

## From the Editor

**THE MOV will be Delivered Electronically. DON'T PANIC!!!**



The C of A at Mid-Winter Conference in January voted to change the delivery method of the MOV. We will now be delivering the MOV electronically via email as the default method of delivery. What does this mean to you? It means that you will no longer receive a copy through the mail unless you specifically request it. We understand that there are some members that do not have access to a computer or email and that's ok. If you want a hard copy mailed to you, then that is what you will get. All you need to do is send me your name, address, and post number. Please write clearly so I get your information correct. You can email your information to [mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org) or through US Mail to:

Matt David  
10 Elder St  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Those that want the MOV electronically, you have 2 choices. You can receive it via email or you can view/download it off of the Dept. website. If you want the MOV delivered via email, please email me at [mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org) with your name and post number. If you elect to get the MOV through the website, you don't have to do anything.

Ladies and Mens Auxiliary members, electronic delivery of the MOV is open to you free of charge. The \$4.00 per year subscription still applies if you want a hard copy mailed to you.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me via email at [mov@vfwmi.org](mailto:mov@vfwmi.org) or by phone 734-883-1506.



## INSIDE

Officer Reports .....	1-2
Military Order of the Cootie .....	2
Success Story .....	3
District Reports.....	5-6
Veterans Homes.....	7
MOV 2015-16.....	8
Deadlines .....	8
Auxiliary News.....	8-9
District News .....	10
Mid-Winter Conf. ....	11
Essay Winners ....	12-13
Letter to Editor .....	14
Remembrance	
Day.....	15
Post News .....	16
MVAA Reaches 70% .	17
Sport Clips Award ....	18
VFW Takes on	
Capitol Hill.....	19
Auxiliary TAPS .....	20
Taps .....	21
Candidates for Office	
Dept. of Michigan.....	22
9th Annual Charity Golf	
Outing.....	23
Heroes on Wheels ...	23
State Commander ....	24

## Coming Events

STATE CONVENTION  
June 3-June 7, 2015

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

January/February/March 2015

Volume 82 Number 3



## STATE COMMANDER

Our Mid-Winter Conference is over and our State winners of the Voice of Democracy, Mr. Luke J. Richardson of the 6th District, Post 423, Patriots Pen Ms. Chloe Verbik, 5th District, Post 4659, and Teacher of the Year Elementary School Ms. Angella Danison from District 15 Post 6507, Middle School Ms. Kristin Zemnickas from District 4 Post 1136, and High School Mr. Michael J. Farley from District 15 Post 3900 have been chosen. They will represent us at the national level and the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars State of Michigan wish them good luck! On behalf of the Department of Michigan we would like to thank everyone at the post, district, and department levels for all of their hard work and dedication in making these programs a huge success. Also thank you to our State Judges Ralph Maccarone, Roz Lullove- Cooperman, Lesia Liss, Barbara Montgomery and Louis Kerman. State Senator Steven Bieda and his Lansing staff made the State Tributes happen for all the contestants', thank you Senator. Next year's themes are as follows: VOD- "My Vision for America", Patriots Pen: "What Freedom Means to Me". This year's winner speeches will be on the [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) website around the end of March. If you go there and listen to the speeches it will give your contestants a chance to see and hear what it takes to score high at the national level.

Membership is always of concern at every level of our organization. The Veterans of Foreign Wars State of Michigan needs you all to concentrate on recruiting new members, retaining the members we have and reinstating the ones that have left our organization. These are "The Three Rs" of Membership and the key to the success of our organization. There is plenty of time to make your posts, your districts and your Department 100% in membership. The following is an email I received from our VFW Commander in Chief John Stroud please read it and work hard to make it happen.

**Harry "Les" Croyle**

State Commander



Good morning Dream Team!

In the past week, I have noticed a slight improvement in an otherwise dismal membership performance. This is encouraging. Now that a positive trend has been established, I am requesting an all out blitz, or surge, or whatever you wish to call it.

Please forward this to all of your district and post commanders. I am requesting that all quartermasters print out the expired dues list and the due in 30/60/90 days dues list. Assemble a small team in the post to personally call, knock on doors, or make some kind of personal contact with these members. Tell them that we care. Ask them if they have fallen on hard times. Invite them to a meeting. **THIS WORKS!** I've seen it work. If they feel they are genuinely cared for, many will renew on the spot. Let's make February our biggest month to date.

Thanks for all you do. God Bless.

Yours in Comradeship,  
John W. Stroud  
Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States

John W. Stroud  
VFW National Commander

— STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 5



# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• *Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community* •

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## DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Back in the office after a great Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing. It was nice to see the turn out to support the VOD/PP programs and like always the students did a great job.

Don't forget the Commander's and President's Testimonial is April 24-26 2015 at the Holiday Inn

Gateway Centre, Flint Make sure you make your reservations soon.

Remember that with the upcoming elections, Post Election Reports must be completed and sent to the Department Headquarters in Lansing. Make sure it is filled out completely. All offices must be filled under Sec. 216 of the National

**Brian  
Coats**

**Department  
Adjutant**



By-Laws. Please have your reports filled in and sent to us as soon as possible.

If you have any comments, concerns, or general inquiries about the Department of Michigan or the VFW in general, please contact me by phone at 517-485-9456 or by email at vfwmi@vfwmi.org. I will be more than happy to assist you.

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Well another Mid-Winter Conference has come and gone and I would personally like to thank everyone for all their hard work to make the weekend such a success. It was amazing to not only have the kids there but to hear such inspiring speeches about patriotism. It was great to see such a turn out to honor the kids and it really shows how much we all care about the true meaning of liberty. I am still looking to hear if the numbers of students are up from last year and with everyone's help we can continue spread the word.

Now for some office business. I know that there still a few posts that are behind on audits and reports, please make sure to get these in on time. There are also some officers that have not paid their dues yet. I am not sure if it is because of the new dues system but I am confident that everyone will catch on. Please pay your dues because by the time you read this, those who have not paid will be relieve of their duties.

I am aware there are a lot of questions about what happened at the C of A. All I can tell you is that the situation has been resolved and we are all happy to be

**Paul  
McIvor**

**Senior  
Vice Commander**



moving on. I can also tell you that the entire department is running great; bills are being paid on time.

Incoming officers, if anyone has any questions or need some advice please do not hesitate to give me call or send me an email. To all district commanders, it is your job to stay on top of your posts; making sure reports turned in on time and everything is running smoothly.

I would really like to thank the entire district for all of the hospitality and warm welcome's that you have all shown to my wife and me. I am closing in on visiting every post in the state, and those that I haven't been to yet, I will make sure to visit as soon as possible. Again my wife & I would like to say Thank You for all you have done and shown to us.

May God bless all of you and God bless the United States.

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

I just returned from one of the best VFW Mid-Winter Conferences that I have ever attended. It was the Mid-Winter Conference on January 23, 24, 2015 at the Best Western Hotel in Lansing, MI, which included the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Banquet. I also had the honor and privilege of being the Master of Ceremonies at the banquet on Saturday evening with my youngest daughter, Jennifer, as my guest. It was great to have her sit next to me. Our Guest Speaker was John Muckelbauer, Assistant National Quartermaster General/General Counsel.

I want to first congratulate All the District Winners of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Contests including the Posts and Districts, who sponsored them from throughout the Department of Michigan. The 1st Place Voice of Democracy Winner is Luke J. Richardson sponsored by Post 423 Ann Arbor and District 6. Luke will be going to Washington D.C. next and compete against the State Winners from throughout the United States. The 1st Place Patriot's Pen Winner is Chloe Verbik sponsored by Post 4659 Shelby Township and District 5. Both Post 423 Ann Arbor and Post 4659 Shelby Township received the beautiful "Traveling Trophies" for one year.

I would like to talk next about Membership. I know you heard this phrase time and time again but I will say it again, "Membership is the life blood of our organization". Well, it really is the life blood of our organization. At the time of this writing, January 27, 2015, the VFW Department of Michigan is currently 28th in the nation at 91.55%. We are 4,186 members "short" of achieving

100%. There are brothers and sisters out there that are waiting to be signed up. It does not matter if you sign up a new member for your Post or for another Post in Michigan. Just please sign up a new member for the Department of Michigan. Thank You! Just think, if every VFW member throughout Michigan signed up just (1) New Member, the Department of Michigan would be over 100% in membership.

I want end my article by mentioning, that I lost a Good Friend and a Great VFW Mentor, a WWII Veteran by the name of Donald Henderson from VFW Post 4659 Shelby Twp. Don was a "70" Year VFW Life Member. He received his 70 Year VFW Pin in 2014 from Commander-in-Chief William Thien, when the Commander-in-Chief stopped at VFW Post 4659 Shelby Twp. for a luncheon in his honor, while traveling throughout the Department of Michigan. I have known Don, since I became a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Don has taught me a lot about what is important in Life and about the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I will truly miss Don Henderson. Life is too short! "Do the best you can every day, live the best you can every day, and enjoy life the best you can every day with your family and your friends." You just don't know when your life will end.

Thank you for all you do, each and every day for the Veterans of Foreign Wars! Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who now guard the Gates of Freedom for us!

*In the last edition of the MOV it was reported in the TAPS list for the Ladies Auxiliary that Glenda Britz of Auxiliary 6507, 15th District was deceased. This is not correct. She is very much alive.*

# God Bless Our Troops

## STATE SURGEON GENERAL

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Super Bowl is over and for all the Nascar fans out there Daytona is not far away.

Well we are half way through an interesting year, a new system to get used to, and many other changes. We are moving forward in making the VFW and all of its programs more accessible for our members.

The learning curve for the new Hospital and Activities Reporting has gone well. I would like to thank John Gubin and Past State Commander Don Nettler for all they have done to get us back on track.

All that being said, we are moving on to the end of the year. All of our post and district commanders need to look at their totals and see if any reports that were sent did not post. If they haven't and you have a copy please send it to me and I will submit it for you. Remember we are here to assist you in achieving your goals and ensuring that you may keep your non-profit status.

My main computer crashed and I just got it back on line so I lost many emails.



If you have sent one about a particular report or post and did not get a reply please feel free to send it again, my email is jerry.smith@chartermi.net. I am currently involved in many personal items so I may miss your phone call, PLEASE LEAVE ME A MESSAGE and I will get back to you. My number is 616-293-7544. Please call if you have problems or message me.

If you did not know, every report that is submitted is sent to my Department email and I save two months' worth of input. If you are missing a report and do not have a hard copy please contact me and I will go through the archives and see if I can find your report and resubmit it for you.

Remember Comrades I work for you and I am proud that you selected me and I look forward to assisting you in the future.

## LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this I have just returned from our Mid-Winter Conference held in Lansing this year. Thank you to Commander Croyle and his line officers and staff for a productive conference.

In the legislative arena, I would like to report some of our legislative goals for the coming year. Our state and federal legislatures are beginning their new legislative year and we need to make them aware of our goals for the coming year.

On Tuesday January 20th, I attended the Commanders Group Legislative meeting held at VFW Department of Michigan headquarters. Adjutant Brian Coats and National Legislative representative Bill Dobbie were also there. The Commanders group is composed of representatives from all of our veterans service organizations in Michigan. Jason Allen was in attendance from the Department of Military Affairs. The legislative arm of this group meets regularly with representatives from our legislators to keep abreast of legislation affecting veterans here in Michigan.

Later that evening I was honored to represent the Department of Michigan VFW at the Governors State of the State address. I was able to attend a reception sponsored by Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter and speak with his staff asking for his support of our veterans here in Michigan. I also attended Senate Majority Leader Arian Meekhof's reception and asked for his support also.

I would like to outline some of our legislative priorities discussed at our meeting. We have established priorities at the state and federal level. Some of these are as follows:

1. To maintain strong and adequate funding for veterans services in the State of Michigan. We are seeking a 1.5% increase in funding for the Michigan Veterans Coalition. This money is used to fund our veterans service offices here in Michigan.
2. To advocate for funding and maintenance for our two veterans homes operated by the State of Michigan. They are located in Grand Rapids and Marquette MI. PSC Ernie Meyers serves on the board that oversees these facilities.
3. To support legislation in the State of Michigan and nationally that is beneficial to the veterans in Michigan.

One of the issues that we are supporting includes making licensing and testing available to veterans using GI Bill money. This would require some changes at the state level and we support legislation to do so.

Support the passing of HJR D that was recently introduced. This would allow veterans to receive in state tuition rates for our community colleges. This also requires a constitutional amendment,



voted on by the voters of Michigan.

We are asking our VSO's here in Michigan to write resolutions to be sent to the legislature asking for fair and equitable laws concerning charitable gaming. We know how the current laws are affecting our ability to fund raise through charitable gaming and we need the legislature to address this.

4. To support proper funding for military assets and units here in Michigan, which includes our Michigan National Guard units.

5. To advocate for a strong and properly funded VA budget for our Michigan VA facilities.

At the national level, one of VFW National Legislative priority goals is elimination of the budget sequester. The sequester threatens our military's ability to perform their mission. Ships are not sailing, planes are not flying, and troops are not training. We must urge our legislators in Washington to pass a budget and eliminate this sequester in this session of Congress.

Senate bill S1982 is currently in committee. We must continue to press Congress to pass this important legislation that includes expansion of caregiver programs, mental health care, and other important issues. This is one of the most important pieces of veterans legislation in decades. Over 10,000 messages have been sent by the Action Corps to each Senate office urging passage of this bill.

The VFW National Legislative Conference is being held from March 1-5, 2015 in Washington DC. Commander Croyle and our National Legislative representative Bill Dobbie will be in attendance along with VFW delegations from all over the country. They will visit our legislators and urge their support of this legislation and other important veterans legislation facing this Congress.

In closing, I would ask all members to sign up for our Action Corps if you have not done so. The process is simple. Go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and click on VFW in DC, go to Grassroots Activity, click on the Action Corps, fill out the form and you will receive the Action Corps Weekly every Friday in your inbox. You will also receive from time to time legislative alerts requiring immediate action on our part concerning veterans legislation. We must continue to fight for our rights as veterans, active duty military and retired veterans. We must let our legislators know we will not allow them to balance their budgets on the backs of our veterans.

## Military Order of the Cootie

*"Fight for What's Right"*

2014-15

*"Making a Difference"*



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! - Through-out our travels we are asked by our VFW Comrades and friends "What is

a Cootie". The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization. We are known as "The Honor Degree of the VFW" and our members are comprised of the officers and leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is recognition of outstanding service to the VFW and its programs.

Just as members of the United Spanish American War Veterans has much to do with the foundation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they also had a prime part in the start of the Military Order of the Cootie. In late 1919 several Spanish War Veterans, members of the Imperial Order of the Dragon (a higher degree of the USAWV) conceived the idea of a similar order for the VFW. Fred C.



Madden, a Past Grand Viceroy of the Dragons, was assisted by another Past Grand Viceroy, F. L. Gransbury and several other I.O.D. members. With the influx of members from WWI, they though this could help with the formation of an honor degree with fun as one of its objectives.

Founded in New York City on September 17, 1920, the MOC is based on the principals of good humor and fun. Over the past ninety years, the Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an ancillary unit within the organization. Since 1923, our first year as a part of the VFW, the Cooties have worked hard to further the aims of the VFW while adding to it the frivolity known as military humor to the serious work of our parent organization. What would ultimately become known as the VFW National Home for Children, a sprawling campus of homes located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, started out as the

*MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE, continued on page 3*

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## Advocating For Others



**Paul Pirlot**

Veterans throughout Michigan have been receiving correspondence from the Department of Veterans Affairs informing them they have been chosen to receive a Veterans Choice Card. This card is being issued to veterans who were enrolled in the VA healthcare system as of August 1, 2014. Additionally, recently discharged combat veterans who are within five years of separation are also eligible to enroll and receive this card.

The program targets two different sets of circumstances. The first includes those veterans who reside more than 40 miles from a VA facility. This would include VA Medical Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC's). In some cases this may apply to veterans who live within 40 miles of a VA facility but must use special modes of transportation such as air, boat, or ferry service. Other exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis and must be preapproved by the VA.

The other circumstance allowing a veteran to seek non-VA medical care is if the VA cannot provide you with a health care appointment within 30 days of your preferred date or the date medically determined by your physician. For example, you request an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon to discuss possible surgery for your service connected left knee. The soonest the orthopedic clinic can fit you in is 45 days from your request. Since the VA

cannot get you in for an appointment within 30 days they must allow you the opportunity to seek care from an outside provider.

It should be noted you must have an appointment on the books that is more than 30 days out. That is so the appointment system recognizes the need for a referral visit. You then call the number provided on your Veterans Choice card. The representative will ask you for your member ID. You will find this number on the front of your card underneath your name.

