, director of VFW Programs, acknowledged, "Honoring America's teachers has been a tradition for nearly 100 years. Next to parents, they hold the key to raising up young civic-minded patriots who will perpetuate the values that have made this nation great."

2009-2010 Department of Michigan Teacher of the Year Winners

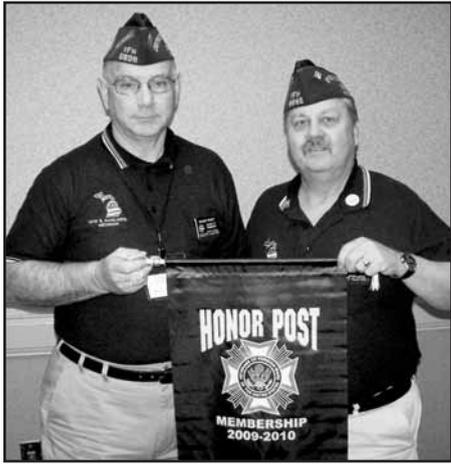
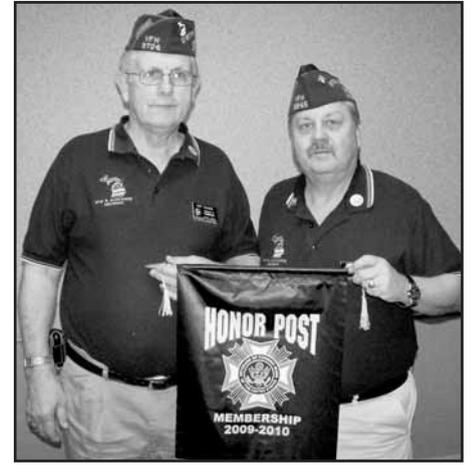
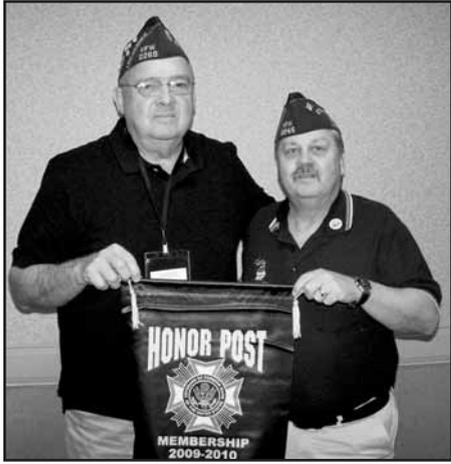
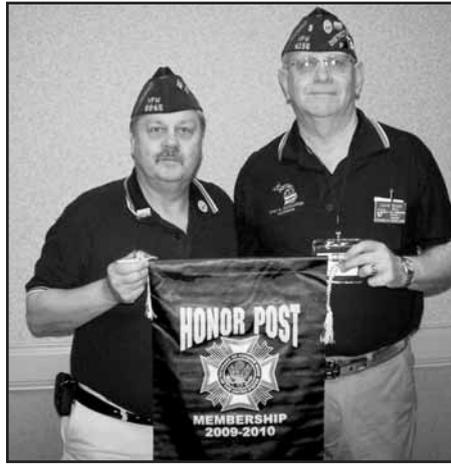
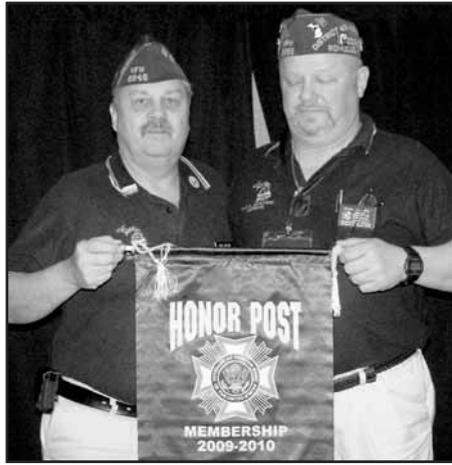
Pictured left to right: Grade 9-12: Ben Phlegar, Social Studies, Charlotte High School, Charlotte, MI, Sponsored by Post 2406 and District 8; Grade K-5: Patricia Mazure, W.C. Taylor Elementary School, Trenton, MI, Sponsored by Post 9283 and District 4, Winner of the National Teacher of the Year for Grades K-5; Grade 6-8: Phil Quinian, Applied Technology Mason County Central Middle School, Scottsville, MI, Sponsored by Post 5096 and District 12



100% in Membership

Posts that attained at least 100% in membership were honored.

The Honor Post Banner for 2009-2010 was accepted by the Post, if in attendance, or by the District Commander.



Newly Formed Post 12082 Receives Honor Post Banner



Post Sr. Vice Commander Phil Patterson and Post Quartermaster Lynn Patterson of the newly formed Post 12082 in the 9th District receive their Honor Post Banner from State Commander Dave Hutson. Phil and Lynn are both Iraq Veterans. Welcome, comrades.



Teacher of the Year, Grades 9-12, Ben Phlegar is presented his award. Left to right: Ladies Aux Teacher of the Year Chairman Barbara Milewski, State Commander Dave Hutson, Teacher Ben Phlegar, and VFW Dept. Teacher of the Year Director Patrick Patterson.



Teacher of the Year, Grades 6-8, Phil Quinian is presented his award. Left to right: Ladies Aux Teacher of the Year Chairman Barbara Milewski, State Commander Dave Hutson, Teacher Phil Quinian, State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers, and VFW Dept. Teacher of the Year Director Patrick Patterson.



Teacher of the Year, Grades K-5, Patricia Mazure is presented her award. Left to right: Ladies Aux Teacher of the Year Chairman Barbara Milewski, State Commander Dave Hutson, Teacher Patricia Mazure, State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers, and VFW Dept. Teacher of the Year Director Patrick Patterson.



1st Place Patriot's Pen winner Sydney M. Elmer is presented her award. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, student Sydney M. Elmer and State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers.



2nd Place Patriot's Pen winner Madelyn K. Collia is presented her award. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, student Madelyn K. Collia and State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers.



3rd Place Patriot's Pen winner Elena Bruck is presented her award. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, student Elena Bruck and State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers.



4th Place Patriot's Pen winner Elizabeth L. Lewandowski is presented her award. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, student Elizabeth L. Lewandowski, 9th District Commander Ron Devereaux, and State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers.



5th Place Patriot's Pen winner Matthew D. Voss is presented his award. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, student Matthew D. Voss, State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers and Patriot's Pen Chairmen Gloria Dobbie and Patrick Patterson.



During the Patriotic Ceremony on Saturday afternoon, the State Honor Guard presented the flags of each branch of the service.



The students present the American flags, from the original flag at the beginning of the Republic until today.



The Teachers of the Year, Voice of Democracy winners, Patriot's Pen winners, Dept. Chairman and State Commander and State Ladies Aux President.



Dept Chief of Staff and Past State Commander Ernie Meyers received the "organic" meal during the Voice of Democracy Banquet.



1st Place Voice of Democracy winner Alyssa McAlvey is presented her award. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, student Alyssa McAlvey and State Ladies Aux President Jan Meyers.



2nd Place Voice of Democracy winner Erin E. Donohoe is presented her award. Left to right: State Sr. Vice Commander Lloyd Putman II, student Erin E. Donohoe and State Ladies Aux Sr. Vice President Patricia Patterson.



3rd Place Voice of Democracy winner Andrea Walls is presented her award. Left to right: 5th District Commander Walter Clingan and student Andrea Walls.



4th Place Voice of Democracy winner Meredith Buck is presented her award. Left to right: State Ladies Aux Jr. Vice President Mariann Hamann, State Jr. Vice Commander Jack Pray and student Meredith Buck.



5th Place Voice of Democracy winner Ben J. Jaszczak is presented his award. Left to right, Dept. VOD Director Patrick Patterson, student Ben J. Jaszczak and Ladies Aux. Chairman Gloria Dobbie.



State Commander Dave Hutson presents the Patriot's Pen Traveling Trophy to Post 4642 Commander Ty Fry.

State Commander Dave Hutson presents the Voice of Democracy Traveling Trophy to Post 5065 Sr. Vice Commander Terry Dowdell and Ladies Auxiliary President Jean Petersen. Left to right: State Commander Dave Hutson, Ladies Auxiliary President Jean Petersen, Post Sr. Vice Commander Terry Dowdell and Department VOD Director Patrick Patterson.



Comstock Ladies Auxiliary 6252 Hosts Dinner for VA Hospital Patients

Once a month, the Comstock Ladies Auxiliary 6252 provides a free dinner for patients from the Battle Creek VA Hospital. The dinner in November, which was the Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixin's, just happened to fall on Veterans Day. They are helped by members of local Boy Scout Troop 221.



The Boy Scouts of Troop 221 help serve the holiday dinner.



Battle Creek VA Hospital patients enjoy a hearty meal.



Maxene Lake and Wilma Cool of Ladies Auxiliary 6252.



Ladies Auxiliary 6252 President Jackie Knapp (seated) and Ladies Auxiliary member Wilma Cool.



To all the helpers that put on the dinner - thank you for what you do!

Happy Birthday, Commander

On November 27, 2009 State Commander Dave Hutson turned 60. Past State Commander and Chief of Staff Ernie Meyers organized a surprise birthday party at Post 2406-Charlotte. Instead of gifts and cards, it was requested that new memberships be bought. Those District Commanders that could make it presented Commander Hutson with the number of new members that their District had signed up. Everyone knows that Commander Hutson likes to sing, so Karaoke followed.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Commander.



Dave's birthday cake.



Dave cutting the cake. It was almost too pretty to cut.



