

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Michigan

## DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, MIKE FINIES



I would like to begin by apologizing to Lynn Patterson and the entire Membership for what occurred at my First Council of Administration Meeting. My intentions were to aid the Department Office with an additional person at little to no cost to Department. I did not handle it

correctly. I am truly sorry.

I would like to thank everyone who elected me as your State Commander. I will do my very best for you and the Department of Michigan. Thank you to the "Fred E. Richards" Post 3055 and the 9th District for your smiles, encouragement and support.

This mission the past four years would not have been possible without the support of my family. Our boys Tim and Nate who take care of the homestead while we are away. Our daughter and son-in-law, Katie, Steve who attend our state functions along with granddaughter Lilly. My big brother and sister Dick and Amy Kummerow. Most importantly, the love of my life Cindy—MAMA!!

Congratulations to my President Della Steege. I will always be there for you.

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Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers. I ask that you take a professional approach and read what your duties and responsibilities are for the coming year. Please order from the VFW National Supply Store, the "Podium Edition of the Congressional Charter By-Laws, Manual of Procedure Ritual". The more knowledge you have, the better off your post will be. Also, please attend the Department and District Schools of Instruction.

Congratulations to all the "All-State" Winners. Please thank everyone who helped you achieve this honor. "Teamwork" is the name of the game.

Continued on page 2...



**2019-2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MIKE FINIES BEING ESCORTED BY STATE HONOR GUARD FOR OFFICER INSTALLATION**

This year was the Department of Michigan's 100th Anniversary Convention held in Flint. The weekend was a whirlwind of award ceremonies, training seminars, hospitality rooms and the installation of our new 2019-2020 Department officers! Awards were presented to Posts and Districts that earned All-State, excelled in program activities and one Post was even awarded the Century Award for 100 years of service (see photo below)!

Special recognition was given to the EMT, Firefighter, Police Officer, Eagle Scout and Girl Scout of the Year along with the patriotic art contest winner and others. Thank you to all the Posts and

Auxiliaries that put forth candidates. These exceptional members of our communities work hard and deserve the acknowledgement and special thanks.

Thank you to our National Representative, Kim DeShano Assistant Adjutant General, for joining us.

See the center section for more photos from Department Convention. To learn more about your new officers and program directors visit [vfwmi.org/officers](http://vfwmi.org/officers) or [vfwauxmi.org](http://vfwauxmi.org)

Fall Convention will be here before you know you it. It will be held at Boyne Highlands September 19-21 and rooms are filling up fast so don't delay. See page 19 for the Fall Conference agenda.



Robert-Fortiers-O'Grady Post #345 received the Century Award for 100 years of service



WWII Veteran Irene Hoskins with VFW National Membership Representative Tara Fajardo Arteaga

MAILING ADDRESS

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

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District Commanders, your District receives funds from Department twice a year. Use these funds to send your District Officers to Fall Conference, Mid-Winter Conference, State Convention and VTS training. Please purchase the “2020 Podium Edition” for your Posts to ensure that each Post is updated, then ask them to please read it!!!

Posts and Districts, please plan your functions around Department and National events. Example: A Post Fund Raiser that is on the “same” day as the District Meeting. A District Event that is on the “same” day as a State Event. Please plan accordingly.

The Department Membership Class on the 9th of June was a huge success. Attendance was 98 members. Membership Director Gary Gamble and his team of Gary Brown and Laverne Blauwkamp were outstanding, thank you comrades. Comrades, the “Star of the

Class” was Tara Arteaga. She is the Associate Director, National Membership Department. She kept the memberships attention for over three hours. THANK YOU, TARA!!

Comrades, please take the time to look closely at the 2019-2020 All-State Program. The “maximum” per category has been removed. The reason for that is our workers numbers are not what they once were at most posts. Therefore, we need to maximize the talent we have in our posts.

Example, if a post has an Outstanding Legislative person, then let that post get as many Legislative All-State points as possible. The same is true for posts that are strong in Americanism or Safety or any of our other programs.

Feel free to contact our All-State Director Norman Mauldin at 248-767-3260

**Thank You and God Bless You**

**DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, LYNN PATTERSON**



Post Quartermasters, please get your bond papers filled out and sent into Department Headquarters as soon as possible. If you have an outside

bond please send a copy of the post bond into Dept. Section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. This is a very important document for your post. It will be needed at your post inspection. Post inspections should be completed before Fall Conference. When going thru the post inspection and it asks you the date of the last filing for the 990. Please show the inspector the paper of when the last time you filed was. Because of the dates that you file and the dates of the inspection it won't always be the one that is coming due. We need to see that you are filing and you are current up to the last due date of the 990 filing.

Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post

Trustees' Report of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.

Please look at your post By-Laws and see when the last time they were reviewed. If it has been more than 10 years look into revising them. There is no longer a Men's Aux and the word Ladies has been taken out of the Auxiliaries name. There is a template that you are able to use on National's website under forms and Templates. Or you can contact me and I will be happy to email it to you. National website is [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and the Dept. website is [www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org). These are both great tools to help you throughout your year.

The distribution of VFW “Buddy”® Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of “Buddy”® Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

**DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER**



**We are starting a new year, so let's hit it running.**

Thank you to everyone for your confidence, trust and respect in me to continue serving you, the Veterans and the families of our great State.

It was great to see old friends at convention, and to be able to make new ones. It was nice to talk to you and to be able to try to answer your questions and address concerns.

This is a TEAM effort and not just one or two people or one group.

Please feel free to talk with me about any concerns or issues that may arise. That is why you, as a member, put me in this position. So that I can assist you.

I would like to congratulate the Department Membership in their achievements for the over 180 Posts at or above 100%. Along with 9

Districts and 2 County Councils. It just goes to show us all that if we work together, we can achieve our goals.

**100% Department 100% Auxiliary 100th Anniversary**

Congratulations to Commander Phil Patterson and everyone on being an All-American Department. When was the last time this was accomplished?!

The new membership team is in place to help you this year. Please use them and let's hit membership running.

One more time, don't be afraid to ask me any question you may have. If we don't know the issue, we cannot find a resolution. If we do not know the answer, we will find one.

Let us have a good year and move forward for our Veterans and their families.

Do not forget Trust and Respect are earned, not given.

**Yours in Comradeship**

**When posting to social media use #VFWPOSTPRIDE**



**DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN**

Comrades, sisters and brothers I want to thank each and everyone for supporting me during my candidacy for Jr Vice Commander. I have been overwhelmed with the support I received from the membership of the VFW and Auxiliary. I appreciate the words of wisdom I received from the leadership of this great organization. I am very excited to represent you all as your Jr Vice Commander.

Congratulations to the All State winners for their hard work. I was very proud of the award winners for our programs. We all should be proud of our Department for the hard work to obtain 100% in membership. I would like to continue this momentum and have a repeat year.

We need help at Camp Trotter! Volunteers are needed to assist with projects like clean up in the spring and fall. If you or your post can spare some time to help, we can put you to work. Please sponsor a child and send them to our camp. Let's keep Camp Trotter a fun place for children to learn and grow.

I was truly touched by the outpouring of support for a fallen comrade that was in need of funeral expenses. I would like to thank Comrade Barry Walter for taking the initiative to get it done! Within 20 minutes the Convention delegates in the room came up

with over \$4000 without being asked for a dime! This is another example of why I am so proud to be a member of this great organization. Department now has a fund to continue assistance in the future.

Looking forward I will be working with the incoming Jr Commanders and seeking out directors. We will be meeting at the Fall Conference to begin our planning together. If you are motivated and have ideas to bring to the table please attend the Jr Vice breakout meeting. I also would like to encourage the posts to reach out to their local radio and tv stations for assistance with promoting events. We need to show the public what the VFW does for the veterans and the public. If you are on Facebook or Twitter please use these social media tools also. Many posts are already doing it and it's free! The more the public sees what you are doing the more they will reciprocate by supporting us back. We need to improve on promoting a positive image of the VFW.

If there is anything I can help you with please feel free to call or email me. Be sure to obtain copies of the updated Department and National Bylaws. There are changes every year to familiarize yourself with. Many of your questions maybe answered this way.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate all of the incoming commanders, directors, and Auxiliary officers. I look forward to working with all of you for another successful year.



**DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH**

Three short points...

First, it was a blessing to speak with so many of you at the past Department Convention. Once again, and

event for inspiration, especially at the warm fellowship conveyed at our Joint Memorial. As we sometimes are laden with concerns over social trends, governmental policies, group paths, and our nation's future, we are reminded that, if we seek it, there is much to celebrate.

Second, may we work together in harmony as we come from varied backgrounds and perspectives – Different faith groups, political beliefs, and ideologies. Still, as members of the VFW and/or its Auxiliaries, we are united by a great and worthy cause -- Care and concern for veterans, current service members, their families, and our great republic. This should give us hope for the future of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our nation. May we humbly lead with integrity and follow with selfless diligence.

Third, for those interested, what is the answer for strengthening/retaining proactive group dynamics? From an organizational leadership perspective, a sound analysis could take a while but the key lies at each Post – the heart of the VFW. Will merely state that we must be diligent and unrelenting regarding our efforts. What makes your Post amazing? What positive action/activity is it known for? Have you highlighted this? What brings us together is the commitment to fellow vet-

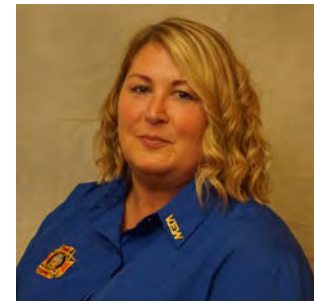
erans, those now serving, their families, and ensuring a worthy patriotic legacy for future generations. There is something for everyone that is willing; they just need support to follow their VFW program passion.

We do so many worthwhile things at all levels of the organization, as do our dedicated Auxiliaries. Whether hosting a job fair, advocating for veterans with the VA or at the Legislature, sending care packages overseas, donating funds to youth programs, helping Camp Trotter and the National Home, serving a meal, lending an ear.... It goes on and on. Those members that have not participated please consider doing so and find that giving is a gift unto itself. Hoping that each of you will see the true importance of providing care to others within the veteran community and be pleased to have membership in an organization that prizes the same.

As 1 Peter 4:10 ESV states, we each have something that we can contribute, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." The Bible's Old and New Testaments and the Hebrew Tanakh include many other verses that show the significance of service unto others. If from another faith group/belief system, the value of giving is equally clear. Therefore, I contend that this VFW family of service, as different and unique we are individually and as Posts, are indeed representative of the highest American ideals. With that in mind, please continue giving as you can and you will make a positive difference in the lives of others.

**May God bless you**

**DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, DELLA STEEGE**



**Hello Everyone,**

Well here we go, I'm on day 9 of my Presidency and things are going fine so far. I want to thank everyone for the very kind words after my installation

as your President. I will do my very best to make the right decisions on issues brought to me and I understand that some of the decisions won't be popular.

National Convention in Orlando is in July and we sure hope Michigan wins lots of awards for the hard work of the 2018-2019 Chairmen. Congratulations go out to our Past Department President Sandy Medos for such a great team.

Soon you'll start your district meetings with schools of instruction and before you know it Fall Conference will be just around the corner. I have total confidence in all my officers and chairmen, they are here to assist you with any issues, please use them often.