Next, the representative may ask for your zip code. The reason for this is to determine if there is a provider in your local area. You may already have a provider in mind when you call for the referral. The representative will search a list of physicians or clinics who have agreed to see veterans for the VA. If your provider of choice is not on the list you may ask the representative to contact the provider to determine if they would be willing to see a VA patient.

The purpose was to resolve lengthy waiting times and address last summer's controversy of veterans who had died while waiting for care in the VHA system. The President and Congress enacted the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. This included \$10 billion to allow veterans to receive private medical care.

As of now the program is temporary in nature. It is important to note you should not make any appointments on your own and you must have prior authorization. You may call 866-606-8198 to verify your eligibility and to seek medical care in your local community.

## Department Service Officers SUCCESS STORY

Homeless veterans. Few issues generate more passion and a sense of urgency than the plight of homeless veterans and with good cause. Those who served our country and were placed in harm's way should be afforded every opportunity to avoid the loss of security and belonging that homelessness brings. According to the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as many as 1 in 10 of the homeless across our great Nation are veterans!

In addition to attending Homeless Veteran stand-downs sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, our office has been privileged to assist homeless veterans on a more personal level. It is not unusual to have homeless veterans visit us at our field locations such as the VA Medical Center (VAMC) where they often seek temporary shelter from the elements and the streets.

We recently had a young veteran walk into one of our field offices to check the status of his claim for compensation. He had filed for service connection for mental disorders related to a combat deployment. He was currently homeless and staying at a local shelter that had an "expiration" date within two weeks. The veteran had been approved for section 8 housing with the Department

of Human Services, but when you are homeless obtaining employment with service connected disabilities also is near impossible, so just finding resources for a down payment is a daunting task.

When he came into the VFW field office on a cold morning in the beginning of January he was simply asking to check the status of his claim. His claim was nearing completion and was awaiting a decision by a rating officer at the VA Regional Office. The estimated completion date was two weeks past his authorized stay at the local shelter. Obviously, quick action was needed.

Our field service officer contacted the VFW Service Office at the VA Regional Office, where our team went into action. Two of our service officers at the regional office tracked the claim to the team and rater responsible for that veteran's claim. After describing the urgency of the matter they were assured by the rater a decision would be rendered by the end of the duty day.

The rating far exceeded expectations. Not only was the veteran's claim completed that same day, but he was awarded 100 percent service connection with an effective date going back almost

## STATE CHAPLAIN

Two points... First, it was a blessing to speak with so many of you at the past Department Mid-Winter Conference. Your fellowship was a gift and, yes, my beloved husband even attended the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year dinner [grin]. Good conference as we once again gained inspiration from the patriotic insights of our youth and their able school-teachers. As we sometimes are burdened with concerns over government, social trends, and our nation's future, those participants' efforts are uplifting and remind us that, if we seek it, there is indeed much to celebrate.

Second, we have had many conversations regarding our membership numbers throughout the state. 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 servicemembers, their families, and our great republic. This unity despite our disparate experiences and views should give us hope for the future of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars and our nation.

What is the answer? From an organizational leadership perspective, membership numbers of Veterans Service Organizations generally wax and wane cyclically but can certainly long persevere with effort. Instead of a full overview, I will merely state that we should be diligent, positive, and dedicated regarding our efforts – Motivating, Marketing, and Mentoring. What makes your Post (and/or District, County Council) amazing? What positive action/activity is it known for? Have you highlighted this? Do you actively mentor members for future leadership positions?

In addition, there is something in our organization for everyone that is willing; they just need support to follow their spe-

**Jennifer Smith**  
State Chaplain



cific 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, serving a meal, lending an ear.... It goes on and on. Those members that have not participated please consider doing so as you can and you may find that benefits of giving are indeed worthwhile and that membership (including retention) is often increased by such examples.

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, including: "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered" (Proverbs 11:24-25, ESV). If from other faith groups/belief systems, the value of giving is also 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 to give as you can and you will make a positive difference in the lives of others.

May God bless you.

### MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE, continued from page 2

brainchild of the MOC. We firmly believe in caring for the widows and children of our Armed Forces. Literally millions of dollars have been raised and donated to help "our kids" over our history; starting with the library, the swimming pool, the Fire Department, and a host of other projects designed to make life fun and educational for the children during their stay at the National Home.

With the outbreak of World War Two, the Cooties recognized a need to entertain hospitalized troops and veterans during their confinement and rehabilitation at Veterans Administration facilities throughout the country. Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA Hospitals and domiciliary throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as foreign service and combat veterans who are fully engaged in their communities, and their fellow comrades in arms and their families. Our distinctive red hat and unusual uniform sets us apart and draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. We sacrifice a little of ourselves to bring a smile or a laugh

during what is normally a difficult time for our heroes. We seek others like us to join and help us help them in their times of stress and anxiety. If you would like more information about the Cooties you can check us out at our national web page <http://lotcs.org> or <http://mocmi.freehomepage.com>. You can also reach us at the Dept of Michigan web page <http://vfwmi.org> go to the bottom of the page in the right corner and click MI Cooties.

### "Michigan Nitpickers" for 2014-2015

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along very nicely with the help of PGC Bob Routhier Jr. 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 Ladies or Men's Aux. Sign a new member up today!

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson  
VFW-Cootie Liaison

SUCCESS STORY, continued on page 4

*Joint Article submitted by Don Nettler, VFW Chief of Staff  
and Cindy Peto, Ladies Auxiliary Chief of Staff*

This article is being done jointly between the Department of Michigan VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. Our job is to educate the Posts and Auxiliaries as well as Districts on the importance of 990 filings and what must be considered.

- Every Post, Auxiliary, and District is required to file some form of 990 each year.
- The filing must be submitted by the 15th day of the 5th month following the close of your fiscal year. For the majority that is November 15th, if you are following the July to June fiscal year. For those following a January to December, then you must file by May 15th.
- To determine which type of 990 to file you must calculate your gross receipts.
- Gross receipts is the total of all money received. Examples: Sales of dinners at the door; total amount of dues collected; complete total of chips sold at a millionaire party. Yes, this means everything. You CANNOT count just the amount of money deposited or the net proceeds of a dinner.
- If your gross receipts are under \$50,000 then you are eligible to file electronically by filing a 990N (e-postcard). This filing is very simple, takes 5 minutes or less and is totally free to do.
- If your gross receipts are \$50,000 to \$200,000 then you must file a 990EZ. With that form you will probably need to file a Schedule O and very possibly a Schedule G if the

reason for the gross is partially due to gaming (bingo/charity tickets/millionaire party).

- If your gross receipts are more than \$200,000 then you must file a 990. Again, you will probably need form Schedule O and Schedule G.
- If you are a Post with a Post home and you file a full 990 form then you will need to also file a Schedule D.
- If you are conducting gaming and selling charity tickets then you must also file form 990T. Charity tickets sold to the public are considered Unrelated Business Income and are taxable.

Please remember that if you ignore the IRS requirement to file each year you run the risk of putting your organization in jeopardy of losing the nonprofit status and could be forced to pay income on your gross receipts.

If you should lose your nonprofit status for non-filing you must complete Form 1024 and Form 8718 to request a reinstatement. It will cost anywhere from \$400 to \$800 to submit this form to the IRS. That does not include any cost you may incur by hiring someone to prepare it for you.

Any Post, Auxiliary, or District needing assistance or having questions regarding filing may contact either Department Office.

VFW Department Office  
517-485-9456

Ladies Auxiliary Department Office  
517-487-3715

**SUCCESS STORY, continued from page 3**

two years. His retroactive payment totaled just under \$57,000. Our field service officer was notified and then contacted the veteran with the awesome news. To say he was overwhelmed would be an understatement!

This is one example of the life-changing work we at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Office are accomplishing! Although we have at times an almost overwhelming caseload, there are some that stand out more than others and this is one of them. For this veteran it was life changing in the most positive of ways. He went from being nearly homeless to receiving notification of an award that would allow him to obtain a better quality of life!



**The ALL STATE Commander Application form is combined with the ALL STATE Check List. Please go to the Department web-site, PROGRAMS, and scroll down to the ALL STATE Tab. Commanders you will find all the information and the form you will need to complete and submit for the 2014-2015 year.**

**Commanders your post Has to be 100% in membership by or on April 15th, 2015**

**2014-2015 All State Checklist and APPLICATION FORM for ALL STATE COMMANDER, Complete and Submit to Department Deadline April 30, 2015.**



## CAMP TROTTER TALES

Summer Camp 2015 is just about upon us with only the annual cleanup to take place on the third (3rd) weekend of May. The Summer Camp Director Denise Arnold and the Camp Committee are taking application(s) for the following positions: Camp Maintenance, Cooks, Janitor, and Camp Counselors (College bound Students preferred). Must be 18 yrs. old or older and have a good solid background. All applicants are screened with a State Police background check, mandated by the State of Michigan (DHS) Children's Camps. The Staff hired must be able to work with the children in age group 7 – 12 years.

The VFW Camp Trotter for Children is located on beautiful Bills Lake, Newaygo County. The cost is \$200.00 per child with many children sponsored by the many VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries. VFW Mens Auxiliaries along with the DADS Posts also sponsor children to go to Summer Camp.

Many upgrades on the Camp facilities have been completed to include the upgrade of the Rapid Recovery Hot Water System in the children's shower facility. No more cold showers. Our Summer Camp Director always has many new surprises for the new Campers each year. Last year was the climbing wall. What will the surprise be for Summer Camp 2015? You must have a child attend to find out!

Summer Camp will start with the Staff Training Week on 6 July with the Camping Season to begin on Sunday, 12 July and ending on Saturday, 15 August. The Camping Season is starting a week later to allow the children to be with their families over the 4th of July plus the lake water will be warmer for the swimmers.

**FINALLY** – The VFW Camp Trotter for Children has been officially designated by IRS as VFW Camp Trotter Foundation. The employer Identification Number is 46-1413579 . Effective Date of Exemption is November 26, 2012. Yes, we are now a 501 (c) (3) – This qualifies our new VFW Camp Trotter Foundation qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, trans-

fers, or gifts un section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. The New WEBSITE: **VFW Camp Trotter Foundation.org**

Contact myself at emeyers76@att.net and/or find the info needed to join the Team on our Website: vfwmi.org/Camp Trotter. Orientation week starts 6 July thru 10 July 2015 for a full week of training for the Staff and then the children arrive on 12 July for the start of Summer Camp 2015 fun time.

The waterfront sports a new sandy beach for the younger children with canoeing, paddle boats, kayaking, fishing, and of course swimming. Enjoy the summer camp fun with the evening bond fires and the hayride that will last a life time. Learning the sport of archery, the GA GA Pit, and the Nature Trail.

Comrades and Sisters your VFW Camp Trotter for Children would not exist if it were not for your continued financial support but also getting the children to camp. The Camp can house 88 children per week so, let's chip in and get your children, grandchildren, and your neighbors' children to camp. The VFW Camp Trotter for Children is open to all children ages 7 thru 12 and you do not have to be a veteran to send your child to camp.

If anyone would like to obtain the New Brochures please contact me via email or by phone and I will mail you what you need for information regarding your Camp Trotter. The new Summer Camp Dates will be:

12 - 18 July 2015  
19 - 25 July 2015  
26 July – 1 August 2015  
2 – 8 August 2015  
9 - 15 August 2015

The Summer Camping Season has a Registered Nurse on duty 24/7 during camping season along with licensed certified Staff Employees.

*Thank you for your support to  
Camp Trotter.*

*Your Camp Trotter Committee  
Happy Trails.....*

## FORT CUSTER CEMETERY

Fort Custer Cemetery was established as a cemetery in 1943, then officially chosen as a National Cemetery in 1981. The National Cemetery is blessed with 770.2 acres of land and as of the 2nd week of January, 2015 had 31,577 internments and/or inurnments.

Fort Custer's Avenue of Flags has 150 American Flags flying every day in the entrance to the National Cemetery. These flags flown year round, in all weather, need to periodically be replaced. The State Commander's special project this year is for each VFW Post to provide one or more American flags for the Avenue of Flags.

As an additional project at Fort Custer, the Avenue of Flags ends at a half circle of 50 flag poles that hold State flags for special ceremonies and events. The remaining days of the year, these poles are empty. The Cemetery would like to fly American Flags on these poles each

days as well. These poles would hold 4 x 6 flags and these would need to be all weather flags as well. I understand that donations of this size American flags would be appreciated.

The Fort Custer National Cemetery Advisory Committee is looking for input from all of the 17 veteran affiliated groups represented in this committee as to the possibility of creating a replica of the Vietnam Wall to be placed permanently at the Fort Custer National Cemetery. This replica would be of an 80% of original size and the cost would be approximately \$400,000. This project would be aimed at the 50th Vietnam Commemorative Celebration.

Any opinion and/or input about this project or any other item, can be relayed through the Department office to myself or directly to me at Steve. Eernisse@Yahoo.com.



## DISTRICT 4 REPORT

**Dave Reeves**  
District 4 Commander



Greetings Comrades! As the year comes to a close, I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve as your 4th District Commander in the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars. It has been quite a busy and educational year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the posts in our 4th District for all of your support and help in making our district stronger, even amid some of the adversity we have encountered this year. Membership is something we have worked on and will keep right on trying to recruit new, young veterans to take our places one day. I would have liked to see our membership grow more but that is something we can continue working on with our new incoming commander of 2015-16.

Congratulations to our Romulus Post 9568 and Bova Post 9885 for having made the 100% membership mark. And also, congratulations to all of our VOD and Patriots Pen winners. I was very proud to have been privileged to be at our Mid-Winter Conference and witness our Teacher of the Year for Middle School, Kristin Zemnickas, sponsored by Wyandotte Post 1136 and Patriot Pen 6th place winner Lydia Lawson sponsored by Post 7546 and our VOD (2nd Place Winner) Zeina Condon, sponsored by Post 78. It was an exciting night and we were honored to sit with the parents of our 4th District winners. A big Thank you to all who helped make the night such a success and possible. A lot of hard, behind the scenes work goes into putting these VOD and Patriots Pen weekends together and my hat goes off to all of you worker bees for such a great job.

Thank you to all of my line officers for a great year and thanks for all your hard work and for making this such a memorable time in my life. A special thank you to Past District 4 Commanders Ron Allen (my Chief of Staff) and to Phil Merrow (also a great advisor and helpmate) ...you have helped our district and me stay on track and you have all made me proud to be your 4th District Commander.

In closing, let's all keep working together (together being the operative word) to Support our Troops and Veterans here at home.

## DISTRICT 5 REPORT

**Scott Gloger**  
District 5 Sr. Vice Commander



A special thanks to all the comrades and sisters of this great department for all their prayers and concerns. Our District Commander Phil Cushard has had his surgery and is doing well.

I hope everyone had a good time at Mid-Winter Conference. I think we had a good turnout from the membership throughout the state to support our VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners from all the districts of the state. With the young people we met our future will be in good hands.

Remember we need to get out and recruit new members for they are the life-

blood of our organizations future.

Do get your Poppy orders in before it is too late. This is how you can keep your relief fund intact to help our Veterans in need in your area. Also, all reports are due the 10th of each month.

The 5th District will be celebrating their 72nd Past Commanders and Past Presidents dinner on March 21, 2015 for information and tickets call 734-323-1188. Hope all will come and pay tribute to our past leaders.

Will be looking forward to seeing everyone at the Testimonial dinner for Commander Croyle and President Beatty.

### STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 24

Comrades, please read the National Commander in Chief's letter very carefully, paying close attention to the words and their meaning. What he has said to us had to be said and it is true in some areas of our organization. Each of us can and must change the mode of operation at all levels of our organization where this is true.

Membership is the life's blood of our organization. Looking over the membership stats of the 12 districts that make up our Department of Michigan, you will find that 127 posts have not recruited a single member nor have they reinstated a single member. At the planning meeting, each district was asked to put together a membership committee to assist the posts in the membership effort. We had hoped to be 90% by October's end; we did not make it. We stand at 86.11% only 13.89% short of our goal. Post Commanders, please try

and get your posts to 90% by the end of November. With a concerted effort this can be accomplished.

The State Honor Guard, along with many Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries, participated in the Detroit Veterans Day Parade down Woodward Ave. VVA Chapter 9 did another great job hosting the parade units and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Special recognition was given to sixteen Vietnam veterans and a hearty "Welcome Home" was given to all Vietnam veterans as the Fiftieth Anniversary of the war looms large.

In ending this article I want you all to know it is an honor and a privilege to be your State Commander. Thank each of you for affording me this once in a life time opportunity to serve.



## DISTRICT 8 REPORT

**Robin Bailey**  
District 8 Commander



While I am writing this, I pause to think how fast time flies. The year is half gone, Mid-Winter is past, our VOD and Patriots Pen students were successful, and now we have to buckle down to get the work finished up before the end of the year. This includes: membership, programs, elections for positions, etc.

Goals of membership, service and reporting should be always first and foremost everyone's priority. A few numbers; District 8 membership is presently at 91.49% (8th place), and state is 91.75%. There are a few posts (and one is too many) that are not getting all

of their reports in, are too slow on getting audits in, and ensuring officers (as well as members) are up to date on their dues. It is a shame that the deeds you do in each of your posts will go unnoticed for lack of reporting. Please don't let it happen.

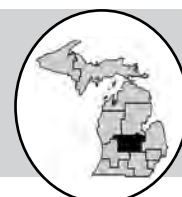
Last but not least, post elections are around the corner. Please be sure to address this ASAP to avoid a scramble at the last minute. Without a leader, we all fail.

Thanks for all your support up to now and let's keep working together so we can finish out the year in a positive way.



## DISTRICT 9 REPORT

**Michael Fineis**  
District 9 Commander



Congratulations to the 9th District Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teachers of the Year winners. The Voice of Democracy winner from the 9th District is Jesse Campbell from Post 5065. The Patriots Pen winner is Elizabeth Norris from post 4005.

Our Teachers of the Year  
are as follows:

*Elementary School-Scott McCuaig  
from Post 9455.*

*Middle School-Mellisa Jacobs  
from Post 6579*

*High School-Tosha Ustishen  
from Post 4005.*

On behalf of the district, thank you Larry Thayer and Nicole Kautz for making the district look so good.

Hospital Chairman John Gorte, thank you and your workers for the hospital parties.

Sec. 217-Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office. Post officers shall be nominated, elected, and installed as prescribed in section 217 of the Manual of Procedure. Comrades of the 9th, please read page 69 of the Manual of Procedure to properly nominate, elect, and install your officers for the upcoming year. In my travels last March and April several posts had difficulty doing this process correctly. In addition get your post election reports into your district commander, department headquarters, and National, ASAP.

Membership: Unfortunately membership recruiting has not occurred at several posts. In my conversations with a couple post commanders, they were not

sure how to get started. Idea #1: I have a 6 foot recruiting table with a 6 foot table cloth from national supply. I sat this up at my local grocery store with a new buddy poppy can with poppies. When people come to donate for poppies, I'd ask them if they know any vets that need help. I did this three times and signed up 3 members and 4 others became active. If your post can get a table at a grocery store or another high pedestrian flow area, then I will bring my membership team there to help and teach your post our system. We have other ideas so do not be afraid to call me at 989-287-3404. Post 4113 was the only 100% at the time of this writing.

Audits: Trustees read p. 72 (11) a, b, c, and d. Safe guard your post!

Reporting: Remember we are a nonprofit organization. Help protect your charter and nonprofit status by reporting what you do. If you are not sure if something is reportable, report it anyway.

Donations: Cancer, National Home, Camp Trotter are but three (3) of the sixteen (16) categories for your post to donate to. Remember we are a nonprofit organization. Help protect your charter and nonprofit status by putting funds into these worthy programs. To find out your status go to the Dept. website under reporting. Click on Donations and find out your status.

District Meetings: Sec. 218 k. (p.70) Assure that he or his representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings. The next meeting will be May 3 @ Post 2272 Durand starting at 10:00 am. Election of Officers with School of instruction to follow.

Thank you Clifford for being you.







## DISTRICT 10 REPORT

**Robert Wilson**  
District 10 Commander



We had a good quarter over all but you still need to continue supporting as many VFW programs as you can. I want to thank PSC Sherwood Pea Jr and Kathy Kirby of the 10th District Ladies Auxiliary for their fantastic job on the VOD/Pat Pens Program. We did not take the top spot in both categories but our students did a fine job. Thank you to VFW Post 3243 for the space and the great food. The posts who participated deserve a Bravo Zulu for their participation. Thanks to all of you who are still participating in your post activities. Remember post commanders, you need to have someone at our district meeting. Please remember as you go through your daily operations that you must follow the VFW by-laws and manual of procedure/ritual. Follow the podium book and you cannot go wrong.

As you know, I have setup a Strategic Plan with goals and commitments to help our posts and district have a successful year.

**GOAL NUMBER ONE** - To increase the number of reporting on the Evaluation Program. To this date we are at 91% reported in this goal. If you are having issues with your audits, Quartermaster Bonds, or District Dues please let us know. Do not wait until it's too late.

**GOAL NUMBER TWO** - Improve reporting of all monthly reports such as hospital and Committee Reports. On this goal we are at 83% for hospital and 91% for committee reports. We should be at 100%. This is the area the IRS would be looking at.

**GOAL NUMBER THREE** - Ensure the post and district supports the various VFW Programs within the District. 60%. We are doing very poorly with this. On March 27th, 2015 the district will again be having

a fund raiser. We are bringing in a USO Show with entertainment for all at the Davison VFW Post 4087. Price is \$15.00 per person and it starts at 18:30. For tickets or additional information please contact Don Callaway at 810-794-1816.

**GOAL NUMBER FOUR** - The District be 100% reported in Buddy Poppy Reporting. 81%. As of this date, if you have not order your buddy poppies you may not get them in time.

**GOAL NUMBER FIVE** - Focus grassroots attention toward effective supporting of your post and district programs. 93% in Membership, 80% in MAP Pins. We have three posts at 100% membership as of this date. VFW Post 2943, 2409 and 8872.

Remember the life blood of this organization is membership. They were here for you and now it's our turn to keep the touch burning for the ones serving now and in the future. There is no other organization in this country which does more for the veterans than the VFW. "No one does more for Veterans" a motto which should ring out whenever we help a vet. Without you there is no post, district or state. Another group which helps our organization is the ladies and men's auxiliary of our post and district. As they support us, we need to do the same.

Follow your Congressional Charter By-Laws and Manual of Procedure Ritual and you can't go wrong. Also, pay attention to Sec. 218 Officers and Chairman, Duties and Obligations in By-Laws and Manual of Procedure pg.15 and the Manual of Procedure pg. 70.

In Closing, pay close attention to your by-laws and manual of procedure. Any post with a Men's Auxiliary need to get all the necessary paper work into Department.

The 10th District 2014- 2015 Meeting

*DISTRICT 10, continued on page 7*



## DISTRICT 11 REPORT

**Terry Kunst**  
District 11 Commander



We just had our third District meeting on February 1, 2015. We had a decent turnout for the weather that we had. Our guests included Senior Vice Commander Paul McIvor from Department , Lloyd Putnam II running for National C of A, and Lloyd Putnam III who is running for State Quartermaster, and Director of Veterans Services, Clare County Renee Haley.

We currently have two posts that have reached 100% in membership for the year; St. Helen Post 5680, Thompson Blackmer Post 4106, and we are over 90% district wide for the year. Please remember that membership is everyone's responsibility.

We just came back from the Mid Winter Conference in Lansing where we enjoyed a great time with our Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy district winners. What an enjoyable group of young men and women! District 11 had Stephen O'Donnell sponsored by Post 6950 for the Patriots Pen and Raul Sahay sponsored by

Post 3033 for the Voice of Democracy and they represented our District very well.

As a point of reference after March 1 2015 you will be able to go to the VFWML.ORG website and read/hear the winning essay's and the themes for next year's essays. Now is the time to contact your local schools/home schools/private schools to pique interest for next year's event.

Renee Haley gave us an overview of the Veterans Freedom Park that is currently under construction in Harrison , Michigan and are looking for post's or people to help with sponsorships to get the park completed. You can go to [www.facebook.com/VeteransFreedomPark](http://www.facebook.com/VeteransFreedomPark) for more information on the Park and the plans. You may also contact Renee at [haley@clareco.net](mailto:haley@clareco.net) for more information. This is going to be a very nice memorial for all of our Veterans. Remember our next District meeting will be May 3, 2015 at Clare Post 5738.



## DISTRICT 14 REPORT

**Bernd Ekdahl**  
District 14 Commander



As winter draws to a close our Poppy sales are just around the corner and hopefully all our posts are participating. There are a lot of needy veterans out there that can use our help and the poppies make this possible. Please do not forget the Jacobetti home in Marquette, they are always in need of basic supplies for our veterans.

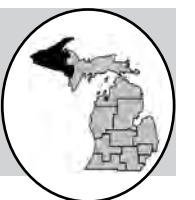
On another note, our posts have been doing well. Keep up the good work and make sure our quarterly reports are done on time and into the department. Membership is a continuous problem and we must make a special effort to recruit new members and reinstate old members.

This year we have had several elected officers throughout the district who's memberships have lapsed. Unfortunately if you are an officer and you fail to pay your dues, you will be removed from your position for that election year. Please make an effort to review all your officers membership dues to ensure they are paid up so we will not have this issue in your post and you have to scramble and elect another officer. We all know how difficult it is to find members to run for positions. Do not forget that if you have a member that is having financial difficulty you may use the relief fund to pay for his or her dues.



## DISTRICT 15 REPORT

**Daniel Caron**  
District 15 Commander



Hello Comrades of the 15th District and THE GREAT NORTHERN UP.

As this issue is published, we will have the Department Mid-Winter in Lansing behind us and also our District Mid-Winter in Crystal Falls.

I want to congratulate ALL the Voice of Democracy participants and Elisha Houle sponsored by Post # 6028 of Dollar Bay; she was awarded the \$1500.00 James N. Goldsmith Memorial Scholarship at the Department Convention. Also I want to congratulate ALL the Patriot Pen participants and Briah Alana Maki sponsored by Post # 6507 of Chassell; she was awarded the \$500.00 Julia Van Tiem Shonts Memorial Award at the Department Convention.

I want to thank all the participants for The Teacher of the Year in District 15. Two of our teachers went on to win the Department Teacher of The Year and they are Elementary School, Angella Danison sponsored by Chassell Post # 6507 and Michael J. Farley of Calumet High School sponsored by Post # 3900 Calumet. It was a great honor to see all the winners and to hear their comments regarding their experiences as students and teachers and to hear about their journeys so far.

Now a very special thank you to the District 15 Chairs, Bill and Sonny Cole of Post # 6507 Chassell. They both went above and beyond to make all this possible. I also give credit to all the posts in the district that did their part for all the above programs. Without all your

participation these would not have been successful programs.

The Day of Challenges on February 28th at Michigan Tech is a Department of Michigan VFW Program and participants from all over the State of Michigan will be involved in this event. Thank You Robert (Butch) Paavola who was appointed by the VFW Department of Michigan to chair this event. Butch, you're the tops.

**MEMBERSHIP** - comrades, there is a challenge to every member to bring ONE (1) new or re-instated member into the VFW. So if you know of anyone who may be illegible, bring them in. We will check to see if he or she is illegible to be a VFW member. So let's get out and GET 'ER DONE!

All officers that have not paid their dues will be removed from their elected positions. They will NOT be able to run for any elected position for a full year. Those posts that do not have representation at the VFW District 15 Conferences or Convention will be subject to suspensions. So get someone there to represent your post.

I want to thank all District Chairs for all the hard work they are doing for the District. The only post that was 100% membership this year was Post # 6165 of South Range, Butch Paavola Commander. The post received their 100% banner at the convention.

Thank You all and the next District 15 Spring Convention will be April 25th & 26th, 2015 Sponsored by Post # 6507 Chassell.







## Apple Bee's



**Apple Bee's-2:** State Sr. Vice Commander Paul McIvor State Adjutant Brian Coats present a plaque to Apple Bee's Store Manager Mark Thomas and Area Director Michael Clodfelter. Left to right: State Adjutant Brian Coats, State Sr. Vice Cdr Paul McIvor, Store Manager Mark Thomas, and Area Director Michael Clodfelter.

On Veterans Day, Sparrow Hospice in Lansing was caring for 6 veterans in their facility. One of the veterans stated that he wanted Apple Bee's for his Veterans Day meal. Normally, meals are in house only but the nurses contacted the local Apple Bee's Store Man-

ager Mark Thomas. Mark went above and beyond and had 6 free dinners delivered to Sparrow Hospice so that the veterans could receive their free meal. Thank you Apple Bee's and Store Manager Mark Thomas for taking care of our veterans.

## Arcadia VFW donates to DHS

Re-printed with permission, Michelle Graves Managing Editor, Manistee News Advocate  
Posted by MNA Staff on December 5th, 2014



The Arcadia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3314 donated \$1,500 in gift cards to area grocery stores to the Benzie County and Manistee Department of Human Services. Pictured (from left to right) are Keith McArthur, post quartermaster; Kris Lagios, DHS director; and Charles Petterson, post commander. (Colin Merry/Pioneer News Network)

**BENZIE COUNTY** — The Arcadia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3314 presented the Benzie and Manistee County Department of Human Services with \$1,500 worth of gift cards to area grocery stores.

Keith McArthur, post quartermaster,

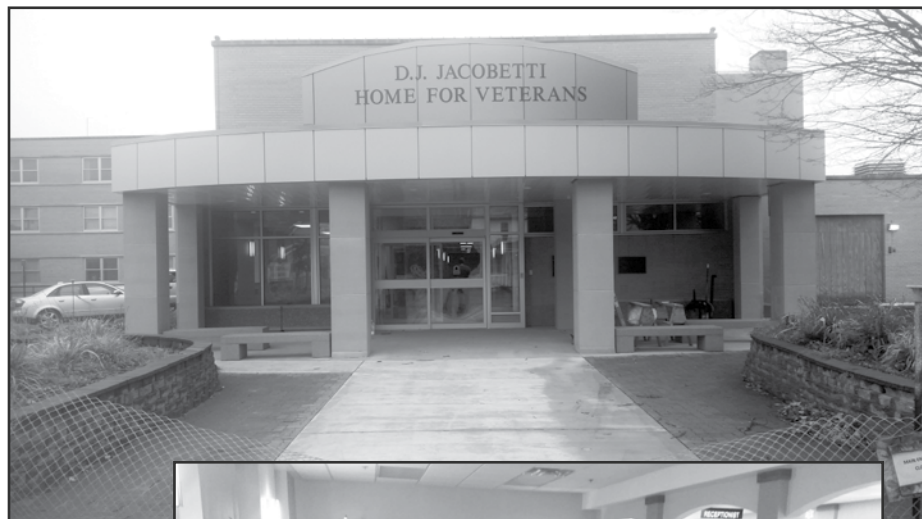
and Charles Petterson, post commander, presented the donation to Kris Lagios, the county director of Benzie and Manistee DHS, on Thursday. The cards will be distributed to area veterans.

The Arcadia post has donated to the DHS for 13 years. The money for the cards was raised through the posts' poppy sales.

"We are very grateful for this donation," Lagios said.

McArthur said that there are many veterans in the area that needed help, and that it is through the generous support of the community that the donation is possible.

## Veterans Homes



*It is better to be in chains with friends than to be in a garden with strangers*

-PERSIAN PROVERB

"It felt good to be at ECAD with Ricky, Andrew and Mary, far better than it ever felt in my small Brooklyn apartment. These were fellow soldiers. My people. My blood. They understood what I had gone through overseas and in the VA bureaucracy, and they had suffered life changing injuries, too. Amputations, spinals, PTSD: we were all bothers at ECAD, even Mary, who, I suppose, was technically a sister."

-Fmr. Capt. Luis Carlos Montalvan, from Until Tuesday

Capt. Montalvan came to our Homes and met with staff and Members to discuss his life and NY Times Bestseller book – because we are a VETERANS HOME.

- A Veterans Home is not a nursing facility
- We have domiciliary – we take in homeless, young veterans who suffer from substance abuse, mental health (including PTSD) and medical issues – we have helped them with enrollment and attendance at NMU – we have "graduates" that have gone on to successful employment and independent living – I have received Christmas cards from some, thanking me for saving their life.
- We have domiciliary – we take in old veterans who have lived alone, in a cabin, with wood heat and no running water, well into their 80's – They have thanked me and stated – "the staff at the home is my family"; they never had one.
- We provide a work therapy program to any Member is able and wants a "job." I have been thanked for giving a veteran a meaningful reason to get up in the morning.
- We provide a **Home** to all – and that includes nursing care, medical care, many clinics, doctors 365 days per year, incredible activities and

outings, therapies, celebrations of people, veterans, service and nation.

- I have had veterans come to tears telling me about their experience being in our 4th of July parade when the entire city stood and applauded and cheered as we went by, "I never knew anyone cared."
- We have thousands of hours of volunteer support – many of whom are veterans or families of veterans – this matters.
- We have organizations that take our most disabled veterans out fishing and hunting – things they long ago thought they would never do again; because we are a Veterans Home.
- We received thousands of dollars of donations – because we care for veterans – this allows us to do A LOT of extras, for example, hydrotherapy massage beds, blanket warmers, specialized wound care beds, etc.
- Our staff received specialized training related to caring for veterans and the unique challenges they present.
- We are THE place veterans want to live when they can't live at home anymore; I hear over and over that "Dad said the only place he wants to go is the veteran's home."
- Every "body" that leaves the Home is covered with a U.S. flag and is given the same respect and dignity in death as they were in life at the Home.

The pictures are of the new entrance at that D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, MI.



*DISTRICT 10, continued from page 6*

dates and places, School of Instruction, 10:00am, lunch after, 13:00 meetings will start. Meeting notices will be posted in the MOV and the web page vfwmi.org. The next meeting is Sunday May 3rd,

2014 Post 3644 Cass City. You must have a representative at all meetings. You may be excused, but it does not excuse the post from representation.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"



# Auxiliary News

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



**Candy Beatty**

W O W ! ! ! !  
What a super Mid-Winter Conference. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. We mixed some old with some new into the programs. There was something for everyone. Hopefully you learned something new to take back to your auxiliary.

It was such an honor to greet and meet all the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Student winners and the Teachers of the Year Winners. I look forward to escorting our Voice of Democracy State winner, Luke J. Richardson, at the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in March, 2015. Good luck to Luke and our State Patriot's Pen winner Chloe Verbek at the National level.

To my District Presidents, you are awesome. I am very proud of the work you have done and continue to do in your district. You are truly "Veteran's Angel's".

Our work is not done; we still have time to reach our goal of 100% + in membership. It has been several years since Michigan has been 100%, but I have faith in all of you to help Michigan shine at the National Convention by making that goal of 100% +.

Did you get a chance to visit the Cancer Booth, Buddy Poppies Display and Camp Trotter Silver Dollar table. Weren't they beautiful? We have so many talented sisters. Congratulations on a job well done.

As we are getting ready for the State Convention, be sure to check your guide sheets to make sure you have completed all your projects and reported them.

We will also be having a luncheon for the 45+ year members at the State Convention. Please contact the Department Office or your Auxiliary to get a form to register.

If you are reading this and you are not a member, I invite you to join us as we work for our veterans, their families and for our youth.

Hope to see you at our Testimonial in April.

## LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN



**Carrie Turner**

Do you know how to find information about pending legislation and special legislative alerts? WHY would you want to find this information?

As American citizens we need to be aware and informed, so that we can regularly communicate with our elected officials and be vocal about the issues and priorities that we believe need their attention and action.

You can go to [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) –

- see current legislation, most viewed bills, search for bills using key words, etc.
- go to the Senate and the House – check their calendars and their committee hearings
- learn about the legislative process – the common legislative stages, and the process by which a bill becomes law

You can go to [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) – government – legislative

- get bill status from the Michigan Legislature
  - see the legislative session calendars
  - go to the Senate and the House
- If you sign up to receive the VFW

Action Corps Weekly at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) you will get –

- an easy-to-read weekly electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, current issues and pending legislation
- immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory
- regular VFW "Action Alerts" telling you how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members, and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill

USE this information to learn about your representatives, what committees they serve on, and what issues they are supporting. Watch the progress of the bills and participate in the process, let them know if you would support the legislation (or not) and WHY.

MAKE it personal! Communicate with them regularly on the issues that are important to you and to our veterans. Ensure the Priority Goals of the VFW are known to them and be the voice of our veterans. We must continue to expect our representatives to provide all the benefits and services our military men and women were promised when they served our great nation.

## VETS FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN



**Vickie Bushong**

**What is the difference between the National Military Service (NMS) and the National Veterans Service (NVS)?**

### NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICE:

Through National Military Service, the VFW is able to provide support and assistance to the military community during their phases of deployment. Programs that can be found under the National Military Service are: Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink and Military Assistance Program (MAP).

**OPERATION UPLINK:** Operation Uplink is just one way to keep military families in touch. It is a premiere calling program for deployed service members that provides free phone time to active duty military personnel and hospitalized veterans. This one-of-a-kind program provides at least three designated free call days per month.

**UNMET NEEDS:** This program offers grants up to \$2,500.00 in financial assistance to service members and their families who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties due to their military service. It assists with basic life needs such as: mortgage or rent, home and auto repairs, insurance, utilities, food and clothing. The recipient must have served on active duty within the last thirty-six months. These are in the form of grants and do not need to be repaid.

**MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP):** This program funds ways to connect with our troops. MAP

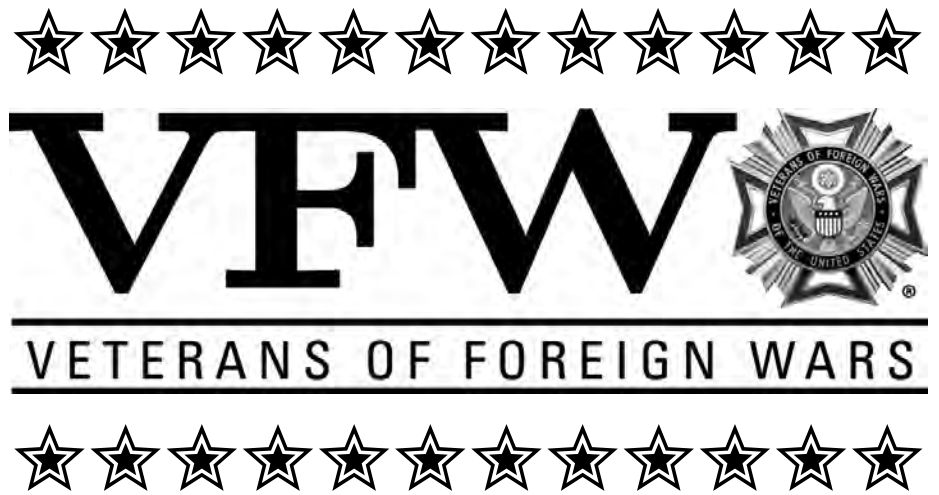
provides financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor send-offs, homecomings and casual get-togethers and also to help cover postage.

Donations to support National Military Programs need to be sent to: VFW National Headquarters with a checks made payable to National Military Services.

Suggestion: When sending a donation, do not earmark it to just one part of this wonderful program, but rather simply make it out to National Military Service. This will allow the VFW to have the flexibility to use it where it is most needed.

### NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE:

The National Veterans Service reaches out to all veterans and their families without the restrictions of the National Military Service. Nationwide there are nearly 300 service officers who help the veterans, service members and their families to get the benefits they are entitled to receive. This service is available at no cost. The National Veterans Service helps the veterans to navigate the VA system to ensure they receive quality, timely and accessible VA healthcare. Some other services consist of providing advice and assistance to veterans filing disability claims for pensions. Various other services can come in the form of advice filing for VA home loans, education benefits, small business loans or filling out other VA forms. The VFW National Service Officer can offer guidance to veterans wishing to file their



## Michigan Overseas Veteran 2015-2016

**PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES**

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

## Please Remember!

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

**MOV Editor**  
Matt David, [editormov@yahoo.com](mailto:editormov@yahoo.com)

**Auxiliary Editor**  
Diane Ward, [legalblaze@aol.com](mailto:legalblaze@aol.com)

# CANCER AID AND RESEARCH CHAIRMAN



Holly Allison

Young people are our future. I know you have heard this a thousand times. It is a fact. Young people use social media and to reach them, we need to use social media, too. I am proud to say, our auxiliaries are stepping up and improving their use of social media to advertise and brag about what they are doing and what young people are doing for our veterans and their families.

Our Auxiliaries are doing some exciting things with the youth in their areas. They are including them in their events such; visiting the VA Hospitals, sending packages overseas, sponsoring a Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony, three auxiliaries reported that their Junior Girls Units assisted with the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall, another reported their unit caroled at assisting living facility, another auxiliary reported that their Junior Girls Unit took mugs, hot chocolate, candy and

Christmas cards to a homeless shelter. They have also reported youth helping at events by setting up, serving and cleanup. Auxiliaries are reporting that they have gone into schools to teach flag etiquette and to distribute flags to the children. Some auxiliaries have held Christmas parties for local children. One auxiliary reported their Junior Girls Unit sponsoring a family that had a house fire and lost everything. They collected funds and items for the family. Several Auxiliaries have reported that they went into schools and helped children make cards for veterans for Veterans Day. Everything listed here has affected a child somewhere. Thank you for all you do for children. I am very proud to be a member of the Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary!

It has been an eventful year; we will be having our last Junior Girls Extravaganza the weekend of June 12 – 14 at Camp Trotter. We would like to invite past Junior Girls Members and Past Junior Girls Unit Leaders to our dinner on June 13th at 6 pm. Please call if you would like to attend this event and make a reservation, dinner will be \$5. Contact number is: 517-230-3882.

# DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT



Sandra Borieo

The 4th District report for this term is reporting on the needs of the John Dingell VA Hospital in Detroit. Don't forget our veterans in need and these items can be dropped off to your Ladies Auxiliary or delivered personally. If you deliver the items personally, please report to your auxiliary so we can get our community service credits.

**SUPPLY NEEDS:** slipper socks with non-slip soles, emery boards, white socks (no elastic), hair brushes, large combs (no rat tail), shaving cream and razors, NEW briefs/T-shirts/boxers – size Medium through 3XL, shaving mirrors, reading eye glasses, toothpaste & toothbrushes, denture cleaner and adhesive, shampoo, hand & body lotion, deodorant, liquid soap, new playing cards, magic slates, DVDS/video games, paperback books, crossword puzzle books, word search books, wheelchair gloves, finger & toe nail clippers, back scratchers, stamps.

**ITEMS FOR THE NURSES STATION:** mouthwash, non-alcoholic; after shave lotion, pre-shave lotion, cologne, pens and pencils.

**RECREATION & CRAFT DEPARTMENT NEEDS:** all table games, CD's, model kits, paint by number, rug kits, craft supplies – needles, yarn, thread, art brushes, beads, etc.

The VA is always in need of Sterile Heart Pillows for Veterans who have undergone heart surgery and healthy snacks. This can be a monetary donation through the Department Office for GPF #4003 item on both.

**ITEMS THE VA CANNOT USE:** bar soap, used playing cards, artificial limbs, crutches, walkers, matches, hair picks (metal), cigars, cigarettes, cassette tapes, VCR tapes, home baked goods, magazines over 3 months old, and glass containers. These items if donated to the VA will be refused. Check with other non-VA facilities to see if these items are needed and can be accepted. Always remember, if you wouldn't use it personally, don't donate it to someone else. The Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul are excellent places to make this type of donation except for cigars, cigarettes and baked goods.

As always, thanks to everyone for supporting our veterans and God Bless America.

# DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Shanon Meredith



Hello everyone from District 6. I would like to let you know about some of our great Veterans health care facilities. The Ann Arbor VA healthcare system provides state of the art services to men and women who have proudly served our nation. There are three other facilities linked to the Ann Arbor Hospital; Flint, Jackson and Toledo, Ohio. More than 61,000 Veterans living in a 15-county area and northwest Ohio used these facilities in fiscal year 2013.

The main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor serves as a referral center for specialty care and operates 105 acute care beds and 40 community living center (extended care) beds. More than 550,000 outpatient visits were made to these

facilities in the year 2013. Nearly 5,500 were extended care patients.

Their mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional healthcare that improves their health and well-being. Their strategic goals are to provide accessible and timely clinical support, and administrative services.

This facility is located about 30 minutes from the community of Tecumseh, in which I reside. We are very lucky to have this renowned facility so close. The wait time is minimal compared to other VA facilities.

My Auxiliary, Post 4187, has a volunteer that has spent countless hours at the Ann Arbor VA hospital. In fact Marilyn Felton received a pin for donating her time and service of 3,000 hrs. We all could use volunteers like Marilyn. I know there are lots of you out there and we all thank you for helping our Veterans, they so appreciate your service.

# DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Laura Monaweck

Mid-Winter has past with many fond memories. What a pleasure to see and hear from all the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners and the teachers of the year. What a great group of kids.

Now we look forward to spring (will it ever get here?) and the many programs we all have planned. With elections coming up we need to look around our Auxiliaries for well-informed and dedicated sisters to fill all our offices. This is very important and we need to give these nominations a lot of thought.

I am looking forward to the Department Convention in June in Flint, to once again see and visit with my many sisters from throughout our great state and to honor our Department President.

In District 7 we honor our veterans by volunteering at the Battle Creek VA Hospital. Many of our Auxiliaries volunteer countless hours; what with donating items, putting on bingo parties, dinners, ice cream socials, teas, etc. Currently the VA Hospital is in need of monies for their Christmas, recreation, and coffee funds. Also, donations would be greatly appreciated for their Horses for Heroes program and haircuts. There is also a need for new sweat pants and shirts, board games, small craft projects, hats, boots, scarves, gloves and coats. This is just a small sampling of their needs.

If you are interested in helping with any of the items, please contact me at: lollymay1715@hotmail.com.



We Protect Our Own.

When you donate to VFW mailings, the money stays in our Department, helping veterans right here at home.

Our programs depend on members like YOU. Please be as generous as you can.

VET FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN continued from page 8

own claims or full-on support preparing, submitting and tracking the progress of a claim. They can also help veterans or surviving spouses resubmit denied claims or file a Notice of Disagreement as well as simply answering questions regarding medical, death/burial and other

miscellaneous benefits.

There is a veteran or a family member of a veteran today who needs our help. Our veterans have earned and deserve to live a full and productive life. You can make this happen by making a donation to these programs today.





## DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Tonya Dietz



Hello and greetings to all the sisters and comrades of the great state of Michigan. Wow another successful Mid-Winter Conference has come to an end. I hope all who attended learned a lot and had a great time with all of the old/new friends.

Located in our District is Fort Custer National Cemetery, which is located at 15501 Dickman Road in Augusta. The phone number is 269-731-4164. Hours of operation are Mon-Fri from 8am-4:30 pm. Closed all Federal holidays except Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

The cemetery got its name from General George Arnold Custer, a native of Michigan. The construction of the camp started in 1917. There were 2000 buildings ready to accommodate 36,000 men. Approximately 90,000 men passed through Camp Custer during WWI. In

1918, following the Armistice, the camp became a demobilization base for over 100,000 men. The Fort has also been a training base.

The National Cemeteries Act was signed by Richard Nixon in 1973 and transferred the Dept of the Army and it became The National Cemetery System (NCS) and Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA). The site is located midway between Detroit and Chicago. On June 1, 1982 the first burial took place. There were 2600 gravesites available at this time as well. This made it possible for Veterans to be buried during the development of the new facility. The expansion and development of Phase 2 began in June of 1997 and was completed in Oct 1998 and consisted of the addition of 60 more acres which provided 10,000 more grave sites.

I hope you enjoyed this brief article on Fort Custer National Cemetery. More information can be found at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov). GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS and THANK YOU ALL!

## DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

Diane Ward



Greetings Sisters and Comrades of the 10th District:

I bring you greetings from the District. We are ¾ of the way through the year and I hope all is going well for you.

Our District is in 3rd place in Membership at 95.73%. We only need 110 dues to be 100%. Good Job ladies. Thank you to the Auxiliaries that have attained 100%. Keep it going – remember you need at least one member over your 100% for the National award opportunity. If you aren't 100%, don't give up. Talk to your members, share our great organization with other by signing up new members, and try to bring back some of those ladies who have fallen off the roles.

This article, I would like to share with you the one of the great treasures of our District. The Great Lakes National Cemetery! It is located at 4200 Belford Rd., Holly, Michigan. Great Lakes National Cemetery is only the second national cemetery built in Michigan. The property borders Fagan Lake and is located on a portion of a land grant from the Federal government to Terrance Fagan in 1836. The property was acquired in 2002 and the national cemetery was established in 2005. The first burial took place on October 17, 2005. Phase 1A and 1B provide 4,401 in-ground cremation sites, 8,768 columbarium niche sites, 4,650 traditional casket sites, and 18,080 double-depth pre-set crypts.

Any eligible person may be buried there as well as their spouse. Discharge documents need to be faxed to the National Cemetery Scheduling office at (866) 900-6417 and you make a follow up call to (800) 535-1117. Approximately 11 burials per business day are conducted at the cemetery. It is open Monday through Friday from 8am – 4:30pm. Visitations occur from sunrise to sunset. There are two committal shelters available for services and military honors are conducted by the appropriate branch of the service upon request of the family. The Great Lake National Cemetery also

conducts special memorial services on the Sunday before Memorial Day at 1pm and on Veterans' Day at 11am. The staff are all veterans.

The National Cemetery provides a beautiful resting place for our fallen heroes! If you'd like more information, please visit their website at [www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp) to get detailed information on the cemetery. I would encourage all of you to visit Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Don't forget to share your events with the other Posts and Auxiliaries in the District – we all like to support each other and help make our District stronger so publicize your events. If you let me know, I can add it to the next MOV article. If you ever need anything, I can be reached on my cell at (810) 955-2931, at home (810) 629-3976 or (810) 714-3568; and even by internet at [legalblaze@aol.com](mailto:legalblaze@aol.com) and Facebook. Keep up the good work; we are having a great year!



## DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Arvella Peterson



Hello Ladies of the 13th District. Hope you all had happy holidays! It's imperative that you keep working on quarterly reporting and getting dues!

I would like to share with you a little known homeless veterans organization located in Gaylord called Patriot Place. Patriot Place provides a two-year support program which aids the veterans in transitioning from

homelessness to independent living. Homeless veterans who are coping with disabilities such as PTSD, substance abuse disorders or mental health concerns are provided with the necessary education to assist them in transition.

The program also provides assistance in securing benefits such as social security and disability, job skills, and locating permanent housing.

For more information regarding Patriot Place you may call at 989-448-2260 or email at [patriotplace@goodwillnmi.org](mailto:patriotplace@goodwillnmi.org).

## DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Della Petaja



Hi again from the 15th District in the Upper Peninsula. Mid-Winter Convention is over and what a great time. We are so glad the weather was great for traveling. A

very special weekend for us in the 15th District.

Our Major Michael Farley from Calumet was named Teacher of the Year for the 9-12th grade. What a great service he does for our community working with these students. We appreciate him and his work so very much. Angela Dan-

nison from Chassell School was named Teacher of the year for K-5th grade. What a true example of a teacher loving her role in teaching our young people.

Our VOD winner Elisha Houle, from Dollar Bay placed 4th and received a \$1,500 scholarship. Briah Maki from the Chassell school received a \$500 scholarship for her Patriotic Pen Essay. We so enjoyed spending time with these young people.

We in the 15th District are so proud of our teachers and students. They were all so in awe of the entire weekend. The parents also enjoyed themselves during this weekend and indicated that they appreciated being with us.



## MAKE A LASTING GIFT



The VFW has been providing services to and for veterans for over 100 years. The original members who envisioned what this organization would be, and worked to build it, are long gone but their legacy remains.

You too have contributed to the legacy of the VFW during your lifetime. Consider continuing that legacy after you are gone. A simple way to do that is to include the VFW in your estate plans. For more information on how to make simple, smart gifts that benefit both the VFW and your family, contact our Planned Giving Office at 816-968-1119, by email at [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org), or go to our website at [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving).



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**





## Mid-Winter Conference, January 22-24, 2015

On Jan. 22-24, 2015, the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars held its annual Mid-Winter Conference at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing, MI. The Department held committee meetings, VFW training seminars, the Council of Administration meeting, and the highlight of the weekend, the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen banquet where the winners of this year's competition were honored. Also honored were the 3 winners of the Teacher of the Year award.



State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle opens the C of A meeting at the Department of Michigan's Mid-Winter Conference.



VFW Post 3901 Senior Vice Commander Jim Fernandez was the St. Clair Shores County Veteran of the Year. State Commander Croyle and State Sr. Vice Commander McIvor present Jim an award honoring his commitment to veterans.



Department Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Director Jim Galin presents a \$500.00 donation to State Commander Croyle on behalf of the Causeway Bay Hotel for the Patriot's Pen scholarship fund.



Middle School Teacher of the Year Kristin Zemnickas is presented her award by VFW Dept Teacher of the Year Director Jim Galen and Ladies Aux Dept Chairman Carol Johnson.



Posts that achieved 100% in membership were awarded their Honor Post banners.



Elementary Teacher of the Year Angella Danison is presented her award by VFW Dept Teacher of the Year Director Jim Galen and Ladies Aux Dept Chairman Carol Johnson.



Post 6695, Dept of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary, and the Catholic War Veterans made donations to Camp Trotter. Left to right: Bob Caldwell and Ruth Barnhill representing Post 6695, Ladies Aux. State President Candy Beatty, and Bob Lutz representing the Catholic War Veterans.



1st Place VOD winner Luke Richardson with the delegation from the 6th District.



State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and Dept Cancer Director Jim Proteau present Deborah Knowles and Dr. Elisabeth Heath from the Karmanos Cancer Institute a check for \$14,212.00. This represents the donations that were made to the Dept of Michigan's Cancer program over the 2013-2014 year. Since its inception, the Dept of Michigan VFW has donated over 1,000,000.00 for cancer research.



High School Teacher of the Year Michael Farley is presented her award by VFW Dept Teacher of the Year Director Jim Galen and Ladies Aux Dept Chairman Carol Johnson.



6th Dist Cdr Horace Frazier and Post 423 member accepts the VOD Traveling Trophy for having the 1st place winner of the Voice of Democracy competition.



Post 4659 VOD/PP Chairman Phil Gannia is presented the Patriots Pen Traveling Trophy for having the 1st place winner of the Patriot's Pen competition.



1st Place Patriots Pen winner Chloe Verbik (Post 4659) and 1st Place Voice of Democracy winner Luke Richardson (Post 423) with State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and State Ladies Aux President Alice "Candy" Beatty.



Female members and leaders of the VFW that attended the Mid-Winter Conference. L-R. Back: Past Post 2144 Cdr Rachael Overweg, District 5 Quartermaster Su Jen Mauldin, Past 5gh Dist Cdr Pam Young, State Chaplain Jennifer Smith. Front: State QM Lynn Patterson, Life Member Post 4005 Irene Hosking (seated), 12th Dist Cdr Barbara Locke, and 8th Dist Cdr Robin Bailey.



1st Place Patriots Pen winner Chloe Verbik and Post 4659 VOD/PP Chairman Phil Gannia with State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and State Ladies Aux President Alice "Candy" Beatty.





# 2014-2015 Voice of Democracy Contest

Department of Michigan Veterans Affairs

Voice of Democracy



**1ST Place**  
**Luke Richardson**  
\$6,000.00 Ralph J. Seabold Scholarship  
6th District  
Post & Aux. 423



**2nd Place**  
**Zeina Condon**  
\$3,500.00 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship  
4th District Post & Aux. 78



**3rd Place**  
**Garrett Dietz**  
\$2,500.00 Hazel Park VFW Scholarship  
14th District Post & Aux. 1887



**4th Place**  
**Elisha Houle**  
\$1,500.00 James N. Goldsmith Memorial Scholarship  
15th District Post & Aux. 6507



**5th Place**  
**Madelyn Meece**  
\$1,000.00 Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship  
10th District Post & Aux. 2777



**6th Place**  
**Emma Tongue**  
\$1,000.00 Catholic War Veterans Dept. of Michigan Scholarship  
13th District Post & Aux. 2780

Patriot's Po



**1st Place**  
**Chloe Verbik**  
\$1,000.00 Bond, Wes Longenbach Memorial Award & Plaque  
5th District Post & Aux. 4659



**2nd Place**  
**Stephen O'Donnell**  
\$750.00 Bond, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan Award & Plaque  
11th District Post & Aux. 6950



**3rd Place**  
**Aliyah Nowlin**  
\$750.00 Bond, Ron & Cathy Devereaux and Harry & Pamela Croyle Award & Plaque  
12th District Post & Aux. 7806



**4th Place**  
**Marianna Osentuski**  
\$500.00 Post and Auxiliary 334 Award & Plaque  
10th District Post & Aux. 8465



**5th Place**  
**Elizabeth Norris**  
\$500.00 15 District Award & Plaque  
9th District Post & Aux. 4005



**6th Place**  
**Lydia Lawson**  
\$500.00 9th District Award & Plaque  
4th District Post & Aux. 7546

## Teacher of the Year



**Elementary School**  
**Angella Danison (ES)**  
Chassell  
Sponsored by Post 6507 and District 15



**Middle School**  
**Kristin Zemnickas (MS)**  
Wilson Middle School  
Sponsored by Post 1136 and District 4



**High School**  
**Michael Farley (HS)**  
Calumet High School  
Sponsored by Post 3900 and District 15





# and Patriot Pen Essay Contest Program

## VFW and Its Ladies Auxiliary

### Democracy Winners



**7th Place**  
**Noah Woods**  
\$1,000.00 Newberry  
Scholarship  
7th District Post  
& Aux. 10704



**8th Place**  
**Antonio Buscemi**  
\$1,000.00 Morley  
S. Oats Post 701  
and Ladies  
Auxiliary Scholarship  
5th District Post & Aux. 4659



**9th Place**  
**Cole Schneider**  
\$1,000.00 Orvel Walter  
Memorial Scholarship  
8th District Post  
& Aux. 7596



**10th Place**  
**Raul Sahay**  
\$1,000.00  
Past Commanders  
Club Scholarship  
11th District Post  
& Aux. 3033



**11th Place**  
**Todd Grove**  
\$500.00 Dick and Vi  
Thorp Memorial  
and \$500.00 VFW  
post 4644 Scholarship  
12th District Post & Aux. 2335



**12th Place**  
**Jesse Campbell**  
\$400.00 John & Shirley  
Sweebe, \$400.00 Donald  
Mrdjenovic, and \$200.00  
UAW Region I  
9th District Post & Aux. 5065

### Teen Winners



**7th Place**  
**Mackenzie Van Buren**  
\$500.00 Barry & Pam Walter  
Award & Plaque  
14th District Post  
& Aux. 4573



**8th Place**  
**Luke Kuranan**  
\$500.00 Julia Van Tiem  
Shonts Memorial  
Award & Plaque  
6th District Post & Aux. 423



**9th Place**  
**Briah Maki**  
\$500.00 Julia Van Tiem  
shouts Memorial  
Award & Plaque  
15th District Post & Aux. 6507



**10th Place**  
**Brook Harrison**  
\$500.00 Donald V. Nettler  
and Barbara Nettler Memorial  
Award & Plaque  
8th District Post & Aux. 6134



**11th Place**  
**Amanda Conklin**  
\$500.00 Post and Auxiliary  
4406 Award & Plaque  
7th District Post  
& Aux. 9411



**12th Place**  
**Reagan Olli**  
\$500.00 Post and Auxiliary  
6802 Award & Plaque  
13th District Post  
& Aux. 1518

**Congratulations  
to our Winners!**



## Lt. Gamble/Mayflower VFW Post 6695 Hosts Cruz'n 528 Wednesday Night Car Shows to Benefit Our Veterans



CRUZ'N 528 is held every Wednesday from May to September, hosted by Lt. Gamble/Mayflower VFW Post 6695 and sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Plymouth/Canton Chapter 528 in Plymouth, MI. This year Post 6695 & VVA 528 celebrated its 10th annual Wednesday Night Car Shows open to all hot rods, original, custom cars, trucks, motorcycles and specialty vehicles. Each Wednesday there are 75 to 95 cars in attendance with the largest show being 165 cars. CRUZ'N 528 is a family orientated show, where everyone from mom & dad, the kids, grandma & grandpa can enjoy. As they peruse the show they listen to great stories of how someone found their barn find, hidden away for 30 years or the bench racing stories of days gone by; cruising the Telegraph loop on Saturday Night from Daley's at Oxford in Dearborn to Big Boy's at Plymouth Rd. in Redford. During the show our famous chefs serve up Great Burgers, Hot Dogs and Italian Sausage and you can wash it all down with one of several varieties of beverages; all at a cost that won't empty your wallet. Our DJ, 'KOZ' spins the oldies, which has caused dancing in the parking lot by many of our cruisers &

visitors. It's all about family, fun, food, camaraderie and great looking rides.

In order for all this to happen each week, we have a great crew of volunteers, who are members of the VFW Post or VVA Chapter that meet and greet everyone and ensure that their time at the show is a pleasant one. Each week there's a 50/50 raffle, special sponsor prizes and door prizes. Each week one participant is awarded our CRUZ'N 528 Participation Plaque, selected from all registered cruisers. Special thanks to all our sponsors for donating the raffle and door prizes; like Stoner Car Care, Meguiar's Car Products, Plymouth Super Center & Main Street Car Wash of Plymouth, Sumitt Racing, Auto Zone, Tim Horton's of Garden City and The Plymouth Observer Newspaper for their coverage of the show.

Since 2004 CRUZ'N 528 has raised over \$27,000 for our veterans and veterans organizations. This relief fund is used to help veterans in need, such as paying a utility bill, medication, food or other needs that he/she may require. The biggest thank you goes to VFW Post 6695, Jerry Thomason, Commander & Gary "Bear" Kubik, Site Manager, for the use of their facility, all of our volunteers, the visitors who peruse the show and the guys and gals from local car clubs who bring their rides each week, for without them there would be no car show. They are truly the real reason we are able to help our veterans in need.

*Submitted By: Bob Paul & Darrell Bazman, CRUZ'N 528 Co-Chairs.*

## Letter to the Editor: Regarding the Veterans Choice Card

Three months ago, the President and Congress enacted the Veterans Access to Choice program issuing a veterans Choice Card that allows veterans to elect to receive care outside of the VA Hospital. When they qualify, based on their residency which is 40+ miles from the closest VA hospital, they have the option to seek care at their local hospital. It may be that the wait time for an appointment is not soon enough or it may be for a simple procedure such as a blood draw.

Recently I applied for my card and when I received it I had to call to verify my eligibility. I was told that I did not qualify, that I did not live far enough away from the VA Hospital. When I asked how they determined the distance,

they replied that they go by how the crow flies, in a straight line, and that it was only 30 miles from my home to the VA. I have been going to the VA in Iron Mountain, MI since 1986 and my odometer has not changed in 28 years. It is still 46.5 miles from my residence to the VA.

So consequently many veterans in this area are not eligible, which I feel is unfair and puts a hardship on them and their families. I urge all veterans to call, write, go see your local veterans office, or Congressman to assist you if you are having the same issue.

Thank you,

Eugene Zanon, Iron River MI



Attn: Editor

Enclosed is a poem which I composed in my head about Dec. 20, 1951, while on outpost duty at Hungnam, North Korea.

I was an army reservist, called back in October 1950. On Dec. 10 we learned that our troopship was to land at Hungnam. The scuttlebutt was that Chinese would be waiting on the beach. The ship's machine shop was busy that night sharpening bayonets for a bunch of terrified reservists.

We need not have worried. The 1st Marine Division had the situation well in hand at the Chosen Reservoir. They then made a seemingly impossible withdrawal down a valley of death with Chinese on both sides, and brought their wounded and their frozen dead with them. That advance to Hungnam is, and should be, regarded as one of the Marines' finest moments.

I was on outpost with shells from the battleship New Jersey whistling overhead.

Looking up that valley I had visions of the entire Chinese army coming down. The other problem was that I had made the mistake of passing up a beat up latrine on the way out.

To take my mind off those problems, and the bitter cold, I composed a bit of poetry in my head. I wrote it down several weeks later, as best I could remember it. I did change the original word, "Hungnam" to "Angang Ni" as it rhymed better.

If you would like to use this in Michigan Overseas Veteran, you are welcome. Just give me a call at 231-852-3431. I am a Life Member at the Pentwater MI Post.

*Ralph Kayler*

## Ode to a Latrine

*The leaning latrine near Angang I' Ji  
Won't be there for posterity,  
For it will never be famous like Pisa's Tower  
Nor is it equipped with sink or shower.*

*It leans at an angle, six or maybe seven degrees  
Depending, of course, on the strength of the breeze.  
For it's old, and it's cold, it's far from best,*

*Yet so far it's passed this test:  
Utilitarianism.  
But one must be fast, or he may be frozen  
To the seat, which is beat,  
In that leaning latrine  
Utterly lacking in heat.*

*How long it will stand, who knows, off hand,  
In this wind swept frozen land,  
But when it falls, with clatter and din,  
I pray the Lord I'm not within.*

*Oh, some may sing of their old Kentucky home,  
Or of the glory which once was Rome.  
But as for me, I just set and freeze  
In the latrine now leaning about nine degrees.*

*Ralph Kayler 2010*

*North Korea, December 1950, by Pfc. Ralph Kayler*



# Support Our Troops



## Remembrance Day

November 10, 2014 was a special day for Don Callaway, Commander at Post 3901 in Algonac Michigan. Not only was it the Marine Corps birthday but it was also Remembrance Day, the Canadian Veterans Day. Algonac is only a short ride on the Ferry across the St. Clair River to Walpole Island, an unceded territory home of the First Nation of North American Native Americans. Many of these Native Americans served and perished in all the wars going back to the Civil War, in the United States Military.

Commander Callaway was accompanied by several officers and other post members from 3901. Department Junior Vice Commander Jerry Gorski was a special invited guest. The invitation was extended by Chief Daniel R. Miskokomon.

The veterans all assemble at the Bkejwanong Childrens Centre and proceed in

formation to the Veterans Monument a short distance away. The ceremony begins with a salute to the colors and a welcome from the Chief, followed by a reading of names of killed in action warriors from the Civil War, WW-I and WW-II. Next, a Native American Honor Song was performed and readings of poems and tributes to veterans were recited by some of the students. There was a flyover and then Cadet Warrant Officer Kyle Starks played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. After closing remarks, all the veterans went back to the Children's Centre and lined up shoulder to shoulder to be greeted by the children and other guests who all thanked each and every veteran for their service. We were given a small pouch of Sweet Grass and tobacco as a symbol of friendship. There was a luncheon in the cafeteria for all veterans and their guests.