Commander Dave Hutson works up a sweat singing.



Party's over, now it's time to go home.

James Europe VFW Post 2233 Celebrates 75th Anniversary

On October 3, 2009 the James Europe Post 223 celebrated their 75th anniversary. Fifty-year member, Halbert Tillman, was in attendance. The Post also honored their Firefighter of the Year, Terrill Hardaway and Policeman of the Year, Deonne Dotson. Both were presented with plaques and awards.



50-year member Halbert Tillman with Honor Guard member C. Price.



Happy 75th Anniversary!



Post Firefighter of the Year, Terrill Hardaway, is presented his award by Post Commander Roscoe Burton.



Post Policeman of the Year, Deonne Dotson, is presented his award by Post Commander Roscoe Burton.

Heroes Twice Over

Veterans who once served their country continue service in support of their community as Romulus Goodfellows Inc. accepted a \$10,000 donation, the largest single donation ever, from Romulus VFW Post 9568. The money was used this past holiday season to purchase food and toys for local families struggling in these very difficult times.

The membership, numbering some 146 veterans, accomplish amazing things. The stereotype of a bunch of old guys sitting in a smoky bar telling war stories couldn't be further from reality. Together with a force of associate members, Commander Ron Allen and a couple dozen very dedicated veterans host regular spaghetti and steak dinners, karaoke and entertainment nights, Scottish doubles pool tournaments and various other holiday parties and special occasion breakfasts.

Post 9568 sponsors Cub Scout Pack 857 and even funded three separate camping trips for the boys. In exchange, the Scouts helped out with the steak cook-outs; cleaning up and performing other civic duties that helped earn them different badges. The Post also continually

raises money to help homeless vets, fight cancer, support Camp Trotter, assist Michigan's VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, and provides advocacy and other special services to local Veterans and their families.

By the time this article is published, the Romulus VFW will have participated in Detroit's 4th Annual Veterans Day Parade (November 7, 2009) toasted the U.S. Marine Corp's 234th Birthday (November 10, 2009) and honored Veterans from every branch of service on November 11, 2009 (Veterans Day).

Romulus VFW Post 9568 is an active Post with a reputation built on disciplined, hardworking, friendly Veterans. They are represented by members from WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War and a couple of active duty personnel currently serving in the Afghanistan/Iraq War. They are always looking to grow their membership and invite all Veterans who have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Services to consider Post 9568.

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Pictured, L-R: Goodfellow President David Allison, VFW Post 9568 Jr. Vice Commander Terry Alexander, Quartermaster Bob Williams, Sr. Vice Commander Ray Lopez, Club Manager Ed Brendtke and Commander Ron Allen.

65th Anniversary of The Battle of the Bulge: A Proclamation by the President

In December 1944, in a dense forest in Belgium, a brave band of American soldiers who were surrounded, poorly supplied and surviving in brutally cold conditions, took the brunt of a furious German assault. Their valor defined not just the beginning of the end of a World War, but also one of the greatest generations of Americans. Like patriots before them, they stood resolute, confident in their training, and determined to preserve those enduring American ideals of freedom and justice. On the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, a grateful nation remembers the fallen who gave their lives in that critical battle, and we pay tribute to the heroes whose indomitable strength led to victory in World War II.

When asked about the Battle of the Bulge, British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill remarked, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory." Confronting not just the advancing German Army, but the elements, American service members withstood the assault and eventually repelled the Nazi forces, but at tremendous cost in lives

and wounded soldiers.

On this anniversary, we reflect on the enduring commitment of our Armed Forces in defending our liberty, as inspiring today as it was in 1944. The discipline and courage displayed in the Battle of the Bulge continues in Iraq, Afghanistan, and wherever our men and women in uniform are serving. They represent the best of our nation, and we are eternally grateful for their service and sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 16, 2009, as the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. I encourage all Americans to observe this solemn day of remembrance with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

Barack Obama

National Home Celebrates 85th Birthday

Eaton Rapids, MI – On January 13th, the VFW National Home for Children celebrated its 85th Birthday! The momentous occasion brought people from across the country to honor the rich tradition of the National Home and its years of service to our veteran and active-duty military children and families.

VFW Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell, Ladies Auxiliary National President Jan Tittle and the National Home Board of Trustees, along with 200 guests, filled the Home's Community Center for a birthday party unlike any other at the National Home!

The 85th birthday celebration was a traditional children's birthday party with balloons, hats, games and of course, cake and ice cream. Remarks from Tradewell, Tittle, Board President Raymond Warren and National Home Executive Director Patrice Green reminded everyone of the National Home's important mission to care for, love and serve the children and families of our veterans.

At the birthday party, the National Home received a wonderful gift. National President Jan Tittle spearheaded a campaign to buy a new, much needed mini-bus for the

Home. The success of the campaign, due to the hard work of the Ladies Auxiliary (and some VFW members, too!), allowed Tittle to surprise the guests by announcing the mini-bus had been purchased and was outside for everyone to see. The new bus was toured by all, amid great excitement, and truly put the icing on the festive evening.

Commander Tradewell had a further surprise for attendees – announcing a special flag project. Trustees of the Home will work to obtain a state flag from each VFW department for display in the National Home's Community Center.

Of course, what would a birthday party be without the traditional birthday song? National Home Buddy Poppy Child Beau Yabs wheeled out a larger-than-life birthday cake, while the National Home Patriot Chorus led everyone in song.

The National Home thanks everyone who attended and made this special night possible and is grateful for everyone that has honored veterans and active-duty military by providing their children and families help and hope since 1925.

For more information, please call 517-663-1521 or toll-free at 800-424-8360 or visit www.vfwnationalhome.org

Senate Moves Vet Bills

The Senate VA Committee marked up two VFW-supported bills yesterday. Draft legislation introduced by Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-HI) would authorize funding for an advisory board to make recommendations on care for service members and their families affected by environmental hazards at Camp Lejeune, NC, and the Atsugi Naval Air Facility in Japan. Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC) offered an amendment that would authorize VA to provide hospital care, medical services and nursing home care to veterans who became ill from contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Committee members defeated the amendment, suggesting that DoD should provide the care as it falls under their jurisdiction.

Chairman Akaka promised to meet with Armed Services Committee members to bring about closure for the families of those who are affected.

The other bill – S. 1237, The Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans with Children Act – would authorize \$10 million annually for FY 2011-2014 to provide jobs, training and childcare for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children. Several amendments offered would expand the grant program to male veterans with children, and allow 5% of the funding to be set aside for facilities in rural areas.

For more information on the bills, visit the Senate VA Web site at <http://veterans.senate.gov/>

Finding Your Next Job

The following article appears in VFW magazine's special edition booklet, *To War and Back*.

Even in a climate of high young vet unemployment, jobs still are available for returning veterans. Programs online and around the country can help. Employment opportunities for Iraq and Afghanistan vets have fluctuated dramatically.

As of October 2009, the unemployment rate for post-Sept. 11, 2001, vets stood at 11.6%, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Widely varying unemployment rates may show that these individuals are having difficulty transitioning to civilian jobs following Iraq or Afghanistan deployments. "If you served in the military, you're disconnected from the civilian workforce, you don't have contacts that a civilian person has," Justin Brown, VFW legislative associate, told *USA Today*.

Regardless of the cause of the documented high unemployment rates, federal and private programs exist to help vets find jobs after returning from war.

- **VetJobs** averages more job postings than any other military- or intelligence-related job board. An employment assistance section includes information on how to organize a job search, write a resume, interview and identify a potential employer. Its monthly newsletter for veterans, the *Veteran Eagle*, has information about employment and the job market. VFW partners with this job board.

- **American Corporate Partners** helps vets transition from the military to the workforce through career counseling and networking with corporate professionals. Some 300 mentors are available from Campbell Soup Company, General Electric, Home Depot, Morgan Stanley, PepsiCo and Verizon. Iraq and Afghanistan veterans – especially those who have been wounded – take precedence for selection in the program.

- **Entrepreneurship Boot camp for Veterans With Disabilities** provides entrepreneurship training and small business management to disabled Iraq and Afghanistan vets. The Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, UCLA Anderson School of Management, Florida State University's College of Business and Mays Business School at Texas A&M offer these free

nine-day residency programs.

- **Texas Veterans Leadership Program** strives to match recently discharged vets with employers and also offers advice on VA benefits.

- **VA's Veterans Employment Coordination Service** helps veterans – especially wounded vets – who are interested in working for VA. Services include employment counseling, identifying transferable skills, a career assessment, resume and job search assistance, and direct job placement assistance.

- **Small Business Administration's Veterans Business Outreach Program** provides entrepreneurial development services including business training, counseling and mentoring, and referrals for eligible veterans who own or are considering starting a small business. Four organizations participate in this cooperative agreement and serve as Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

- **Hire Vets First**, coordinated by the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, offers links to online job search engines and resume assistance. Its nearly 2,000 One-Stop Career Centers assist with job search, resume writing, job placement, interviewing skills, career counseling, labor market information and financial aid information.

- **The Little Caesars Veterans Program** offers a \$5,000 reduction of the franchising fee, financing benefits and a \$5,000 credit on the equipment order for the veterans opening their first store in this chain. Service-disabled veterans are eligible for a total benefit of up to \$68,000.

For reservists called to active duty, job protection is afforded under the 1994 *Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act*. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve agency exists to provide assistance in this regard.

In November 2009, an executive order created the Council on Veterans Employment, charged with increasing the number of vets hired by the federal government. Each of 24 executive branch agencies must form a veterans employment program. The Office of Personnel Management is tasked with developing a strategic plan for veterans' recruitment and employment.