Please utilize the department website to print your bulletins and to do your online reporting. [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Have you visited the Online Academy yet? Do you have a copy of the Building on the Auxiliary Foundation? These items are all available on the National website

[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

Keep doing the very important work you do for our veterans and their families and please make it a point to go visit those in our hospital and homes.

Well I'm off to start day 10 of this great journey, I look forward to meeting many new members and making many new friends.

A couple hard earned lessons learned over my years on earth.

1. **Actions speak louder than words.**
2. **You have no right to judge anyone.**
3. **Always look in the oven before you turn it on.**
4. **"No" is a complete sentence.**
5. **There is no need to ever say "How can I help". See a need and fill it.**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, JERRY GORSKI**



I would like to begin by THANKING every Member throughout the Department of Michigan for allowing me to continue serving and representing you as your National Council of Administration Member for 2019-2023.

I will do my very best to protect you and carry out your wishes and the wishes of our Department of Michigan.

Lastly, this is probably the shortest article that I have ever written. So, don't get used to me writing short articles.

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

**DEPARTMENT SURGEON,  
DON MARTINDALE****Greetings Comrades.**

As we start another new year of reporting I want you to know that some changes have been made to the Hospital Program. I have been trying to get all

of the Posts on the same page for the past three years, trying to get you to send your Hospital reports to the Hospital Director not on your Activity Report. If in the future you include a Hospital report on the Activity report I will not be getting a copy of that report. By sending your Hospital report to the Activity Director you are making more work for the Director. Remember if it has hospital, nursing home, visited sick friend at home, Gold Star Mothers, donate to cancer, donate to a hospital, donate to a nursing home, drove friend to the hospital, or nursing home, or Doctor appointment, Dentist appointment, dialysis appointment. These are all hospital reports and should not be sent to the Activity Director, if it looks like a hospital, smells like a hospital, sounds like a hospital, it is a hospital report. Please if you are reading this take this to your next Post meeting and inform your Hospital Chairman as to what needs to be included in a Hospital Report. I do not want to have any Post miss any reports because they do not know what to report. I gave all of the District Commanders at our last convention a list of the frequent flyers that sent Hospital reports on their Activity report, contact him and he will have a list of Posts that are not reporting properly. Report early and often. As always I will be more than happy to help any Post with hospital or activity questions just contact me.

586-771-2881

dmarti5500@hotmail.com

**ACTIVITY DIRECTOR / BOB LUTZ**

Greetings Comrades, Last year I was receiving tons of hospital reports and I would have to type them up and send them to Don Martindale. This year we will no longer do this. If you send me a hospital report it will no longer be forwarded so if you want credit for your hospital work, send them to Don.

We are in the process of updating forms and the new form will look similar except there will be 4 pages in case you need more room and it will automatically add everything up. You can fill it out on the computer and email it to me. This is the preferred way.

I am still getting reports with no post or district number. Also, do not fill in the part that says for Dept. use only. That is my job. If you do it online, just fill in the description part and make sure that you break down each project for value, hours, members and miles.

I passed out packets to some District Commanders at Convention and I will be getting them to the other Commanders soon. These packets have information to make reporting easier for everyone. I will be getting more information out soon. activity@vfwmi.org

**DEPARTMENT CAMP TROTTER DIRECTOR, LARRY THAYER****Greeting Comrades**

Camping season is upon us. If this article is published on time there should be a few more weeks of camping left. If like

prior years there is still room at Camp Trotter for more campers, contact the Department office for availability. Camp cost is only \$250 per week, one of best camping deals in the state. Summer Camp Director Matt Koutz (Coach) has put together another fantastic staff and program this year. So if you haven't booked your week - do so now.

A special thank you goes out to Richard Rought and Bob Benderman who put in

countless hours to get the camp ready this year. This Camp would not function without dedicated volunteers like Richard and Bob.

The 13th annual golf scramble took place on June 21st. Thank for all the teams that participated and all the Post and Auxiliaries that donated for hole sponsorship. A big thanks goes to Village Green Golf course and all the volunteers who helped make it a great day.

On August 17th we will be hosting our annual Camp Trotter Family Days. Everyone is invited to enjoy a great family picnic. We will provide the meat just bring a dish to pass. If you've never seen our Camp this is great opportunity for you to come and visit.

Thank you for your support and I hope to see you on the 17th.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR****GARY GAMBLE**

First, I want to thank State Commander Mike Finies for the appointment as his Membership Director for 2019-20. I will work directly with the entire membership to help you make a difference with the overall quality and quantity of our VFW membership. Now I want to introduce the Membership Team. These outstanding comrades have stepped up and accepted an appointment to be a BIG part of the team. Assistant Director Gary Brown Sr. from the Charlotte Post 2406 (Dist. 8), Laverne Blauwkamp from the Holland Post 2144 (Dist. 8), and Scott Cleary from the Ontonagon Post 5600 (Dist. 15). I want to personally thank all of you for joining Membership Team.

I need every comrade to join the VFW State Membership Team. We need everyone's help cultivating membership growth and retention at every level. Simply put, every member has a role in the mission.

We are very thankful for all the help and support our VFW Auxiliary extends to the VFW and we certainly appreciate what they do. Today, I am asking for special help from our VFW Auxiliary. We need help with VFW membership referrals. Please read all about the contest details in our State Membership Program found on our website.

At the conclusion of the State Convention, we had a nearly 100 comrades and a few VFW Auxiliary attend our State Membership Seminar held on June 9. We had Associate Director Tara Fajardo Arteaga from our National Membership Department. She was well received and did an outstanding job presenting some great membership material to the attendees.

Commanders, please ask your Post Quartermaster to share a post roster. Divide the

roster between a small group. Then call every single member on your post roster and confirm all contact information is accurate. Start the conversation off with an introduction and explain the reason for your call. Take a few minutes and let them know who you are and what's been going on at the post and try to learn a little bit about them. Do they any help? Put them in contact with a VSO (Veteran Service Officer). Have the VFW Service Office number handy (313) 964-6510. Personally invite them to your next post event or meeting. Have a note pad and take good notes during your phone calls then report all your findings to the Post Commander, Quartermaster, and or Post Chaplain. During the conversation confirm mailing address, additional numbers, and email address.

Ask your Post Quartermaster to update the database with new information. We really need to reach out and personally contact our members on a regular basis to ensure our rosters remain accurate and members remain connected with the VFW.

VFW Membership Processing Dept. (800) 963-3180 Call this number to pay annual dues, upgrade to Life Membership, change mailing address, etc. All you need is a credit or debit card. Membership Processing is open Mon-Fri 9:15am - 5:15pm.

The 2019-20 Membership Program can be found at: (www.vfw.org) under "Programs". Please work toward achieving our 2019-20 membership goals.

If you need any help with membership do not hesitate to contact me or any member of your Department Membership Team!

Together We Can Build a Stronger VFW

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

**DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR, BUTCH OGDEN**

Comrades, brothers & sisters. congratulations to all the newly elected officers. The new year is here and it is time to get our Post's in

order. First is Audits comrades they are due 30 days after the close of the quarter. This requirement never changes. The audit must contain the signatures of the 3 trustees and the Post Commander. The audit must have

a relief fund and the bonds and investments and cash on hand must be on the audit. Line 15 and line 17 must match. Also the bond amount and who it is with must be on the audit. The beginning balances of all accounts must match the ending balances of the previous quarter. Inspections will be underway please have all documents required for the inspector the inspection is vital to the post as it is a way to look at and determine if the post needs some help. Your district is there to help you if you ask for it.



**DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT**

Hello Comrades, Brothers and Sisters! June 5th kicked off our 100th State Convention. On Friday, June 7th, Commander Patterson and myself presented awards to our State of Michigan Public Servant Officer of the Year Award recipients. This year's award winners were: Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

Michigan State Trooper Matthew Rose through Hough-Pontius Post 3701 (District 9); EMT/Paramedic of the Year: Owosso Fire Captain Stephen Chapko through Owosso Post 9455 (District 9) and Firefighter of the Year: Highland Township Fire Department Assistant Chief Richard Cole through Highland-Whitelake Milford Post 9914 (District 5). See page 10 for photos of the award presentations. Each Officer received a certificate of outstanding achievement signed by Commander in Chief B.J Lawrence as well as a plaque from the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars. It was an honor and privilege to honor our award recipients this Year.

I would like to thank all of the Posts that submitted applications for this years program. The pool of applicants was outstanding! We had 15 total submissions from Districts all over the state. I hope that

each Post took time to honor their individual applicants. These fine men and women deserve the recognition and I encourage each of you to acknowledge them, whether or not they were selected as our State Award recipients. I would also like to thank William "Butch" Ogden and his wife Peggy for their work on the placques. They were a great representation of each department and looked absolutely amazing!

March 31, 2019 wrapped up the reporting period for the year. Divisional winners this past year are: Division I: Post 3734 with 118 pts, Post 4162 with 78 pts and Post 5602 with 54 pts; Division II: Post 3701 with 116 pts, Post 1071 with 106 pts and Post 3306 with 86 pts; Division III: Post 1794 with 328 pts, Post 4156 with 216 pts and Post 552 with 134 pts; Division IV: Post 6695 with 458 pts, Post 2269 with 99 pts and Post 4499 with 97 pts.

The reporting period is May 1, 2019 thru April 30, 2020. I encourage you to start reporting now. For information on reporting in the Safety program check out our Safety page on the Department website, located under the reporting tab. If you have any questions please reach out to me, I am here to help you reach your goals!

**"What YOU do makes a difference, and YOU have to decide what kind of difference YOU want to make." Jane Goodall.**

**LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

**JENNIFER SMITH**

As your VFW Department of Michigan Legislative Director, have started the organizational year with productive meetings and conversations with state lawmakers and hope for many more collaborative exchanges to follow. For those Comrades who have yet to do so, I am gently reminding all to please sign up for the Action Corps Weekly via:

[www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly](http://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly)

It features timely updates on federal legislation that affects veterans, troops, their families, and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action.

It is my desire to uplift and inform our membership. Therefore, for those unaware, I must convey that there is a time lapse between legislative action (proposing bill, dis-

cussion, and failure/passage) that may prevent up-to-date notifications. In state politics, action can occur rather quickly with bills sometimes being moot by the time published. Accordingly, I will focus on mostly federal legislation in the Michigan Overseas Veteran Newsletter as federal bills take more time but will not negate important state legislation in updates, personal meetings, misc.

Please know that your Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars is actively working with legislators at both levels on key issues with the able assistance of VFW National Legislative Committee Member, Comrade Andy Conklin (for federal laws and actions).

As your Department Legislative Director, and as mentioned, I have been in meeting with state legislators and will remain focused upon state-

based matters with the eye of an eagle.

A humble note -- If all goes as well as hoped this year, all credit goes to the Lord and to His servant PSC William Dobbie, my past longtime legislative mentor whose able example I hope to reflect in part.

Last, for those that did not know, The Blue Water Navy Bill, H.R. 299, passed the House and Senate and is awaiting Presidential signature. By the time you read this publication, it will likely be law.

This is the importance of our voices as Veterans of Foreign Wars Comrades, in close collaboration with our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers; we are a mighty force for good. Please keep up your efforts, report your positive endeavors, and know that YOU are our true legislative strength!