## Area veterans were seven of 21 boys in same Fowler High School freshmen class



Re-printed with permission, Tom Thelen, [tthelen@lsj.com](mailto:tthelen@lsj.com) Lansing State Journal

Seven members of the Fowler High School freshmen class of 1962-1963 served tours of duty in Vietnam. Those seven recently met as a group for the first time. They included, front row from left, Jim Simon, Jim Halfman, Chuck Thelen, back row, Bob Schafer, Ernie Myers, Joe Wohlfert, and Paul Weber. (Photo: Courtesy photo)

FOWLER — Seven area men who were one-time classmates at Fowler High School came together recently to discuss another common bond; their military service during the Vietnam War.

The men, Jim Halfman, Ernie Myers, Bob Schafer, Jim Simon, Chuck Thelen, Paul Weber, and Joe Wohlfert, were part of the freshmen class at Fowler High School in the fall of 1962. Each of them went on to serve in Vietnam as a member of the United States military. Of the 39 members of that freshmen class, 15 would serve in the military.

The seven Vietnam veterans of the class recently met as a group for the first time at the E. J. Werner VFW Post 3733 in Fowler

to meet and share their experiences from serving during the Vietnam War.

"It was interesting to speak with each other," said Simon. "After a lot of years you forget a lot of things. But talking with them brought back a lot of memories. Plus, it felt unique in a way because we were all from that same small freshmen class and we all served in Vietnam."

Thelen said the fact that a large percentage from that class served during the Vietnam War is a point of pride.

"I thought we stood up tall," said Thelen. "I think a lot of us would not have had to go, and had a chance to join the reserves. But instead chose to be with the Army and go do our job, and my buddy felt the same way."

Thelen served for one year in Vietnam as a member of a tank crew with the First Infantry. He was wounded in action twice, once by a rocket-propelled grenade while he was driving a tank, and a second time when a grenade landed nearby when he was outside the tank. He was awarded a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Bronze Star with V device, which was given to honor an act of combat heroism.

Simon also served in the First Infantry for his 13-month tour of duty. He spent most of his duty driving an advisory unit, transporting personnel and supplies to various bases and local villages.

"At times we traveled through plantations and jungles so there was always a danger, but not as much as what some of the other guys had," said Simon.

Simon's first day in Vietnam coincided with the start of the Tet Offensive, a large-scale coordinated attack by approximately 80,000 troops of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army against the forces of South Vietnam, the United States and its allies.

"Our base faced a lot of small arms fire and artillery during the first morning I was there," said Simon. "I spent the first month of my tour in a bunker."

Simon said it was good to sit down as a group and share stories from their time in Vietnam.

Wohlfert also enjoyed the opportunity to sit down and talk with his classmates.

"It took us back like we were back in high school," said Wohlfert. "It was kind of like time stood still because we were all friends in school and that was really nice. We would see each other now and then at reunions or some of us worked together, but not everyone would be there at the same time."

Wohlfert served in Vietnam as an assistant machine gunner in the Army's 7th Cavalry. He was injured six months into his tour.

"I was carrying my supplies, the spare gun barrel and ammunition, about 100 pounds total," said Wohlfert. "We were moving up a mountain when I tore my knee. I spent a week in a hospital in Vietnam before I was transferred to the Philippines to have my surgery. I then spent time in Japan on rehabilitation."

Weber also drew an assignment in armor, serving for one year on a crew of an M113 armored personnel carrier with the Army's 11th Armored Cavalry. He said the service record of the class is something to be proud of.

"It is something that of about 23 boys in that class that we had 15 serve in the military, and seven of us serve our country in Vietnam," said Weber. "It makes me feel good to be a part of that group."

Schafer spent his year in Vietnam as a radio operator attached to an infantry unit with the 1st Cavalry.

"That kept me moving a lot," said Schafer. "Sometimes we went out from base for a month and other times we went out for a day or two to do some reconnaissance and then would go back to base. Then we would be sent off to a different area."

Schafer said he was glad to have an opportunity to meet with his classmates as a group and discuss their experiences.

"It was great that we got together because some of us haven't seen each other in a while," said Schafer. "It was kind of unusual that we all decided to go the same route rather than joining the Reserves even though we didn't talk to each other about it. It was just interesting that it turned out that way."

"I also thought it was interesting that most of us ended up with artillery units,

FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL, continued on page 22



## Comforters for our Veterans

The Frankenmuth Michigan VFW Post 2725 and the Frankenmuth American Legion Post 150 joined together to hand out handmade comforters (made by Frankenmuth's Nina Simnitch). It brought tears to everyone to watch

the look on our veterans eyes. There will be more made and handed out in the future! Presentations took place at Independence Village of Frankenmuth a terrific sponsor of our veterans and their families!



*Last row: Left to right*

*American Legion Post 150 Member Dave Hoffman, VFW Post 2725 Quartermaster Larry Schluckebier, American Legion Post 150 Junior Vice Art Diffin, VFW Post 2725 Adjutant George Reinert, and VFW Post 2725 Commander Gerald Sohn.*

*First row:*

*American Legion Post 150 Member Ralph List, American Legion Post 150 Member Wally Weiss, VFW Post 2725 Member Bob Edmunds, VFW Post 2725 Member Ed Dewitt, VFW Post 2725 Member John Marino.*

## Post 4164



Again this year, Caro VFW Post 4164 with the help of local business's and caring citizens, help make the holiday more pleasant for local families.

Drop off boxes at several locations collected toys and needed items. Donations of toys, food, etc. were collected at the Post. Bingo players and other donated food and gift cards to be used at local markets. Gifts were

presented to local families in time for the holidays.

On behalf of all VFW members, we thank everyone who gave and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Pictured above representing Post 4164 from left to right: Bob Berry, Rob Summersett, Kerry Anderson, Robert Schank, Austin Hessling, and Richard (Dutch) Thorp.

## VFW Post 4499 Manistee

### Toys for Tots



*Pictured left to right: VFW Post 4499 Commander Don Vadeboncoeur, Auxiliary President Colleen McDonald and Men's Auxiliary Jack Garber. Kneeling: London O'Neil and Dillion Anderson.*

One of our Posts last community service projects of the year is donating the hall and assisting Manistee's Toys for Tots program." stated VFW POST 449 Cmdr Vadeboncoeur. The event continues to get larger every year and 2014 was the best yet. Volunteers from the community assisted in the 6 days of setting up and the 3 days of distribution. Our goal has always been to put a smile on a child's face.

In addition to the semi-loads of toys delivered we also had 22 new bicycles. Needless to say we exceeded our goal thanks to the citizens of Manistee County.

## Manistee Post 4499 and Muskegon Post 8846 "Get 're done"

Post 4499 again hosted the free Thanksgiving Day dinners. Head Chef Jim Naffle, above right, of Post 8846 and Joe Bigalke of Manistee ramrodded the kitchen. The turkeys were donated by Muskegon's Mens Auxiliary and the remainder by Manistee. Approximately 40 hot meals were delivered to the shut-in. Even though we fell short of our goal of 300 meals served this year, it was still a very successful event. The yearly event is sponsored by Manistee Salvation Army and all donations are used to fill their food pantry.



## Post 6250



On Veterans Day, November 11, 2014, Post Members Jerry Gorski, John Yurgelevic, Stephen Bilan, Charles McCollum, Eugene Rybicki, Ray Nadolski and Thaddeus Bukowiecki from VFW Post 6250 North End - Sterling Heights visited the Oakmont Retirement Community Center in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Post 6250 members began by leading the residents in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Followed by unfolding and refolding the U.S. Flag while Post Commander Jerry Gorski explained what each fold represented. Then Luann McCollum, wife of Post 6250

Member Charles McCollum, led the veterans and the entire community in singing "God Bless America". Post Commander Gorski then gave three Korean War Books to three Korean War veterans who are residents at the Oakwood Retirement Community Center. Post 6250 Commander Jerry Gorski also transferred the membership of a WWII veteran from a VFW Post in Orlando, Florida to VFW Post 6250 Sterling Heights, Michigan. Pictured are Post 6250 Commander Jerry Gorski, Post 6250 Quartermaster Stephen Bilan, and the veterans that reside at the Oakmont Retirement Community Center.

## Post 6695

The Men's Auxiliary of Mayflower/Lt. Gamble Post 6695 have been working to support the post for years. Recently they purchased a new 3-Keg cooler for the lounge, re-carpeted the lounge, helped the Ladies Auxiliary

purchase a new dishwasher for the hall, and many more things. This past fall after the annual golf out they dedicated there unit banner which hangs proudly on the wall in the Post Home beside the VFW's banner.



*Men's Auxiliary 6695 members, Men's Auxiliary President Darrel Bazaman (upper Left) and Vice. President Gordon Bardeleben (2nd from left 1st row).*



## Christmas Spirit fills the National Home Community

*The giving spirit of Christmas filled the VFW National Home for Children community during the past week.*

December 9, 2014



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited each boy and girl – with help from VFW District 8 of Michigan – on Friday night.

The excited children jumped up and down and ran to the front door to greet Santa and Mrs. Claus as they pulled up in the National Home fire truck.



The jolly elf brought toys and other goodies to the children, much to their delight.

"A tool bench!" exclaimed one little boy. He was a little shy at first about approaching Santa and Mrs. Claus, but soon he was hugging them tight.

At one house, twins dressed in pink frilly skirts twirled about as they approached the couple from the North Pole. The house was decorated with lights and a white Christmas tree bedecked with colorful ornaments.

Next stop was a home with a little boy dressed up, including a tie, and his sister in a bright red dress.

"I got Power Rangers!" he shouted. "Just what I wanted!"

At another house, a little girl worked hard to open a gift that was larger than she. Finally, the present was revealed.

"A crib for your baby," said her mom. "Now you can put her night-night."

The little girl toddled off, entranced by a small piece of wrapping paper with a penguin on it.

The Christmas spirit continued on Saturday with a holiday craft show, the annual Christmas lunch, the fun of the Cootie clowns, and a final visit by Santa Claus before he headed back to the North Pole.

The holiday craft show, featuring items made by the children and others, was a big hit with its lady bug theme. There were lady bug magnets and small glass containers decorated with lady bug stickers. There also were handmade cards, homemade dish cloths, and more.

Out in the gym, Cootie clowns were tossing squishy balls back and forth and

reaching into their bags to give a toy to each child as he or she walked in.

One of the clowns was Margaret Ann Simental – also known by her clown name of Percyana – from MOCA Snake State West Virginia No. 6. Percyana has been a MOCA clown for at least 10 years, if not longer.

"I love coming up here," she said. "The kids...the looks on their faces. It makes my day."

The Military Order of the Cooties (MOC) Grand of Michigan hosted the party, and Cooties came from all over the United States to take part. The lunch – Florida Picnic in the Snow – was prepared and provided by the MOC Grand of Florida. The picnic included grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, macaroni salad, chips, and other picnic fare.

Michael McGrath, the VFW Department of Illinois National Home Chairman and National Home District 8 Trustee, also attended the festivities. He praised the time and effort that so many people put into the celebration.

"Thanks to the Cooties for what they do and have done for so many years," he said.

"I'm very appreciative of the great job done by the people who came before us and supported the Home for so many years," he continued. "All the activities show the great enthusiasm that exists here for the sake of the kids."

"Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus..." started playing.

Santa Claus arrived with a jingle of bells and a "Ho ho ho!" It was time for each National Home girl and boy to go up and greet Santa and receive a gift. MOC Supreme Commander David Wimmer, MOCA Supreme President flo Parmelee, MOC Grand Commander of MI Eric Bell, and MOCA Grand of MI President Patricia Thorsby assisted Santa with his duties.

Smiling children and young people walked up to Santa's sleigh to talk to him and then get their present.

Soon it was time for Santa Claus to return to the North Pole, rest up, and prepare for Christmas Day. With a wave and a jingle of bells, he headed out.



## Happy 90th Anniversary to the National Home

*Help recognize modern military families this month*

January 8, 2015



The group of children came in one and two at a time, stomping the snow and ice off of their feet. There was a blur of coats being taken off and mittens set aside, and each child was given a party hat to wear. The room was decorated with colorful balloons and shiny miniature stars.

### It was time for a birthday party!

The VFW National Home for Children recently celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a large birthday cake and talk of future plans. The staff and the children from the National

Home's preschool and child care center gathered in the Museum.

After the children were settled down, they sat down, and surrounded by adults, had their picture taken for the occasion. Then it was time for everyone to enjoy the cake.

The Museum was a fitting place to kick-off this yearlong celebration of our 90th Anniversary. In 2015, the National Home will celebrate this milestone birthday by honoring the past with a project to renovate and update our museum. An updated museum will be housed in a renovated building and showcase the history in a way that respects the past while showing the Home from a modern, fresh perspective.

Throughout the year, we will also be commemorating this special year in other ways, such as featuring various aspects of our rich history on this blog. We will look back and remember important and interesting events that created the Home we know today.

Here's to a wonderful 90th year of helping military and veteran families at the National Home!



# HE'S ON WATCH. SO ARE WE.





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

Photo: DoD





## Leading Veterans Groups Release Funding Blueprint to Address VA Issues

**Administration's Request Addresses the Health Care and Benefits Needs of Veterans**

February 03, 2015

WASHINGTON—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Four of the nation's leading veterans service organizations—AMVETS (American Veterans), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) and the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)—released The Independent Budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs: Budget Recommendations for FY 2016 and FY 2017. The report outlines projected funding requirements for the programs administered by the VA. The Independent Budget veterans service organizations (IBVSOs) are pleased to see that the Administration has committed to investing significant new resources to the VA, particularly for health care. The Administration recommends \$63.2 billion in total medical care for FY 2016 and approximately \$66.6 billion for total medical care for the advance appropriations for FY 2017, an amount that actually exceeds the \$66.4 billion advance appropriations recommendation contained in The Independent Budget (IB) report. The IBVSOs appreciate the fact that the VA may finally be directing sufficient resources to address the serious access problems and lack of capacity that have plagued the health care system.

The revised budget request for FY 2016 is especially welcome because the IBVSOs had been concerned that the funding levels previously provided through advance appropriations for FY 2016 were not sufficient to meet clearly increasing demand. The Independent Budget Report recommends \$63.3 billion for total medical care for FY 2016, about \$1.4 billion more than the \$61.9 billion Congress provided through advance appropriations last December. The newly revised Administration budget request for total medical care for FY 2016 is \$63.2 billion virtually identical to the IB estimate.

"It is a very positive sign that the VA is recommending real increases in funding for medical care for both FY 2016 and for FY 2017," stated Al Kovach, National President of Paralyzed Veterans of America. "However, it is imperative that Congress work with the Administration to address the shortfall in medical care funding that was previously provided for FY 2016."

The Independent Budget Report also includes the following recommendations:

- \$2.8 billion for the Veterans Benefits Administration—approximately \$263 million more than the FY 2015 appropriated level. This recommendation includes significant increases in staff in the Compensation Service and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program.
- \$2.8 billion for all construction programs—approximately \$1.6 billion more than the FY 2015

appropriated level.

- \$619 million for medical and prosthetic research—approximately \$30 million more than the FY 2015 appropriated level.

"In the past couple of years, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has made significant progress in addressing the claims backlog, but there is still much more that needs to be done," said Ron Hope, DAV National Commander. "Congress must provide, and VA must allocate, additional resources to complete the modernization of VBA's IT systems, increase the number of claims processors and expand the number of Board of Veterans' Appeals attorneys and judges to address that growing backlog," he said.

The IBVSOs believe that a concerted effort must address the monumental problems within the infrastructure and construction management programs. Recent reports about serious failings in construction programs—most notably in Colorado—leaves veterans wondering if any VA facility will be available to meet their growing health care requirements.

"The problems that arose from the Denver VA medical center project confirm that the VA doesn't take its funding requests or its oversight responsibilities seriously," said John W. Stroud, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. "Construction funding requests have been totally insufficient for more than a decade, and the noticeable lack of attention hurts veterans who are trying to access care, and it wastes precious taxpayer money. The VA must become better stewards of all that it owns."

Ultimately, it is imperative that VA invest new resources appropriately ensuring that veterans gain timely access to the best quality care, and receive ratings decisions that are done correctly the first time. The VA must continue to take positive steps to regain the trust of veterans who rely on the system after dealing with the scandal that embroiled the VA health care system for most of the past year.