Advances for Women Veterans Move Forward

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is applauding two key developments for women veterans. On November 19, the Senate passed bill S. 1963, The Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009 (98-0).

"This is major progress toward more fully acknowledging the vital military contributions of women during war and peace. We're confident the provisions for women's health care will make it to the President's desk quickly," said Eric A. Hilleman, Director, VFW National Legislative Service.

S. 1963 includes six VFW-supported bills. Key provisions include:

- Studies on access to care for female veterans
- Improvements in training and care for military sexual trauma
- Providing child care services for veterans seeking treatment at VA
- Expanding services to veterans in rural areas
- Providing caregiver support, counseling

and a stipend for family members taking care of veterans

- Allowing catastrophically disabled veterans emergency care outside VA
- Enhanced programs aimed at reducing homelessness among veterans

S. 1963 was previously stalled by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) due to costs.

In another major development, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a comprehensive study of women veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

The research will explore the effects of their military service on their mental and physical health. The study is considered the most comprehensive examination of women Vietnam veterans to date.

The VA estimates there are approximately 1.8 million women veterans in the United States. Nearly 15% of service members on active duty are female, with numbers on the rise.

Bringing Man and His Best Friend Together!



Jerome Kaminski, President of Friends 4 Life, addresses the VFW at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo.

Friends 4 Life, Inc. receives dogs from shelter groups and rescue organizations and trains them for a life as a companion/working dog for disabled veterans. Friends 4 Life, Inc. even takes the "giving a second chance" idea one step further; we involve volunteers from our local district juvenile court system to help with the training. Through the court's community service program we are helping troubled teenagers understand that they can make a difference if given an opportunity.

Friends 4 Life, Inc. depends heavily on a network of volunteers and sponsors, including Corporate, VFW, and private individuals all working for a common goal; to provide a companion dog for a disabled veteran. Through this network we are providing free dog food, necessary equipment, veterinary, training and

grooming services for the life of the dog. The veteran will not have to face a financial burden in order to enjoy the love, companionship and endless devotion that a dog can give. We feel this is one way we can say "Thank You" for the sacrifices that the veterans have made!

In order to help those who have given so much, Friends 4 Life, Inc. needs your help. I cannot possibly explain everything in this letter as to how our program works. I can tell you, however, that if you belong to a VFW Post, or any other service group, club, private organization or business, and feel as our sponsors and I feel, I encourage you to call me at 810-798-2474. I will be more than happy to spend time with you and go over every aspect of this program and how important it is to become a sponsor. The satisfaction that you as an individual, group or company will receive from sponsoring a dog will last a lifetime.

In the meantime, if you know of a disabled veteran that would benefit from one of our trained dogs, please contact me.

I would like to close by saying; without your help, those in need could be passed by. Don't wait for someone else to step up – take the initiative, help to make it happen!

Jerome Kaminski, President
79871 Kidder Road
Romeo, MI 48065
810-798-2474
E-mail: sundog@dishmail.net

VFW Pays Tribute to Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans



KANSAS CITY, MO, Jan. 18, 2010 – VFW magazine's latest special publication, *To War and Back: Afghanistan and Iraq — A New Generation of Veterans*, is now available.

The magazine's editors created *To War and Back* to honor the sacrifices of today's warriors.

This special publication deals with matters of critical concern, including the latest information on TBI, PTSD, the GI Bill, medical care, medals, memorials and other relevant issues.

The booklet contains information you won't find anywhere else. Compact chronologies chronicle combat in both wars from their beginnings through 2009.

All Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Cross and Navy Cross recipients are compiled on two convenient pages. Also, find employment resources especially for veterans, and read how families cope with the strains of wartime.

To preview the booklet online, please visit www.vfwmagazine.org/towarandback.html

Copies are perfect for overseas deployment and welcome home ceremonies.

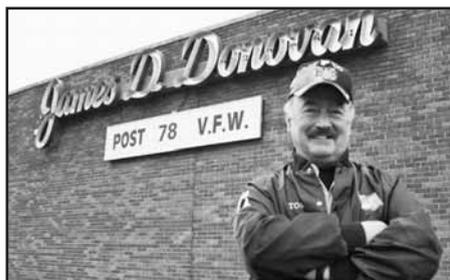
To order *To War and Back*, contact Shontaye Davis in the Membership Department at:

National Membership Department
Veterans of Foreign Wars
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816-756-3390
Fax: 816-968-2728
E-mail: membership@vfw.org

Pvt. James D. Donovan Post 78 Provide Meals to Homeless Veterans

Pvt. James D. Donovan Post 78, along with the Ladies and Men's Auxiliary, provided a complimentary meal for over 100 Homeless U.S. Military Veterans on Wednesday, November 27, 2009. Helping serve the meal were our adopted National Guard Unit, 783rd

Military Police, who recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan. Pvt. James D. Donovan VFW Post 78 also provided care packages that were donated by local businesses. The Veterans were bused to the dinner from Detroit Michigan Veterans Foundation.



VA Aggressively Working Claims Backlog

WASHINGTON, January 4, 2010 – The National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. said the most important takeaway from last night's *60 Minutes* piece on the Department of Veterans Affairs was that the VA is aggressively working to overcome a claims backlog that is currently delaying benefits payments to hundreds of thousands of disabled military veterans.

"The backlog is something the VFW is very concerned about," said Thomas J. Tradewell Sr., a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wisconsin.

"We understand the frustration that veterans and their families experience from delayed, rejected or improperly adjudicated claims, but we also know there are no quick fixes," he said. "That's why the VFW will continue to work with VA leadership and Congress to find a permanent solution, because we know the backlog will only continue to rise as the veterans' population ages, as more become eligible from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere, as presumptive illnesses and programs are expanded, and as more veterans learn about the government programs and benefits available to them."

The VFW has, for a number of years, lobbied the Administration and Congress for additional funding and new oversight to address the claims problem. In response, the VA has added 4,200 new employees to

compensation and pension claims processing over the past three years. They are working diligently to develop new information technology programs that will assist in the claims process system, and working jointly with the Defense Department to create an electronic medical and service record capability to ease a veteran's transition from DoD to VA care.

As VA continues to expand their outreach efforts to eligible veterans, they also recommend claimants seek the assistance of trained service officers that veterans' service organizations like the VFW provide at no cost to all eligible veterans.

VFW-trained service officers last year helped almost 95,000 veterans to recoup more than \$1.2 billion in earned compensation and pension. The VFW also served almost 10,000 more at military installations around the country through a program called Benefits Delivery at Discharge, which helps personnel complete VA paperwork prior to their separation or retirement from the military.

"The VFW is the VA's strongest ally in Congress and sometimes its loudest critic, but we recognize that only by working together will the claims backlog problem be solved," said Tradewell. "We are a willing partner in helping to find a permanent solution so that our government can better care for those who have worn the uniform."

First Grade Class Collects Christmas Candy for the Wounded Soldiers' Families



Left to right: Ms. Stremlow, 7th District Chief of Staff Andy Conklin and 7th District Commander Jim Tanner with all the children of the class.

The children of Ms. Stremlow's 1st grade class at the Max Larsen Elementary School in Coldwater, MI collected 140 pounds of candy to be sent to the U.S. Army Fisher House for Christmas. Many people send our troops overseas care packages, but overlook the fact we have many wounded warriors right here at home! Thanks, kids!

Vietnam MIAs Identified

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of Army Spec. Lawrence L. Aldrich of Fort Worth, Texas. On May 6, 1968, Aldrich was on a search-and-clear mission in South Vietnam's Binh Dinh Province. He was last seen engaged in a battle manning a M-60 machine gun position with two others. An air strike was called in, but one of the bombs inadvertently landed on Aldrich's position, killing all three. Their unit recovered remains of the other two, but Aldrich could not be found. In 1992, a local citizen took a joint U.S.-Vietnamese investigation team to a location where he thought the remains were buried, but an excavation revealed nothing. In 2006, Vietnamese officials unilaterally investigating the case interviewed two other villagers, who recalled finding the body of an American and burying it where it lay. A second joint investigation recommended another excavation, which occurred in March 2009. That excavation unearthed human remains and other non-biological evidence, which led to Aldrich's identification. He was buried January 31 in his hometown of Fort Worth.

The remains of Air Force Maj. Russell C. Goodman of Salt Lake City have been identified and will be returned home to his family for burial in Alaska. He is to be honored this week at Nellis AFB, NV, home of the Air

Force's Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team, because he was assigned to the team while flying with the Navy on an exchange program at the time of loss. On February 20, 1967, Goodman and Navy Lt. Gary L. Thornton took off from the *USS Enterprise* in an F-4B Phantom on a bombing mission against a railroad yard in Thanh Hoa Province, North Vietnam. They were struck by enemy antiaircraft fire and their plane exploded. Thornton was able to eject at minimum altitude, but Goodman did not. Thornton was held captive until his release in 1973 during Operation Homecoming. Between October 1993 and March 2008, joint U.S.-Vietnamese teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, investigated the crash site twice and conducted two excavations, recovering human remains and pilot equipment, as well as aircraft debris that correlated with an F-4B. Along with other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA – which matched two of his maternal relatives – to identify Goodman's remains.

Additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans can be found on the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office's Web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo>



Matt David, Editor

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Marian Belaire, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

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(Last Name) _____
(First Name) _____
(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**



- 6-MARQUETTE**
CARLSON, J. MAGNUS - 92 - USA/WWII
ZAJICEK, GEORGE - 76 - USAF/KOREA
116-BAD AXE
DIBBLE, THOMAS - 61 - USA/VIETNAM
KUBACKI, IRWIN - 83 - USA/WWII
147-LIVONIA
LORKOWSKI, JOSEPH F. - 93 - USA/WWII/KOREA
345-REDFORD
BOWEN, CARL A. - 59 - USA/VIETNAM
DIMAMBRO, GUIDO - 78 - USA
HAMILTON, ARTHUR J. - 88 - USA/WWII
TOLKO, IRVING E. - 85 - USMC/WWII
423-ANN ARBOR
MAYNARD, BOYD J. - 79 - USA/KOREA
607-ROGERS CITY
JOHNSTON, JAMES E. - 64 - USN/VIETNAM
KARSTEN, MARVIN H. - 84 - USA/WWII
701-LANSING
BUCHER, RONALD C. - 79 - KOREA
COSTELLO, PAUL J. - 84 - USA/WWII
DORAN, J.W. - 79 - USA/WWII
FELLOWS, JERRY L. - 68 - USAAF/KOREA
GUNTHER, RONALD - 62 - USA/VIETNAM
HOWARD, IVAN R. - 83 - USA/WWII
HUGGER, LLOYD J. - 88 - USA/WWII
HYDE, EUGENE - 86 - USA/WWII
KROKKER, JOHN - 79 - USA/KOREA
LILLY, EUGENE R. - 90 - USN/WWII
MITCHELL, NORVAL J. - 82 - USN/WWII
POHL, LEONARD - 94 - USA/WWII
POLLITT, STANLEY - 82 - USN/WWII
REED, DONALD - 80 - USN/KOREA
ROACH, LAWRENCE - 62 - USA/VIETNAM
SHIREY, SAMUEL L. - 92 - USA/WWII
SMITH, WENDELL D. - 91 - USA/WWII
WALKER, FRANCIS - 92 - USA/WWII
ZIOLKOWSKI, FLOYD - 83 - USA/WWII
702-WYOMING
MCELROY, WARREN L. - 85 - USA/WWII
THORNTON, ROBERT W. - 86 - USA/WWII
WILFONG, CHARLES - 88 - USN/WWII
822-FLINT
MAC INTYRE, MATTHEW - 72 - USAF/VIETNAM
830-GRAND RAPIDS
VANDERHEIDE, WILLIS - 80 - USA/WWII
1075-HARRISON
COSGROVE, HARLOW G.
GRIFFIN, IRA - 83 - USA/WWII
RANDALL, GEORGE - 89 - USN/WWII
WEST, RICHARD - 88 - USA/WWII
1136-WYANDOTTE
BALLOG, RAYMOND J. - 63 - USMC/VIETNAM
JAROSZ, CASIMER F. - 90 - USA/WWII
POMERANING, ROBERT W. - 84 - USA/WWII
PTAK, BERNARD G. - 89 - USA/WWII
1138-MONROE
BELLESTRI, SANTO J. - 88 - USN/WWII
CUSUMANO, SAM J. - 77 - USA/KOREA
DZIENDZIEL, JOHN F. JR. - 62 - USA/VIETNAM
GENO, JAMES E. - 87 - USA/WWII/KOREA/VIETNAM
GIARMO, JOSEPH - 93 - USA/WWII
GOETZ, DONALD - 84 - USN/WWII
KNEGENDORF, ROBERT F. - 82 - USAAF/WWII
LABEAU, WARREN - 88 - USA
ROTH, VINCENT - 80 - USA/WWII
WYLIE, FRANK L. - 86 - USMC/WWII
1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES
ANNUNZI, ROBERT J. - 79 - USN/WWII/KOREA
ARMSTRONG, CHARLES W. - 79 - USN/KOREA
CALDERONE, JACK - 82 - USA/KOREA
CHUDNOW, MICHAEL - 90 - USAAF/WWII
ELIASZ, STEPHEN - 93 - USN/WWII
FORNESS, JOHN W.
KMIETEK, DAVID G. - 62 - USA/VIETNAM
MAYERNICK, ANDREW J. - 93 - USA/WWII
PADALINO, ANTHONY - 79 - USA/KOREA
SORRENTINO, ANGELO J. - 86 - USA/WWII
TENO, CLIFFORD - 91 - USA/WWII
TOMCZYK, RICHARD A. - USA/KOREA
VAN WINGERDEN, NICHOLAS - 86 - WWII
WOLOWIEC, ALBIN - 86 - USA/WWII
YOUNG, KENNETH W. - 84 - USA/WWII
1224-HAMBURG
DILLMAN, RICHARD - 84 - USA/WWII
ROSS, LEE - 86 - USN/WWII
WINES, RICHARD - 86 - USA/WWII
1278-DETROIT
ARBOUR, LAWRENCE A. - 88 - USAAF/WWII
SIMS, CARL E. - 89 - USA/WWII
1407-FERNDALE
PHINNEY, ROBERT G. - 64 - USA/VIETNAM
1452-CLIO
JEFFREY, JACK B. - 83 - USN/WWII
1454-ALMA
CAMPBELL, CLARK - 90 - USA/WWII
DOUGLAS, BOYD - 82 - USN/WWII
HULINGS, CLAUDE - 87 - USA/WWII
1669-ROYAL OAK
BRAGE, JACK - 70 - USN/WWII
BRYCE, RICHARD - 72 - USN/WWII
GILL, SAM - 91 - USA/WWII
JAUREQUI, RICHARD - 62 - USMC
KNOX, ROBERT G. - 83 - USA/WWII
MCMMASTER, CARL - 86 - USAAF/WWII
NITZ, JAMES - 83 - USMC/WWII
REGULA, RICHARD - 85 - USA/WWII
SCHROEDER, HARRY - 90 - USN/WWII
SZPYRKA, RICHARD - 63 - USN/VIETNAM
USHER, LEO - 76 - USA/KOREA
1855-DOWAGIAC
SPRINGSTEEN, LESLIE - 88 - USN/WWII
TANZILLO, DOMINICK - 82 - USA/WWII
1859-SAGINAW
ESPINOSA, LEO E. - 91 - USA/WWII
KANIA, STANLEY - 82 - USN/WWII
1187-MENOMINEE
ALLGEYER, GARY
BLANCHETTE, RICHARD R. - 76 - USN/KOREA
BRADFORD, ALBERT L. - 85 - USA/WWII
CHALTRY, ADRIAN B. - 62 - USAF/VIETNAM
DECKER, DENNIS E. - 62 - USA/VIETNAM
ELLAND, JOSEPH L. - 77 - USN/KOREA
FARR, ROBERT - 89 - USA/WWII
KELLNER, EDWARD M. - 89 - USA/WWII
LUEDTKE, CLAYTON J. - 85 - USA/WWII
MYERS, RICHARD C. - 83 - USMC/WWII
NEMETZ, JOHN - 96 - USA/WWII
NERAT, ANTONE T. - 82 - USCG/WWII
PEOT, LESLIE Q. - 91 - USA/WWII
PLACE, BRYON K. - 78 - USA/KOREA
REMINGTON, DONALD A. - 78 - USAF/WWII/KOREA
SHARKEY, LARRAINE - 87 - USA/WWII
2053-WHITE CLOUD
BIRD, PERRY F. - 88 - USA/WWII
OSBORNE, ROBERT N. - 90 - USA/WWII
2144-HOLLAND
BORGMAN, ROBERT J. - 61 - USA/VIETNAM
BRUNSELL, ROGER J. - 78 - USA/KOREA
LUCAS, NELSON - 82 - USN/WWII
VAN DE WATER, CHARLES - 93 - USA/WWII
2269-WIXOM
COLEMAN, HENRY - 92 - USA/WWII
2272-DURAND
DOLLEHANTY, CLEMENT
STIFF, SILAS - USMC/WWII
2284-EDWARDSBURG
MORSE, DEAN - 61 - USA/VIETNAM
2292-EDMORE
WILLIAMS, JOHN - 85 - USA/WWII
2358-ROSEVILLE
CIECHANOWSKI, ARTHUR J. - 83 - USA/KOREA
HEINS, RANDAL - 62 - USA/VIETNAM
HOBSON, STERLING E. - 86 - USA/WWII
MOUILLESEAU, WILLIAM J. - 86 - USA/WWII
ROSE, WALTER A. - 86 - USN/WWII
2382-LEXINGTON
VAN DER MAAS, NEIL J. - 85 - USN/WWII
YOUNGBLOOD, JAMES T. - 85 - USA/WWII
2496-ALPENA
DAVISON, ROBERT F. - 81 - USA/KOREA
EWING, ROBERT E. - USA/WWII
JASKOLSKI, DANIEL J. - 87 - USA/WWII
MILNER, MARVIN L. SR. - 77 - USN/KOREA
SKIBA, DANIEL - 84 - USN/WWII
WAGNER, OTTO - 83 - USCG/WWII
2891-CRYSTAL FALLS
KOSKI, TAUNO O. - 86 - USA/WWII
PLOWE, JOHN M. - 81 - USA/KOREA
2945-SANDUSKY
CURTISS, BASEL - USA/WWII
2998-ESCANABA
BEAUCHAMP, ERNEST J. - 85 - USN/WWII
BRINKER, ROBERT R. - 87 - USN/WWII
ROBITAILLE, RAYMOND - 83 - USA/WWII
3019-THREE RIVERS
GRAPH, IVORY - 89 - USA/WWII
VAN ZELE, DONALD - 86 - USN/WWII
3023-GRAND RAPIDS
BRECHTING, ROBERT L. - 75 - USA/KOREA
DAVIS, LAWRENCE E. - 72 - USA
DE VRIES, ARDEN G. - 92 - USMC/WWII/KOREA
FINNEY, JAMES E. - 93 - USA/WWII
HOEVE, DONALD E. - 77 - USN/KOREA
HOLMES, HARRY C. - 86 - USMC/WWII
HOUSE, MARVIN - 89 - USA/WWII
HUMPHREYS, DANIEL - USA
MC GANN, JOHN J. - 92 - USA/WWII
WURN, JACK - 84 - USA/WWII
3030-OTSEGO
LIVINGSTON, BERNARD A. - 92 - USMC/WWII
MERINGA, MARINUS - 83 - USA/WWII
TISRON, JACK - 85 - USN/WWII
WALTERS, ELMER - 90 - USA/WWII
3033-MT. PLEASANT
BRADAC, JOSEPH G. - 80 - USA/WWII
3055-ST. LOUIS
ERSKIN, RICHARD A. - 70 - USA
3195-MUSKEGON
HARMON, MICHAEL J. JR. - 93 - USA/WWII
3243-FENTON
ALLEN, BRADLEY J. - 59 - USMC/VIETNAM
ANGELUSKI, EDWARD M. - 89 - USCG/WWII
BAKER, STEWART
BARCUME, GARY - 68 - USMC/KOREA
BERBAS, ERNEST J.
BITTNER, JAMES A. - 83 - USN/WWII
BORG, KEENAN - 84 - USN/WWII
BRANHAM, HARTZEL - 74 - USMC/KOREA
GEARHART, LEO C. - 71 - USA
GERYCH, JOHN - 90 - WWII
HEIDTMAN, JACK - WWII
KRYZA, RICHARD - 59 - USA/VIETNAM
MCCORMICK, CHARLES D.
RAYMOR, JOHN - 94 - WWII
SENTER, REUBEN
SMITH, ALBERT - 82 - WWII
SMITH, NEIL - 70 - USAF/KOREA/VIETNAM
SPILLERS, JEFFREY - PERSIAN GULF
STANKEVICH, THOMAS - VIETNAM
STEVENSON, WILLIAM S. - WWII
SWARTHOUT, FRED W.
TOWNSEND, THOMAS H.
VELTHOVEN, FREDERICK - 69
WADE, ROBERT J. - 83 - USN/WWII
WORTMAN, RAYMOND J.
WRAY, WILLIAM G.
3293-GRAND LEDGE
FORTINO, PETER P. - 85 - USN/WWII
3323-WESTLAND
FAUBLE, RUSSELL L. - 64 - USMC/VIETNAM
KLINGER, RUSSELL L. - 96 - USA/WWII
TUNING, MERLE E. - 81 - USA/WWII
3673-BESSEMER
MICHELA, DOMENIC - 87 - USA/WWII
3676-SAULT STE MARIE
CARTWRIGHT, DONALD B. - 82 - USA/KOREA
FORTIN, EDWIN R. - 88 - USA/WWII
HENDERSON, JAMES N. - 74 - USAF/VIETNAM
PERRY, WILLIAM L. - 76 - USA/USAF
QUIMET, PHILLIP - 85 - USA/WWII
3701-LAKEVIEW
ALLEN, CLIFTON - 86 - USA/WWII
3733-FOWLER
COOK, RICHARD - USA/KOREA
POWELSON, WILLIAM - USA/WWII
RUDD, DAVID - USA
SCHMITZ, FREDRICK - USA/WWII
SMITH, PAUL - USA/WWII
SMITH, CLARENCE - USA/WWII
3735-OSCODA
SCHONMEIER, MARVIN - 67 - USA/VIETNAM
STANABACK, BAYARD L. - 79 - USA/KOREA
3900-CALUMET
BURICH, ANTON A. - 81 - USA/WWII
4073-MARSHALL
DURHAM, ALAN - 77 - KOREA
HAYES, WILLIAM J. - 94 - USA/WWII
JONES, NORMAN L. - 66 - USA/VIETNAM
4087-DAVISON
DANIELS, WILLIS - 89 - USA/WWII
ESTES, HARRY H. - 83 - USN/WWII
ORBON, JOHN P. SR. - USA/WWII
WEATHERFORD, HILLERY L. - 86 - USAAF/WWII
4093-CARLETON
CASSIDY, HUGH - 68 - USN
4115-SBEBWAING
HOOVER, DONALD - 80 - USA/WWII
4139-LAPEER
BIGELOW, DONALD - 88 - USA/WWII
4159-ROSCOMMON
GRETZINGER, JOHN
SCARLETT, MERLE - USA/WWII
WEEKS, ALVA - USA/KOREA
4162-HAMTRAMCK
FYDRYK, ADOLPH - 84 - USA
4164-CARO
GAULT, RICHARD H. - 77 - USA/KOREA
HUNTLEY, DONALD - USA/WWII
JAMISON, DONALD - 89 - USA/WWII
LEITZEL, ROBERT S. - 72 - USAF/WWII
SHEMBER, CLARE A. - 65 - USA/VIETNAM
4249-NEWAYGO
CROSBY, RICHARD E. - 84 - USA/WWII
FITZPATRICK, GEORGE - 94 - USAAF/WWII
GRABILL, JOSEPH - 78 - USAAF/KOREA
MOUTHAAAN, JOHN R. - 85 - USA/WWII
ROBINSON, HARRY E. - 72 - USA/VIETNAM
ROCHELEAU, ROBERT - 84 - USA/WWII
STUART, EARL R. - 84 - USA/WWII
4357-BRIGHTON
POLAND, DUANE - 87 - WWII
4434-BELLEVILLE
WRIGHT, RANDALL - 41 - USA/PERSIAN GULF
4499-MANISTEE
CROMWELL, ROBERT S. SR. - 85 - WWII/KOREA
DULINSKI, DAVID F. - 91 - USA/WWII
KELLEY, LEO C. - 91 - USMC/WWII
4553-DETROIT
BORIEO, ALBERT J. - 62 - USAF/VIETNAM
4573 - ISHPEMING
NINNUS, PAUL - 71 - USN/KOREA
SAARI, ROBERT - 82 - USA/KOREA
TONKIN, WILLIAM D. - 88 - USN/WWII
4624-HUBBELL
ERKKILA, CARL E. - 91 - USA/WWII
JOHNSON, EMMET G. - 76 - USA/KOREA
4642-LINDEN
HOGAN, WOODROW - 94 - USN/WWII
KARNOWSKI, HARRY - 83 - USN/WWII
KESSLER, MELVIN - 80 - USA/KOREA
MILLS, CLYDE - 63 - USA/VIETNAM
WARDIE, CALVIN - 83 - USN/WWII
4646-LYONS
CONFER, CLARE - 83 - USN/WWII
4837-MARLETTE
CRAIG, ROBERT J. - 76 - USA/KOREA
5065-SHERIDAN
BILLS, DAVID M. - 80 - USMC/KOREA
HAWES, DALE D. SR. - 79 - USA/KOREA
PETERMAN, PHILLIP A. - 89 - USA/WWII
SWARTZ, JAMES M. - 87 - USA/WWII
5096-CUSTER
TOMASIEWICZ, SIDNEY JR. - 58 - USMC/VIETNAM
5191-WALDRON
WILSON, HARLEY JR. - 77 - USA/KOREA
5319-ATHENS
BARBER, LAWRENCE - 79 - USA/KOREA
CARPENTER, BRUCE - 60 - USA/VIETNAM
JOHNSON, LINDLEY - 92 - USA/WWII
5598-COOPERSVILLE
SIMONS, BERNARD H. - 87 - USN/WWII
5670-GWINN
BOLLERO, WILLIAM F. - 70 - USMC/LEBANON
5695-ST. CHARLES
CERVA, JAMES D. - 84 - USA/WWII
5857-ONAWAY
SHAW, ANDREW - 89 - USN/WWII
VEIHL, RODNEY G. - 82 - USA/WWII
WHEELER, ROBERT P. - 90 - USA/WWII