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

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**BIG 10 CHAIRMAN**

**JERRY GORSKI**

I would like to begin by again thanking every member for allowing me to continue serving you and representing you as your Big Ten Conference Chairman for 2018-2019. It is truly an honor to be from Michigan and representing Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin with 314,662 Members as of today (6/11/19).

I would like to talk next about MEMBERSHIP. "Our Life Blood of our Great Organization". At the Big Ten Conference on October 20, 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri, Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence talked a lot about Membership and he said, "It is time that the Veterans of Foreign Wars achieve 100% in Membership this year". Well, WE DID IT! The National Membership Total is 101.31% with 1,155,225 Members, as of (6/11/19). THANK YOU, MICHIGAN, for helping achieve this!

Next, I want to CONGRATULATE State Commander Phil Patterson, State Membership Director/State Junior Vice Commander

Scott Gloger and EVERY Member throughout the Department of Michigan for helping State Commander Phil Patterson "achieve" Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence's Goal of 100% by May 31, 2019. On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, MICHIGAN "achieved" 100.02% in Membership.

Today, June 11, 2019, there are (5) Departments out of (10) Departments in the Big Ten Conference that have achieved 100%. They are Missouri (101.08%), Michigan (100.86%), Ohio (100.42%), Illinois (100.15%) and Wisconsin (100.00%). Minnesota is 99.94%. Iowa is 99.92%. Indiana is 98.98%. Nebraska is 96.43%. South Dakota is 94.24%. The Big Ten Conference is 99.86%

The "Last" Membership Goal of Commander-in-Chief B.J. Lawrence is 102% by June 30, 2019. We still have time to achieve his Goal.

As of June 11, 2019, the results are the following: National is at 101.31%, Big Ten Conference is in 4th Place at 99.86%, Michigan is in 2nd Place in the Big Ten Conference at 100.86%, Michigan is in 29th Place in the Nation, District 8 is in 1st Place at 102.70%, District 11 is in

2nd Place at 101.95% and District 9 is in 3rd Place at 101.83%.

Today, June 11, 2019, WE have (9) out of (12) Districts that are 100% or Higher. They are Districts 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14. OUTSTANDING! There is still time for "ALL" Districts to be at 100% by June 30, 2019. WE CAN DO IT!

We are doing GREAT! I want to thank "EVERY" Member throughout the Department of Michigan for YOUR hard work in going after NEW, REINSTATED and CONTINUOUS Members.

Lastly, my term as Big Ten Conference Chairman will "end" on October 19, 2019 at the Big Ten Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. It has been an honor serving you and the other Big Ten States. I look forward to serving you next, as your National Council of Administration Member representing Michigan for 2019-2023.

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

**CHAMPIONING FOR ADVOCACY**

**JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE**

**Nothing ventured, nothing gained!**

As the VFW Department of Michigan celebrates its Centennial, VFW National Veteran Service also celebrates 100 years of advocacy. World War 1 veterans returning encountered the same neglect from our government as VFW founders did a couple of decades earlier. Claims had been submitted but an uneducated bureaucracy simply had no way to prosecute them. They were therefore boxed up, bound in red tape, and placed into storage. Our preceding VSOs challenged congress to act on these thousands of applications & demand they cut the red tape!

Over this past century, the VFW, along with other fraternal veteran organizations, have championed the veterans cause for both medical and compensation benefits they've truly earned. Although it took another 25 years for them to formally establish the Veterans' Administration, the tenacity and

dogged determination of the VFW continued to state the case for them to do more. A few highlighted accomplishments throughout this time include: Releasing of War Bonds for WWI veterans, WWII and Korean War veterans saw Educational Benefits, Housing assistance, Medical care and Compensation. There was still much work to be done.

The Vietnam war was a very divisive period in America and introduced the spraying of herbicides to assist in warfare. Without regard for substantial medical risks to our troops, it would take an additional 16 years of VFW advocacy for the introduction of H.R. 566 "Agent Orange Act of 1991", which became law on February 6, 1991. While this did address some much-needed medical care and compensation, the voice of the VFW continued to advocate knowing it was not enough.

It would take an additional 28 years, 4

months, and 7 days for congress to finally accept H.R. 299 Blue Water Veteran Act to be voted on unanimously in both the House and the Senate which occurred on June 13, 2019. As we take time to laud the efforts of all VFW members championing the voices of their fellow brothers and sisters in arms and celebrate the many accomplishments providing for all the benefits they are now entitled to by law over this 100-year period, realize that a new century is now upon us.

The VFW NVS is 100 years old, 25 years older than the VA itself. It falls upon us to carry our forefathers' voices into the new millennium and continue our advocacy efforts. We have much more experience and owe it to all our heroes to continue to educate bureaucratic incumbents on how they can do more.

**There is much more work to do, and nothing ventured, nothing gained!**



**NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR, JAMES HUBBARD**

**Dear Comrades and Friends**

Now is the time to get ready for the New Fiscal Year, We start off with the National Home Family Day. Many projects need our attention and be accomplished this year, At Our National Home we need to support the many field trips taken during the summer months those planned are Potter Park Zoo, Andy T's Farm, MSU 4-H Children's Garden. Also remember the other children that like to attend Summer Camp at Camp Trotter please plan on supporting as many children as you can, from the National Home as well as those in your Community campers fee's are \$250.00 per camper.

Michigan Days are fast approaching on Sunday August 4th they will be having the annual .1K Run sponsors are needed as well as runners and walkers please sign up you can do that on-line at web-site have your Post Name on the shirts as a sponsor. Be sure to come and enjoy a full day of Fun & Activities bring your American Flag and Banners. Auxiliary District Presidents please have your members at their stations by 8:45 AM ready to go. This is a good time for Post to bring their new members or those who have never attended the home to see for themselves just how Great the Home really is be sure to be there and not miss a wonderful day with your VFW Family.

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE**

**BOB WILSON**

**Greetings, Comrades & Auxiliary Sisters!**

On June 1st, 2019 Eddie Dandridge and Rosalyn Dandridge became the elected 94th/57th Grand Commander and Grand President for the 2019-2020 Year. Also elected were Grand Sr. Vice/Sr. Vice President Russell Makowski/Josephine Miller; Grand Jr. Vice/Jr. Vice President Jon Adams/Rhunell D. Adams; Grand Quartermaster/MOCA Treasurer: PGC Ernest Paulin/Kathryn Kirby; Grand Adjutant/Secretary; PGC Robert E. Wilson/Kathy Kirby. The installing officer was Past Supreme Commander/Past Supreme President Peggy Bell.

The MOC would like to congratulate the new State VFW Department Officers. We look forward to working with you on both your programs and ours.

**84rd Tomb Trek 2019**

**Arlington National Cemetery**

The 84rd Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 02-04 November 2019. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier or on our web site LOTCS.org.

Speaking of web sites, you can now download information about the Grand of Michigan from either the Departments web page vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocgrandofmichigan.com

**91st Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2019**

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 6th-7th, 2019. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members both VFW and Cooties to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids. If you have ever attended one of these parties the kids have a great time.

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 forward to us. Send donations to :

Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster  
710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050  
Phone: (810)-735-7920

**"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2019-2020**

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to

PGC Bob Routhier Jr.  
P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420

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

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



Past Supreme Commander H. Steve Mason and Past Supreme President Peggy Thomasbell instruct incoming Grand Command Eddie Dandridge and Grand of Michigan President Rosalyn Dandridge during installation.



From Left to Right, incoming Chief of Staff Eric Bell, Grand Commander Eddie Dandridge Sr., Past Grand Commander Patrick Henderson, outgoing Chief of Staff Bob Routhier Jr., and Sr Vice Commander Russell Makowski.

**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP CHAIR**

**SANDI ONSTWEDDER**

We can make huge strides with this new National Auxiliary Program by opening up our meetings to the possibility a continually positive attitude. This can be accomplished by laying a solid foundation of Auxiliary knowledge with every member. Instructing our traditions to new members or

reintroducing them to our members that have not been present for our business meetings in awhile will allow the opportunity of equality to all.

If conducted and executed properly, leaders will step up and move forward when they feel their efforts could make a positive difference

within their Auxiliary settings. But first, we need to make them feel welcomed, informed, and useful for the good of the Auxiliary.

As the year unfolds, I will do my best to be available to inspire and encourage all members and Auxiliaries into growth and participation.

**BUDDY POPPY & NATIONAL HOME AUXILIARY CHAIR**

**KATHY HUBBARD**

Good Afternoon Members, I am so excited to be the Buddy Poppy & National Home Department Chairman. This happens to be the chairmanship closest to my heart. I sincerely believe it is every auxiliary member's responsibility to promote our VFW National Home and Buddy Poppies because they benefit our Veterans and their families plus it's our time to give back and show our support for our Veterans.

Your support of the National Home gives struggling military and veteran families hope at a time when they need it most, be sure to go to their website and check out all the information available.

This year I encourage every District & Auxiliary in Michigan to take part in this Department, National Home Fundraiser **"Make A Change for Our National Home"**

no matter how large or how small in numbers your Auxiliary may be, YOU can Make a difference and you don't even have to leave your easy chair... many love to exercise and then some of us struggle in distance walking, lets walk the green area of the campus, every .16 cents you donate, you just walked one foot of the 1.33 mile walk..... This can also be done at your auxiliary monthly meetings. Then we will see who can walk the farthest..... be sure to read your bulletins for more information on this fundraiser Oh, by the way invite your Post members to help

you make the walk ..... it can't hurt, only raise more funds and help our National Home?

Our Michigan National Home Family Days is August 4th we are praying for good weather to add to all the fun we're planning on having, if you have never been there before this is the time to attend extend an open invitation to your home town Community Leaders also invite your family, car pool Come One Come All. As I am out in our communities it amazes me how many people living here in Michigan have never heard about our National Home, this is no secret, We need to Share everything about this Beautiful Village, along with the many things there to help our military & veterans in need, Be sure to attend, there are many things to see and do for everyone. Be sure to bring your Auxiliary Banner & American Flag registration opens at 8:45AM. Labor Day is fast approaching, if your Auxiliary participates in your home town parade, be sure to promote Our Buddy Poppy along with Our VFW National Home, if you hand out items along the parade route wrap a pencil with a Buddy Poppy or a Buddy Poppy enclosed inside the Story of the VFW Buddy Poppy or The History of the Buddy Poppy Brochure and then please report how many poppies and pamphlets you passed out.

**Thank you for all you do for our Veterans**

**LEGISLATIVE AUXILIARY CHAIR**

**JENNIFER SMITH**

**Sisters and Brothers,**

This is the first Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department Legislative article for me. Am a bit shocked to find the level of nerves accompanying this text as am so honored to hold this position, with thanks to Pres. Steege and the amazing Sister Evelyn Avery. Having stated that, understand that we have much work to do and that your patience depends upon my willingness to learn quickly, effectively, and perform well. Please know that your and our Department's success, as well as helping others, remains my goal.

Therefore, would like to share that am rather pleased at the past legislative reports received. Also, and ad nauseam [grin], gently reminding all to please sign up for the Action Corps Weekly via:

<https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly>

It features timely updates on federal legislation that affects veterans, troops, their families, and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action updates.