"We urge the Administration and Congress to thoroughly review The Independent Budget and our policy agenda for the 114th Congress as they move forward to approve a budget for this year," emphasized AMVETS National Commander Larry Via. "Our recommendations offer solutions to the access problems facing the health care system and the challenges facing the claims processing system while also justifying funding needed to implement those solutions."

The Independent Budget is an annual comprehensive budget and policy document, written by veterans for veterans, detailing funding requirements for VA. The Independent Budget aims to present a full picture of veterans' needs—and how government can meet these needs. The full report can be viewed online at [www.independentbudget.org](http://www.independentbudget.org).

## New VFW Charter Reflects Today's Military

**VFW Thankful for Unanimous Support from Congress**

November 21, 2014

WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is thanking the 113th Congress for their unanimous support this week to approve a change to the VFW's congressional charter that was signed 78 years ago by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when the military was comprised almost entirely of men.

The update consists of two wording changes — replacing men with veterans, and widows with surviving spouses — and was supported by two companion bills, S. 2782 and H.R. 5441, which were introduced by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and House VA Committee

Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), respectively.

The change was prompted by VFW Resolution 301 that was passed in July by delegates attending the 115th VFW National Convention in St. Louis.

"We didn't change our congressional charter to be politically correct," said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud, "we changed it because being an eligible service member or veteran is what's important to our great organization, not one's gender, and changing widows to surviving spouses is more representative of today's military. The VFW thanks the Senate and House VA Committee chairmen for their sponsorships, and Congress for their unanimous support."

The bill now heads to the president for his signature.

## SAV Act Clears Senate

**VFW Says More Suicide Prevention Improvements Still Needed**

February 03, 2015

WASHINGTON — The Senate today passed H.R. 203, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act, which will help incentivize more psychiatrists to work at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, to expand VA's successful peer support networks, and to authorize VA to collaborate with local nonprofit mental health organizations. The bill now moves to the White House for the president's signature.

"We are thankful that the SAV Act takes these important steps, but more still needs to be done to help prevent military and veteran suicides," said John W. Stroud, the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Mental health and suicide prevention have been top VFW legislative priorities for years, according to Stroud, whose organization has pushed consistently for reforms like improved peer-to-peer counseling, telemedicine, increased mental health staffing, and enlisting alternative treatment options in both the military and VA health care systems, as well as from the civilian community. However, a major concern is that some service members are being kicked out

of the military for so-called preexisting conditions without first being properly diagnosed or treated, meaning they could easily be denied critical VA care and benefits after they are discharged.

The VFW worked closely with the bill's architects, House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-Fla.) and Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.), to include provisions that would improve mental health partnerships with Reserve Components, and to review less-than-honorable discharges, the cause of which could have been induced by post-traumatic stress associated with military service. Those improvements ended up being dropped from the original bill when it was introduced near the end of the 113th Congress, where it stalled in the Senate. That same bill was reintroduced into the new Congress where it was passed, but again without the VFW-supported provisions.

"We are hopeful that the president will soon sign the Clay Hunt SAV Act," said Stroud, "because it does strengthen and expand the mental health programs and services currently available to service members and veterans. What the SAV Act doesn't do is go far enough, which are provisions we will work with Congress to insert into the next suicide prevention legislation."

## VFW and Sport Clips Haircuts Award Scholarships Totaling More Than \$288,000

**Service Members and Veterans Receive Needed Financial Aid for Spring 2015**

January 26, 2015

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to announce 70 veterans and service members have been awarded VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarships" this spring, totaling more than \$288,000.

Help A Hero Scholarships are awarded exclusively to service members and

veterans to help cover the cost of tuition and fees. Scholarships are available for both spring and fall semesters. Recipients are encouraged to reapply as they continue their education.

Launched in 2013, the Help A Hero Scholarship program has awarded over 200 scholarships totaling nearly three-quarters of a million dollars to service members and veterans.



## MVAA reaches 79 Percent of Veterans through Veterans Community Action Team Expansion

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is committed to making Michigan the most veteran-friendly state in the nation, working with private, public and nonprofit groups to accomplish that goal.

Across the state, veterans service organizations like the VFW, Red Cross and county veterans agencies are already helping Michigan veterans connect with health care services, education benefits and more. But imagine what could be done if an entire network of these resources came together to address the problems Michigan veterans face each day.

Now, more than 500,000 veterans are able to see what that system of organizations would look like, thanks to the expansion of MVAA's Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) program. This year, the VCAT program will provide veterans in 24 counties in and around Lansing, Flint, Saginaw and Ann Arbor with easier access to comprehensive health, employment, education and quality-of-life opportunities through the expansion.

The VCAT project was introduced in 2013 with pilots in Metro Detroit and West Michigan. VCATs in these regions focused on identifying solutions for gaps in veteran services, reducing duplication of efforts and simplifying connections

with local resources.

The program was so successful in these areas that MVAA is expanding the VCAT program to four more areas of the state this year, bringing new resources and cooperation to veterans in the Capitol area, Mid-Michigan and Southeast Michigan as well as the Great Lakes Bay Region and the Thumb.

In total, the VCAT program now serves nearly 523,000 veterans in Michigan – 79 percent of the state's veteran population.

"Each region's VCAT will operate differently, because each region's veterans have their own unique needs," Barnes said. "VCATs seek to answer the question, 'What more can we do to help veterans succeed?' This program is about finding those opportunities and discovering better solutions through collaboration."

VCATs also work in conjunction with 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) – MVAA's 24/7 hotline that is integrated with Michigan 2-1-1 services – to connect veterans with services at the federal, state and local levels.

The VCAT program is designed to make it easier for veterans to find resources right where they live and work, so that no matter where a veteran starts looking for help, they are able to find the assistance they need and the respect they deserve.

## VFW Takes on Capitol Hill During Its Annual Legislative Conference

*The Conference Runs March 1-5*

February 18, 2015

VFW members around the country are preparing to take on Washington, D.C. for the VFW's annual Legislative Conference March 1-5.

Every year, the VFW takes the voices of America's veterans directly to the nation's elected lawmakers to remind them of the promises they made and to ensure they remain focused on the many issues that affect the veteran community.

Armed with the VFW's Legislative Priority Goals for 2015, VFW members visit with their state representatives, explaining in detail the VFW's stance on a variety of veterans' issues and continuing the conversation about what it means to properly take care of veterans, service members and their families.

The week culminates with VFW National Commander John Stroud's testimony before a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on March 4, where Stroud

will lay out the VFW's legislative agenda for the year.

The VFW will be streaming live so you don't miss a thing! Make sure to watch on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. (EST) for the Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners, followed by the delayed streaming of the commander-in-chief's testimony on March 4 at 2:00 p.m. Visit [www.vfw.org/LegislativeConference](http://www.vfw.org/LegislativeConference) to access the stream directly, and if you miss the live feed, catch up at your leisure by using the "on-demand" feature.

Be sure to follow us on social media or log on to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) for regular updates during the conference. Look for #VFWHill2015 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

VFW's Legislative Conference amplifies the voices of the nearly 2 million members of the VFW and our Auxiliaries on Capitol Hill, leading to meaningful reforms for our nation's veterans.

## The VFW Salutes America's Gulf War Veterans

*The Gulf War Served as a Model Military Operation*

January 16, 2015

January 17 marks 24 years since the official commencement of the Persian Gulf War. With this important conflict falling in time between the war in Vietnam and those of Iraq and Afghanistan, unfortunately its veterans are sometimes forgotten.

But the VFW remembers, and it takes this opportunity to salute the service and sacrifice of the brave Americans who drove Saddam Hussein's military forces from Kuwait.

The Gulf War served as a model military operation. America's service members accomplished their mission on schedule, and without fail. Despite the war's relatively short duration, each of its veterans played an integral role in shaping

a truly historical event.

Approximately 695,000 servicemen and women served in the Kuwait theater leading up to and during the war. It left 467 wounded and claimed the lives of another 374. Though victory was expeditiously achieved, it did not come without great cost.

In addition to the lives lost and visible injuries sustained, many service members returned home with mysterious illnesses later termed "Gulf War Syndrome." Its lasting effects constitute the war's enduring legacy.

Like their predecessors, veterans of the Gulf War have left their mark in history and we are all indebted to them for their selfless service. Today, and every day, the VFW salutes all of America's Gulf War veterans.

## VFW: Ending Sequestration the Best 2016 Budget Request

*'The VFW Looks Forward to Continuing this Most Important Conversation'*

February 03, 2015

WASHINGTON — The national commander of the 1.9 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries said Monday's fiscal 2016 federal budget request for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense were good starting points to continue an important conversation with Congress and the American people about what it means to properly take care of veterans, service members and their families. However, he said the best budget request would be for Congress to first end sequestration.

"The VA is tasked with caring for America's wounded, ill and injured veterans, and DOD is tasked with protecting every freedom we hold dear," said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud, "but as much as their budget submissions look toward the future, the two departments can't ignore a rearview mirror that shows a restart of mandatory sequestration on Oct. 1."

The president exempted the VA from sequestration in 2013, but it is unknown if that exemption still applies; however, how the sequester directly impacts DOD and all federal agencies who support veterans continue to be top VFW concerns.

As mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011, the Pentagon must cut its budget by \$487 billion over 10 years, but sequestration doubles that amount. Cutting almost \$1 trillion from the Pentagon's budget — no matter how dispersed — could eliminate quality of life programs

for military personnel and their families, and tremendously impact readiness and modernization programs, to the point of jeopardizing the military's ability to respond when and where needed.

After a brief delay, the sequester began in the second half of FY 2013. In order to meet the mandatory spending cuts without impacting combat operations in Afghanistan, the four military services slashed flying, sailing and troop training, and began furloughing its civilian workforce. A Bipartisan Budget Agreement signed in December 2013 put a temporary hold on sequestration until FY 2016, which begins Oct. 1.

The VA's budget request is a good start, said Stroud, even though its construction account request is \$1 billion less than what the VFW and its three Independent Budgetcoauthors recommend. The VFW national commander also said the military's request continues the Pentagon's mantra to slow-the-growth in pay and benefits by proposing a mere 1.3-percent pay raise, to further reduce housing allowances, and to create higher out-of-pocket health care costs for active-duty military families and retirees of all ages.

"The VFW looks forward to continuing this most important conversation with Congress and the American people about what it means to properly take care of veterans, service members and their families, but all is for naught as long as sequestration remains the law of the land," said Stroud. "Congress must end it or replace it, so that the rest of America can begin moving forward."

### VFW AND SPORT CLIPS, continued from page 18

"The VFW is here to support our veterans as they transition to civilian life, and we know education is a crucial element to ensuring they succeed. With the GI Bill's limitations, this scholarship helps fill the gaps for so many veterans," said VFW National Commander John Stroud.

For students like Micha Gashes, an Air Force Reservist, these scholarships lessen the financial burden associated

with meeting post-secondary educational goals. "My GI Bill benefits have been exhausted, and I really want to finish what I started. This scholarship has been amazing and will allow me to use the mechanic skills I gained in the military now that I'm working in the civilian sector."

Applications are now being accepted for the fall; the deadline to apply is April 30. For more information,

including eligibility criteria, visit [vfw.org/scholarship](http://vfw.org/scholarship).

Sport Clips, the nation's leading men's and boys' hair care franchise, provides funding for the program through its annual "Help A Hero" fundraising campaign. In 2014, through the support of thousands of Sport Clips stylists across the nation and their clients, as well as donations from partners in the salon industry, the company raised

more than \$706,000 to benefit the program. Donations were collected in stores and at local fundraising events in the fall with efforts culminating on Veterans Day, Sport Clips' "Biggest Haircut Day of the Year." Stores donated a dollar from every haircut service to the scholarship program. Sport Clips will launch its ninth annual Help A Hero campaign on October 12.



Auxiliary TAPS

<b>1136-Wyandotte</b> McBain, Anne	<b>667-South Haven</b> Binkley, Bernice	<b>4646-Lyons</b> Gladding, Josephine Struble, Betty	<b>3724-Standish</b> Cardinal, Marian Ploof, Ann	<b>4573-Ishpeming</b> Bergman, Donna
<b>1519-Northville</b> Burrous, Josie	<b>5319-Athens</b> Matuschka, Leslie	<b>5065-Sheridan</b> Bennett, Doris Betz, Phyllis Miller, Charlotte Yaw, Joyce	<b>3735-Oscoda</b> Pregizer, Connie	<b>5670-Gwinn</b> Willig, Shirley
<b>4422-Taylor</b> Helvey, Ann	<b>6248-Decatur</b> Avery, Helen		<b>3775-West Branch</b> Beyerlein, Betty	<b>8945-Covington</b> Kennedy, Vivian Sliger, JoAnn
<b>7546-Dearborn Hgts</b> Buhagiar, Ethel	<b>702-Wyoming</b> Olinger, Lillian	<b>5602-Six Lakes</b> Brown, Betty	<b>4159-Roscommon</b> Kollar, Dorothy	<b>9023-Brimley</b> Hill, Juanita Malaski, Wilma Mayer, Thelma
<b>1008-Waterford</b> Bond, Dolores	<b>2144-Holland</b> DeKraker, Anna Moodie, Edna Nash, Esther Overway, Betty Sanderson, Helen Tibbits, Shirley	<b>6579-New Lothrop</b> Crawford , Lorene Menosky, Jo Ann	<b>7303-Gladwin</b> Morris, Helen Murray, Erma Richardson, M Jean	<b>6165-South Range</b> Detki, Elvera Lightfoot, Helen Pelto, Darlene
<b>2052-Romeo</b> Douglas, Dawn Frost, Orbra Faye		<b>9455-Owosso</b> Fritzsche, Emma	<b>995-Bitely</b> Jones, Lola	<b>7646-Pelkie</b> Karvakko, Toini
<b>2269-Wixom</b> Rockhold , LaDonna	<b>2326-Grand Haven</b> Behm, Phillis Buron, Mae	<b>822-Flint</b> Crepeau, Patricia Crossnoe, Barbara	<b>446-Muskegon</b> Hofacker, Germaine King, Helen	<b>Member At Large</b> Barber, Jessie Kidder, Harriette
<b>4156-White Lake</b> Pace, Betty	<b>2406-Charlotte</b> Hall, Mary	<b>3243-Fenton</b> Fairchild, Mary Lena Huff, Elinor	<b>3734-Muskegon</b> Davis, Thelma Riekse, Nelly	
<b>6691-Fraser</b> Henderson, Helen Slugaj, Shirley Szymanski, Janice Townsend, Betsy	<b>3023-Grand Rapids</b> Bartolotti, Helen	<b>3720-Swartz Creek</b> Whitten, Mary Sue	<b>4499-Manistee</b> Hulse, Doris	
<b>7573-New Baltimore</b> Doll, Barbara Park, Donna Ross, Janet	<b>3030-Otsego</b> Breedveld, Louise Quarry, Beryl	<b>4115-Sebewaing</b> Engelhardt, Leola Otto, Jessie	<b>7729-Muskegon</b> Kaffenberger, Donna	
<b>1584-Adrian</b> Anderson, Mae Robinette, Margaret	<b>6252-Comstock</b> Krohn, Mary Martin, Lorraine	<b>4139-Lapeer</b> Butterfield, Grace Pilkington, Elizabeth	<b>10770-LeRoy</b> Jones, Sharon	
<b>3925-Turner</b> Ruth	<b>7581-Wayland</b> Larr, Lucille	<b>7486-Fairgrove</b> Benson, Joyce	<b>2780-Traverse City</b> Cox, Victoria Galla, Deanna	
<b>4093-Carleton</b> Crawford , Roberta	<b>7956-Augusta</b> Rhoads, Treva	<b>8236-Flint</b> Williams, Bernice	<b>3675- Boyne City</b> Tresh, Helen	
<b>4357-Brighton</b> Vieau, Hazel	<b>3701-Lakeview</b> Brock, Frances Lindsey, Joann	<b>9344-Harbor Beach</b> Zylinski, Lillian	<b>7804-Posen</b> Lewandowski, Loretta Purgiel, Regina	
<b>6056-Springport</b> Brannan, Margaret June	<b>4005-Corunna</b> Bowers, Doris Zwolensky, Gertrude	<b>10884-Mayville</b> Kramer, Eva	<b>1887-Menominee</b> Naffzinger, Marie	
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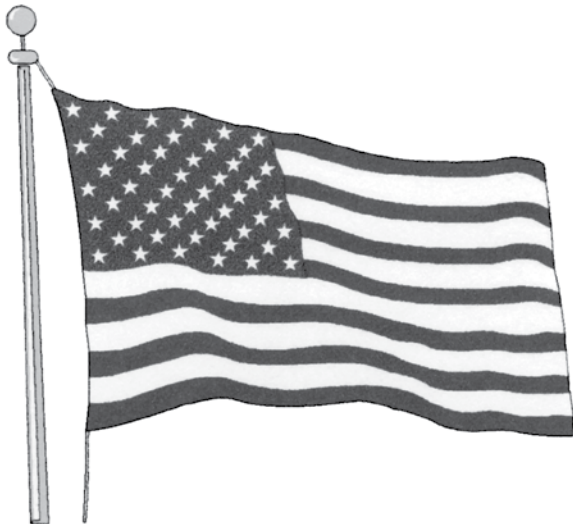
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

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TAPS

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(Last Name)

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(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post #)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):  
USA USAAC USN  
USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):  
WWI WWII Korea  
Vietnam Gulf Other  
Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
A VETERAN DIED TODAY



345 REDFORD  
FERRARA, CARMELLO 91 MARINES/WWII  
HURT, LEON 91 ARMY/WWII  
345 LICARI  
JOSEPH 93 ARMY/WWII  
MUNN, WILSON 83 AIR FORCE/KOREA  
607 ROGERS CITY  
SOBECK, MICHAEL L. 65 ARMY/VIETNAM  
671 DEWITT  
WINTERSTEIN, LESTER 79 ARMY/KOREA  
796 PORT HURON  
MULLEN, RICHARD 85 NAVY/WWII  
796 OLDER  
MARK 94 ARMY/WWII  
1008 WATERFORD  
ABLER, PAUL 82 ARMY/KOREA  
1137 BENTON HARBOR  
GANO, WILLIAM 82 ARMY/KOREA  
1138 MONROE  
BROGAN, JAMES W. 91 ARMY/WWII  
CARRABINO, SAM J. 92 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII  
COOLEY, WILLIAM 95 NAVY/WWII  
COX, JOHN H. 88 ARMY/WWII  
1138 GENSLER  
VICTOR W. 95 NAVY/WWII  
STODDARD, JOSEPH A. 84 ARMY/KOREA  
SZABO, LAWRENCE 91 MARINES/WWII  
ZIEGLER, JAMES JR. 38 MARINES/AFGHANISTAN  
1146 ST. CLAIR SHORES  
CHENOCK, LAWRENCE 92 ARMY/WWII  
DRESDEN, RAYMOND M. 94 ARMY/WWII  
LESLIE, WILLIAM F. 93 ARMY/WWII  
LINDSAY, WILLISON P. 90 NAVY/WWII  
MINNELLA, CIRO J. 86 NAVY/KOREA  
1329 HART  
BLOHM, EARL C. 84 MARINES  
BOVID, CHARLES 88 ARMY/WWII  
DAVILA, BALDOMERO 90 ARMY/WWII  
LARSON, RAYMOND 88 NAVY/WWII  
MEITNER, FRANK 87 ARMY/WWII  
TOLIVER, CARROLL 90 NAVY/WWII  
WAY, BEUFORD 87 ARMY/WWII  
1355 STURGIS  
CARR, EARL 65 ARMY/VIETNAM  
DEKAY, GERALD 87 ARMY/KOREA  
1855 DOWAGIAC  
WATTLES, RONALD 66 NAVY/VIETNAM  
2051 HARBOR SPRINGS  
VARGA, PAUL J. 83 ARMY/WWII  
2144 HOLLAND  
HAYES, LARRY 63 ARMY/VIETNAM  
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OWEN, CARL 81 ARMY/KOREA  
PIGEON, CALVIN 89 ARMY/WWII  
ROELOFS, STANLEY W. SR. 87 NAVY/WWII  
SCHUTT, JAMES 90 AIR FORCE/WWII  
SEMISHKO, JOHN 85 ARMY/KOREA  
STANFORD, JACK 90 ARMY/KOREA  
VON INS, AUGUST 94 ARMY/WWII  
2358 ROSEVILLE  
PORTER, ROBERT J. 93 MARINES/WWII  
2725 FRANKENMUTH  
MARTINI, WALT 82 NAVY/KOREA  
2777 BURTON  
SARGENT, NORBERT 96 MARINES/WWII  
2780 TRAVERSE CITY  
AGINAGA, LOUIS 81 ARMY/KOREA  
KUENZER, BYRON 65 ARMY/VIETNAM  
2891 CRYSTAL FALLS  
COOPMAN, GARY 80 ARMY/KOREA  
2964 REED CITY  
TRIMNER, MARVIN 83 ARMY/KOREA  
3023 GRAND RAPIDS  
ALLEN, DONALD 82 ARMY/KOREA  
FERWERDA, NORMAND 91 NAVY/WWII  
3055 ST. LOUIS  
PARKS, KENNETH 80 MARINES/KOREA  
3134 IRON RIVER  
KOSKI, WILLIAM 88 ARMY/WWII  
3243 FENTON  
BOUCHER, NEIL 84 ARMY/WWII  
CONLEN, ROBERT R. 90 ARMY/WWII  
DIAMOND, JAMES L. 68 MARINES/VIETNAM  
ELDER, JOHN 91 ARMY/WWII  
GEAN, ELMER 93 ARMY/WWII  
GOULD, CURTIS B. 90 ARMY/WWII  
HOTCHKISS, HOWARD J. 64 ARMY/VIETNAM  
LINTZ, ROBERT N. 89 NAVY/WWII

MARINO, GIROLAMO 89 ARMY/WWII/KOREA  
O'BERRY, MICHAEL 66 MARINES/VIETNAM  
POWELL, ALAN 70 NAVY/WWII  
SAPIANO, PAUL A. 92 ARMY/WWII  
TORPAY, LEONARD 84 ARMY/KOREA  
WALTERS, JACK 94 NAVY/WWII  
3293 GRAND LEDGE  
BUSH, ROY W. 93 ARMY/WWII  
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LAPOINTE, GILBERT 89 NAVY/WWII  
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4115 SEBEWAING  
EISENGRUBER, JAMES J. ARMY/WWII  
4159 ROSCOMMON  
ERBER, ROBERT 88 NAVY/WWII  
4249 NEWAYGO  
STENDER, CARL AIR FORCE/WWII  
SUCHY, GEORGE SR. 82 ARMY/KOREA  
4499 MANISTEE  
BLADZIK, DAVID J. 92 NAVY/WWII  
BOLACH, JOSEPH P. 81 AIR FORCE  
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BUSHOR, BILLIE B. 90 MARINES/WWII  
COLE, THOMAS E. 62 ARMY/VIETNAM  
SHIVELY, DONALD C. 85 ARMY/WWII  
4659 SHELBY TOWNSHIP  
BANNERS, NORMAN 94 ARMY/WWII  
LAND, DONALD 79 NAVY/KOREA  
MALZAHN, RUSSELL 91 WWII  
SCHRAMKE, FRANCIS J. 89  
ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII  
5065 SHERIDAN  
CRAWFORD, ELTON 92 ARMY/WWII  
ELLIS, RONALD 67 MARINES/VIETNAM  
SMITH, CARL 91 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII  
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5096 CUSTER  
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5600 ONTONAGON  
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5602 SIX LAKES  
BURNS, MILTON 90 MARINES/WWII  
JOURDAN, JOHNNY 79 NAVY/KOREA  
5666 FLUSHING  
LANGTRY, RICHARD 88 NAVY/WWII  
5670 GWINN  
HAVNEN, RAYMOND 74 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM  
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SUARDINI, ETHORE 91 ARMY/WWII  
5977 MILAN  
AGNER, CARL 96 ARMY/WWII  
6056 SPRINGPORT  
CHUNKO, RONALD 67 ARMY/VIETNAM  
HOBBINS, LOUIS 89 ARMY/WWII  
6165 SOUTH RANGE  
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6248 DECATUR  
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6464 FOWLerville  
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6507 CHASSELL  
DIEDRICK, JOSEPH P. 86 ARMY/KOREA  
6579 NEW LOTHROP  
KLEIN, EUGENE G. 89 ARMY/WWII  
RICHTER, WILLIAM G. 85 ARMY/WWII  
SCHLACHTER, ELMER P. 95 NAVY/WWII  
WEBB, ROSCOE E. 85 AIR FORCE/ARMY  
6695 PLYMOUTH  
BEUERLE, DONALD 74 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM  
LITKE, MELVIN 93 AIR FORCE/WWII  
PORTH, FRANK 90 ARMY/WWII  
STANWOOD, ALBERT 95 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII  
6754 SPRUCE  
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6756 CENTER LINE  
MILLER, JACOB 66 ARMY/VIETNAM  
PLETAS, CHARLES 90 ARMY/WWII  
6896 WESTLAND  
SIERADZKI, LEONARD 93 ARMY/WWII  
7302 HEMLOCK  
BUSHONG, RUSSELL 92 AIR FORCE/WWII  
COLLIER, MELVIN 97 ARMY/WWII  
DAVIS, STEPHEN 67 NAVY/VIETNAM  
HOUSE, RAY 87 ARMY/KOREA  
MINTO, MARVIN 72 ARMY/VIETNAM  
7486 AKRON  
PEYOK, DONALD W. 65 VIETNAM  
7542 BIRCH RUN  
KORKUS, ALEXANDER 93 ARMY/WWII  
PIESKO, FRANK 94 ARMY/WWII  
7804 POSEN  
DARGA, HARRY 87 ARMY/WWII  
SIMMONS, EUGENE A. 89 ARMY/WWII  
7805 ITHACA  
MAXWELL, MELVIN 84 ARMY/GERMANY  
7806 MANTON  
BLOSSINGHAM, GEORGE 83 ARMY/KOREA  
MCBRIAN, DONALD 85 ARMY/KOREA  
PERRY, NEIL R. 89 ARMY/WWII  
7912 SAND LAKE  
HAYDEN, LEO 86 NAVY/WWII/KOREA  
HOSSLER, THOMAS 90 NAVY/WWII  
7979 EVART  
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KLOS, EDWARD E. 90 NAVY/WWII  
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ADOLPH, KENNETH 79  
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8594 YALE  
RIETTE, JOSEPH 92 NAVY/WWII  
8846 MUSKEGON  
DAVIS, DONALD 83 ARMY AIR FORCE/KOREA  
LOVE, KENNETH 93 MARINES/WWII  
OLSEN, RUSSELL ARMY/AIR FORCE/WWII  
8872 PORT SANILAC  
HORN, HENRY ARMY/WWII  
RUSHTON, CLYDE 88 ARMY/WWII  
8964 OVID  
HUNT, DARWIN 65 NAVY/VIETNAM  
PALEN, CHARLES 91 ARMY/WWII  
SHIAKAS, GREGORY 82 ARMY/KOREA  
9023 BRIMLEY  
HORNE, HUGH 87 NAVY/KOREA  
9084 WAKEFIELD  
ORLICH, MICHAEL 98 ARMY/WWII  
SAMPSON, DONALD H. 82 ARMY/KOREA  
9222, BERKLEY  
AGINAGA, LOUIS 81 ARMY/KOREA  
9345 BRUCE CROSSING  
HAAPALA, ALBERT 95 ARMY/WWII  
9377 PLAINWELL  
GELBAUGH, DONALD 88  
ARMY/AIR FORCE/WWII/KOREA  
TOWNE, GARNER 91 ARMY/WWII  
9973 DEARBORN HEIGHTS  
MAJKA, JOHN 94 COAST GUARD/WWII  
10770 LEROY  
HOLMES, WENDELL 89 ARMY/WWII  
SWANSON, EMIL 90 ARMY/WWII



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***FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL, continued from page 15***

and that most of us also served in the same area."

Myers had two assignments during his year in Vietnam. He served part of the year in the 5th Mechanized Division before serving the remainder of his tour with the 1st Infantry.

"I drove a Jeep for a sergeant up by the DMZ and then went and drove a tank for the 1st Infantry down in the south," said Myers. "It was different because there were more mountains by the DMZ while there was more jungle in the south."

Myers received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and four Battle Stars for his service. He said he enjoyed visiting with his classmates and sharing stories.

"It was nice to see all of the guys together all at once," said Myers. "To have that many guys from one grade go and serve is something, let alone from a class as small as what we had."

**God Bless Our Troops**



## VFW Camp Trotter for Children Ninth Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015** **VILLAGE GREEN GOLF COURSE**  
8:00 a.m. – Registration 8130 Bingham Avenue  
9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513

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

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

### GOLF ENTRY FORM

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 12, 2015

Captains name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hole/Tee Sponsor (Minimum) \$55 \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

### TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter Foundation are tax deductible under section 501c (3) of the IRS Code

#### Checks payable to:

VFW Camp Trotter for Children

Mail to: PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.  
925 Forest Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813-1264

Questions? Call Ernie Meyers, Sr. at 517-490-1221

Email: [emeyers76@att.net](mailto:emeyers76@att.net)

[www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc](http://www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc)

## “Heroes on Wheels”

2015 Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.  
Memorial Motorcycle Ride

### FINAL STOP: PITTSBURGH, PA – SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015

Welcome, riders one and all, to support our nation's men and women in uniform and honor the memory of Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. (Commander-in-Chief 1979-80, Adjutant General 1981-1995). All net proceeds of the ride will be donated to VFW National Military Services to benefit those in uniform and their families. The agenda for Saturday, July 18th is being prepared and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who participated in your 2014 ride to St. Louis. You raised more than \$23,000 for U.S. troops and their families through our National Military Services (NMS) Program. You

did that with just slightly more than 70 riders. This year, our goal is to double both the riders and the donation to NMS.

Call or email me for Sign-Up and Sponsorship forms. If you're a rider, sign up and get as many sponsors as you can.

Plan your route and start finding your sponsors today. Let's show the rest of the VFW what those who ride can do for those in uniform and their families.

**MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT AS THE RIDE DEVELOPS. IN THE INTERIM, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS, E-MAIL OR CALL ME – Kevin Jones - [kjones@vfw.org](mailto:kjones@vfw.org) or 816-968-1116. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN Pittsburgh!**

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES 96TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

COMRADES & SISTERS-  
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS MAY 18, 2015

#### RATES:

FULL PAGE ..... \$100.00

1/2 PAGE ..... 70.00

1/4 PAGE ..... 45.00

PATRON (NAME AND POST OR AUXILIARY NUMBER ONLY) ..... 4.00

PLEASE PRINT - DO NOT WRITE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN V.F.W.  
(NO CASH)

MAIL TO: Scott Gloger  
6718 Academy #5  
Brighton, MI 48116  
Phone: 734-323-1188  
Email: [lingloscot@yahoo.com](mailto:lingloscot@yahoo.com)

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS MAY 18, 2015

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW LIFE LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

Yearly drawing of 3 prizes:

1st prize - Gold legacy Life Membership = \$1200.00

2nd prize - Silver legacy Life Membership = \$800.00

3rd prize - 1 Bronze legacy Life Membership = \$400.00

You don't have to be present to win. Each ticket is \$10.00 to purchase. You must be a VFW life member in good standing to receive a legacy Life Membership. If you are not a life member and win 1st prize, you may use a portion of the \$1200.00 legacy Life Membership toward a VFW Life Membership and the remaining money will go toward the 2nd or 3rd place prize. Drawing will be held at the VFW State Convention on June 6, 2015 at 12:00pm at the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint, MI. The winning number will be available on the VFW Department website ([www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org)) on June 7, 2015.

We are in need of ticket distributors. Please call:

Larry Coleman: (home) 734-671-5134 (cell) 734-818-6677

John Coleman: (home) 734-771-8935

VFW Department Headquarters: 517-485-9456

Please mail all purchased ticket stubs with money or any unsold tickets to:  
VFW Department of Michigan, 924 N. Washington, Lansing, MI 48906

## WORLD WAR II BATTLEFIELDS

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

June 1-13 & August 10 - 22, 2015

Paris • Normandy Beaches • Walk on Omaha & Utah Beaches • Pointe du Hoc  
Battle of the Bulge • Ardennes Forest • Remagen Bridge • Nazi Rally Grounds  
Reims' Map Room • Dragon's Teeth & Fox Holes • Pegasus Bridge  
Mulberry Harbor • Tank Museum • Sainte-Mère-Église's Paratrooper Church  
Patton's Grave • Dachau Memorial • Eagle's Nest • Hofbräuhaus in Munich

"We knew at the time we were fortunate to be on the tour together (my father, son and I) but in retrospect, it was the best thing we could have done and a wonderful experience filled with so many great memories. To be in Normandy on D-Day and witness, first hand, the gratitude of the French people was a blessing for my dad and the other vets, a priceless memory. I think the Normandy experience was truly a surprise for my father and added new meaning and depth to his memories of the war." ~ Bill T, California

## VIETNAM... THEN AND NOW

March 24 - April 3, 2015

- Ho Chi Minh (Saigon)
- A Shau Valley
- Da Nang
- Ha Long Bay Cruise
- Cam Ranh Bay
- Hanoi
- Former Military Bases
- Chu Lai
- Hue
- Cu Chi Tunnels
- Hoi An
- Former DMZ
- Mekong River Cruise



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