TAPS, continued from page 20

5966-DAGGETT
PHILLIPPO, HAROLD - 89 - USAAF/WWII
6013-ELKTON
GRIGGS, LEONARD - 81 - USA/KOREA
6017-PENTWATER
BELOTE, FRANK W. - 64 - USA/VIETNAM
JOBBS, FREDRICK - 77 - KOREA
STEVENS, PHILIP K. - 84 - USA/WWII
6165-SOUTH RANGE
BEACH, TONY - 65 - USA/VIETNAM
KERANEN, CARL - WWII
PYYKKONEN, CLARENCE - 81 - KOREA
RICE, DAVID
SALO, RUSSELL - 92 - WWII
WIITANEN, LLOYD - 88 - WWII
6250-STERLING HEIGHTS
BEDNAROWSKI, BENNY - 79 - USA/KOREA
6252-COMSTOCK
BRUNELLE, JOSEPH A. - 82 - USA/WWII
EVANS, THOMAS - 83 - USN/WWII
KNAPP, RUSSELL L. - 67 - USA/KOREA
6462-DUNDEE
GRAHAM, CHARLES - 89 - USA/WWII
6579-NEW LOTHROP
BURNS, JAMES O. - 87 - USN/WWII
CHASE, DONALD C. - 88 - USA/WWII
HENIGE, DUANE J. - 74 - USA
VOLZ, KENNETH W. - 81 - USA/KOREA
6691-FRASER
GILSBACK, WILLIAM - 81 - USA/KOREA
WARNER, DANIEL - 87 - USAAF/WWII
6695-PLYMOUTH
BRENNER, FRANZ - 68 - USA/VIETNAM
6754-SPRUCE
HANSEN, FRANK N. - 83 - USN/WWII
6756-CENTER LINE
HIPPE, EDMUND - 84 - USA/WWII
6896-WESTLAND
CIZIO, THEODORE - USA/WWII
DUDEK, EDWARD - 88 - USA/KOREA
GIER, RAY - USA/WWII
KALIE, GEORGE - USA/WWII
ROMANOWSKI, EDWARD - USA/WWII
6985-CENTRAL LAKE
FOSTER, JACK J. - 90 - USA/WWII
RIDEOUT, HARRY W. - 86 - USA/WWII
7302-HEMLOCK
BYRON, DONALD - 88 - USA/WWII
ERSKINE, RICHARD JR. - 88 - USA/WWII
SEFCIK, EDWARD - 82 - USN/WWII
VANCE, RICHARD - 81 - USMC
7309-MASON
CARUSS, PHILLIP - USA/WWII
HOVEY, RICHARD - USA/WWII
MAYES, WALTER - 87 - USAAF/WWII