It is my desire to uplift and inform our membership. Therefore, for those unaware, must convey that there is a time lapse between legislative action (proposing bill,

discussion, and failure/passage) that may prevent up-to-date notifications. In state politics, action can occur rather quickly with bills sometimes being moot by the time published. Accordingly, will focus on mostly federal legislation as federal bills often take more time but will not negate important state legislation in updates, misc. Please know that your Department of MI Auxiliary and Veterans of Foreign Wars are actively working with legislators at both levels on key issues.

Last, for those that did not know, The Blue Water Navy Bill, H.R. 299, passed the House and Senate and is awaiting Presidential signature. By the time you read this publication, it will likely be law. This is the importance of our voices as Sisters and Brothers, in close collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Comrades, we are a mighty force for good. Please keep up your diligent efforts, report, and do not forget to check the Legislative Bulletins and Guide Sheet on the VFW Aux. Dept. of MI Website. Please note that the 'Community Legislative Education and Engagement' portion of the Legislative program (Guide Sheet) is often overlooked, so may we strive to address it as we can.

**YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AND TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**GARY BROWN**

I would first like to thank the Department Commander for this appointment as your Director for the 2019-2020 Voice of Democracy (VOD) / Patriot's Pen (PP) and Teacher of the Year (TOY) Programs for the upcoming year.

This year the themes for both the VOD/PP will be **"What Makes America Great"** and this will be the first time that both programs will be the same theme.

I would also like to say that students in these two programs can now go to the Department of Michigan's Website and on the first page of the site and download all the necessary documents needed to get started on their program today.

The Scholarship Programs Eligibility are:

- PP – Grades Sixth (6) - Eight (8)
- VOD – Grades Ninth (9) - Twelfth (12)

Students must also notice the requirements for their programs and follow the guidelines exactly as written to qualify.

**NOTE: Deadlines to submit their program to their VFW Post is October 31, 2019!**

The TOY program is to recognize and honor the TOP Elementary (K-5), Junior High (6-8), and High School (9-12) teacher of the year, who teaches citizenship and education topics, and promotes America's history, traditions, and institutions.

Who can submit for TOY teachers – Fellow Teachers, supervisors, or any other interested individual may submit nominations? Self-submitted nominations are **NOT** excepted!

The forms and Submission information is on the Department of Michigan's Website and on the first page of the Website. Deadline submission to their VFW Post is October 31, 2019!

**NOTE to the Post Commanders and Chairmen:** The above items must be included Exactly as stated or your entry may be returned or even disqualified at the District Level.

If you have any questions about any of these three (3) programs, please contact me or my Assistant Directors below.

Gary E. Brown Sr., Director

517-667-1189  
garybrownsr@outlook.com

Adam VanSickle, Assistant Director

989-780-3898  
adamvansickle7@gmail.com

Deni Hunter, VFW Auxiliary Chairman

734-422-7241  
deni\_vfw.aux@yahoo.com

**DO YOU HAVE THE VFW MOBILE APP?**

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

- Speed improvements
- Better Find-a-Post search
- Bug fixes for Login with ID.me

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



**DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS**



**DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - GEORGE NAVARRETTE JR.**

As the new Commander of the 5th District I would like to acknowledge our past Commanders, Norman Mauldin and Mike Olesiak, for their dedication to our district. Over the past two years we have achieved 100% membership in the District. I will continue the momentum for the coming year.

Our 5th District officers, Eddie Dandridge and Su-jen Mauldin are ready to assist any Post with concerns they may face. We have a wealth of experience and knowledge in our District committee chairs. Posts should take advantage of this proficiency at their disposal.

Membership has been a problem because

of a scheduling system that creates multiple dates for members to renew their association. I have to thank Gary Gamble, director of department membership for creating a system that allows the Post to have membership cards mailed directly to the Post. This new method has made it easier for Districts to obtain 100% rating.

I would like to congratulate the 5th District Auxiliary for obtaining 100% membership. Kathy Hubbard, chair of membership for the Auxiliary did an outstanding job. This is the first time in many years that the Posts and Auxiliaries have both received 100%.

I anticipate calling on all the Posts in the District in the coming year. I will also make an effort to stop by at as many Auxiliaries as possible. This will allow me to get a clearer picture of the status of District. I will be working closely with Diane Stanley to

coordinate these visits.

I would like to congratulate Commander Norm Mauldin for being awarded his All-American District Commander cover. I know Norm will say "I didn't do it alone, many others helped me achieve this."

I encourage the Posts to become more involved with their local community. Your presence at neighborhood events highlights the Post's commitment to an area. Posts that are active in their regions reap the reciprocal benefit of the support of their neighbors, after all VFW members are good citizens.

Just a reminder of the VTS session at Post 4422 in Taylor at 9 AM. This is a joint program of the 4th & 5th District. Our 5th District meeting will be held August 16th at the Bruce Post 1146, also at 9 AM.

Looking forward to the coming year, we will accomplish a lot working together.



**DISTRICT 7 - BILL THICK JR.**

Dear Comrades, first of all, thank you all for all of your support. It will be an honor to represent District #7 and sit on the Council of Administration as a Department of Michigan officer. I would like to thank you all for hitting our membership goal last year and encourage you all to keep

plugging away at maintaining or growing these numbers. Please remember that our collective strength statewide and nationwide is what gives us the power to advocate and lobby for veteran-friendly legislation. When you ask some people where they work, they may say they are a trucker, a factory worker or maybe a lawyer or whatever. When people ask me where I work, I reply with "I work for the VFW", despite not being paid a dime. This is because I am a 100% service-connected

veteran but I'm not willing to give up and wither away. At 46 years old, I have plenty of fight left in me and a lot of years ahead that I plan to serve our great organization. I served as an Infantryman in Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1991 and am a single father with primary physical custody of my 11-year-old daughter, Kensington. Thank you to all of the prior officers for a great 2018-2019 year and let's keep things positive, work together and try to achieve another great year!



**DISTRICT 10 - ROBERT E. WILSON**

great leadership. Let's continue this great leadership this year.

The time and place committee has announced the selected post for next year's District Meetings.

We had a great 2018-2019 Year and I want to congratulate Past Commander Don Callaway for making All-State District and Past President Kathy Kirby for their

District Meeting – August 10, 2019  
Curtis-Wolverton VFW Post 3243  
1148 N. Leroy St. Fenton, Mi. 48430-2758  
Phone: 810-629-3700

District Meeting - November 9th, 2019  
Flint VFW Post 822  
G-5065 S. Saginaw, Flint, Mi. 48507  
Phone: 810-743-4138

District Meeting – February 8th, 2020  
Lawrence W. Smith VFW Post 4139  
128 Daley Rd. Lapeer, Mi. 48446  
Phone: 810-664-9222

District Convention – May 9th, 2019  
Burton-Clark-Durocher VFW Post 2777  
2260 S. Belsay Rd. Burton, Mi. 48509  
Phone: 810-743-4138.

District VOD/PP/TOY Banquet Jan 12, 2020  
Gordon R. Bennett VFW Post 1452  
10380 N. Saginaw Rd. Clio, Mi. 48420  
Ticket Price : \$12.00 each  
Reservation Deadline : Jan 7, 2020  
Dinner at 2 pm - Awards at 3 pm

School of Instructions at 10:00 (am) Lunch at 11:15 and Meeting starting at 12:30 pm.



**DISTRICT 11 - TIM ARTIBEE**

and retired in March of 2008 as a sergeant first class. I went to basic training in June

Comrades, My Name is Tim Artibee District 11 Commander. I joined the Michigan Army National Guard out of Big Rapids Michigan in September of 1983

of 1984 at the Home of the Infantry, Fort Benning Georgia. Upon Graduation I returned back to Michigan to train with my unit. During my 24 years of service I held many Positions, team leader for two years, squad Leader for thirteen years and seven years as a platoon sergeant. My MOS was 11B Scout and 11H anti armor specialist. I have traveled to several countries for training, England, Panama, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and several states

in the U.S. January of 2004 I was deployed to the Sinai Peninsula under the global war on terrorism. After that deployment I was deployed to Bagdad Iraq and stationed at FOB Rustamiyah or more commonly known as mortaritaville. I joined the VFW in 2010; I'm a life member of the VFW. I have served as Post commander three times.

Thank you for your support.





**DISTRICT 12 - DANIEL CARON**

Hello Comrades From the great UP of Michigan.

The 100th Dept. of Michigan Convention was very informative and I am praying that I can convey to

all Posts & Members how important it is to help each other as we strive to better our organization in 2019-2020.

We are starting a new year and I am counting on each and every member to pay your dues early so we can reach 100% as a Post & District. A lot of you were so close to receiving your 100% post Membership

Banners last year needing only 1 or 2 members. You have a relief fund so if a member is struggling help him or her out this year in any way you can including paying their dues.

I am talking Membership because our ranks are growing very thin these days. If you see someone wearing a patriotic type hat, talk to them, thank them for their service and ask them into the VFW. Let them know what your Posts do. You march in parades, you go to funerals, you assist needy veterans and their families and much more in the community. Let them know that our organization is here to help them.

On closing, I want to thank you all for Electing me as your District Commander for

the 3rd time. We do need you to consider going to Post and District meetings and stepping up to a position. We need new ideas. I know some of the old ideas work but these days everything is electronic and we are not savi on all the new data stuff with computers, iPad's, iPhone's and the like. We need your expertise for the future growth of this organization and your younger Veterans are the key for this growth to take place.

Our District Fall Conference will be on September 8, 2019 at VFW L'Anse Post 3897, 105 North Front Street L'Anse, Michigan 49946

Registration starts at 08:00am. Hope to see NEW faces.

★ **AUXILIARY DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORTS** ★



**DISTRICT 6 - LESIE GILLIES**

Hello, I am Lesli Gillies, your new District 6 President for the 2019-2020 Auxiliary year. I am a life member of the Carleton Post 4093.

I have been the Auxiliary president for the last three years. I come from a long line of Veterans, I myself am retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves with 24 years. My Auxiliary eligibility is from my father Lonnie Lindquist who served in Korea and my husband

Patrick who is currently serving in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Both are life members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I am certainly looking forward to meeting new people while visiting and inspecting all of the Auxiliaries. Each Auxiliary should receive an inspection notice from me by the second week of August. Please let me know as soon as possible if there are issues you need help with.

District 6 had its planning meeting on June 1st in Lansing, thanks to all that showed up and helped out. Our District meetings will be on August 10th at VFW Post 6464 in Fowlerville, December 7 at VFW Post 6462

in Dundee, and April 25 at VFW Post 701 in Lansing. Registration will start at 10AM, Lunch at 1130 AM, and the meeting will start at 1PM. The same schedule will apply for all three meetings. We will have a school of instruction at our first meeting. Please check the Facebook page often as that is where a lot of information will be put out.

I would like to thank you for the support I have received and look forward to seeing and serving our veterans with everyone in the Super 6th. With everyone's help, we can make a difference!



**DISTRICT 7 - ALLEN HENSON**

Greetings on behalf of the Officers of the 7th district for the new year.

After being installed at the State convention I have tried to hit the ground running. President Della has an agenda that all of us can get excited about.

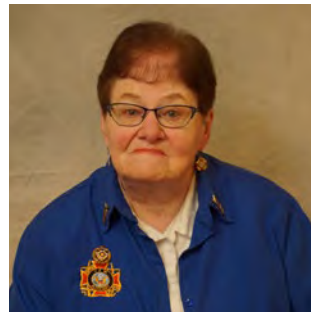
I will be sending letters out with the schedule for my inspections at your Auxiliary.

Michigan Day will be held at the National Home in Eaton Rapids on Aug 4, 2019. I would love to see a huge crowd from the 7th there.

August 11 will be our District Meeting in Marshall.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you on all the programs.

Together we can have a wonderful and fun time.

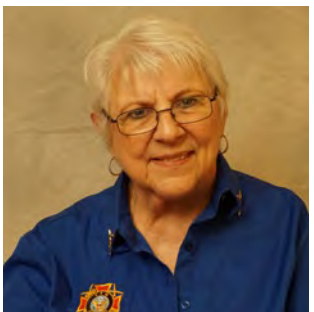


**DISTRICT 12 - JUDY SCHAFER**

Hello Sisters and Brothers of the Mighty 12th! I am glad to be back with you again as your District President. I am sure that we are going to have an enjoyable and successful year as we all work together for our Veterans. That is the most important thing that we do.

Another important thing is "Membership". There are up to 12 relationships who may join the Auxiliary on the eligibility of one veteran. Talk to people you meet about the Veterans of Foreign Wars and have a membership application with you.

National Theme: Serving Our Veterans with Aloha  
Department Theme: Serving with a Patriot's Heart.  
Let's all have a good year.



**DISTRICT 8 - MERRIDY LEWIS**

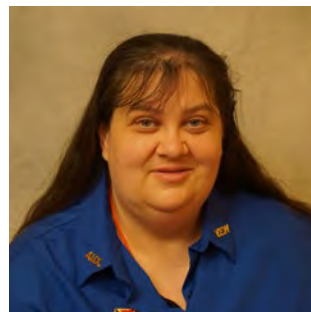
My team and I are looking forward to a year of learning and fellowship.

Let me begin with telling you about our District. We start with Mendon/ Vicksburg, up to Sand Lake and over to Grand Haven. We have the Battle Creek VA Medical Center, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Wyoming Clinic along with Fort Custer National Cemetery. Our members are active in all facilities.

The Auxiliaries are now in the process of instituting two Auxiliaries, Otsego Post 3030 organizer Young. Fennville 7911 organizer Nancy Vredevelt. Both teams need 15 new members. If you know of someone that is looking to join we would love to have you, contact either Kitty Young or Nancy Vredevelt or myself for information.

I have in place a good team for the year of 2019-2020. WE will be working hard on REPORTING and MEMBERSHIP along with the other chairmanships.

We will be working side by side with our District 8 Commander Rich Ringersma VFW members and Department officers. If ever you have a question Please don't hesitate to ask, if we don't know the correct answer we will get it for you. Have a great year everyone!



**DISTRICT 14 - SUE DEROSHA-SMITH**

The Upper Peninsula Honor Flight was founded in 2011. Its mission is to fly World war II and Korean veterans from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials built in their honor. In the 9 year they have been doing this. There have been 16 flights and over 1180 Veterans taken to see the memorials. The flight is free to Veterans. They receive Airfare, meals, deluxe tour bus, t-shirts and other items. They are always looking for volunteers and donations to help with this great cause. They are a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that is 100% volunteer based. For additional information visit

www.upperpeninsulahonorflight.org  
Facebook-Upper Peninsula Honor Flight  
UP Honor Flight - 7508 J Road - Gladstone, MI 49837

**Connect with us online at  
VFWMI.ORG or VFWAUXMI.ORG**

# ★ 100th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PHOTOS ★



2019-2020 Department Officers being sworn in  
Visit [vfwmi.org/officers](http://vfwmi.org/officers) to learn more about the new leadership!



2019-2020 Auxiliary Officers being sworn in  
Visit [vfwmiauxmi.org](http://vfwmiauxmi.org) to learn more more!



2018-2019 Dept. Commander,  
Police Officer of the Year Matt Rose,  
Safety Director Jessica Wright



2019-2020 Dept. Commander,  
Fire Fighter of the Year Richard Cole,  
Safety Director Jessica Wright



2019-2020 Dept. Commander,  
EMT of the Year Steven Chapko,  
Safety Director Jessica Wright



Post 3033 received the Diamond Jubilee  
Award for 75 years



2018-2019 Dept. Commander, National Assistant Adjutant General and  
Dept. Service Officer award Rudolph Wade with Service Officer of the Year



Post 3901 received the Diamond Jubilee  
Award for 75 years



Post 3908 received the Diamond Jubilee  
Award for 75 years



Post 3925 received the Diamond Jubilee  
Award for 75 years



Gary Brown, Tara Fajardo Arteaga from VFW National Membership Department, Membership Director Gary Gamble



Membership seminar on Sunday of Department Convention



Custom 100th Anniversary shirts

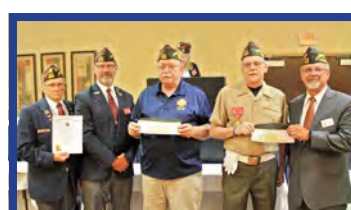


Recipients of Youth Activity awards with 2018-2019 Dept. Commander Phil Patterson

**DISTRICT ALL-STATE AWARDS**



**POST ALL-STATE AWARDS**



Congratulations to all of these Posts & Districts for achieving this honorable award!



# POST REPORTS



## POST #582 ORTONVILLE



Post #582 Honor Guard at the 2019 Memorial Day Ceremony



Post Honor Guard and Members lead the Memorial Day parade.



#582 Commander Dennis Hoffman and Sr. Vice Carl Jeffrey present a VFW crystal apple to 8th grade teacher Krista Anderson

## POST #607 ROGERS CITY

On May 11th, 2019, members of the VFW Post 607 presented Life Member, Edwin Mulka with a VFW Certificate of Recognition on this 100th birthday at the home of his daughter. He and his family were very impressed and thankful for the recognition.



L-R : Doug Richards/Korea, Don Smith/Vietnam, Edwin Mulka (seated) Renwood Pilarski/Vietnam, Richard Haneckow/WWII, Harold Hopp/WWII & Duane Demby/Vietnam

## POST #2233 DETROIT

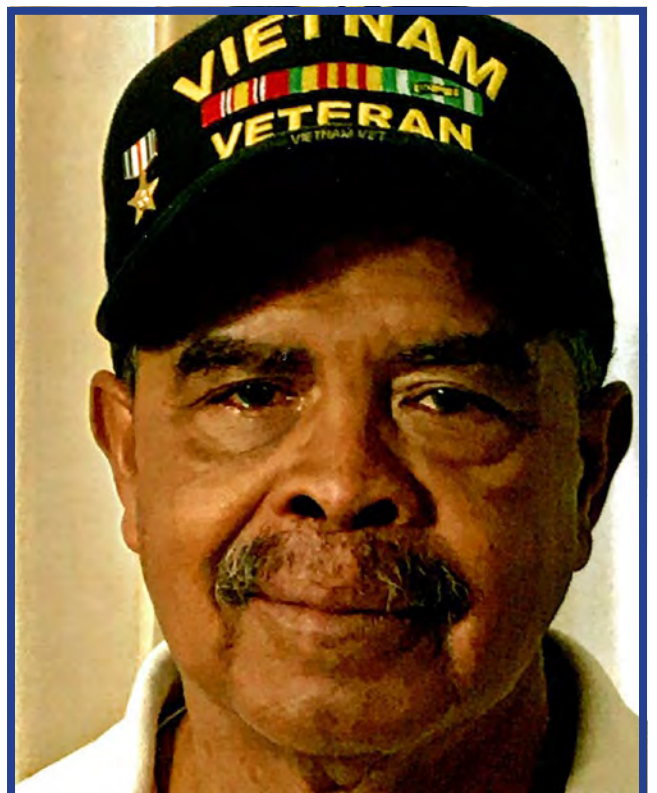
The comrades of James Europe Post #2233 in Detroit are proud to recognize one of our newest members, a recipient of the Bronze Star for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces.

Private First Class, Michael J. Lee distinguished himself by his heroic actions on 17 November, 1958, while serving as an RTO with Company A, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry in the Republic of Vietnam. While on a platoon sized ambush patrol, the element was engaged by intense communist fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, PFC Lee exposed himself to enemy fire in order to fire an M-72 LAW on a hostile position. He seized another LAW and returned through the bullet swept area and expended the weapon. Constantly, PFC Lee kept the vital radio communications open despite the fierce conflict.

His valorous actions contributed immeasurably to the thwarting of insurgent

force. PFC Lee's personal bravery and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, the 25th Infantry Division and the United States Army.

Welcome to the team PFC Lee!



**POST #2272 DURAND**



Past Commander, Dennis Martin, receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award, from the Durand Chamber of Commerce



Rock & Roll Concert



Donation for Veteran's Rock & Roll Concert from Reed-Raymond VFW Post #2272 for "Welcome Home Veterans, Bancroft"

**POST #3701 LAKEVIEW**

Congratulations to Hough-Pontius Post #3701 Members for a successful 2018-2019 year! Your hard work surely paid off. Not only did we achieve 100% membership and make All-State for the second year in a row, we also took first place in Scouting Division II, our Troop 95 Eagle Scout, Anthony Warchuck received Eagle Scout of the Year, our Michigan State Trooper, Matt Rose received Police Officer of the Year,

Post Quartermaster, Jessica Wright received the Outstanding Participation Award from Dept. Commander Phil Patterson for her Safety Program, we installed a new Auxiliary, Post Commander, Stacey Roberts and Post Quartermaster Jessica Wright received National Aide-De-Camp awards, we were awarded a \$3,000 Home Depot Grant which we used to install a beautiful new floor in the hall, had our first ever golf outing which was

a huge success, Commander, Stacey Roberts was awarded a Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition from Congressman John Moolenaar and so much more!

See pages 10-11 for photos of awards received at State Convention in June!

The 2019-2020 year is already off to a great start! Our 2nd Annual Golf Outing is August 10th at Glenkerry in Greenville, for more info email us at [vfwpost3701@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost3701@gmail.com)



Congressman John Moolenaar, Representative Jim Lower, Pat Outman (representing Senator Rick Outman) and Commander Stacey Roberts awarded local Vietnam veterans with certificates and the Vietnam Commemorative Pin



Senator Rick Outman presents a State of Michigan Special Tribute to Post Commander Stacey Roberts



Post & Auxiliary members at Easter Pancake Breakfast for kids with the Easter bunny

**POST #6132 LANSING**

Post #6132 in Lansing raised \$2,700 for the Post Relief Fund during Buddy Poppy days. The photo below was taken at Kroger.



**POST #8872 PORT SANILAC**

Port Sanilac Post #8872 presented a POW-MIA certificate and flag to Dave and Jeanne Harper, owners of the Bluewater Sports Bar and Grill in Port Sanilac, MI.

The Post asked Dave if he would display a POW-MIA Flag if we provided it. He agreed and eight members of the Post went to the

Bluewater Bar & Grill for the presentation of the certificate and flag. There was a good crowd in the Bluewater who also got to see it.

The POW/MIA flag now hangs prominently from the ceiling and will be seen by hundreds of local and seasonal patrons throughout the entire year.



L-R Back : Dick Burl, Ed Nurenberg, Burt Downing, Jeff Lyall, Adjutant, Randy Weiss  
L-R Front : Mike Uhring, Bob Carter, Jeanne Harper, Dave Harper, Roger Bobby, Commander



## U.S. MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT VISITS WWII MARINES

JERRY GORSKI

General Robert Neller, Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, made an unofficial visit to the Dearborn Marine Corps League on Saturday, April 6, 2019 to visit (7) World War II Marines including Calvin Shepherd from VFW Post 2645 Southfield in District 5. The General appeared in civilian clothes, when he joined the (7) World War II Marines, some of whom were in their late 90s at the joint invitation of the "Veteran of the Game Tailgate" group and the Marine Corps League Dearborn Detachment.

General Neller gave each World War II Marine his "4 Star" General Challenge Coin and a Personal Letter from him, which Calvin Shepherd brought to our May Post 2645 Membership Meeting and showed all the members attending, the General's Challenge Coin, his Personal Letter and the Newspaper dated Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

General Neller heard from each of the (7) Marines about their experience during World War II. Calvin Shepherd, as well as the other

World War II Marines were so honored to have the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps come all the way from Washington D.C. to visit them. Calvin Shepherd said, "I will never forget General Robert Neller's visit".



## SUCCESS STORY

JOE GREENE, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Success can come in many forms, and as advocates for veterans, it typically means a VSO went above and beyond a denied claim to seek out and obtain all 3 elements required by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to grant a benefit. These include: An in-service event, a current diagnosis of a disability, and a nexus or link from present to period of active service. For a Vietnam era veteran filing in 2011, this can be extremely challenging to show their current diagnosis began over 50 years ago. However, if it is a conceded illness on a presumptive list, all one must do is show exposure to herbicides and a nexus would no longer be required. This is very easy for those Soldiers and Marines with DD214's demonstrating "Boots on the Ground" but can be extremely difficult for Airmen and Sailors with DD214's that don't.

An Air Force veteran served honorably as an Air Policeman from 1960 to 1964 and did a tour of duty at Kunsan Air Base Korea 1961-1962. He subsequently files a claim through

the VFW due to the many illnesses he has been suffering from. These include Coronary Art Disease, Diabetic Nephropathy with end stage renal disease (kidney transplant) DMII, Peripheral Neuropathy, Parkinson's Disease, and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This is a veritable cornucopia of presumptive illnesses associated with exposure to herbicides. Since his military personnel records were silent for service in Vietnam, the VA denied all issues. An Administrative Review was requested by the VSO which also led to a negative finding, and all issues remained denied. All efforts at the Regional Office level through proper appeals channels, to include a personal hearing with a DRO along with lay evidence he had indeed been to Vietnam in the performance of his duties were fruitless and we would appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Years long effects of his varied illnesses have been taking a severe toll, and efforts to get advancement on the docket were not granted because this 73-year-old veteran

did not meet the minimum 75 years of age or financial hardship. It wouldn't be until October of 2018 he would have his BVA Hearing. The VSO articulated the consistency of veteran's lay statements throughout in terms of times, places, and events around the time. Although his body is rapidly deteriorating, his mind was sharp as to his role in securing U-2 aircraft for 4 days prior to being authorized for R&R in Japan. His sister was getting ready to graduate high school at that time, and although he couldn't be present wanted to get her a dress which he still had a picture of her wearing.

Subsequently, after thorough review, the Judge granted all issues on appeal. It would be a few more months of current severity of all illness and promulgation going back to his original date of applying. He is now 100% permanent and total with 4 separate special monthly compensation ratings and his retro-active award was in the amount of \$297,537.53!

## GET YOUR FREE NATIONAL PARK PASS TODAY

Did you know that disabled veterans are eligible for a **FREE** lifetime national park pass?

More than 330-million people visit U.S. National Parks each year. With an America the Beautiful – The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Lifetime Access Pass you can visit the over 400 National Parks and more than 2,000 recreation sites across the country at no charge. This is made possible by the partnerships of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation.

The access pass admits the pass owner and any passengers in a single, private vehicle at per-vehicle entrances or the pass owner plus three additional adults where per-person fees apply. Even more, the pass includes discounts on some expanded amenity like camping!

**The qualifications :**

The pass is available to veterans who have a VA disability rating of 10% or higher.

**How to obtain the pass :**

1. It can be ordered online for a one-time \$10 processing fee
2. Print the order form and send regular mail for a one-time processing fee of \$10
3. Visit a participating federal recreation site where interagency passes are issued. This option is fast and free!

The online and printable form can be found at

[STORE.USGS.GOV/ACCESS-PASS](https://store.usgs.gov/access-pass) and both options take 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Once you have your pass, make sure you have your ID ready and start exploring the many beautiful opportunities our National Parks provide!



**COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT**

The VFW Foundation Community Support Grant has ended for this funding cycle but will re-open on **September 1, 2019**. A total of 361 grants were awarded (248 to VFW Posts and 113 to VFW Auxiliaries) nationwide for \$359,612 during the 2018-2019 year.

This includes \$3,250 in bonus grants awarded to 11 Posts that engaged with VFW corporate partners such as ACE Hardware, Humana and Walgreens in their projects. An additional \$20,000 of the budget was used as an incentive to Posts/Auxiliaries in support of the Thank BK program.

Not surprisingly, the largest number of grants went to VFW Posts/Auxiliaries to assist local nonprofits which highlights the important community service role of our membership.

Available to any VFW Post or Auxiliary, a Community Support Grant will provide up to \$1,000 for performing important and needed qualifying outreach projects in your community! With an easy and streamlined application process, Posts and Auxiliaries can expect to receive a decision within thirty (30) days of the application submission.

Visit [VFW.org](http://VFW.org) to learn more.

**71ST ANNUAL VICTORY IN JAPAN DAY SERVICE**

**GOLD STAR MOTHERS**

**Gold Star Mothers  
71st Annual Victory In Japan Day Service  
World War II Four Freedoms Memorial  
- at -  
White Chapel Memorial Park Cemetery  
621 West Long Lake Rd. - Troy, MI 48098**

**Sunday, August 4th, 2019  
All Marching units lineup At 11:00 AM  
Memorial service starts at Noon  
Luncheon afterwards at Acorn Post 1669  
Royal Oak  
Everyone is welcome**

President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms - jointly initiated with Winston Churchill in the historic Atlantic Charter - are immortalized in marble, creating one of White Chapel's most impressive memorials. It was dedicated on V-J Day, 1948, when 115 soldiers were returned from overseas and laid to rest in the then-largest mass burial in United States history. There are a total of 322 WWII soldiers who are laid to rest in the special WWII Four

Freedoms area. Forty-one soldiers were returned from overseas and laid to rest in 1947. A total of one hundred seventy were laid to rest in 1948. One hundred three were laid to rest in 1949. Six were laid to rest in 1950. One soldier was laid to rest in 1952 and one in 1956. The WWII Four Freedoms Memorial serves as homage to all of Michigan's WWII veterans

**For more information contact Norman Mauldin at [unreper@mi.rr.com](mailto:unreper@mi.rr.com)  
or Linda Gloger, Auxiliary Co-chair**



**BLUE WATER NAVY ACT NOW LAW!**



WASHINGTON – The national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting the president for signing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 into law on June 25th, 2019.

“Tens of thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans of the Vietnam War and dependent children born with spina bifida due to a parent’s toxic exposure will now benefit from this new law,” exclaimed VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence, “and the VFW is proud to have helped lead the charge to return these benefits to these deserving veterans and to expand existing benefits to dependent children. We look forward to the VA publishing implementation guidance on their website very soon.”

The VFW-championed Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, or H.R. 299, restores VA benefits to thousands of Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after arbitrary regulatory changes. It benefits veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving along the Korean DMZ with an earlier

start date to encompass the timeframe when various defoliants were tested – to Sept. 1, 1967, instead of April 1, 1968 – and expands benefits to children born with spina bifida due to a parent’s exposure in Thailand, coverage that already exists for the children of Vietnam and Korean DMZ veterans. The new law also requires the VA to report on research being conducted on a broad range of conditions possibly related to service in Southwest Asia, which is important for future legislative efforts to create a list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking VA health care and benefits.

“The VFW is proud of the 116th Congress for ending this benefits inequity, and we salute President Trump for quickly signing H.R. 299 into law,” said Lawrence.

Veterans and their families can learn more about benefits associated with Agent Orange exposure and about spina bifida birth defects related to exposure by visiting [VFW.org](http://VFW.org).

For assistance in filing claims and to find a service officer in your area, visit [www.vfwmi.org/vethelp](http://www.vfwmi.org/vethelp)

**VFW REMEMBERS THE COST OF FREEDOM 243 YEARS LATER**

As you read this, chances are good that you, along with Americans all across the country celebrated Independence Day with your families, friends and communities. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is hopeful that everyone took time to remember all of the Americans who have helped preserve our freedom and given us reason to defend that freedom for all future generations.

The America we know today was born from great leaders – brave men and women who despite the dangers took up the fight for a better way of life. And after eight long years with more than 4,400 lost, and

nearly 6,200 injured, that way of life – the American way – was realized.

243 years later the United States’ most dedicated patriots continue to pay the cost of our independence.

The VFW honors all of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have sacrificed greatly to secure our freedom. Their service and sacrifice has allowed us the very opportunity to celebrate. To each of America’s service members and veterans, we thank you for your service and thank you to the families that support our Nation’s heroes today, tomorrow and always.



**GARY GAMBLE**

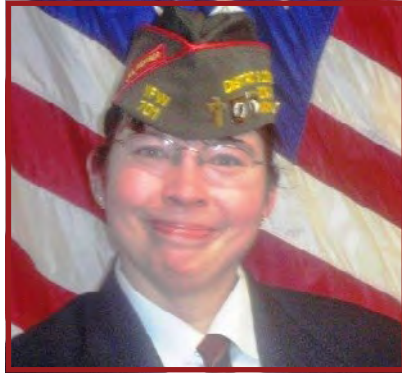
Candidate for Department  
Jr. Vice Commander  
2020-2021



Unwavering  
Dependable  
Knowledgeable

**JENNIFER L. SMITH**

Candidate for  
Department Chaplain  
2020-2021



Selfless Service through Faith.  
Proud member of  
District 6 and Post #701

**GOVERNOR WHITMER DECLARES JUNE 12 'WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY'**

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has proclaimed June 12 of this year Women Veterans Recognition Day, honoring Michigan's nearly 44,000 living women veterans and the many more who served before them.

The proclamation, stemming from a Senate resolution put forth by Sen. Peter MacGregor, is the latest critical step in recognizing and supporting women veterans, who have been historically overlooked and underserved. "Michigan women have been stepping up to serve our country for generations, and it's time they get the respect and recognition they earned," said Gov. Whitmer. "While I'm proud to declare June 12th Women Veterans Recognition Day, we've also got to make sure our women veterans have the year-round support they need when they return home, like access to quality, affordable health care, mental health services and housing. When Michigan women make the brave decision to put their lives on the line to protect us, it's our responsibility to make sure they can build a good life for themselves when they return."