7310-GROSSE ILE
JOLLIFFE, EDWIN - 85 - USA/WWII
7486-AKRON
ERDODY, FRANK - 86 - USA/WWII
7569-ALPHA
NOVEY, JOHN P. - USMC/WWII
7805-ITHACA
CRAWFORD, JEFFREY - 57 - USA/KOREA
FLEGEL, CLARENCE N. - 88 - USN/WWII
LOHRER, MELVIN E. - 79 - USA/KOREA
ROZEN, ERNEST P. - 85 - USN/WWII
7806-MANTON
MAY, ALBERT - 86 - USMC/WWII
7958-HESEL
CATALINE, ROBERT A. - 71 - USMC/VIETNAM
8236-FLINT
FARMER, SHARON
ROWE, HELEN
830-GRAND RAPIDS
BLEAM, THELMA
995-BITELY
DEEHAN, MARIANNE
1008-WATERFORD
KLIMEK, NELLIE
1071-COLEMAN
PETTIS, MARY - 89
1075-HARRISON
DUMO, LIBBY
LEMLE, ROSE
MORGAN, VIRGINIA
1136-WYANDOTTE
PIKE, VIOLA
POMNICHOWSKI, LILLIE
1137-BENTON HARBOR
BOHANNAN, PEARL
RUDELL, MARYANN
WESAW, MARY
1138-MONROE
BENVENUTO, ANN
GALLAN, LILLIAN
PRATT, BERNICE
STUTSMAN, DONNA
YOUNGLOVE, ARLENE
1146-ST CLAIR SHORES
DEPEYSTER, BARBARA
GOODHAND, FRANCES
1370-PONTIAC
BRADSHAW, IRIS
CROSS, SANDI
KATHER, AUDREY
1452-CLIO
CONVERSE, DELORES - 77
1519-LIVONIA
SPERKOWSKI, ELAINE - 61
1794-MT CLEMENS
ARNOLD, DORIS
2233-DETROIT
MORGAN, EVA - 101
2272-DURAND
BOHMAN, BETTY - 84
GOOCH, DOROTHY - 81
HORAN, JANE - 80
KENDALL, LOIS - 80
MORRIS, MARILYN - 82
2292-EDMORE
JOHNSON, AGNES
2335-MECOSTA
KING, DORIS - 86
2358-ROSEVILLE
BALOGH, OVELLA
DANNER, JOYCE
MURPHY, LAURA
2492-IMLAY CITY
BOWMAN, ELAINE
SCHULTZ, DOROTHY - 87
WALKER, ANNABELLE - 87
2496-ALPENA
LABARGE, ESTHER - 83
MICHAUD, SUSAN - 60
MOLDENHAUER, MARIE - 95
PEELING, PAULINE - 89
SEELEY, BEATRICE
2502-SOUTH LYON
STUNDAVANT, CHARLOTTE - 80
2780-TRAVERSE CITY
ADAMS, ETHEL
EGELER, PENNIE
JAKEE, J. KAYE
2891-CRYSTAL FALLS
MCNEIL, MARILYN - 72
2964-REED CITY
COASTER, RITA - 82
KNAUF, IRENE - 79
SIMS, BARBARA - 82
SPEES, MARJORIE
WOLVERTON, ROSE MARIE - 81
3023-GRAND RAPIDS
HUEY, MARCIA
3033-MT PLEASANT
GUERRERO, PEARL - 82
VAN ORDEN, JERALDINE - 73
3165-NEGAUNEE
CORY, JOSEPHINE - 81
HEMILLA, G. IRENE
KARHI, GRETCHIN - 66
3306-HOWARD CITY
BROCKSCHMIDT, ELAINE - 82
3323-WESTLAND
ARNTSON, RUBY - 91
BALLARD, JOSEPHINE - 86
BENNETT, MARY - 89
CARPENTER, REBECCA - 75
CARRICO, BERNADETTE - 93
COBB, BERTIE - 84
DARNELL, MARY
EMINGER, HAZEL - 82

Auxiliary TAPS

446-MUSKEGON
DETAMORE, ALICE
HAYWARD, CAROL
582-ORTONVILLE
MCARTHUR, MILDRED - 89
671-DEWITT
WOODARD, MARY - 87
701-LANSING
CASEY, HELEN
822-FLINT
FARMER, SHARON
ROWE, HELEN
830-GRAND RAPIDS
BLEAM, THELMA
995-BITELY
DEEHAN, MARIANNE
1008-WATERFORD
KLIMEK, NELLIE
1071-COLEMAN
PETTIS, MARY - 89
1075-HARRISON
DUMO, LIBBY
LEMLE, ROSE
MORGAN, VIRGINIA
1136-WYANDOTTE
PIKE, VIOLA
POMNICHOWSKI, LILLIE
1137-BENTON HARBOR
BOHANNAN, PEARL
RUDELL, MARYANN
WESAW, MARY
1138-MONROE
BENVENUTO, ANN
GALLAN, LILLIAN
PRATT, BERNICE
STUTSMAN, DONNA
YOUNGLOVE, ARLENE
1146-ST CLAIR SHORES
DEPEYSTER, BARBARA
GOODHAND, FRANCES
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BRADSHAW, IRIS
CROSS, SANDI
KATHER, AUDREY
1452-CLIO
CONVERSE, DELORES - 77
1519-LIVONIA
SPERKOWSKI, ELAINE - 61
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ARNOLD, DORIS
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MORGAN, EVA - 101
2272-DURAND
BOHMAN, BETTY - 84
GOOCH, DOROTHY - 81
HORAN, JANE - 80
KENDALL, LOIS - 80
MORRIS, MARILYN - 82
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JOHNSON, AGNES
2335-MECOSTA
KING, DORIS - 86
2358-ROSEVILLE
BALOGH, OVELLA
DANNER, JOYCE
MURPHY, LAURA
2492-IMLAY CITY
BOWMAN, ELAINE
SCHULTZ, DOROTHY - 87
WALKER, ANNABELLE - 87
2496-ALPENA
LABARGE, ESTHER - 83
MICHAUD, SUSAN - 60
MOLDENHAUER, MARIE - 95
PEELING, PAULINE - 89
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EGELER, PENNIE
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KARHI, GRETCHIN - 66
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BROCKSCHMIDT, ELAINE - 82
3323-WESTLAND
ARNTSON, RUBY - 91
BALLARD, JOSEPHINE - 86
BENNETT, MARY - 89
CARPENTER, REBECCA - 75
CARRICO, BERNADETTE - 93
COBB, BERTIE - 84
DARNELL, MARY
EMINGER, HAZEL - 82

HARRIS, AGNES - 79
HOLT, VIORENE - 78
NULL, MARTHA - 83
PALMER, AMYE - 89
SCHAEFER, SUSAN - 80
SCOTT, DELORES - 73
WETMORE, JUANITA - 81
WOODHAM, HELEN - 83
3623-CHEBOYGAN
ELLIOTT, ELIZABETH - 87
JONES, AUTUMN
ST. PIERRE, DOROTHY
3644-CASS CITY
LOUKS, BEVERLY - 65
3673-BESSEMER
ELLSWORTH, FLORENCE
EVSICH, NORMA
ROSA, WABIRDA
3676-SAULT STE. MARIE
WEIGELT, SARA
WEILAND, DONNA JEAN
3733-FOWLER
THELEN, ARLENE
3734-MUSKEGON
HAUG, JOAN - 91
3735-OSCODA
ROBERTS, MARYANN - 53
SIERADSKI, DELPHINE - 77
3753-PINCONNING
BRIGGS, MARGE
HARTWICK, EVELYN
MOORE, DONNA
3791-FLINT
WILLIAMS, THELMA
3925-ERIE
LA VOY, ROSEMARY - 87
REED, FRANCES - 85
3943-NEWPORT
CURRIVEAN, MARIE
EMERSON, ROXANNE
PFUND, MARIE
WILLIAMS, JOYCE
4005-CORUNNA
GURDEN, CYNTHIA
HARRIS, THELMA
PHILLIPS, BARBARA
ZWOLENSKY, GLENNA - 86
4034-HOUGHTON LAKE
BAIR, CLARA
4087-DAVISON
GALVAS, ROSE - 90
GILBERT, ANNABELLE
MOONEY, ANNE - 87
4090-PORTLAND
ROGERS, NORAN
4113-ST. JOHNS
FORBES, BONNIE
GURSKI, MARGARET
4139-LAPEER
ERNEST, JUDITH
GARRISON, MARGIE - 85
4159-ROSCOMMON
TICK, SANDRA - 68
TRASK, PEGGY - 82
4162-HAMTRAMCK
SADOWSKI, MARION
STACHEROK, VIOLET - 83
4187-TECUMSEH
KOHLER, HELEN
MASTIE, KATHRYN
4249-NEWAYGO
DAVIS, MARTHA - 84
MULLIS, PATRICIA
TAYLOR, PATRICIA - 62
WOLEVER, MARY - 48
4357-BRIGHTON
DIAS, RUTH
LOOK, LINDA
4461-LAKE ODESSA
BURNS, DAWN
WALTER, LUCILLE
4499-MANISTEE
SKOCELAS, BARBARA
4573-ISHPEMING
ARSENEAULT, LOIS
BENVENUE, AILIE
BICKERS, INGRID
PETERSON, MARCIA - 64
4624-HUBBELL
HAINAULT, ALICE
4644-DEARBORN HEIGHTS
SALZBRUNN, EVELYN
4659-SHELBY TOWNSHIP
MORGAN, DORIS - 80
5065-SHERIDAN
BRADBURY, AGNES - 80
FORTON, DOROTHY
KING, DOREEN - 84
LEAK, LOIS
REYNOLDS, ILVA
5096-CUSTER
KNUDSEN, JUNE - 77
LESAUSKY, RUTH
SANDERS, MARGUERITE
SWEETNAM, HATTIE
5319-ATHENS
LEE, MARTHA - 91
PATTERSON, GRACE - 72
5572-ALLEN PARK
ROSSOW, DOLORES - 80

5600-ONTONAGON,
LETSON, BETTY - 86
SWANBERG, SYLVIA - 96
5855-PORTAGE
DEE, SUE - 72
KOSCIK, CONNIE - 55
5857-ONAWAY
FAIRCLOTH, GRACE
WILTON, NORA
6165-SOUTH RANGE
LINE, GAIL
6248-DECATUR
NEW, EDNA - 49
6335-LEWISTON
PRYOR, ROSEMARIE
6464-FOWLerville
AHLBORN, LUCILLE
FEINEN, JENNIE
6507-CHASSELL
LAAKANIEMI, CATHERINE - 76
6754-SPRUCE
COUTURE, ANGELINE - 80
ERBISH, BETTY
6782-EASTPOINTE
BROCKETT, LAURA
CAMPBELL, PATRICIA
6802-RICHMOND
CHISHOLM, BEVERLY
6896-WESTLAND
HOLMES, VERONICA
HARTWICK, FRANCES
PTASZNIK, LUCILLE
RATKOWSKI, MARGARET
SKRABUCHA, MARY JO
SZPUNAR, GENEVIEVE
TRIBBS, MARY
VENAZINDIS, JULIANAN
WALL, LILLIAN
6950-KAWKAWLIN,
BARRERA, JUANITA
MILLER, JANE
7439-INDIAN RIVER
KING, BETHANY
7486-AKRON
BELLER, EDNA - 97
7546-DEARBORN HEIGHTS
BALLARIN, HELEN
7575-GARDEN CITY
MC ADAM, GRACE - 81
7580-EAST JORDAN
CLARK, EMILY
MAYHEW, DOROTHY
7581-WAYLAND
BRAZIL, ANN
CRUSAN, MAXINE
7646-ALSTON
BESONEN, AGNES - 87
MAKI, TAIMI - 90
7956-AUGUSTA
BENEDICT, MELVA
KEGLOVITZ, TONI
7958-HESEL
ELLIOTT, FLORENCE
8260-NASHVILLE
CONRAD, ZOE
LUMBERT, BEVERLY
8275-AU GRES
DANIELOW, DORIS
8372-ENGADINE
KLOBUCHER, HILDEGARDE
8751-MILLERSBURG
BRENNER, BEULAH
8846-NORTH MUSKEGON
BEARDSLEY, NANCY - 70
MAPLE, ELOISE - 88
PITTS, JUNE
SANDER, MYRTLE - 91
VANDERLEEST, HELEN
9021-WARREN
WADE, SHIRLEY - 80
9023-BRIMLEY
CRAWFORD, RHEA - 92
MILLER, LILA - 73
SOULLIERE, LOUISE - 97
9283-SOUTHGATE
FOSS, MARY
9455-OWOSSO
PALMER, DOROTHY - 75
9656-LAMBERTVILLE
MARTIN, RITA - 51
9914-HIGHLAND
STEELE, OLIVE - 98
10704-CASSOPOLIS
HANDLEY, ELLA MAE
HENDERSON, LELIA
15023-AT LARGE
ALEXANDER, LERA NELL
BABINSKI, SUZETTE
BUSK, MARY ANN
COATSWORTH, PATRICIA
DODGE, MARY
HUNTER, ROXIE
KELLEY, IVA GRACE
LEGG, DELLA
MAYLE, MARGARET
PENIX, RENE
PERSAILS, RUBY
RILEY, ANN
SCHLUETER, ANNA
SCHULTZ, PHYLLIS

Sport Clips Provides Quarter Million Dollar Gift to VFW's Operation Uplink

Nation's heroes and their families to benefit from single largest corporate sponsorship of Operation Uplink's "Free Call Day" program.



KANSAS CITY, MO, December 17, 2009 - A \$250,000 gift to the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Operation Uplink "Free Call Day" program by Texas-based Sport Clips is expected to provide more than 6.5 million minutes of free calls home for soldiers over the holidays.

Sport Clips' donation is the single largest corporate gift to the program to date and will make available free call days for deployed and hospitalized American military on Christmas, New Year's Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day.

The donation doubled Sport Clips' 2009 goal of \$125,000 and represents funds raised by company team members and clients from the franchise's 670 locations across the country.

Sport Clips Founder/CEO and Lifetime VFW Member Gordon Logan presented the gift to VFW Commander-in-Chief Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr. Texas State Adjutant/Quartermaster Roy J. Grona; Past VFW National Commander's James Nier and Glen Gardner; Texas Dept. Commander Mike Barber; Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Wayne DePute; Dept. Junior Vice Commander John Spahr; and Iraq veteran 2nd Lt. Joseph

Meller, Texas Army National Guard also attended the check presentation.

"Our commitment to the men and women who are serving our country, as well as their family and friends, is strong and we appreciate all those who worked to make this landmark donation possible," Logan said. "The memory of wanting to call home during my days overseas is one that stays with me. So, we will continue our commitment to our deployed and hospitalized troops through Operation Uplink and to the military at home with special pricing in our stores."

"Sport Clips' generosity is extraordinary beyond words. This is a gift that will bring immeasurable joy for so many of our service members and their families. We are deeply grateful for Sport Clips' support through the past few years and all they've done on behalf of those who deserve it most," said VFW National Commander Tradewell.

This is Sport Clips' third year to support Operation Uplink. In 2007, Sport Clips kicked off its first Operation Uplink effort exceeding its goal of \$30,000 by raising \$87,000. In 2008, the sports-themed haircutter raised more than \$120,000 for the VFW program.

Sport Clips has been named one of the top 100 franchises in America and one of the top 50 fastest growing franchises by *Entrepreneur* magazine and is the "Official Haircutter" of the VFW. The franchise also supports the military with special store ownership options through the International Franchise Association's VetFran program. For more information about Sport Clips, visit SportClips.com

Camp Trotter for Children Third Annual Charity Golf Outing Sponsored by Dept. of Michigan VFW

Camp Trotter for Children
PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.
925 Forest Street
Charlotte, MI 48813-1264



Dear Supporter:

The Camp Trotter for Children is holding its Third Annual Charity Golf Outing, Friday, June 4, 2010 at Village Green Golf Course located in Newaygo, MI and sponsored by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars. To be a huge success, this Charity Golf Outing needs your support.

We do hope you will consider supporting this fundraiser for the VFW Camp Trotter for Children. Camp Trotter for Children was established for children ages 7 through 12. Camp Trotter is located on beautiful Bills Lake in Newaygo County. The Camping Season runs from 4 July through 7 August 2010. Donations from supporters like you make our event one that everyone wants to attend year after year.

Donation Opportunities:

- **Sponsor a hole or tee box.** Because of the popularity of sponsoring holes and tees, we are recognizing those individuals, Corporations or Groups with the appropriate sign on the tee or hole. (\$55.00 minimum donation)
- **Sponsor a Team.** \$60/person or \$240.00 per foursome.
- **Donate a product or gift certificate** that can be used as a raffle prize or a door prize.
- **Make a monetary donation.**

The proceeds from this year's Charity Golf Outing will be used for the maintenance update of the many cottages and support facilities of the VFW Camp Trotter for Children. Drop by and see some of your money at work with a major renovation that's already taken place.

Thank you for supporting our children's camp and making this veterans site one to be proud of for years to come.

Ernie Meyers, Sr.
Project Director
E-mail: emeyers76@att.net
Phone: 1-517-543-0014

Annabelle Furgason
Assistant Project Director
E-mail: Bittersweet@ncat.net
Phone: 1-231-834-9376

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter for Children are tax-deductible under section 501c (19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Camp Trotter for Children Third Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

Friday June 4, 2010 **Village Green Golf Course**
8:00 a.m. – Registration 8130 Bingham Avenue
9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513

Cost \$60.00 Per Person / \$240.00 Per Team Includes:

- * 18 Holes with cart * Lunch at the Turn * Grilled Steak Dinner
- * 4 person scramble * Team Placement Prizes

Golf Entry Form



This entry form must be returned with registration fees by May 28, 2010

Captains name: _____ Phone # _____
Address _____
Player #2 Name: _____
Player #3 Name: _____
Player #4 Name: _____

Hole/Tee Sponsor \$55 _____ Cash Donation \$ _____

I am able to donate products or gift certificates, please contact me.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Checks payable to: Camp Trotter for Children
Mail to: PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.
925 Forest Street
Charlotte, MI 48813-1264

Questions? Call Ernie Meyers, Sr. – 517-490-1221 email: emeyers76@att.net
Or/ Annabelle Furgason – 231-834-9376 email: Bittersweet@ncat.net

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter for Children are tax deductible under section 501c (19) of the IRS Code

Veterans of Foreign Wars • Department of Michigan 91st Annual State Convention Hyatt Regency, Dearborn • June 24-June 27, 2010

Registration Guidelines

- When registering, each individual VFW member must show their Life Member card or membership card for the current year
- Post Delegate fees must be paid
- All moneys owed to Department must be paid
- All audits must be up to date
- Election Reports must be received by Department and National
- Quartermaster's Bond must be paid for the 2009-2010 year
- Any of the above items can be submitted

or paid at the State Convention, but must be rectified before registering

- Post Commanders or Post Quartermasters cannot register all the Post delegates

Important Notice:

Convention Registration will close promptly at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, 2010. No one will be allowed to register after that time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department Office.