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) recently launched "She Is a Veteran," a three-year campaign to recognize women veterans for their service, help them tell their unique stories and ultimately connect them to the benefits and services they earned.

"For a year and a half, I've been hearing

the same underlying theme from women veterans across the state: 'We're overlooked, underrepresented and underserved in the community,' said Erika Hoover, a Navy veteran and Women Veteran Initiative Coordinator for the MVAA. "Through She Is a Veteran, we can help these patriots get the appropriate resources and support they need."

Nationwide, there are 2 million women veterans, making up nearly 10 percent of the total veteran population. While the number of veterans overall is decreasing, driven by the decline in male veterans, the number of women veterans is steadily increasing.

In Michigan, women veterans will continue making up a bigger part of the overall veteran population. While women veterans made up just 7 percent of the state's veteran population in 2015 (compared with 93 percent male veterans), that ratio will more than double by 2045 when women veterans will account for 16 percent of the veteran population (compared with 84 percent male veterans).

Yet women veterans are facing numerous challenges, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Among them:

- 1 in 4 women veterans responded "yes" when screened for military sexual trauma.
- More than 40 percent of women veterans in the VA system have been diagnosed

with a mental health condition.

- A higher percentage of women veterans have a service-connected disability and live in poverty than male veterans.
- Women veterans are two to four times more likely to become homeless than non-women veterans.
- The suicide rate of women veterans is 1.8 times higher than that of non-veteran women.

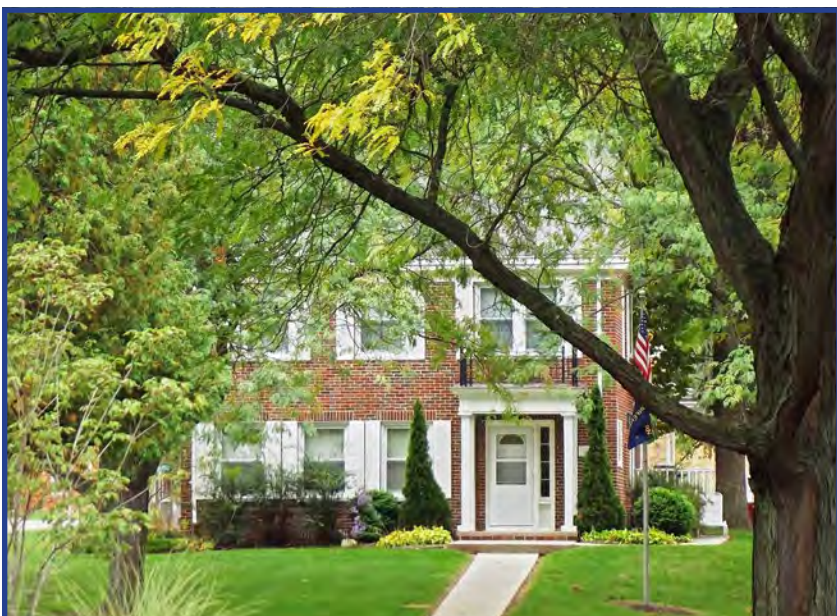
Despite these challenges, women veterans have become four-star generals, commanded ships, earned medals of honor and run major components of the VA. As women become a bigger part of the veteran population, advocates say there must be continued efforts to remember, recognize and support their service.

In her proclamation, Gov. Whitmer urges "all Michiganders to honor women veterans on this momentous occasion." The resolution backing the proclamation, Senate Resolution 55, was passed unanimously June 5 and follows a similar resolution passed last year by the state House.

Michigan women veterans interested in telling their stories for the She Is a Veteran campaign are invited to contact

**Erika Hoover**

**HooverE2@michigan.gov**



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

Visit [vfnationalhome.org/michigan-day-2019](http://vfnationalhome.org/michigan-day-2019)  
for more information



**MICHIGAN VETERANS TO GET FREE FINANCIAL COUNSELING**

**MICHIGAN VETERAN AFFAIRS AGENCY**

Michigan military veterans and their families now have access to free financial counseling through a state pilot program, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has announced.

The MVAA's Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTFF) recently approved a 15-month agreement with GreenPath Financial Wellness Inc., a nonprofit financial counseling organization, to provide the service to Michigan veterans.

The financial counseling pilot program can help the many veterans who are struggling to manage their finances or overcome crippling debt. The goal is to help veterans gain financial stability, said Lindell Holm, director of the MVTFF, a state entity that provides emergency grants to eligible veterans.

"GreenPath has a long history of educating consumers – including veterans – and helping them achieve a healthy financial situation," said Holm, a Marine veteran. "They offer practical financial education that can help our veteran population to better understand personal financial issues such as credit scores and loan terms."

Veterans interested in the free financial

counseling can call the MVAA's Resource Center at 1-800-MICH-VET (642-4838) or visit [www.michiganveterans.com](http://www.michiganveterans.com).

The holistic financial counseling consists of a one-on-one session that typically takes an hour and can be done over the phone or at a GreenPath branch office. Each veteran receives a custom budget and financial action plan.

Additional free financial counseling for veterans includes:

- Housing counseling, in which renters and homeowners learn to avoid delinquencies and explore options to avoid foreclosure and eviction.
- Credit report review to help veterans understand credit reports, credit scoring and how to manage their credit score.
- Financial wellness tools, including webinars, a digital education course, an online support community and a digital journaling tool.

Veterans may qualify for a Debt Management Plan, which is separate from the free financial counseling. Under the plan, clients deposit a set amount to a trust account

based on their income, and GreenPath uses this account to pay their creditors directly. As a benefit, GreenPath works with creditors to lower interest rates, stop late and over-the-limit fees and reduce monthly payments. The plan has a monthly fee ranging from \$0 to \$75, which is minimal considering the amount clients typically save in waived fees and reduced interest charges.

David Flores, director of client services at GreenPath, said nationwide GreenPath manages payments for more than 44,000 people on a Debt Management Plan. The nonprofit organization also understands the issues faced by military families.

"In 2018, we served more than 1,500 Michigan veteran and military households, and over 80 percent of them who responded to a survey indicated an improvement to one or more element of their financial well-being," Flores said.

The MVTFF Board of Trustees has approved an initial agreement with GreenPath to run through Sept. 30, 2020. The Board will decide whether to renew the program for each fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) starting in September 2020.

**VFW TRAINING AND SUPPORT**

In an effort to better serve the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, tools are available at online under VFW Training and Support.

There you will find Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates; training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention; Community Service & Youth Programs; Communications & Public Affairs; Post Service Officers; and Veterans & Military Support.

To utilize these valuable training guides, videos, forms and templates, please login at

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

- Proceed to "My VFW"
- Click the link "VFW Training and Support."
- The online "Document Repository" is a system of managing documents utilized primarily by Department Officers and members of the National Council of Administration.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION IN ORLANDO**

With the national convention only weeks away, are you ready? Whether you're heading to Orlando or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming on July 21 at

[vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention)

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App is available for download at both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching "VFW Events."

Be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using #VFWConvention.

**CAMP TROTTER CLEAN UP DAY**

Thank you Larry Thayer, Richard Rought, Kevin Conklin, Stacey Roberts and Jessica Wright for your hard work during Camp Trotter Clean Up Day this year.

Michigan is the ONLY state with a VFW youth camp. This is a great place for kids to grow, learn and make lifelong friends but we need some more support to keep this camp operational and tidy.

If you have some free time to spend at the camp or have questions, contact Larry Thayer at [vfwlarry@aol.com](mailto:vfwlarry@aol.com)



# ROLL CALL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES



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

<b>345 Redford</b> Jeffries, Joseph B. 97 Navy/WWII Lakner, Frederick P. 90 Navy Shuffler, Duane F. 85 Marines Taughinbaugh, David E. 90 Navy Yeager, James R. 84 Air Force	Hutson, Gordon W. 95 Army/WWII Kuk, Daniel 89 Army Mc Intire, Larry A. 71 Marines Newcomb, Fred 69 Pagel, Charles W. 93 Pupi, Charlie M. 88 Army/Korea Yager, Grant 94 WWII	<b>4090 Portland</b> Steed, Frederick P. 72 Army Thalison, Frank 97 Army/WWII	<b>7439 Indian River</b> Capling, Charles R. 85 Army
<b>446 Muskegon</b> Wisti, Clifford W. 94 Marines	<b>2998 Escanaba</b> Snyder, Matthew G. 76 Army	<b>4159 Roscommon</b> Cereska, Clarence H. 92 Army Wakefield, Kirk A. 68 Army	<b>7546 Dearborn Heights</b> Gazdik, Paul F. Army/Korea King, Lowell 93 Army Air Corps Simpson, Merwyn W. 100 Army Sokolowski, Henry 90 Navy/Marine Spisz, Norman E. 91 WWII Wegzyn, Joseph
<b>565 Battle Creek</b> Leroy, Glenn W. 85 Army	<b>3023 Grand Rapids</b> Barwacz, John 97 Navy/WWII	<b>4164 Caro</b> Rock, Wilford A. 91 WWII	<b>7573 New Baltimore</b> Fournier, Donald B. 86 Korea Rose, Wilford M. 88 Navy
<b>607 Rogers City</b> Hopp, Larry D. 73 Marines/Vietnam	<b>3055 St. Louis</b> Mc Fee, William L. 79 Marines	<b>4249 Newaygo</b> Lantz, Raymond H. 96 Army/WWII	<b>7581 Wayland</b> Glascott, Kenneth L. 84 Army Glusic, Edward 92 Navy/WWII Schmidt, Louis N. 92 Navy/WWII
<b>796 Port Huron</b> Irwin, William 95 Marines/WWII Wojciechowski, Thomas L. 72 Army	<b>3134 Iron River</b> Carmine, Peter A. 99 Army/WWII	<b>4357 Brighton</b> Pipoly, Paul E. 92 WWII Pocci, Julia K. 42 Navy	<b>7731 Lake Leelanau</b> Potvin, Robert E. 71 Army/Vietnam
<b>1136 Wyandotte</b> Hoch, James A. 70 Vietnam	<b>3165 Negaunee</b> Champion, Ruben R. 86 Air Force	<b>4461 Lake Odessa</b> Eckman, Donald B. 94 WWII	<b>7912 Sand Lake</b> Waller, Robert E. 85 Army/Korea
<b>1138 Monroe</b> Basile, Pat J. 89 Marines/Korea Billock, Joseph 90 Navy/WWII Bragg, Michael J. 74 Air Force Henry, Monroe F. 91 Army/WWII	<b>3195 Muskegon</b> Blackmer, Angus J. 87 Army/Korea Furst, William C. 94 Army/WWII Muckey, Larry W. 78 Army Strach, John J. 94 Army Air Corps	<b>4573 Ishpeming</b> Andriacchi, Francis P. 91 Army	<b>8215 Shepherd</b> Coughlin, Richard J. 83 Army
<b>1146 St. Clair Shores</b> Raeth, John H. 92 Army/WWII	<b>3243 Fenton</b> Anderson, Edward E. 92 Navy	<b>4659 Shelby Township</b> Wagner, Conrad L. 89 Army/Korea	<b>8236 Flint</b> Moyer, Stephen D. 71 Navy Saines, W. Stanley 69 Marines Woods, Leon H. 79 Army
<b>1454 Alma</b> LeRoux, Robert 72 Navy/Vietnam	<b>3256 Montague</b> Hanner, John L. 92 Army/WWII	<b>5065 Sheridan</b> Brooks, Clare V. 73 Army/Vietnam Chadwick, Richard A. 87 Army Johnson, Bruce P. 84 Army Mann, Dennis 65 Army/Vietnam	<b>8465 Port Huron</b> Evans, Donald J. 91 Navy/WWII
<b>1519 Northville</b> Fournier, Walter 86 Army/Korea	<b>3293 Grand Ledge</b> Zaske, George H. 74 Navy/Vietnam	<b>5598 Coopersville</b> Gilde, Edward C. 85 Army	<b>8872 Port Sanilac</b> Kaminski, Walter 96 Navy/WWII
<b>1573 Saugatuck</b> Durham, David P. 69 Army	<b>3306 Howard City</b> Gondre, Max F. 82 Army	<b>5602 Six Lakes</b> May, Zane D. 93 Army/WWII	<b>9023 Brimley</b> Wilson, Clayton A. 87 Army/Korea
<b>1888 Trenton</b> Scheffler, Dennis E. 75 Army	<b>3323 Westland</b> Harris, Garry D. 72 Vietnam	<b>6056 Springport</b> Masternak, Andrew 88 Army/Korea	<b>9084 Wakefield</b> Salli, Waino E. 96 Army/WWII
<b>2052 Romeo</b> Bugenski, Anthony H. 93 Army	<b>3623 Cheboygan</b> Griewahn, Arnold 89 Army/Korea Pyrzynski, Edwin G. 94 Coast Guard	<b>6248 Decatur</b> Bailey, Charles J. Barker, William C. 86 Army/Korea Owens, Judith M.	<b>9283 Southgate</b> Mc Kinney, Anthony 92 Army Schmitz, Joseph B. 67
<b>2144 Holland</b> Klingenberg, Anthony 92 Navy	<b>3651 Midland</b> Purcell, Gary L. 70 Army/Vietnam	<b>6250 Sterling Heights</b> Balester, Frank 71 Vietnam	<b>9377 Plainwell</b> Burhans, Robert 80 Army/Vietnam
<b>2233 Detroit</b> Porter, Vergus 72 Vietnam	<b>3673 Bessemer</b> Kovacevich, Mary T. 100 Navy/WWII/Korea/Vietnam	<b>6252 Comstock</b> Dahl, Thomas L. 67 Marines/Vietnam	<b>9388 Muskegon</b> Bolton, Bobby G. 70 Army
<b>2269 Wixom</b> Seay, Ryal G. 91 Army/WWII Willer, Edwin A. 87 Marines/Korea	<b>3735 Oscoda</b> Soucie, Clyde L. 88 Army/Korea	<b>6691 Fraser</b> Malinchak, Arnold P. 92 WWII	<b>9455 Owosso</b> Turk, Victor L. 70 Army
<b>2272 Durand</b> Jurd, James E. 91 Coast Guard/Army	<b>3908 Rochester</b> Allen, Marvin R. 90 Navy/Korea Isaacson, Neil D. 68 Marines	<b>6802 Richmond</b> Briere, David P. 66 Navy/Vietnam Kozub, Joseph A. 76 Navy	<b>9809 Saginaw</b> Cronk, Carl A. 73 Army/Vietnam
<b>2326 Grand Haven</b> Smith, Phillip C. 73 Air Force	<b>3900 Calumet</b> Luenberger, George A. 92 Army Air Corps/WWII	<b>6864 Cadillac</b> Rainier, Edward N. 75 Navy/	<b>9914 Highland</b> Gerbeck, Michael D. 72 Navy
<b>2492 Imlay City</b> Wedlake, Melvin 79 Navy	<b>3941 Livonia</b> Genette, Gerald T. 85 Army/Korea Mininni, Sam 98 WWII	<b>6950 Kawkawlin</b> Carbary, James T. 88 Army/Korea	<b>15023 Lansing</b> Belleville, Wallace 96 Army/WWII Boals, Roger W. 70 Army/Vietnam Cooper, Carl H. 89 Navy Heitman, William S. 92 WWII Seaman, Dwight H. 69 Army Singer, Frederick M. 93 WWII
<b>2496 Alpena</b> Mac Kenzie, Orville J. 90 Army	<b>4005 Corunna</b> Williams, Norman 87 Army/Korea	<b>6965 Ubly</b> Guza, Edmund M. 92 Army/WWII	
<b>2780 Traverse City</b> Kroupa, Clarence H. 95 WWII Winnie, Robert J. 97 Army/WWII	<b>4054 Marcellus</b> Wagner, Edward 71 Navy/Vietnam	<b>7302 Hemlock</b> Currie, Robert B. 95 Army/WWII Keel, Delos R. 81 Navy Rohrbaugh, Douglas D. 87 Navy Wirtz, Arthur W. 90 Army/Korea	
<b>2945 Sandusky</b> Bannister, Elden 88 Army/WWII Clark, Leonard J. 93 Marines Ernst, Joseph 91 WWII Gillam, George 68 Hagan, Thomas C. 71 Army	<b>4076 Chelsea</b> Haag, Jacob M. 94 Army/WWII	<b>7435 Hale</b> Foster, Dennis M. 80 Air Force	

MAY WE NEVER FORGET

**FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 92nd ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE  
BOYNE HIGHLANDS RESORTS  
September 25-29, 2019**

**Thursday, September 26**

9 a.m. Boyne Highlands / Golf Outing  
TBD Champion Room / Hospitality Room

**Friday, September 27**

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Zoo Room / Registration  
Directors Displays  
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Green Room / Service Office Committee  
Budget & Finance Committee  
Director’s reports  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own- (hospitality room for donation)  
1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Green Room / Director’s reports  
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Hagen/Sarazen Rooms / CMDR, SR, JR, Chaplain Breakout sessions  
4 p.m. - 5 p.m. Green Room / Camp Trotter Meeting  
6 p.m. Champion Room / Hospitality Room

**Saturday, September 28**

8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Champion Room / Council of Administration Breakfast  
8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Zoo Room / Registration  
Directors Displays  
9:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. Green Room / Council of Administration  
12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own- (hospitality room for donation)  
1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. Tailgate Room / Veterans Training Seminar  
6:30 p.m. Champion Room / Hospitality Room

**DRESS CODE**

Friday- September 27th / Mike Fineis’ shirt and tan pants  
Saturday- September 28th / Morning - C of A Jacket and tie  
Afternoon- Phil Patterson’s shirt with tan pants

**UNMET NEEDS FUNDRAISER**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) is pleased to announce participating BURGER KING® franchisees are set to kick off their summer fundraiser to benefit the VFW’s Unmet Needs program.

Starting on July 1, patrons are encouraged to visit any of the nearly 850 participating BURGER KING® restaurants located throughout 31 states and donate \$1 or more to the VFW’s Unmet Needs program upon checkout. Donations will be accepted until the end of the July.

Established in 2004, the Unmet Needs program assists service members and military families experiencing financial hardship by providing financial assistance grants toward basic life necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments.

Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees and their customers have contributed more than \$6 million to Unmet Needs, which has provided more than \$11.3 million in aid to more than 10,000 struggling military and veteran families since its inception.

**DONATE \$1**

**VFWMI.ORG EASY LINKS**

We are constantly trying to improve the Department website to make it easier to use and navigate. Here are a few NEW direct links to some important pages!

- [vfwmi.org/contact](http://vfwmi.org/contact)
- [vfwmi.org/vethelp](http://vfwmi.org/vethelp)
- [vfwmi.org/join](http://vfwmi.org/join)
- [vfwmi.org/directory](http://vfwmi.org/directory)
- [vfwmi.org/officers](http://vfwmi.org/officers)
- [vfwmi.org/allstate](http://vfwmi.org/allstate)
- [vfwmi.org/camptrrotter](http://vfwmi.org/camptrrotter)
- [vfwmi.org/mov](http://vfwmi.org/mov)
- [vfwmi.org/forms](http://vfwmi.org/forms)
- [vfwmi.org/gallery](http://vfwmi.org/gallery)

Did you know that our website (thanks to Dave Strange & Rob Tuck) has been adopted and is used by over 300 other VFW Posts, Districts, Departments, Auxiliaries and even VFW National!

We think that is pretty cool.



**MOV EDITOR,  
STACEY ROBERTS**

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

**Editorial Committee:**

Dept. Commander, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander, Dept. Jr. Vice Commander, Dept. Quartermaster, VFW Member Jessica Wright, Auxiliary Members Jared Roberts and Linda Gloger

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MOV@VFWMI.ORG

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7901 Backus Road  
Greenville, MI 48838

**TAPS FORM**

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

**Send completed form to:**

VFW of Michigan  
924 North Washington  
Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post)

(City)

**Branch of Service (Circle One):**

ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY  
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

**Served in (Circle one):**

WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM  
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN  
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

**LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND**

If you attended Department Convention in June then you may have heard about the selfless service that Barry Walter and Patty Patterson showed recently for a fallen comrade.

Vietnam Veteran, West Point graduate, Retired Army Lt. Colonel John Kehres passed away and his only living relatives were out of state and elderly. The brother denied Mr. Kehres remains so that he would not be responsible for the funeral costs. Because of this, Mr. Kehres body would be released to the county as unclaimed and would not have a burial or funeral service. For Patty this was not acceptable so she contacted Barry Walter who took it upon himself to make arrangements for the release of Mr. Kehres body, paid out of pocket for cremation and coordinated funeral services and internment at Great Lakes National Cemetery with help from Desmond Funeral Home. The total expense was around \$2,000.

Word of this great deed quickly spread and was brought up at Convention where in a matter of 20 minutes, the comrades in attendance raised over \$4,000 to not only pay Barry back but also create a fund so this would never happen to another Michigan veteran. It was truly an amazing moment to remind us that no one does more for veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Honors were given to Lt. Colonel John Kehres on Tuesday, June 25 at 9:30 at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. He received military honors by the US Army with assistance by the VFW Honor Guard in Holly.

Many were in attendance including VFW Past State Commanders Lloyd Putnam II, Harry Les Croyle, Gerald Joseph Gorski, VFW Members including Stacey & Jessica from the Lakeview VFW Post (2 1/2 hours away) and more.

Thank you again Pat, Barry and all those who paid tribute.



**2019-2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S ROSTER**

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

Make checks payable to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**2019-2020 VFW SHIRT ORDER FORM**

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

SHIRTS ARE PRE-ORDER ONLY.

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

no pocket S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ 2X \_\_\_ 3X \_\_\_

Shirts are \$35.00.

Make checks payable to:

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_



**MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN NEWSLETTER**

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7901 Backus Rd, Greenville, MI 48838

**SNOWBIRD ADDRESS UPDATE**

Quartermasters now have the ability to update snowbird addresses to ensure members to receive their VFW mail.

- Go to Post QM Services
- Click on "Member Contact Info".
- Click on "Edit"
- You will see the "From" and "To", these are dates that the member will be at their winter location.
- Add the winter address and hit "Submit"