Loyally,
Marvin Hamann
Director of Registration

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW
LADIES AUXILIARY AND MENS AUXILIARY
91ST DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AD BOOK**

*****DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS APRIL 12, 2010*****

RATES:

FULL PAGE.....	\$100.00
½ PAGE.....	\$75.00
¼ PAGE.....	\$50.00
PATRON (NAME AND POST OR AUXILIARY # ONLY).....	\$10.00

PLEASE PRINT – DO NOT WRITE

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW
(NO CASH)**

MAIL TO:
MATT DAVID
10 ELDER ST.
YPSILANTI, MI 48917

MESSAGE:

**VFW AND LADIES AUXILIARY 91ST
Department of Michigan State Convention
Hyatt Regency Dearborn
Wednesday June 23 – Sunday June 27, 2010
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION IS May 23, 2010**

Mail or Fax, Reservation to: Hyatt Regency Dearborn Room Reservations: Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn, Mi. 48126. Fax no: 313-982-6884. Make checks payable to: Hyatt Regency Dearborn - A Deposit of One Night or a Major Credit card is required! (NO CASH). Reservation will not be guaranteed without a form of payment. Please specify if a barrier free room (handicapped) is required. If you need a Barrier Free Room check here _____
If you want a smoking room if any are available check here _____. Any rooms not reserved by May 23th will be release to the hotel and may not be available.

ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$109.00	\$109.00	\$109.00	\$109.00

Please put your e-mail address or phone number to receive confirmation numbers from hotel.

e-mail _____ phone no: (____) _____ - _____
(Please print)

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

District # _____ Post # _____ Your office in VFW/Aux _____

Credit Card type _____ Card # _____

Exp Date _____ Date of Arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

ATTN: DISTRICT HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN IF YOU WANT A SUITE FOR THE CONVENTION: YOU MUST CONTACT THE CONVENTION DIRECTOR: Convention Director Ron Amend 3565 Ringle Rd. Akron, MI. 48701.

Suite Prices	Executive King 1 Bedroom	\$239.00
	Executive King 2 Bedroom	\$339.00

If you are a current member of the VFW/AUX Council of Administration please check _____

The rooms on the 14th floor are available at a cost of \$150.00 per night. If you want a room on the 14th floor please indicate it on this form.) 14th Floor _____

(The Auxiliary line officers and District Presidents have a Wednesday afternoon meeting. The VFW has a golf outing on Wednesday. All C of A member are schedule for meetings Thursday morning, Convention start Friday morning.)

Rev. Elmer R. Liimatta
Candidate for National Chaplain



Highly Qualified

Endorsed by:
State of Michigan VFW

Ronald L. Devereaux
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2010-2011



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
2010-2011



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

Kirk Kennedy
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2010-2011



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

Deb Eernisse
Candidate for Department Guard
2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 8
Ladies Auxiliary 3030
Her family

Kathy Kirby
Candidate for Department Guard
2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 10
Ladies Auxiliary 1452
Her family

Michigan Overseas Veteran - 2010
PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
April/May/June	April 15, 2010	October/November/December	November 1, 2010
July/August/September	August 1, 2010	January/February/March	February 1, 2011

Please Remember!

- 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:**
MOV Editor: Matt David, editormov@yahoo.com
Auxiliary Editor: Marion Belaire, mebelaire@yahoo.com



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

COMMANDER & PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONIAL
RAMADA INN , 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917
May 7-9, 2010

Phone in reservations: 517-627-3211
Ask for VFW Testimonial

Deadline for Reservations: APRIL 16, 2010

Room Rate: \$89.00 Plus Tax
(Includes continental breakfast for Saturday/Sunday)

Arrive on Friday for Golf Outing and enjoy the hospitality room.
Sunday – Safe drive home

JOINT TESTIMONIAL
Honoring
Dave Hutson, State Commander
Jan Meyers, State President

AD BOOK REQUEST

Full Page: \$100.00 Half Page: \$50.00 Quarter Page: \$35.00 Patron Ad: \$3.00
Deadline for Ads – April 12, 2010

Make checks payable to: VFW Commander/President Testimonial

Please send ad with check to:
Rosemary Lehner, 8175 S. Luce Road, Perrinton, MI 48871
Phone: 1-989-763-8929 • E-mail: rlehner@casair.net

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check #: _____

Size of Ad Requested: _____ Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ (name) _____ (phone number)

Please attach message, special artwork or list of patrons on a separate sheet.
Every attempt will be made to use special artwork if a quality original is provided, preferable in black and white and in a digital format.

JOINT TESTIMONIAL BANQUET
Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. and Ladies Auxiliary
State Commander Dave Hutson • State President Jan Meyers
May 7-9, 2010
Ramada Inn, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917

Banquet 5:30 p.m., May 8, 2010
Doors Open at 5:00 p.m.

Price \$35.00 per person/No tickets sold at the door
Banquet Seating will be open
Deadline date for ordering tickets: April 26 , 2010

Dinner tickets will not be mailed.
Pick up tickets at the door.

Banquet Ticket Includes:
Dinner and 2 drink tickets
Complimentary Draft Beer and Soft Drink
Cash Bar and Entertainment
Dress code: Business Casual

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip code: _____

District # _____ Post # _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check # _____ Number of Tickets _____

Make all checks payable to: VFW Commander & President Testimonial (NO CASH)

Mail to:
Rosemary Lehner, 8175 S. Luce Road, Perrinton, MI 48871
Phone: 989-763-8929

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

January/February/March 2010

Volume 77 Number 3



District Meetings 2010

District 4 May 1	Post 9568
District 5	
District 6 May 1	Post 7309
District 7	
District 8 May 1	Post 3023
District 9	
District 10 May 10	Post 4087
District 11	
District 12 May 2	Post 6333
District 13	
District 14	
District 15	

Coming Events 2010

- May 6-8**
Buddy Poppy Days
- May 7-8**
Commander & President Joint Testimonial
Lansing, MI
- June 4-5**
Golf Outing/Officer Training Seminar
Camp Trotter – Newaygo
- June 24-27**
Department Convention
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn



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STATE COMMANDER

I hope that all had a happy and rewarding Christmas and are now enjoying the New Year. Hard to believe it's 2010 already and the 2009 year is a thing of the past. So let's all look forward, and not look back in the past as to what we could have one and should have done. Let's strive to "Be all that we can be" with the remainder of this year. Make membership a priority, report all activities and live by our creed: "Honor the dead by helping the living."

I look back at where we were and where we are at the present. Currently, as of this writing, we (the Dept. of Michigan) are at 92.79% and needing less than 4,500 members to be at 100% in membership. Is this achievable? I'm confident that it is and will happen for the great State of Michigan this year. I want to congratulate all the Posts that are at 100% or better in membership and the Districts that have achieved 90% by the end of December as I asked. It is time for all Posts and Districts to find the new members, whether just returning from Iraq or Afghanistan or comrades that have been home from combat since WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm – let's get them into the greatest organization that exists. Also, let's not forget the unpaid members and the reinstated members that left for one reason or another. Let's remember what we are here for and what we represent to all fellow veterans.

Mid-Winter Convention is now over and I want to thank all the Post and District Directors, Department Directors (Pat Patterson and Gloria Dobbie) for their effort and time to put on such a great program as the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen/Teacher of the Year in and around your communities, and sending on the best of the best onto the state competition. We had a hard decision with the winners as they were all very good and they were all winners in my eyes. However, the ones picked by the judges were the



Dave Hutson
State Commander

best of the best. Congratulations to each and every one of those fine young men and women. I am very pleased to know that the Department of Michigan had a National winner in the Teacher of the Year competition this year. I, and all the line officers (Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice and Quartermaster/Adjutant), will be at the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in March and will once again see the winners from around the world. While there, Commander-in-Chief, Tommy T. Tradewell, will be up on Capitol Hill with his speech to the Senate and we will accompany him, along with many others.

In the next few months we will be honoring all Past Commanders and Presidents at dinners put on by their Posts and Districts. I know I will see some but those that I don't, my congrats and wishes for continued success to all. I, and my line officers, will also be making District meetings and I hope to see all Posts represented.

Lastly, let us not forget our Ladies Auxiliary. They are an important part of the veterans of Foreign Wars. The successes of many of the VFW programs are a result of the ladies participation in these programs. I think every family has a member or two that are eligible for the Ladies Auxiliary. Let's give them a helping hand by signing them up today. My wife, Sandy, and two daughters, Amy and Tracy, are already members. Oh, and most recently, my granddaughter, Ashley from Wisconsin joined the Ladies Auxiliary. No, I didn't get the challenge coin from Jan Meyers for putting her in. I used a niece for mine. Do your part and remember: "BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE."