

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



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

July/August/September 2014

Volume 82 Number 1



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades and sisters, it is an honor to be your Senior Vice Commander for this year. I personally would like to thank all of you who have put your trust in me. Since being elected I have been visiting many posts, meeting all the comrades, and getting to know you all. In July, I attended the National Convention held in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a very enlightening time, learning what changes are going to be happening, along with how things have been progressing. One of the highlights from the convention was a parade that was put on by Budweiser. Big thanks to them for including the VFW in it.

As this new year begins, I am urging all senior vice commanders to attend the conferences to not only get together and catch up, but to come so we can plan our



**Paul
McIvor**

**Senior
Vice Commander**

year. I am also asking for all commanders and officers to strive to make their posts All-State, as membership is a vital part of organization. In order for the VFW to keep our non-profit status, we must make sure we are reporting correctly and timely. I would like to extend my help to any post that may have questions, concerns, or just need some help. Please do not hesitate to give me a call. Lastly let us have a great upcoming year, have fun, and be safe.

STATE QUARTERMASTER

As your State Quartermaster for the 2014-2015 year, I want to say thank you to all of you that have taken the time to help me through the 2013-2014 administrative year. As we start off the new administrative year I want everybody to know that training is the key for a productive year and I encourage everyone to update themselves on the quartermaster manual. This can be found on the national website at www.vfw.org under the heading train material. At this time I would like to forward a message from national that all Quartermasters should read:

*** SPECIAL NOTICE ***

Special Notice from Quartermaster General Robert B. Greene *
Completion of IRS Form 8822-B: "In January 2014, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began requiring entities with an Employer Identification Number to file IRS Form 8822-B to report the latest change of address or responsible party. Form 8822-B must be filed within 60 days of the change. **The purpose of form 8822-B is to notify IRS if you changed your business mailing**



**Steve
Bilan**

State Quartermaster

address, your business location or the identify of your responsible party. A responsible party is the person who has a level of control over the funds or assets of the organization. For VFW purposes, that would be the quartermaster. So when the Department, District or Post has a change in Quartermaster leadership, this form must be filed within the 60-day time frame. IRS Form 8822-B and its instructions can be found at the following link: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/8822b.pdf>

The form will require the following information from the organization:
(1) Legal name of the organization,
(2) Old mailing address, (3) Employer Identification Number, (4) New mailing address, (5) New Business location, if different from mailing address, (6) Old name of the responsible party (2013-2014 Quartermaster), (7) New

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

I would like to begin by thanking ALL of the comrades throughout the Department of Michigan, who mentored me, supported me, and elected me as your State Junior Vice Commander for 2014-2015. I am so very appreciative to each and every one of you who have helped me throughout my career with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I will do my very best to serve "ALL" of my comrades throughout the Department of Michigan.

We have a great team this year under the leadership of State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle. He has an open line of communication with State Senior Vice Commander Paul McIvor and myself. He wants to make sure that each of us knows what is going on. He wants to make sure that we are all well prepared for the future. I thank Commander Harry "Les" Croyle for his leadership approach.

I would also like to congratulate ALL of the elected officers, appointed officers, and chairpersons at every level of the Department of Michigan. No matter what position you hold, whether it is at post, county council, district or department level, each of you play a very important part for the success of "our" Department of Michigan. WE are a TEAM!

I just returned from the VFW National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, which was held July 19-23, 2014. Our New Commander-in-Chief is John Stroud from Nevada. He visited Michigan and attended our State Convention in Flint and installed State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and the State Officers for 2014-2015.

Membership was the main topic at the VFW National Convention this year. We heard each of the national officers speak about recruiting and retention of members. They told us that we continue to loose members who pass away and also are leaving through the back door. Recruiting and Retaining members is very important to the survival of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. If each of us



**Jerry
Gorski**

**Junior
Vice Commander**

would just recruit (1) new or reinstated member, just one, we would help our posts, our department of Michigan, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Today, we still have eligible veterans from all conflicts who do not belong to any veteran organization. Many veterans have never been asked to join the V.F.W. Many are returning home from Afghanistan. We need to ask these veterans to join the V.F.W., the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Also, at the National Convention, many comrades from Michigan and I attended the Membership Training class conducted by Director Bob Crider and Rick Butler. Rick Butler attended our Department Convention in June 2014 and conducted the excellent Membership Training class on Sunday following the Department Convention. If you need any membership material for recruiting, please call Rick Butler at 1-816-968-2752 or email him at rbutler@vfw.org. Rick will make sure to get membership recruiting material to you that you need.

At our Fall Conference (Pow-Wow) at Boyne Highlands Resort, I will be meeting with the district junior vice commanders on Friday, October 4, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your questions, ideas for recruiting, ideas for retention, ideas for programs, or anything else on your mind. I look forward to meeting each of you. You are our future district commanders.

I look forward to working with all of our Department Team Members for the success of our posts, councils, districts, and the Department of Michigan.

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

Thank You

I would like to thank all the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members for their prayers, cards and support with the passing of my wife, Jenness Pintar, last year. May God bless you all.

Jim Pintar
VFW 6165 South Range



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

As funny as this may sound, welcome to Fall. Yes, it is that time of year already.

Comrades, if you missed the membership recruiting class at convention in Flint, you missed a very fine program. However, as in any good membership program the magic word is; did you ask someone to join? It never gets too old if we would each sign up just one member our numbers would double.

Why do we keep talking so much about membership? As we all know, our organization was founded on the principles of veterans helping veterans. If our numbers dip much lower we will no longer be able to help our comrades in need in the manner we are used to.

John Harrow
Membership Director



There are several recruiting tools that each post or commander can request from National at no cost. Just go online to the National Membership or VFW Store website and request the supplies you need.

I understand that recruiting is not always easy but practice and time make it much less work. I hope to see you all at the Fall Conference. If I or any member of the committee can help in any way, don't be afraid to contact us.

STATE CHAPLAIN

It was a blessing to see so many of you at our past Department Convention and I hope that your summer was enjoyable. We have much to accomplish this fiscal year and with teamwork it is certainly possible. I know you are about ready to turn the page [grin], but please be patient and read on.

In the spirit of late summer/early fall, it is appropriate to share the following... As a child, I used to savor the days of summer. They passed by very quickly and were often filled with amazing memories and/or profound life lessons. One such summer included a week and a day at a West Michigan Girl Scout Camp with a program entitled, 'Potpourri.'

The 'Potpourri' option included marching over 12 miles throughout the back woods and partly live off the land. The objective of the program was to build leadership, enhance teamwork abilities, and complete the trip. Our group included 11 girls, the eldest being 14, and two adults — camp counselor and her younger assistant. We started with the typical Girl Scout Camp fun for four days, including chores, songs, patriotic duties, and then proceeded to start our trek into the forest.

We brought a horse and wagon, our sleeping bags, pillows, 4 tents, and some personal and camp supplies. The private items included clothes, toiletries, and other personal affects. In my case, it was an issue of 'Tiger Beat' magazine featuring several teen idols of the time, for which I was given 50¢ for them to view and then enter the 'write to your teen dream' contest. [Writers note: Please don't judge

Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain



too harshly; I was an enterprising kid.] Camp supplies included the usual camping fare for living in the outdoors as well as horse items.

The trip began with lots of complaining about the walking, the heat, etc. Our group was divided into 3 cliques and did not perform well together. We had checkpoints each night to house the horse, but no quarter for us and we were quarrelsome and hungry. Still, our group's members decided it would be best to continue, as the program's completion was an achievement held in high regard. The last 3 days of our food supply included a bevy of onions, bagels, and generic lemonade. So, we ate wild carrots, cattail roots, onions and bagels. By the way, even with a thick coating of lemonade drink mix, onions are still onions.

Instead of it degenerating into a Lord of the Flies construct, through mutual support garnered via walking and camp tending — and rather constant teeth brushing — we somehow became a team. Although not fully united, we managed to find humor and joy in the adversity. This experience was one I reflected upon years later in basic training. Knowing that challenges and travails build esprit de corps and that faith and teamwork are integral components to goal realization. As Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

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name of responsible party (2014-2015 Quartermaster). Since Post election reports must be completed and filed with the VFW National Headquarters immediately following your annual election, it would be a good time to complete the IRS Form 8822-B and forward it directly to the IRS. The form is to be mailed to the following: Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service Center, Cincinnati, OH 45999-0023. **NOTE: Completion of IRS Form 8822-B affects all Posts, Districts and Department that have been issued an EIN number who have a change of Quartermaster.)**

NOTE: IRS Form 8822-B will

be enclosed in each Quartermaster package to be mailed out. Please make sure this form is completed if your Post is affected by this IRS requirement. Since Post election reports must be completed and filed with the VFW National Headquarters immediately following your annual election, it would be a good time to complete the IRS Form 8822-B and forward it directly to the IRS. The form is to be mailed to the following: Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service Center, Cincinnati, OH 45999-0023.

If you have any questions you can reach me at the following e-mail address: vfwqm@vfwmi.org

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

VFW National web site www.vfw.org has a VFW in DC page that contains all the information we need to be involved in legislative issues that affect us as veterans and VFW members. All members are encouraged to visit this page to stay current on all legislation affecting veterans.

There is a wealth of information on this site.

All members should sign up for the Action Corps Weekly, formerly the Washington Weekly. This can be done on the web site. You will have this sent to your e-mail inbox every Friday. It also contains legislative alerts about pending legislation that we need to take action on to notify our legislators of our support for these issues. Again, this can all be done on the VFW national web site, www.vfw.org, VFW in DC page.

Commander-in-Chief John Stroud has asked that all eligible veterans join the VFW and join us in the fight for our benefits for veterans and members of our armed forces. Comrades, we can use our legislative efforts as a recruiting tool to sign up new members. If a prospective member asks, as they often do, what we do in the VFW, we can tell them that one of the important things we do is to fight for their rights and benefits as veterans and members of our armed forces. We must understand that all our benefits and rights such as VA disability, VA health care are funded by the federal and

Steve Meredith
Legislative Director



state government in legislation and the budget process and if we don't continue the fight, our hard fought benefits will be eliminated or reduced. The veterans who preceded us from WW1, WW11, Korea, and Vietnam have fought for these benefits and we must continue the fight or face the possible loss or reduction of these important benefits and rights.

Through VFW action Senate bill S 1982 has been introduced. It has been called the most important veterans legislation in decades. It is currently in committee and it addresses most of the issues we have been fighting for, regarding VA benefits and current and retired armed forces pay and benefits. The Senate has introduced S 2450, VA health care and accessibility, which addresses the current crisis in VA health care. It is currently in conference committee. We need to show our support for these two very important pieces of legislation.

At the state level, VFW is currently involved in proposed legislation that will allow active duty, reserve members and veterans to receive in state tuition rates at Michigan universities, colleges and community colleges. This will require

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Military Order of the Cootie

"Fight for What's Right"

2014-15

"Making a Difference"



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

Eric S. Bell and Pat Thorsby were elected as Grand Commander and Grand President in May 2014. Along

with them were John Miller, Grand Sr. Vice; Mike Bayne, Grand Jr. Vice; PGC Ernest Paulin Grand Quartermaster; PGC Robert E. Wilson, Grand Adjutant; PGC Bill Bastian, Grand Judge Advocate; Alvin Peterson, Grand Surgeon; Lowell "Sam" Elston, Grand Chaplain; and PGC Bob Wilson, Grand Historian. The installing officer was 8th Supreme District Commander Earl Tefft.



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

80th Tomb Trek 2014

Arlington National Cemetery

The 80th Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 7-9 November 2014. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier or on our web site LOTCS.org.

Speaking of web sites, you can now download information about the Grand

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406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, continued from page 2

a ballot proposal as it amends the state constitution. We are working to get this on the November ballot. Also, recently Governor Snyder signed a law restoring tuition assistance to Michigan National Guard members. VFW was involved in this legislation.

Every important legislative victory we have had affecting veterans the VFW has been involved in. The list of VFW legislative victories dates back to 1917. We need to make prospective members aware that our strength is in our numbers. We need to go to our legislators as a voting bloc to assure them we will vote for the candidates that support our agenda as veterans and armed service members.

At the district and post level, all legislative chairs should let the members know who their representatives are in the state and federal legislatures. Encourage all members to sign up for the Action Corps Weekly, and take action by contacting their legislators on any legislative alerts sent by the VFW National Legislative program. Encourage your Men's Auxiliary to get involved in supporting our veterans issues. Remember that many of our members are very tech savvy, especially younger members, and

prospective new members. Many of our members already use Facebook and other social media. If your post has a web site or Facebook page, put information regarding current legislative initiatives on these sites and encourage members to take action.

It has been said all politics are local. We need as VFW members to be involved at the grassroots level, to contact our legislators by phone, by letter, by E-mail on issues concerning the VFW and our hard fought for benefits and rights. We can never assume that we are guaranteed these. One of the priorities in our legislative program is for our members to be actively involved at the grassroots level. Legislative chairmen at the post and district level should schedule training to show members how to navigate the VFW in DC web page. This can be done at post and district meetings.

In closing, I would like to thank our members for their support of our legislative activity, and encourage all members to get involved in the fight for our hard earned benefits and rights as veterans, armed service members and VFW members.

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued from page 2

ESV affirms, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Therefore, what is the purpose of your membership? If it is to give, then you are in wonderful company and this year offers yet another opportunity to make an affirmative difference and accomplish worthy VFW Post, District, Dept., and/or National objectives within your

communities, state, and nation especially through group efforts. We can positively change lives if we work in unison and are not dissuaded by negative attitudes. Accordingly, let us join to undertake the mission of the VFW and each find only joy and satisfaction in their respective service 'potpourris,' united for the good of our veterans, their families, and our nation. "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment."

(1 Cor. 1:10, ESV)

May God bless you.

MOC, continued from page 2

of Michigan from either the Departments web page vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocmi.freedomepage.com.

**86th Grand of Michigan
VFW National Home**

Cootie Christmas Party 2014

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2014. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members both VFW and Cooties to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids. If you have ever attended one of these parties the kids have a great time.

Please when sending your contribution make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not

be forwarded to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster 710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050 Phone: (810)-735-7920.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2014-2015

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to PGC Bob Routhier Jr., P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI 48420.

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

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

**PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison**

Potential Service Officer Vacancy

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans Service Office is accepting resumes for the purpose of establishing a list of qualified candidates for the Veterans Service Officer position. The successful candidate must be eligible for VFW membership. He or she should have as a minimum an associate's degree. Relevant work experience will be considered in lieu of a college degree. College coursework in sociology, anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, medical

terminology, and microbiology would be beneficial. Additional coursework in legal research and writing would enhance the candidate's standing. Public speaking skills are a must.

If interested please send a resume with a cover letter to:
Veterans of Foreign Wars
McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Avenue - Room 1215
Detroit MI 48226 — ATTN: Paul Pirlot

Department Service Officer —Paul Pirlot SUCCESS STORY



When a veteran walks into the office seeking assistance you never know what might happen by asking a few additional questions. In the following case the outcome was

significantly enriching to the veteran.

An elderly Korean War veteran walked into the VFW service office at one of the VA Medical Centers. He was upset because the VA was charging him a co-pay on medications he should have been receiving at no cost. The same time this occurred our service officer was training a newly hired employee and had been explaining the finer points on how to conduct an interview. He emphasized the importance of asking probing questions to determine if the veteran was eligible for any other benefits. It was extremely fortunate for the veteran our service officer did exactly that.

Noticing large scars on the veteran's arms the service officer asked what had happened. The veteran explained the wounds were inflicted when his unit was overrun. A Chinese soldier stood over him and shot the veteran from right to left with an assault rifle. Miraculously no vital organs were hit, but the veteran sustained multiple gunshot wounds to both arms. As a result of these wounds the VA awarded the veteran multiple 0 percent ratings for scars.

Our service officer was astonished the veteran was not receiving a monetary award for his wounds. The arms were obviously atrophied which is an indication of muscle loss. The service officer

reported his findings to the most senior service officer, as well as another service officer having experience with this type of issue. A claim was then submitted citing a clear and unmistakable error on the initial evaluation which was now 60 years old.

Upon submission to the VA the claim was reviewed at the Regional Office by a Rating Veterans Service Representative. Unfortunately the rater found no reason to reverse the earlier decision and upheld the original findings. Unsatisfied with the decision, the service officer contacted the VFW representative in Washington, D.C. who specializes in this type of claim. When the Appeals Consultant reviewed the veteran's service treatment records along with the original rating decision he knew he had a winner on his hands.

Consulting the Code of Federal Regulations in effect at the time, the Appeals Consultant determined the veteran should have been rated at 30 percent per arm due to the wounds being through-and-through, meaning the muscle tissue had both an entry and exit wound. Additionally, the veteran had suffered fractures to at least one arm. The wounds should have been rated as moderately severe and our representative in Washington, D.C. informed the VA of his findings.

A VA official in Washington, D.C. reviewed the Appeals Consultant's findings and agreed, overturning the Regional Office decision. The veteran was awarded a total of 60 percent going back to 1953! A check for over \$349,000 was recently deposited in the veteran's checking account. Though decades late, the veteran was extremely grateful to be rightly compensated for his injuries!

Advocating For Others

At our recent State Convention and again at the Veterans Training Seminar (VTS) at Camp Trotter I was approached by three or four comrades who expressed frustration with billing issues originating with care from a Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) facility. One of these individuals complained he was being billed from a third party even though the VAMC had ordered the procedure and set up the appointment. Our comrade was receiving intimidating notices from the third party threatening to send his account to collections.

I will attempt to present information to help those who interact with the healthcare side of the VA. I will not be able to cover all the needed ground in one article so this will serve as an introduction into this very important topic.

First, realize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) consists of three distinct entities: The VBA (Veterans Benefits Administration) which handles claims such as for compensation and pension as well as education, the VHA (Veterans Healthcare Administration) which provides healthcare, and the Veterans National Cemetery Administration which provides final resting places and serves as a lasting tribute to those who have served and chose to be buried in a national cemetery.

I will concentrate on the VHA since this is the source of current frustrations. To be eligible to receive VA healthcare a veteran should first be enrolled in the VA healthcare system. This is done using a

VA Form 10-10EZ. You can apply online, in person, over the phone, or by mail.

To apply online go to www.va.gov/Healthbenefits and follow the prompts. If you apply online the VA will verify your service. If you apply in person or by mail having your DD214 available can help speed the process.

To apply in person, go to your local VA health care facility. Complete and submit VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits to the Enrollment Coordinator or eligibility/health benefits office.

To apply by phone call 1-877-222-VETS(8387), Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm EST. Within 3-5 business days you will receive the completed VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits for you to review, sign and return.

To apply by mail pick up an application at your local VA or download the application online. Complete the application (be sure to sign it) and place in the mail.

A veteran who is not service connected for any injuries or illnesses must meet certain eligibility criteria. The most important element is income or more appropriate the lack of income. If one cannot afford outside healthcare enrollment in the VHA is quite probable. Another element is whether or not a veteran has other insurance available. Again, lack of insurance improves one's chances of being enrolled in VHA.

In the next issue of the Michigan Overseas Veterans I will address the steps to take when one encounters billing problems with respect to VHA care.



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Dave Reeves
District 4 Commander



Greetings to you all! I would like to THANK everyone in the 4th District for putting your trust in me and electing me as your 4th District Commander 2014-15. Thank you for the vote of confidence!

With the help of Chief of Staff Ron Allen, Phil Merrow, our 4th Dist. officers, and YOU I will certainly try my best to help make the 4th District proud. To ALL of the 4th District post commanders, remember that as officers of the 4th District we are here to help you with questions and concerns that you might have in running your post administrations. Please don't hesitate to call on us, because we're all in this endeavor together.

I'd like to congratulate the new 4th District Ladies Auxiliary President Sandy Borio.

Also, congratulations to our 2013-14 post commanders on receiving their white hats (All-State Commander Awards) at

Convention; Roscoe Burton of Post 2233 and Cliff Harris of Post 1136. Great Job and keep up the good work! Remember, we're all working together for the good of our veterans!

I'd like to remind you all of the 4th District Meeting Dates and urge all of our Commanders and their Officers to attend and learn and be a viable part of our own District 4.

November 9, 2014 ...Conroy-Renye-McNeil Post -4422 - Taylor - 12:00 PM

February 1, 2015 ...PFC Don Merrifield Post 7575 - Garden City - 12:00 PM

Saturday, May 2, 2015 -District Convention 12:00 PM @ Romulus Post 9568

In closing, while we are out and about (Raffle Ruthie and myself), we hope to see each and every one of you at the post and district functions. Make sure to come up and say hi and let me shake your hand and Thank You for your Service!



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Bill Constant
District 7 Commander



First off, I would like to Thank You all for the opportunity to be your District 7 Commander for the year 2014-2015. I will do my best to make you proud that you elected me for this position.

At the Department Convention as your Senior Vice Commander I had the chance to meet and talk to Department Commander Ron Devereaux and Sr. Vice Commander Harry (Les) Croyle, as well as Past State Commander Kirk Kennedy, Sr.. Vice Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud, and many more. Through our conversations I have learned a lot of information that will help me to be prepared for the upcoming year as District Commander.

Job Well Done to the posts that received awards for participating in the V.O.D. and Patriot Pen. Our District

holds the trophy this year. Let's keep it going and get together to get all of our posts involved so that we will hold the trophy once again this year. School starts the beginning of September so let's all visit the schools and get the information out to the students ASAP.

August is a busy month. We have our District meeting at Marcellus. I will be attending the Michigan Days at the VFW National Homes for Children on Aug. 10th and I will be attending Camp Trotter Family Picnic Aug.. 23rd. Hoping to see you all there.

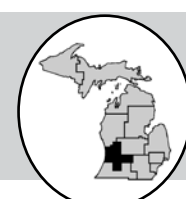
Our Inspections are under way. If we have not been by your post yet, you will be contacted shortly.

Feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have.



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Robin Bailey
District 8 Commander



First off, I am honored and proud to have been selected to represent all of you in the 8th District as your commander. I want to thank all who have supported me and I will do the best that I can for all our members. I also wish to congratulate all of the new district commanders and state officers.

As always, our push for this year is going to be membership. I know everybody knows this and may be tired of hearing it, but it is the best thing that we can do for our organization. Getting new qualified members and retaining existing ones will only make us stronger as an organization. I understand that all of you are aware of the issue, that all I am doing is reiterating things to you that you may already know, and saying that if what you have been doing is

not working well that you may have to try something new in your recruitment planning processes. Don't forget, membership accounting parameters have changed this year. Prior members will still be due by Dec. the 30th while new members will be due year to year on the date they became a member.

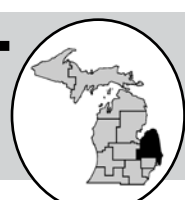
I want all to know that I and my staff are available to help you and your post with any problems or questions that you may have. If we don't have the answers for you right then, we will research it and get the answers back to you as soon as possible.

I look forward to working with everyone in our Department, District, and Posts this year. With all of us pulling together, we can make it an outstanding year. TIA.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Robert Wilson
District 10 Commander



Having been duly elected and installed as the 10th District Commander of the Department of Michigan, I hereby assume all duties as 10th District Commander. All newly elected and appointed officers have been sworn in and have assumed the duties and obligations of their office.

This year 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 posts reporting on the evaluation program. Ensure all post audits, quartermaster bonds, district dues, and national and department fees are paid on time.

GOAL NUMBER TWO - Improve reporting of all monthly reports such as hospital and committee reports.

GOAL NUMBER THREE - Ensure the post and district supports the various VFW programs within the district; Cancer/Americanism/Loyalty Day/POW-MIA.

GOAL NUMBER FOUR - The District be 100% reported in Buddy Poppy reporting. Our Buddy Poppy Chairmen Rick Young has devised a program to help us with that.

GOAL NUMBER FIVE - Focus grassroots attention toward effective supporting of your post and district programs, be at 90% in membership by October/November, and write to your local, state, and national officials in supporting our Veterans.

With these goals I have developed an action plan to help with achieving our goals. We need to support our local, district and state Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries. Without them, I do not believe we could ever achieve our goals.

Last year we had some positive things happen in the district. Our 10th District student, sponsored by VFW Post 3720, took 1st place at the department level and

represented the Department of Michigan at the National Competition. We provided a POW-MIA Flag to the Court House in Genesee County. We welcome the consolidation of Dr. George Washington Carver and Leo R. Crow VFW Post 8236.

The Ladies Auxiliaries of the 10th had a good year too. At the convention many Ladies Auxiliaries received awards for outstanding work.

I want to remind every member and post officers that your meetings will be run in accordance with the VFW Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, and Ritual. I will not nor will the Department accept the phrase "that's the way we have done it in the past" when we come to visit or inspect your post. 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, I want to thank PSC Sherwood Pea, Jr. for his help. He provided me with the necessary information and training to allow me to walk into this position with all the tools needed to accomplish this job. I believe in having fun while we do our jobs. And I believe you get more done as a team by not fighting over the small stuff. Remember, we are all veterans of the best country in the world.

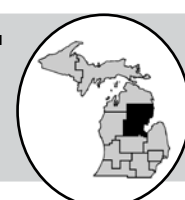
The 10th District 2014- 2015 meeting dates, places, and school of instruction times will be sent out on meeting notices and be posted in the MOV and the web page vfwmi.org. Please remember these dates; Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014 Post 3901 Algonac, Saturday, Feb. 21st, 2014 Post 2945 Sandusky, Sunday May 3rd, 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.

"Can Do"



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Terry Kunst
District 11 Commander



We just completed our first District meeting on Sunday August 3, 2014 at Borley Hanel Post 3033 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. We had a great turnout and Department Quartermaster Steve Bilan gave an instructional time in the morning, followed by a GREAT MEAL provided by Post 3033 Ladies Auxiliary, and then our afternoon meeting.

As the new Commander I appreciate all of your understanding as I assume the position of Commander for District 11. My theme for the year, although certainly not new, is membership. The theme is "Membership 101." The premise is that we try to get each member to recruit at least one new member and that is best done by a one on one (101) face to face and asking them to join. Often times we try to make recruiting very difficult, as we have to do this or have to do that, when the best way is simply to ask! If you see someone with a military hat, license plate, or bumper sticker with a military theme just go up and start a conversation with them. If you think they may be eligible, ask them to join. As the Bible tells us (paraphrasing)

"You have not, because you ask not." We need to ask often and repeatedly. Here are some statistics from a sales study (and you are selling memberships) : 48% never follow up on a prospective member, 25% make a second contact, 12% make a third contact, and only 10% make more than three contacts. The survey goes on to indicate the following: 2% say yes the first time, 3% the second time, 5% the third contact, 10% on the fourth contact, and finally 80% say yes on the fifth to twelfth contact. So what does this tell us? Keep Asking! For all of you who have children, you know the power of persistence. When was the last time they asked for something and you said no and they stopped asking? The answer is probably never, they keep asking don't they and we need to do the same. Always carry a business card with your contact information or an application with you where ever you are and look for opportunities to find new members.

Our next District meeting will be on November 2, 2014 at Linwood/Kawkawlin Post 6950.



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Barb Locke
District 12 Commander



It is been a great privilege and honor to be able to take the position of district commander. I vow to my comrades that I will work hard for our district. We have a strong team of leaders in our State VFW and a great set of comrades in the C of A positions. If you have any questions, I will try to find out answers for you.

In return, I am requesting that each post in the 12 District stay on top of the required commitments to maintain a post. There will be several training sessions made available to you. As we gain the knowledge and share with each other our strength will be maintained and grow. We have several new comrades in

positions that they have never been in before, thus the reasons for training. One of our requests is that you contact the current membership in your post and find out their status. Get updated information and e-mails. This will provide us with a network that we can use for better communication. Take care of your foundation, than go out and recruit. Please do not take your new members and work them to bone fingers. Ease them into the fold.

Again, I am here for your leadership. I am looking forward to coming to each of your posts and getting to know each and every one of your comrades.



DISTRICT 13 REPORT

Dean Carper
District 13 Commander



Thank you for electing me as your District 13 Commander.

Please be diligent in turning in your reports and sending donations to Department on time. It is very important to keep up to date.

Our inspectors have their reports. Please have items available for them as we are

required to mail in reports by Sept. 1.

I want to commend those posts that have given back to our veterans and participate in their community parades.

All commanders are expected to attend the District meetings.

Remember, we honor our dead by helping the living.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Bernd Ekdahl
District 14 Commander



Hello from God's country.

It is my honor to be your district commander I'm a 20 year veteran of the USAF; I served in Vietnam and the Gulf flying KC135s. My wife Judy, your district president, and I have 3 children and 4 grandchildren as of right now. We have been married for 39 wonderful years. We currently live just outside of Rapid River on the Stonington Peninsula and I'm also the post commander for Post

2998 in Escanaba.

Comrades, please remember to file your reports. The new Michigan web site is up and running. All forms can be filled out and sent from the site. Our District 14 schedule is as follows: Nov. 2, 1pm Escanaba Post, Feb. 1, 1pm Escanaba Post, and May 1, 2, 3 district convention Sault Post meeting the 3rd 10am. Please mark your calendar.

It is my honor to serve as your District Commander.

Romulus VFW Post 9568 Honor Guard during the Labor Day 2013 Mackinaw Bridge Walk.



L-R. Ron Allen, Ray Lopez, Bob Williams, Bob Koski, Mike Santamour, Jim Hogg, Johnny Rose in the back.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Daniel Caron
District 15 Commander



Greetings to all district comrades and auxiliary members of the great UP's 15th District.

The Department Convention was a success for our district. The membership voted to put the Day of Challenge as a Department program. It has, and will continue to be open to teams throughout the state. Our newly elected Department Commander Harry 'Les' Croyle selected Robert 'Butch' Paavola as the Director for the program. Butch has done a tremendous job on running the program in the past and I am confident that he will continue to give this program 100%. When you see Butch, shake his hand and let him know that you are proud of him for the job he is doing for our Veterans of Foreign Wars and the youths of this great State.

I want to thank Past District Commander Joe Finch and all the past district commanders and our auxiliary presidents for the smooth transition into this elected office. I will serve this district to the best of my ability.

Our July 20th District meeting at Post 8945 in Covington is past us now. Thank you Covington Post and Ladies Auxiliary for hosting this training meeting.

Membership: Let us ALL do our part and show our new veterans that our VFW has been here for many years helping veterans and their families

and will continue to do just that with their help and support. Let us show our veterans that they are welcome, that they are a vital part of this great organization, and that we need their new ideas to keep the VFW the best organization America has for helping our veterans.

Training will be on the schedules for the upcoming meetings. Each post will be notified of what the training will be so you can send your appropriate officers and future officer candidates for training.

1-Voice of Democracy theme this year is "Why Veterans are important to our Nation's History and Future". 2-Patriot's Pen theme is, "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans". 3-Let us not forget our "TEACHER of the Year" The District 15 Chairman for these three is "Bill Cole". Contact Bill for any information you will need for these programs.

The District 15 conferences are listed here so cut them out and save them for this year. Staple them on your calendars. ALL post commanders or a representative of your post MUST be present at these meetings.

Mid Winter Conference - Sunday - February 8, 2015 TUFTS-RONDON - Post 2891 108 Superior Avenue, Crystal Falls, Michigan Spring Convention - Saturday & Sunday - April 25 & 26, 2015 CHASSELL Post 6507 42103 Willson Memorial Drive, Chassell, Michigan.

National Commander-in-Chief Presents Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year Award



Pictured L-R: 5th Dist. Cdr... Pam Young, C-in-C Bill Thien, Tim Miller, Dept. Sr. Vice Cdr. Harry "Les" Croyle, Southfield Fire Chief Keith Rowley, and Post 2645 Commander Al Stabrava.

While on his official visit to Michigan, Commander-in-Chief William Thien had the honor of presenting the National Firefighter/Paramedic of the year award to Timothy Miller of the Southfield Fire Department. Mr. Miller was honored by VFW Post 2645 and it's Ladies

Auxiliary for his role in saving the life of a young swimmer. The rescue occurred while the Miller's were on vacation and even though Tim was off duty, his professional instincts kicked in and he was instrumental in bringing the young man back to life.



Veteran Expo to provide information on presumptive diseases, benefits and more

Chronic B-cell Leukemia. Hodgkin's disease. Ischemic heart disease. Prostate and respiratory cancers.

Although the Vietnam War ended more than 40 years ago, many veterans from that era still carry the war with them, in part due to health conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes certain health problems as presumptive diseases associated with that exposure, and veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

"New research and medical advances have contributed to more than 50 changes to the benefits eligibility for Vietnam-era veterans in the last 15 years," said Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Director Jeff Barnes. "Veterans who haven't looked back to the VA in a number of years could be missing out on valuable benefits."

Barnes added that anyone who has served in the U.S. military, anytime and anywhere, is eligible for some level of benefit for their service.

Veterans of all eras are encouraged

to attend one of the Michigan Veteran Expos to learn more about presumptive diseases and available state and federal benefits and resources. Upcoming Expos will be held in Grand Rapids Sept. 5-6 and Detroit Nov. 7-8. Hosted by MVAA, these free events will serve as one-stop shops where veterans and their families can learn about employment and education opportunities, take advantage of healthcare screenings, meet with accredited benefits counselors and learn about recreation programs and other available resources.

In addition, Hiring Our Heroes will host a veteran employment fair on Saturday at each Expo. Expo hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Online registration is available at: www.events.mphi.org/vetexpo.

MVAA serves as the central coordinating point, connecting those who have served in the United States Armed Services and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state of Michigan. The agency values inclusion, integrity, transparency, innovation and respect and aspires to provide the customer service experience that veterans deserve.

Renovations at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans



The renovation is becoming a reality at our D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. The new look for the main entrance at the home is expected to be completed by late Fall. Long overdue for our resident veterans and their families to enjoy. Thanks to our legislatures

for the great financial supplements that have come forth along with the federal grants that have been granted. Our Administrator Brad Slagle and his Maintenance Superintendent Michael Harrington has done a remarkable job for our Veterans.

VFW Camp Trotter In Full Swing!

The children are having a blast; the nature trail, climbing wall, and canoeing are just a few of the sports being enjoyed at Summer Camp 2014!! The Summer Director Denise "Scrubs" Arnold and her staff have provided a lot of great times for the children attending Camp.



There has been over 300 children attending Summer Camp this year with many happy faces and memories to last a lifetime.



The boat house has been extended to house the canoes and kayaks which created more room for the new paddle

boats. The new climbing wall was built by Chris Arnold (the kids just love it.)

The annual Camp Trotter money raffle is nearly on us, drawing 23 August at the Family Day picnic. Congrats to the winners and a HUGE Thank You to those that purchased the tickets. The true winner will be your VFW Camp Trotter for Children. The monetary profit will be announced at the Fall Conference.

The Camp will be shut down officially on 1 October, the dock will be pulled and stored for the winter, and the annual clean-up will happen right after the Fall Conference. To those that have helped make this year's Summer Camp a success, the Camp Trotter Committee would like to say thank you.



Visit our VFW Camp Trotter website: vfwcamptroutterfoundation.org

Become a Life Member of your VFW Camp Trotter for Children - this is your Camp, get involved.

Happy Trails-
The Camp Trotter Committee

Road Construction at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

The pictured construction is in front of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The City of Grand Rapids is completely rebuilding Monroe Street. What an exciting welcome to our Veterans Home which is located at 3000 Monroe Street NE. The next target for the Board of

Managers is to get a circle drive leading directly in front of the Homes main entrance. The Board of Managers and the staff of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is frantically working with our legislature to obtain the funds to make this a reality.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Candy Beatty

My name is Alice "Candy" Beatty and I am your newly elected Department President for the 2014 -2015 administrative year. I joined the MECWARF VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 5319 in Athens, Michigan in 1981

and have been a life member since 1991. I joined under the eligibility of my brother Vendal Davis, a WWII veteran. My reason for joining this organization was to work for our veterans and to see that they are never forgotten and always receive the benefits they were promised.

Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed Officers and Chairman. Let's all remember why we joined this great organization and work together to serve our veterans and their families.

To anyone reading this article and is not a member, if you are eligible to join

the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I am personally inviting you to join us and help us support our brave heroes and their families.

Here are just a few of our programs that the Ladies Auxiliary VFW are involved in: Americanism, Cancer Aid & Research, Hospital, Legislative, Service to Communities, Youth, Veterans & Family Support and Youth Scholarships. As you can see there is something for everyone. I will be discussing what all these programs are in future articles.

In the meantime come on down to your local VFW and join our elite organization, "The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars."

If you have been a member and for some reason dropped out, PLEASE come back and give us another try. You may be surprised at the changes.

So join me as "Veterans Angels" Protecting Those That Protected Us and help us help our veterans.

For more information on the Ladies Auxiliary please visit the following user-friendly websites: ladiesauxvfw.org or lavfwmi.org.

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP



Holly Allison

I would like to tell you about membership as a Junior Girl. This program is under the Ladies Auxiliary, and eligibility requirements are the same as the Ladies Auxiliary: you must be a daughter, granddaughter, stepdaughter (who attained the status prior to the age of sixteen and for whom duties of parent were performed) sister, or stepsister (who attained the status prior to the age of sixteen) of persons who were are/were eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Junior Girls are between the ages of 5—16 years old.

The unit leaders are members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and they promote the Ladies Auxiliarys Programs, such as Americanism, Veterans and Family Support, Legislative, Hospital and Cancer Aid and Research. This gives the girls an opportunity to learn about patriotism, loyalty, respect and understanding about the sacrifice our veterans made for us all. The girls learn a deep respect for our veterans.

Here in Michigan we are proud to have seven units: #1146 in St. Clair Shores, #2406 in Charlotte, #3055 in St. Louis, #4164 in Caro, #5096 in Custer, and #9885 in Westland. These units have assisted their posts and auxiliaries

with dinners, fundraisers, visited VA hospitals, and they have made and sent cards to veterans now serving or veterans in the hospital. The girls enjoy helping and have also assisted placing American Flags at the gravesite of our heroes, assisted in POW-MIA ceremonies and marched in parades.

Our Junior Girls also have other programs that are only for them such as the Junior Girl Scholarship program, Junior Girl Princess for outstanding service, and are eligible for the Hospital Volunteer pin.

These young ladies also hold officer positions in their units such as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. This gives them an opportunity to learn responsibility and leadership skills to prepare them for their future endeavors.

After all their hard work, we have a celebration each June to recognize their patriotism, volunteerism, and dedication. It's an opportunity to meet other girls, share ideas, and just plain have fun!

While it's great to receive awards and recognition, our girls do what they do because they love and respect our veterans. Many of us have a special relationship with the one who earned our eligibility. We are members of the Junior Girls because we know it is the patriotic thing to do and it gives us an opportunity to give something back to those who gave so much to us.

If you have a young lady that would be interested in joining us, please contact me at vicandholly@yahoo.com or 517-230-3882.

National Ladies Auxiliary Certified Recruiter

By Marian Belaire

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Marian Belaire and I am the National Ladies Auxiliary Certified Recruiter Trainer for Michigan. This is a pilot program which is patterned after the VFW's recruiter program. It's no surprise to anyone that our ladies organization is in great trouble, with the decline of our membership.

In Michigan, we lost 10 auxiliaries this past year. Nationwide, we lost a total of 152 auxiliaries from 7/2013 to 4/2014. Ladies, We and I stress WE, need to do something about this, and, do it NOW. So, where do I come in? I am here to train you ladies on how to recruit. Since I cannot be everywhere in the state, I put together a "department team," one member from each district to train auxiliaries, assist with membership drives and share ideas on how to recruit new members. Here is a list of the team:

Department Recruiter Trainers

District 4
Stephanie Krueger

District 5
Marian Belaire

District 6
Cheryl Moorhead

District 7
Sheryl Proteau

District 8
Carrie Turner

District 9
Sandi Onstwedder

District 10
Linda Perreault

District 11
Denise Moore

District 12
Annabelle Furgason

District 13
Judi Brown/Char Bahrke

District 14
Louise Ingalls

District 15
Carole Morris

If you have any questions or need help, please feel free to contact your Department Recruiter. Of course you can always get in touch with me.

I am planning on being at each of the conferences and the State Convention, and am going to try to attend as many district meetings as is humanly possible. There will be a recruiter training session at Fall Conference on Friday, Oct. 3 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at Boyne Highlands Resort. Please try and attend. If your auxiliary would like a training session, I will be more than happy to set one up. I learned a lot from my training class, and I hope you pick up a few pointers or two as well.

Sisters, this is a critical time in our auxiliary and we all need to unite as "Veteran Angels" Protecting Those that Protected Us. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans.

Marian Belaire
National Certified Recruiter Trainer
mbelairemvf@yahoo.com
248.345.2442

VETS FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN



Vickie Bushong

My first article as the Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman, I am going to highlight the best kept secret... **VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN.**

The National Home for Children was developed from a dream of a young 23-year old woman named Amy Ross. Having learned of Amy's great work with the veterans and the needs of the VFW, millionaire Cory Spencer donated 472 acres known as Grand River Stock Farm to the VFW.

After the Articles of Incorporation were finalized on January 7, 1925, the dreams of Amy Ross and Cory Spencer became a reality. On March 9, 1925, Mrs. Pollett and her 6 children became the first residents of the National Home.

Since its beginning, the VFW National Home for Children has grown from an old frame farmhouse to a beautiful, large campus with playgrounds, park areas and multiple buildings including

single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel and administrative offices.

Today, families face different challenges than those of years past. Some of today's needs are those of re-integration, PTS, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries. Through your generous donations and support, the National Home has been able to meet these challenges.

The National Home Helpline is 800-313-4200, help@vfwnationalhome.org. The Helpline is answered Mon.-Fri. between 8:00 am-4:30 pm Eastern Time, except holidays. Messages left after hours will be answered the next business day.

The National Home definitely fulfills the VFW Pledge to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living." If you would like to learn more about the National Home for Children or make a donation, you can contact them at:

VFW National Home
Toll Free 1-800-424-8360
3573 S. Waverly Rd.
Fax 517-663-3727
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
info@vfwnationalhome.org



MEMBERSHIP



Nicole Koutz

Changes in Eligibility:

Membership is open to – VFW Ladies Auxiliary Members are – Wives, Widows, Mothers, and Stepmothers (who have performed the duties

of a parent), Grandmothers, Daughters, Granddaughters, and Stepdaughters (who attained that status prior to the age of sixteen and for whom the duties of parent were performed), Sisters, Half-sisters, and Stepsisters (who attained that status prior to the age of sixteen) – of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

If you seen this statement above, you might have noticed that the word “Foster” has been deleted. It was brought on the floor at the recent National Convention and passed to remove the word “Foster” and is no longer a consideration for eligibility. However, those that are members of the Ladies Auxiliary or Jr. Girls under that eligibility are grandfathered and no action needs to be taken.

We all have different reasons why we join this great organization, but

here are a few other reasons to join the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America:

1. To honor the service of a family member.
2. To promote patriotism within your community to all citizens young and old.
3. To participate in programs that bring family and community members together for worthwhile projects.
4. To stress that Veterans and their entitlements be a number one priority for legislators.
5. To be the voice of those Veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can all live in a democracy.

Does this sound like something you're interested in? If you think this is the perfect way for you to make a difference, you can contact any VFW Post and they will help you with the proper paper-work or you can call the Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary in Lansing at (517) 487-3715 or visit our web page at www.lavfwmi.org. We need you to continue to make a difference for all Veterans!

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN



Carrie Turner

declare them.” - John Dickinson, Letters of Fabius, 1788

It is the right and the duty of every American citizen to VOTE. Many people had to demonstrate and change laws to recognize their right to vote - soldiers fought to preserve the right to vote – the ability to freely express our choices in any and all elections without persecution should be respected and appreciated.

The VFW developed a brochure called “Veterans Vote” and it gives the following suggestions for successful participation in the voting process:

Register to vote

Encourage others to register to vote

Host a town hall meeting or candidate forum

Attend other candidate forums

Get involved in the campaign

Stay informed

Get involved in the election process

Elect pro-veteran government

The full brochure is available on the MI VFW Ladies Auxiliary website – www.lavfwmi.org – Programs – Legislative –

Veterans Vote Brochure

Citizens need to be active NOW – researching the items on the ballots and the candidates – really know WHAT/WHO you are being asked to vote for so you can make the best choices. Check to see which items might comply with the VFW Priority Goals and will benefit our veterans and active duty military.

Join the VFW Action Corps - www.vfw.org – VFW in D.C. – Grassroots Advocacy – Action Corps, Sign Up Now - the VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities. VFW Action Corps members receive:

The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.

Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.

Regular VFW “Action Alerts” telling them how they can get involved when our nation's veterans, service members, and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

We ALL need to participate and make our voices heard in local, state and national elections. There are MANY issues at our state and federal levels worthy of declaring our sentiments. There are many local, state and federal candidates and it is OUR duty to elect the best candidates for the job. Please VOTE and encourage everyone you know to VOTE!

CANCER CHAIRMAN



Sharon Lewinski

Cancer Aid and Research

This is our year of Celebration. As requested from our National Cancer Aid and Research Ambassador we are going to celebrate all those that are cancer survivors. We would like to encourage all Auxiliaries to host a celebration for auxiliary and post members as well as your community. It can be as simple as you like to have it or as elaborate as you choose, but let us honor those that have fought the cancer battle. Please submit in your quarterly report what type of celebration you hosted at your auxiliary. This would be a perfect opportunity to explain to others what the VFW Ladies Auxiliary is about and how we promote our cancer program.

For example:

Cancer Grants: A cancer grant is available to any member in good standing who has belonged for at least one year. Junior girls are eligible for a grant during continuous membership in their unit. Grant applications are available from your auxiliary or online at the department website www.lavfwmi.org.

Postdoctoral Fellowship. Each year the national organization awards a two-

year \$100,000 Postdoctoral Cancer Research Fellowship. Our ladies forward application's to cancer research hospitals. Applications for this fellowship are available through your ladies auxiliary. One day a cure may be discovered and maybe it would be with the help of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary research fellowship program.

Cancer Pins: Our cancer pin chairman Ruth Barnhill has been busy completing orders and reorders for our Angel Cancer Pins. Please inform Cancer Chairman if you need more pins, you may contact her at rbarnhill@att.net. Please do not hold extra cancer pins. If you feel you will not be able to sell the remaining pins, please let our pin chairman know this so she can keep an accurate account of the number of pins available to others.

Fall Conference is fast approaching and we hope you will stop by the cancer booth and check out items that will be available for purchase. This is a fundraiser that is fun to do and so many enjoy the shopping experience. I will be accepting new or gentle used items for our cancer booth. We are looking for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween and Patriotic items, but we appreciate any items that you feel others would like. All funds from this fundraiser are given directly to our Cancer Program. If you wish to donate or help work the cancer booth please contact me at sharonvfwla@aol.com.

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Sandra Borieo



Ladies of the 4th District which encompasses all of Wayne County:

We are starting a new year with my first District meeting on September 14, 2014 at the Romulus VFW Post 9568; February District Meeting on February 8, 2015 at VFW Post 345 Redford; and the May 2, 2015 meeting for Installation of District Officers at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695. All members in good standing are welcome to attend any of these meetings and can attend any District function. I will have my greeters in place to welcome anyone new and introduce you to all the attendees.

I became a member the first time under the eligibility of my two brothers who are Vietnam veterans and then reestablished my eligibility under the love of my life, my husband Albert Borieo, Vietnam veteran and Past District 4 Commander. I have held all positions at an Auxiliary level and District level to include chairmanships plus Department Resolutions under Past Department President Pat Jankowski. I am currently retired but work part time.

My goals for this year are simple and realistic. My goals are that all auxiliaries will have their audits in on time so Department doesn't have to email me telling me that an auxiliary is delinquent and that each auxiliary will report once a quarter in each chairmanship.

I have assigned mentors (me, my Sr. Vice and my Jr. Vice) to 4th District auxiliaries for questions, answers and assistance on quarterly reporting and we will meet to try to resolve any problems that anyone is experiencing. I am asking that all complaints be in writing with the

Who, What, When, Where, and Why and signed so my team can read them and we are all on the same wave length.

My other request is that all deceased members be reported as such. It is a great dishonor to the deceased to carry their name for a number. The Social Security Death Index website (free) will be of assistance to the auxiliaries on anyone in question as to whether living or deceased.

Also, we are asked to recruit new members to replace the deceased, transfers and non-payers and I can only ask that each auxiliary do the best they can. Not an easy task but I will be proud to know that the effort is there. Please do not wait until December 31, 2014 to send in your per capita on any members as it only costs another stamp to send in 2015 dues two or three times before the December deadline.

Inspections will be done efficiently and easily except for the following reasons: meeting minutes not recorded in the secretary's book; Treasurer's reports not filed; audit reports not submitted to Department and not filed; signatures of the trustees not in the books, bank statements, deposit book, the 990's not filed and the meeting not held according to the ritual. Then and only then, will we have any problems. We are all adults so let's take care of business.

Lastly, we are the mighty 4th District. Being a 1st place winner is a great honor but being last is not a dishonor either knowing that we have tried. I want everyone to know that I will never be disappointed in any outcome of the standings in Department. According to the history books and the great battles, being the last person in line was probably the best place to be. Go get them Ladies and be proud of being a team player in the greatest organization of our Nation.



God Bless Our Troops

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT**Dianne Donan**

How very excited and honored I am to have been elected as Ladies Auxiliary President of District 5. This district encompasses Oakland and Macomb Counties.

I am a 10-year member of Post #2358 and joined under the eligibility of my husband, Gregory, who served in Viet Nam. I am retired from Comerica Bank and enjoy gardening, yard work, and reading. We have two children and have been blessed with 7 grandchildren.

Upon joining the organization, I was elected to the position of trustee and have

subsequently served in various other positions and chairmanships including Hospital and Camp Trotter. I have also been equally busy at the District level serving in numerous capacities as I strived to learn and prepare myself for this leadership position.

My goals this year include working with our auxiliaries in membership and promoting the importance of our legislative program. There are important issues for our veterans and it must be a concerted effort of our combined memberships to contact our legislators on the need for their support of our veterans needs and issues.

Looking forward to a successful year working with our members and veterans.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT**Shanon Meredith**

My name is Sharon Meredith and I have been with the Ladies Auxiliary since 2006. I have held various positions at the post and district level; all very interesting.

My district has 6 counties within a very large radius. They are Lenawee, Monroe, Livingston, Washtenaw, Ingham, and Jackson. My Auxiliary is Hall-Slater VFW Post 4187, Tecumseh. Our first district meeting will be held in

Tecumseh on Sept. 27. I became eligible under my husband, Past 6th District Commander Steve Meredith, who served in Vietnam from 1970-1971. The next district meetings will be on Dec. 6, 2014 at Post 9656, Lambertville; Feb. 7, 2015 at Post 6462, Dundee; May 2, 2015 at Post 7309, Mason. My favorite program is membership which I intend to focus on as my goal this year. I enjoy meeting people and what a way to carry on the programs of the VFW organization. Remember our Department theme, "Veterans Angels" Protecting Those That Protect Us.

DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT**Laura Monaweck**

It is, again, a privilege to have been elected to serve as the District 7 Auxiliary President. District 7 encompasses the counties of Cass, Calhoun, Berrien

and St. Joseph. We currently have 11 active auxiliaries that are busy serving our veterans and their communities.

My husband, Charles, and I have been married for over 61 years and are blessed with four sons, eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. My husband is an active farmer and has served as President of the Black River Yacht Club in South Haven. Our summers have been filled with boating and swimming in Lake Michigan. We are both retired and besides the Ladies Auxiliary, I keep myself busy with my Mary Kay business.

In 1990, I joined the Mecwarf Ladies Auxiliary #5319 in Athens under the eligibility of my brother. Since becoming a member I have attended all the Department Conventions and Fall and Mid-Winter Conferences. Last June was the first Department Convention I missed and that was due to a serious car accident. Fortunately, my husband

and I are recuperating very nicely. My dedication to the auxiliary has included several years as the Veterans and Family Support Chairman and Hospital Chairman and four years as auxiliary president.

The program that is the most near and dear to me is Hospital. Once a week you will find me volunteering at the Battle Creek VA Hospital where I serve cookies and coffee to the veterans. They are a remarkable group of men and women and they so very much enjoy the coffee and conversation. They remind me why I joined this great organization!

In serving in my second year as District President, I have set the following goals for our District: 100% reporting by all auxiliaries; all audits submitted on time; and encouraging our members to attend District meetings, Department Conferences and Department Convention. These venues provide training so that we can learn more about how to effectively serve our veterans.

If you wish to join us, our next District Meeting will be November 2 at the Mecwarf Post #5319 in Athens. February 1 will be meeting at the Gus Karacson Post #2284 in Edwardsburg and on May 3, we will have our District Convention at Capt. John J. Kelly Post #1355 in Sturgis.

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT**Tonya Diets**

Hello my name is Tonya Dietz and am a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 3030 in Otsego. I became a member in the Fall of 2010 under the eligibility of my grandfather

Howard J Perry, who served in the Korean War. I have held the positions of Chaplin and Guard; and Chairman of Veterans and Family Support for 3 years at the auxiliary level. I have held the positions of Conductress in the District before moving on to Jr Vice, then Sr. Vice and finally District 8 President.

The District encompasses the following

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT, continued from previous column

counties: Allegan, Barry, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Kent, and Ottawa.

My favorite program is Veterans and Family Support. The reason I like this program so much is that I joined the VFW to help our Veterans and their families and I do just that. I am employed at Village Market where I am in Floral and Produce. I also work for The Allegan

Police Department as a Crossing Guard and at Burger King as a Cashier. My family stands behind me and supports me in my involvement with the VFW.

My goals for the year are to do the best I can do, to have more Auxiliaries work together, to try and get more people involved and to let people know what a wonderful Organization this is.

DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT**Diane Ward**

My name is Diana Ward and I have the great privilege of serving as your District President for the 2014-2015 year. I want to thank all of my District sisters for placing

their confidence in me to serve them in this capacity. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who may not know me.

I have been a member of Auxiliary #3243 in Fenton since 1991, but literally grew up in the VFW having parents that were active since 1972. My eligibility is through my father, James Ward, a 20 year Navy veteran who served in Korea, Viet Nam, Guam, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines – just to name a few. He also served as a United States Air Marshall. My mother, Viola Ward (Past District President) is also a Navy veteran. For my Auxiliary, I have served as Trustee, Conductress, Junior Vice President, Senior Vice President and am a three time Past Auxiliary President. I have also held chairmanships on the Auxiliary level as Mentor, Legislative, Junior Girls, and Cancer Aid and Research. At the District level I held chairmanships in Americanism and Legislative, and this is my second time going through the chairs. I have also served as the Department Legislative Chairmen and Color Bearer. I currently work as a nurse in the NeuroTrauma ICU at Genesys Hospital and was the honored recipient of the Continuing Education Scholarship available through our National organization.

Although I have a passion for the Legislative chairmanship because of our ability to really speak out on behalf of our veterans and aid them in ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned, I would say that my actual favorites are Americanism and Veterans & Family Support. These chairmanships, I believe, are the heart and soul of our organization and the best representation for why we exist. I strongly feel that we need to encourage and teach patriotism and loyalty to our nation through our actions. Teaching people about our flag, how to pay proper respect, and build a fire of passion in our fellow Americans so they may share our deep love and respect for the United States of America. Most of all, to encourage people outside our organization to give respect to our veterans and active duty military personnel. Help them to understand the sacrifices these men and women have made when they answered the call to serve our country – both here and abroad.

We have quite a large District extending from Fenton and Swartz Creek at our southwestern border, north to Clio, east to Port Huron and northeastern summit at Harbor Beach. We encompass six counties: Genesee, Lapeer, Tuscola, St. Clair, Sanilac and Huron. Round trip

from Fenton to Harbor Beach is 286 miles... three miles shy of the distance from Fenton to the Mackinaw Bridge. I'm so excited to be traveling to see each of your Auxiliaries, renew old friendships and make many new ones. I know this is a challenge for many of our ladies, but I would ask that at least one member of each of our Auxiliaries attend all three of our District meetings. Our first District Meeting will be at my own Fenton Post on August 3, 2014 at 10:30am. Registration opens at 9am and we will have a School of Instruction incorporated in the meeting. There will also be a Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee workshop immediately following the meeting for any ladies that are not going to make it to the Department office, Fall Conference or other offered dates. The dates for the other meetings are November 2, 2014 at Algonac and May 3, 2014 at Davison. Meetings will be discussed at the first District Meeting. For those of you who were not in attendance at the May 2014 District meeting, there was a vote to eliminate our February District meeting due to habitually bad weather conditions.

Membership is crucial to our organization, for without members and our veterans, we would not exist. We need members to keep us strong and continue to hold a significant voice in relationship to Congress and other forums to fight for our veterans. As such, 100% in membership is my primary goal. Our District has struggled with this as so many other Districts have. We have not been 100% in membership since 1995 – the year that my Mom made 100%. Who better could we have as our Membership Chairman. For every veteran, there is a potential for at least 6 members – let's find them and get them signed up! Strong membership in the District makes our Department stronger too.

Other goals I have for this year are to be 100% reported in all our programs. I am available to each of you to assist you in getting reported, show you how to do it electronically or do them for you if you do not have a computer or access to the internet. We will also be having mini workshops at each of the District meetings with sign ups to get the Auxiliaries reported so don't miss out. I would like to see improved attendance at the District meetings. Remember this is the teaching level and we are here to assist you with whatever you need for your Auxiliaries. Finally, I would really like to be involved and travel to meet all of the wonderful members we have, so if you have an event, please let me know and I will try very hard to make it. 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 and facebook. I'm looking forward to a great year!

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Shelby Henry



Counties in My District:
Bay, Midland, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona

District Meeting Dates & Locations:
Our District 11 meetings are held the first Sunday of each quarter (August 3, 2014, November 2, 2014, February 1, 2015, May 3, 2015). The locations are determined at the meeting before the next District meeting. Our August District meeting was held in Mt. Pleasant, the November District meeting will be held at Linwood/Kawkawlin Post #6950 and we won't know the location for the February and May 2015 meetings until November & February respectively. Audits are held at 10:00am along with registration. The District meetings start at 10:30am.

Member of What Auxiliary: I am a member of the Fred & Paul Kalis Ladies Auxiliary #4034 of Houghton Lake, MI.

When I Became a Member & Eligibility: I became a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary in 2007 and I joined under the eligibility of my grandfather who served in WWII.

Positions I Have Held in the Ladies Auxiliary: I have been the Senior Vice President of my Auxiliary since 2010 and have also been a Trustee for my Auxiliary since 2010.

Family & Employment: I have been married to my wonderful husband, Jeff St. Denis, since 2012. We have a home in Houghton Lake, MI and a second home in Cadillac, MI. I own a State Farm Agency in Cadillac, MI where my husband works with me. I have worked for State Farm since 2009 and have owned my agency since 2013. I have been in the banking/insurance/investment industries since 2001 and I love every minute of it. I love being able to help people and this gives me the perfect opportunity.

Favorite Program & Why: My favorite program is Veterans and Family Support because that's why we are really here as members of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary – to help our veterans and their families. I have several family members who have served in the military (my grandfather, my oldest brother, my husband) and I'm very proud to be a member of an organization that helps veterans and their families. We owe our veterans everything – our freedom, our lives as we know them, the wonderful place called America where we live that they fought so hard to preserve for us and what better way to say thank you than to help them when they come home and help their families while they are gone? I can't think of anything better!

Goals for the Year: My goals for this year as District President are to grow membership, increase participation in our District meetings and Department events, promote Auxiliary programs and minimize the loss of auxiliaries.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Arvella Peterson



District 13 encompasses the following counties: Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Antrim, Otsego, Alpena, Kalkaska, Grand Traverse and Montmorency. Our

meetings are: November 8, Rogers City Post #607; February 8, Emmet County Post #2951 in Harbor Springs; and May 2, Traverse City Post #2780.

It truly is an honor and privilege to serve again in the capacity of District 13 President. I am an active member of almost 11 years of Emmet County Post #2051. I joined under the eligibility of my husband who served in the Army during the Viet Nam Conflict. We have been married for 44 years and have 4 children and 9 grandchildren.

I have held several chairmanships and offices at the local level and currently am serving my 10th year as Auxiliary President. I would have to say that VFW Camp Trotter for Children is my favorite program. My grandchildren have attended the camping sessions offered each summer and have thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, my granddaughter aspires to be a counselor there some day.

The most important goal for this year is membership which includes recruiting and encouraging our at-large members to transfer and become active again in a local auxiliary. I will strive to encourage our auxiliaries to report the important work they do for our veterans and their communities. I will also make myself available to assist our auxiliaries to ensure they are healthy and productive.

I look forward to a successful year!

DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT

Judy Ekdahl



I am saying "Hello" from Rapid River, the best small town in the north. I am Judy Ekdahl, VFW Auxiliary of Michigan 14th District President. I joined the auxiliary under the eligibility of

my husband, who is the VFW 14th District Commander. He is a USAF 20-year retired veteran of Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

We have been married for 39 fabulous years. We have three great children, who have given 4 beautiful grandchildren so far. That is enough about me.

Our District 14 meeting schedule for 2014 – 2015 is:

August 17 10:00 AM at Maple Creek Restaurant in Sault Ste. Marie, MI, November 2 (time to be announced) Post 4420 Manistique, MI, May 1, 2, & 3 Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Meeting - Meeting will be May 3 at 10:00 AM

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Della Petaja



I am Della Petaja, Auxiliary President for the 15th District located in the Upper Peninsula. District 15 is composed of seven counties: Keweenaw, Houghton, Ontonagon, Baraga, Gogebic, Iron and Dickinson.

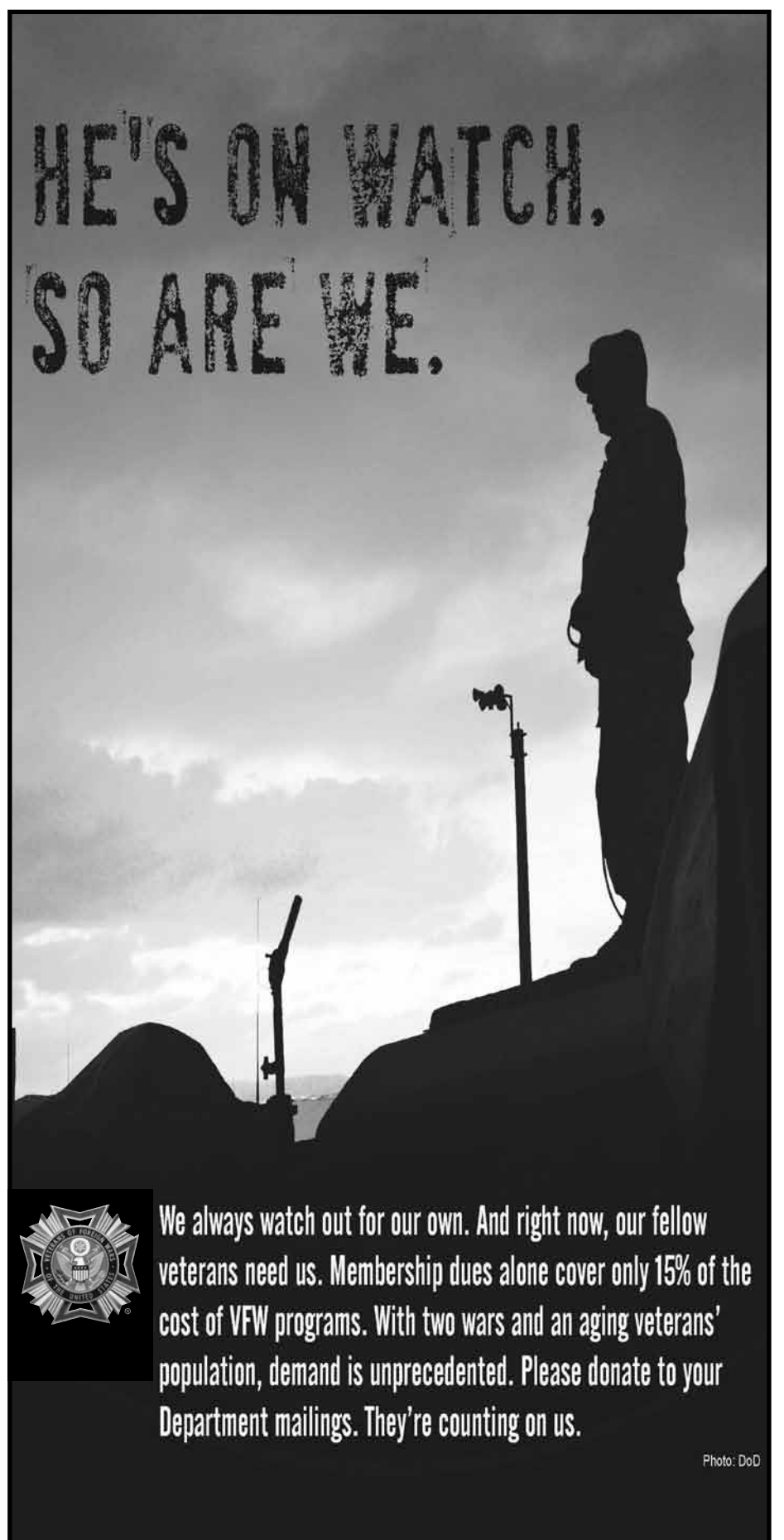
I am married to Victor for 33 years now and we have three grandchildren. Unfortunately they all live away from the Upper Peninsula, which sometimes makes life tough.

I first joined the Auxiliary in 1981 in Calumet through my brother, who served in Vietnam. However, like a lot of young people, I thought all those ladies were way too old and allowed my membership to lapse. I reinstated about 10 years

ago and have been very active since and have served in numerous capacities including Auxiliary President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, and Treasurer, plus a number of chairmanships. I have also served as District treasurer, and started as Jr. Vice and am now District President. I have also served in a number of chairmanships in district as well.

My favorite Chairmanship is Veterans and Family Support. There are none more deserving than these men and women and their families.

In my year as District President, I would like to help and hope to see all the auxiliaries hold their membership and hopefully increase as we are going through a very trying time in membership in the state. I and my district officers are going to do all we can to make this happen.



**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

95th Annual State Convention



On June 4-8, 2014 the Department of Michigan, VFW held its 95th annual State Convention in Flint, MI.

Posts and comrades were recognized for their hard work over the year.

All State awards were presented to post commanders, and new state officers were elected and sworn in.



L-R: Post 5065 Commander Terry Dowdell makes a \$1,400.00 donation to the James N. Goldsmith Cancer Research program on behalf of the Post.



National Jr. Vice Cmdr.-in-Chief candidate Keith Harmen addresses the convention. At the VFW National Convention in St. Louis, MO Keith did win the Big Ten Conference endorsement for National Jr. Vice Cmdr.-in-Chief 2015-2016.



National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Stroud addresses the convention.



The State Honor Guard present the colors at the opening of the convention.



The sellers of the most Buddy Poppies were honored. Post 334, represented by Post Commander James Hubbard, distributed 26,000 poppies receiving \$37,134.00 in donations. Post 4156, represented by Post Commander Scott Gloger, distributed 3,000 poppies and received \$6,000.00 in donations.



Dept. Community Service Director Benny Gaglio receives the Outstanding Participation Community Service Award from State Commander Ron Devereaux and National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Stroud.



Dept. VOD/Patriots Pen/Teacher of the Year Director Jim Galen, always the over achiever, receives the Outstanding Participation Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teach of the Year Awards from State Commander Ron Devereaux and National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Stroud.



Dept. Drug & Safety Director John Gubin receives the Outstanding Participation Safety Award from State Commander Ron Devereaux and National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Stroud.



This year's Raymond G. O'Neill Award was presented to Post 5065 Service Officer Eric Halvorsen. L-R: PSC Eric Halvorsen, State Service Officer Paul Pirlot, and Raymond O'Neill.



This year's Norman R. Bielak Award was presented to St. Clair County Veterans Benefits Counselor, Michele M. Simpson, by State Service Officer Paul Pirlot.



State Commander Ron Devereaux presents floral tribute to fallen comrades during the Joint Memorial Service.



Ladies Auxiliary State President Marilyn Malick presents floral tribute during the Joint Memorial Service.



Members of the State Honor Guard perform the rifle salute to fallen comrades.



Members of the State Honor Guard bid farewell to retiring Honor Guard member Don Spaulding and his wife Nan Spaulding.



Eagle Scout Charles Witten II is presented the Eagle Scout of the Year award by State Commander Ron Devereaux and National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Stroud.



Newly elected officers take the oath of office.



Newly elected State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle is sworn in by National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Stroud.



All State Commanders And Auxiliary Achievement Awards

Each year at the Department Convention the Department All State Post Commanders and Auxiliary Achievement Presidents are honored. These ceremonies are a highlight each year as our

Departments most outstanding Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents are recognized for their efforts. This year the VFW awards were presented by State Commander Ron Devereaux and VFW Sr. Vice

Commander in Chief John Stroud. Ladies Auxiliary awards were presented by State President Marilyn Malick and Ladies Auxiliary National Guard Sandi Kriebel. This year the honorees were:



Post 2406 Ernest Meyers Co-Captain



Post 9455 Larry Thayer Co-Captain



1st Place District 11 Laura Laney



2nd Place District 4 DeeAnn Miller



3rd Place District 8 Sandra Anderson



Post 334 James Hubbard



Auxiliary 701 Cheryl Moorhead



Auxiliary 702 Sonya VanValkenburg



Post 1136 Clifford Harris



Post 1138 Danny Burchfield



Post 1329 David Gray



Post 2233 Roscoe Burton



Auxiliary 2233 Beverly Burton



Post 2272 Bert Winer



Auxiliary 2406 Jan Meyers



Auxiliary 3033 Luella Demski



Auxiliary 3055 Nicole Koutz



Post 3306 Dennis Stewart



Post 3644 Dennis Merchant

ALL STATE, continued from page 12

*Auxiliary 3900 Carole Morris**Auxiliary 3925 Sheila Santure**Auxiliary 4005 Sharon Hickmott**Auxiliary 4093 Christine Mills**Auxiliary 4139 Linda Perreault**Auxiliary 4156 Linda Gloger**Auxiliary 4553 Janice Suchan**Auxiliary 4659 Nancy Giles**Auxiliary 6252 Jean Bestervelt**Auxiliary 6691 Deborah Scheetz**Auxiliary 6695 Shirley Ann Caldwell**Post 6802 Scott Hoag**Auxiliary 6950 Joan Elenbaas**Auxiliary 7303 Josephine Miller**Post 7573 Chris Tear**Auxiliary 9283 Michelle Stafford**Auxiliary 9411 Judy Henson**Auxiliary 9656 Amber Kops**Post 9914 Vincent Oltesvig*

Not Pictured:
Post 3033 William Paine
Post 6248 Leo Flory
Auxiliary 7581 Darlene Honeysett



115th National Convention

The VFW National Convention was held in St. Louis, MO from July 19th through July 23rd. Over 12,000 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members attended the convention to elect new officers and decide the direction of the VFW and Auxiliary for the coming year. At the Big Ten Conference meeting on July 19, Keith Harmon from Ohio won the endorsement of the conference for National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief 2015-2016. Changes to the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure were voted on and passed so be sure to order a new book for your post.



Members of the Michigan delegation wait for the Big Ten Conference meeting to begin.



National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief candidate Keith Harmon addresses the conference.



Big Ten Conference Chairman PSC Ernie Meyers.



State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and State Auxiliary President Candy Beatty.



The St. Louis Gateway Arch.



The Gateway Arch.



National Ladies Auxiliary President Armithea "Sissy" Borel receives the VFW Gold Medal of Merit from VFW National Commander-in-Chief Bill Thien.



The National Honor Guard prepares to present the colors.



VFW National Commander-in-Chief Bill Thien welcomes the members and opens the convention.



Vice President Joe Biden addresses the convention.



The VFW Armed Services Award was presented to U.S. Navy Corpsmen. Force. Accepting the award on behalf of all Navy Corpsmen was Force Master Chief Sherman E. Boss.



Members of the Michigan delegation.



Members of the Michigan delegation.



Members of the Michigan delegation.



Mike DeRosa, Burger King franchise owner, was awarded the James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award for spearheading a campaign that has garnered more than \$2.6 million from Burger King customers for VFW's Unmet Needs program. He has been supporting the VFW and the Unmet Needs program since 2007.



On Tuesday evening, Budweiser hosted a Military Salute Parade and Patriotic Celebration. A large American flag was flown between 2 cranes at the entrance to the park.



State Ladies Aux. Guard Sandy Medos and Stephanie Krueger anxiously await the arrival of the parade.



Here comes the parade.



The Budweiser Clydesdales.



The Michigan delegation marching in the parade.



The Budweiser beer wagon the Clydesdales pull. I don't think it's going to be enough.

115th VFW National Convention Rolls Into St. Louis

Vice President to speak Monday, July 14, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — More than 12,000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries are rolling into the Show Me State this weekend to elect new leadership and to approve resolutions that will guide the national organization's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, and its veteran and military support programs across the country. Vice President Joe Biden has also accepted an invitation to address the delegates during their joint opening session on Monday.

"As the nation's largest and oldest major combat veterans' organization, we are governed by our members and their elected delegates to our annual convention," said William A. Thien, the national commander of the 1.9 million-member VFW and its Auxiliaries.

"We expect a great deal from every delegate, because the decisions they make help to guide our lobbying efforts that directly benefit veterans, service members and their families, as well as all the wonderful support programs we provide to veterans free of charge, such as our VFW Service Officers, who over the past two years helped 205,000 veterans to recoup more than \$5.9 billion in earned disability compensation and pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs," he said.

"We are also honored to once again have the vice president, who as a proud Blue Star parent of an Iraq War veteran, completely understands the service, sacrifice and anxiety that all military families undergo while their loved ones are deployed in harm's way, which is a relevancy the VFW and our Auxiliaries continue to have with every generation of American patriot."

A number of national awards will also be presented at the VFW's 115th National Convention, to include:

The VFW Dwight D. Eisenhower Award to former U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker

The VFW Armed Services Award to U.S. Navy Corpsmen

The VFW Americanism Award to "Gold Star Honor Roll" project creator Tom Clark

The VFW News Media Award to Stars & Stripes

VFW National Teacher Awards to Shirley Harmon Helton, Fairlawn Elementary School, Fort Pierce, Fla.; Jeff Gephart, Holloman Middle School, Alamogordo, N.M.; and Tom Clark, Lake Central High School, St. John, Ind.

VFW Citizenship Award to Burger King franchise owner Mike DeRosa

And a VFW Gold Medal of Merit to the Air Force Reserve's 920th Rescue Wing from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

Invited guest speakers include Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, and U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt; Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson to provide a State of the VA update; Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Michael Lumpkin to provide a POW/MIA accounting mission update; Student Veterans of America president and chief executive D. Wayne Robinson; the \$30,000 VFW Voice of Democracy winner, Madison Haley, from Chestnut, Neb.; 13-year-old Grant Gentges, the 2014 VFW Buddy Poppy Child, from the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Mich.; and many others.

Air Force Veteran Elected To Lead America's Largest Combat Veterans Organization

*New VFW National Commander
Vows to Defend Freedom's Defenders*



the election of the new VFW National Commander, John W. Stroud.

Stroud served in the U.S. Air Force from 1976-1997, including a tour in Korea in 1992-1993 with the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base as a Flight Operations Superintendent. His decorations include four Meritorious Service Medals, three Air Force Commendation Medals, three Air Force Achievement Medals, the Korea Defense Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He is a resident of Hawthorne, Nev., and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Post 2313, and has served the VFW in a number of leadership positions including Nevada Department Commander and Chairman of the National Veterans Service Committee.

During his acceptance speech, Stroud addressed the recent VA crisis stating, "the VA is a health care system worth saving that right now must identify and fix what's broken ... that needs to hold people appropriately accountable to the fullest extent of the law ... and a system that must restore the faith of veterans in their VA. He added that he is confident Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson and nominee Bob McDonald—if confirmed—will not make the same mistake as the previous VA Secretary who simply trusted his employees to the point of his demise.

Stroud recounted his first experience with the VFW, stopping in Post 10047 in Las Vegas, Nev., after seeing a sign that read 'Active Duty Military Welcome.' Dressed in fatigues, he entered the Post and was immediately welcomed. Surrounded by his comrades, he learned of the organization's many programs and services, and he knew he wanted in.

"Comrades, I share my story to encourage you to tell your own stories to others. A great part of the VFW story involves the relevance between different generations, and the ability to educate others about who we are, what we do, and

who we do it for," he said.

Stroud had high praise for members' work and VFW programs, citing several outstanding instances of disaster relief, troop support and veterans resource efforts. He commended those who worked with the U.S. European Command to operate a Visitor's Center for hundreds of American D-Day veterans and thousands of visitors who were in Normandy for the 70th anniversary of the landing, and praised the Ladies Auxiliary for its donations to cancer research which now total \$30 million.

"One of the best things about being a National Officer is I get to brag about the VFW wherever I go ... to the troops, to veterans, their families, nonveterans and politicians, too," he said.

Stroud stressed the importance of reaching out to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and educating them on what the VFW is all about. The camaraderie the VFW offers, as well as its services help ease their transition to civilian life. Further, the VFW fights to ensure Congress and the Administration keep America's promise to care for them, long after their successful transition.

"To this very day they don't know that it was the VFW who led the charge to create a new GI Bill... a Family Caregiver Act... Traumatic Injury Insurance... a bullet-proof Stolen Valor Act... concurrent receipt... a lower Guard and Reserve retirement age ... and advance appropriations for VA health care," he explained.

Stroud is the second Nevadan to be elected as VFW National Commander. He graduated with honors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics. He worked as the Mineral County Building Official and is now retired. He is also a member of the American Legion, the Elks, and is a Life member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Cootie and the VFW National Home for Children.

Stroud will log thousands of miles within the U.S. and internationally to promote the VFW, veterans' issues and quality of life initiatives for active-duty, Reserve and Guard members.

Also elected were Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. of Robinson Township, Pa., and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian J. Duffy of Louisville, Ky.

Vietnam War Anniversary

As was discussed at our VFW Programs workshop in St. Louis, we are asking all VFW Posts to participate in the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Partner program. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on objective one.

1.To thank and honor veterans of the

Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

2.To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

3.To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

4.To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

5.To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

For VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. Applications are available at www.VietnamWar50th.com

com on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them

to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil.

We look forward to our VFW Posts becoming partners in assisting a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kevin C. Jones Director, VFW Programs/NMS Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 406 W 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111 p:816.968.1116 f:816.968.1149



National Home Community Celebration a Time of Sharing and Remembrances

The VFW National Home for Children celebrated the accomplishments of its children, young people, and parents in a ceremony filled with laughter, remembrances, and some tears.

The Community Celebration was attended by National Home residents, staff, and guests. Those in attendance included National Home Board of Trustees Secretary/Treasurer Garry Goff and District 7 Trustee Merridy Lewis.

The evening opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a homemade lasagna dinner and a frosted chocolate and white cake for all.

Soon it was time to honor the National Home's youngest graduates – the six children who have graduated from the preschool.

"They're a great group of kids. They all are going to go on to do great things," said Kacie Kapp, National Home preschool teacher.

Kacie went on to say a few words about each child – one young man wanted to be a hockey player when he grew up, while a young lady dreamed of being a ballerina and painter; this child was "very compassionate" and that child was polite and "very, very sweet."

"He's just always been one of those little charmers," she said of one boy who brings a smile to everyone's face.

Another little girl who wants to be a dentist has a "beautiful smile" and is "a great friend."

"Just a sweetheart to have around," Kacie said.

Education Services Supervisor Laura Lonsbery and Education Services staff Dave Westjohn and Sue Peterson next recognized National Home young people who have achieved various education goals, such as completing grades, attaining academic achievements in math and reading, being on the Honor Roll, and earning high GPAs. One young lady was recognized for her high score on a Latin exam.

Finally, the two Title I mentors for the Education Services were recognized for their dedication to the young people of the National Home.

Next it was time to recognize the achievements of National Home parents.

"This is a very, very special moment for us

to celebrate and honor the accomplishments and achievements by our residents," said Case Manager Supervisor Cindy DeBow.

The first mom was honored for achieving a 4.0 GPA in college.

"I don't know what to say other than thank you," she said, adding that to live at the National Home, "has been the opportunity of a lifetime."

"Our future is forever changed because of this opportunity," she added.

The next parent has been working on her bachelor's degree while raising two young sons.

"Thank you for the opportunity," she said.

The third mom achieved earning several certificates and gaining a new job. She became overcome with emotion, choking back tears.

"It was a very hard struggle, but I did it," she said.

Finally, it was time to recognize the 2014 High school graduates – Alex and Gabriela.

"She faces every new challenge with grace and determination," Kirsten Grady, one of the National Home's case managers, said when introducing Gabriela.

"The VFW [National Home] has really changed me these past three years," Gabriela said. "I have had brand-new experiences and met a lot of new people."

She said the National Home's activities, such as Work Crew and 4-H, provided valuable learning experiences.

"I will take my lessons I have learned everywhere I go in the future," she said.

Next, Life Skills Coordinator Brian Lorente introduced Alex.

"I remember [him] being very shy, very quiet," Brian said. "It was very hard to get him to do things and to talk, interact with the group. And to say he's changed is an understatement."

"He's become a truly exceptional young man."

Alex was very enthusiastic about the National Home, saying, "It's awesome!" He plans to go to Michigan State University and study veterinary medicine.

"You guys made that possible that I can even do that, that I have the opportunity," he said.

"I just can't thank you enough, so all I can do is impact the community," he concluded. "God bless you. It's been amazing."

Marine Riders of Michiana Becomes National Home's Newest Sponsor

The Marine Riders of Michiana – so named because its members come from southern Michigan and northern Indiana – started in 2009 with five members.

The group has grown to 42 members committed to motorcycle riding, the brotherhood of Marines, and the VFW National Home for Children. They have donated generously to the National Home throughout the past several years.

Now the Marine Riders of Michiana has taken the next step and committed to sponsoring one of the homes on campus. The sponsorship begins today.

Sam Butler, the group's president,

explains how the guys came to find the National Home.

"We were searching for someone in need as Marines always do," he said.

The Riders did some research, and came out and toured the National Home and liked what they learned and saw.

Sponsoring a home at the VFW National Home for Children is a serious commitment. A sponsor provides for the home's annual costs (utilities, lawn care, trash removal, etc.), maintenance, and repairs.

Thank you, Marine Riders of Michiana, for helping the National Home and its residents!

Introducing the VFW National Home for Children's New Helpline Card

The VFW National Home for Children Helpline is now the Military and Veteran Family Helpline.

The National Home has strived throughout the years to help our nation's struggling military and veteran families. The MVF Helpline is available Monday

through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, except for holidays. Messages left after hours are answered the next business day.

The Military and Veteran Family Helpline is here to help! Call [800] 313-4200 for support and assistance.

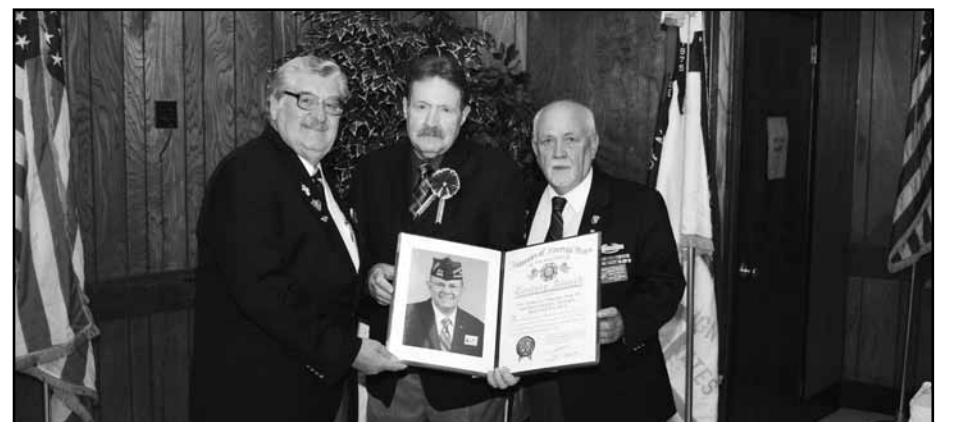
Donovan VFW Post 78 Celebrates 100 Years of Service

On Aug. 8, 2014 the Pvt. James D. Donovan VFW Post 78 celebrated their 100th Anniversary of service to veterans and the community. Congressman John Dingell, State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle, State Representative,

Deaborn Heights, David Knezek, and City of Dearborn Heights Mayor Dan Paletko as well as other local dignitaries were in attendance to honor Post 78. Congratulations Post 78 and thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do to support veterans and the community. Job well done!



4th District officers with Congressman John Dingell. Pictured L-R: 4th Dist. Cmdr. Dave Reeves, State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle, Congressman John Dingell, and 4th District Sr. Vice Commander Ray Lopez.



State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle and 4th District Cmdr. Dave Reeves present the National "Century Award" to Post 78 Commander George Wells.



Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb presents Post 78 Cmdr. George Wells with a resolution from Wayne County honoring their 100 years of service.



State Representative, Dearborn Heights, David Knezek presents Post 78 Cmdr. George Wells with a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan.

President Signs Critical Veterans' Legislation Into Law

VFW on hand for signing of Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act

August 07, 2014 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) was on hand today at Fort Belvoir, VA as the president signed H.R. 3230, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 into law. The newly signed law will provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with an additional \$15 billion of emergency funding to ensure veterans who cannot be seen by a VA doctor will not be forced to wait months for care. It will also allow VA to begin building capacity and regain veterans' trust by hiring more physicians and building needed infrastructure and allowing the Secretary to fire top executives who don't have veterans' best interest at heart.

"As early as 2002 the VFW has testified before Congress that veterans are waiting too long for care and that VA doesn't have the doctors and space needed to provide timely care," said VFW Commander-in-Chief John Stroud. "This legislation is a positive first step in putting VA back on track, but it will take decisive leadership within VA, as well as strong oversight from Congress and the veteran community to ensure our veterans receive the timely, quality care they have earned."

The VFW membership then passed a stern resolution at the recent VFW National Convention, telling Congress to either pass the bill before recess, or pay the consequences back home. This message

was quickly reinforced by the VFW's grassroots Action Corps, which sent nearly 32,000 messages to every Congressional office on Capitol Hill, insisting legislators take action.

"VFW members were rightfully outraged over the recent controversy, and today the voices of our members resonated strongly in Washington," said Stroud.

The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 also includes critical provisions expanding traumatic brain injury care programs for veterans; improving education benefits for surviving spouses; critical funding for 27 new or expanded VA Community-based Outpatient Clinics; and a provision offering veterans in-state tuition at the public college or university of their choice within three years of leaving active duty.

The new law comes in the wake of a nationwide scandal in which veterans and whistleblowers called attention to veterans languishing on appointment waiting lists at VA facilities. The scandal has led to widespread criminal investigations and the resignation of many top VA officials. When news of the scandal broke, the VFW mobilized its health care help line, 1-800-VFW-1899, encouraging veterans to call and share their experiences, and intervening directly with VA on behalf of more than 200 veterans who were waiting for care.

VFW and Sport Clips Haircuts Award 93 Veterans with Scholarships

Veterans can apply now for the spring semester

August 04, 2014 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to announce 93 veterans have been awarded VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarships" this fall, totaling more than \$380,000.

The scholarships are awarded twice throughout the year exclusively to veterans and help cover the cost of tuition and fees. Recipients are encouraged to reapply as they continue their educations.

Here is the complete list of fall recipients.

The VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program launched last year and has awarded more half a million dollars in scholarship funds to veterans.

Applications are now being accepted for the spring; the deadline to apply is Nov. 15. For more information, including eligibility criteria, visit vfw.org/scholarship.

"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. The GI Bill is fantastic, but it has limitations, and this scholarship will help fill the gaps for

so many veterans," said VFW National Commander John Stroud.

For students like Joshua Ashley, an Air Force veteran, these scholarships lessen the financial burden associated with meeting post-secondary educational goals. "My GI Bill benefits have been fully expended and I really want to finish what I started. With this opportunity it will enhance my education and ability to secure a better position in the workforce to supply for my daughter."

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 2013, more than 1,000 Sport Clips locations across the nation raised more than \$500,000 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. This year's Help A Hero campaign will launch on Oct. 13.

VFW Calls For Boycott Until Mexico Releases U.S. Marine

VFW To Apply Economic Pressure

WASHINGTON — June 25, 2014. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is calling for a nationwide boycott of Mexican products and travel until Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi is released from a Mexican jail.

"This combat Marine has been languishing away since he was arrested March 31 for allegedly crossing the border accidentally with three personal firearms that were legally registered in the States but not in Mexico," said VFW National Commander William A. Thien. "It

was a mistake, but so is the Mexican government's reluctance to release him unharmed back to the U.S."

As America's oldest and largest major combat veterans' organization, the VFW wants to apply economic pressure to the Mexican government because Tahmooressi's arrest and captivity is mirroring that of former Marine Jon Hammer, who was arrested for carrying an antique shotgun across the border in August 2012, despite having proper American paperwork. He

VFW Comment On Senator Burr's Open Letter To Veterans

Senator Burr's Allegations Are Mean-spirited and Profoundly Wrong

May 26, 2014 – This letter is in response to the open letter you made available for distribution late Friday, May, 23, 2014. First and foremost Senator, I will afford you the same amount of respect you demonstrated for the Veterans of Foreign Wars by the monumental cheap-shot and posturing you've engaged in by enlisting in an absolutely disgusting ambush style of politics. Without the courtesy or benefit of conversation or dialogue with me or the VFW Adjutant General regarding your disagreement with VFW's recent testimony to your committee, you chose instead to take the low road and question VFW's motives and levy a pejorative personal attack on VFW staff. Senator, this is clearly one of the most dishonorable and grossly inappropriate acts that we've witnessed in more than forty years of involvement with the veteran community and breaches the standards of the United States Senate. Your allegations are ugly and mean-spirited in every sense of the words and are profoundly wrong, both logically and morally. Quite frankly Senator, you should be ashamed.

The VFW staff you chose to rebuke and whose principles you have questioned walk the walk. They've been there, done that and some of them have the scars to show for it. Collectively, those same staff members have among them more than 47 combat deployments. This includes deployments to Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Their awards include four Purple Hearts, sixteen Air Medals, Bronze Stars and a variety of other awards. Some rely on VA for their healthcare and residual treatment associated with their military service. They understand firsthand the problems existing within the system because, unlike the majority of people, they've been willing to do what others won't. Senator, that is exactly why we find your personal attack so disgusting.

The men and women working in our DC office are dedicated professionals. Importantly, they take the work they do personally. They do it because they care. I suggest you compare the more than exorbitant amount of days off you receive, including virtually the whole month of August, two weeks around Easter/Passover, and certainly not a single five-day work week to the often time long, arduous hours they put forth every week of the year. Surely, with all the issues and the current emergent need for solutions, you must have more important things to do than to assail the character, people and motives of America's VSOs?

Let me assure you Senator, our DC staff does not operate in a vacuum, or independently from its headquarters in Kansas City. The staff operates under the direction of me and the Adjutant General. The testimony that was provided to your committee was vetted and approved by me and the Adjutant General only after careful study and consideration. We don't act in hopes of grabbing a headline or securing an interview on cable news; our only agenda in this is to ensure the veterans of our nation receive timely and adequate healthcare. If you have issues then I suggest you contact either one of us directly.

The fact of the matter is this; every year the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS and Paralyzed Veterans of

America have been trying to call attention to the issue, warning Congress of the consequences, and trying to work with Congress and VA on solutions.

Each year our organizations build an analysis of VA benefits and services known as the Independent Budget, and each year since 2005 the Independent Budget has warned Congress about the dangers of long wait times and care rationing due to improper resources, oversight and accountability.

Last year, and again this year, then-VFW Commander-in-Chief John Hamilton and I warned you and both the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees about the dangers of long wait times. This decade of stern warnings has fallen on deaf ears.

There's no doubt that the culture within VA needs to change. In a letter to the President, we made it clear that he needed to take immediate steps and ensure necessary authority to Secretary Shinseki that will guarantee the status quo of protecting enmeshed and "untouchable" bureaucrats within the VA system cannot and will not continue. We urged him to provide him authority to impose the strongest disciplinary actions, including removal and prosecution whenever and wherever necessary, on any VA employee who would abdicate their responsibilities and have a hand in the mistreatment or abandonment of those who have earned timely and adequate healthcare.

Clearly, you were not listening during VFW's testimony. Nowhere did we suggest that we were interested in protecting anyone. I suggest you read the transcript. We find it especially specious that you seek to point fingers without at least an acknowledgement of some responsibility by Congress in all of this. Your assumption that we do not listen to what our members have to say is insulting. We spend most of the year traveling to and visiting VFW Posts world-wide. We have direct contact and speak at length with our members. We listen. And what you should know is this; that there is huge, and growing sentiment within most of the veteran community regarding the inaction of Congress, because they are keenly aware, (if the past is any guide), they will enact no budget, no regular appropriations bills, nor other key legislation.

If we've been remiss in anything Senator, we've been remiss in being too polite with Congress. For years, the VFW has come to Congress with hat in hand and for years, we've heard the same old story. You can be assured Senator, that you've done a superb job in showing us the error in our ways. You can also be assured that in the future, we will spend a substantial percentage of our time seeking to inform our members and our constituents of the repeated failure to act by our elected officials. We will not stand by and let our members be distracted by rhetoric or finger-pointing and we certainly won't abide our veterans being used as political footballs. And you can be sure that we will let our membership know the low-regard you hold for their organization.

Sincerely,
William A. Thien, Commander-in-Chief
John E. Hamilton, Adjutant General

VFW CALLS FOR BOYCOTT, continued on page 18



VFW CALLS FOR BOYCOTT, continued from front page 17

wasn't released until four months later. Thien said the VFW tried the politically polite route by twice asking President Obama to contact Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, but a phone call specifically about the Marine sergeant never took place. Now that Tahmooressi is approaching his third full

month in jail, the VFW national commander said it's time to take the gloves off. "This is about politics, and if my government won't do anything, then I guess we need to let the power of the purse take over. No products, no travel, a total boycott ... then maybe a dialogue will start."

VFW is First Veterans Organization to Join VA's #VetQ Initiative

VFW is proud to be a leader in helping veterans online

July 30, 2014 Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs launched #VetQ, a new initiative that will provide quick and credible information and vast resources to any veteran, service member or family member seeking answers on a wide array of service-related questions.

The VFW was the first veterans service organization to join VA as an official partner to its latest veterans service endeavor and will play an active role in helping to fulfill VetQ's mission.

Anyone with a question pertaining to veterans' benefits, entitlements, compensation, health care, etc., should submit their question via Twitter using #VetQ. The VFW will be on hand to provide the answers needed, efficiently and expeditiously.

"The VFW knows one of the biggest problems veterans face is getting accurate answers to their questions in a timely fashion. This bold initiative takes a 21st century approach and will undoubtedly help countless veterans and their families. We're proud to be a part of it," said VFW Communications Manager Randi Law.

During a time when hashtags are ubiquitous, the VFW knows this effective

means of communicating will be utilized on a large scale and will work to assist countless veterans and service members each day. There are 255 million monthly active Twitter users, 78 percent of whom are on mobile. Perhaps more impressive, 500 million tweets are sent each day.

With an estimated 21 million veterans living today, this customer service initiative is the largest of its kind, and the VFW is extremely optimistic about the potential of this progressive approach to helping veterans in today's world.

The VFW has experienced much success in its social media endeavors in recent years. It was the first, and remains the only, VSO to hold regular Facebook town hall meetings during which users can chat with a VFW subject-matter expert on topics ranging from the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the VA claims process or the VFW's scholarship program. During the VFW's recent national convention, hundreds of convention delegates used #VFWconvention to share their experiences.

The VFW maintains a sizable social media following with approximately 480,000 followers on Facebook, more than 21,000 on Twitter and 50,000 on Google+.

Great Lakes National Cemetery Avenue of Flags Needed

The Avenue of Flags, the signature landmark of the GLNC, is located just inside the main entrance to the cemetery and has 100 flagpoles that display our Nation's colors. These flags are flown 24/7 by authority of the National Cemetery Administration. The

United States of America flags used in the Avenue of Flags are burial flags that are either donated by the next of kin to the VA National Cemetery for display, or provided by the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council or other veterans organization.

VFW Statement On McDonald Confirmation

VFW looks forward to working with McDonald toward a fix

July 29, 2014 The U.S. Senate today confirmed former Proctor & Gamble chief executive Robert McDonald as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In a statement, John W. Stroud, the national commander of the 1.9 million-

member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliaries, congratulates the new secretary on his confirmation, and most especially for wanting to help make a difference in the lives of his fellow veterans during

Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Many veterans don't know that they can get a free attorney to help them appeal a veterans benefits claim denial at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program (www.vetsprobono.org) is a nonprofit organization that provides free attorneys to any veteran or survivor with a viable case for benefits at the court. If you could consider sharing this story with your members, it would help other veterans find out about how they can get help. Perhaps you have an e-newsletter, a printed newsletter, a website, a Facebook page, or a blog where you could share this story and let other veterans know about this free program that can help. Thanks for your time and consideration. AmiNeiberger-Miller ami@steppingstoneLLC.com

Two Generations of Vietnam Veterans in the Same Family Fight for Justice: And Win

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program provides free, volunteer attorneys to represent veterans appealing their benefits denials to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Mr. McManus, a career Air Force noncommissioned officer, had served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. In 1985, he filed a claim for benefits for diabetes and an award under the Nehmer decision that awarded disability benefits to Vietnam veterans suffering from illnesses scientifically linked to Agent Orange exposure. Sadly, he succumbed to complications from diabetes and heart disease in 1991, while his claim was still pending.

His son, also a Vietnam veteran (he served in Vietnam as an Army medic from 1970 to 1971), decided to pursue his father's claim himself. "I started by getting a computer and surfing the Web," he recalls. For five years, from 2004 to 2009, Mr. McManus filed all the briefs for his appeal pro se, again and again hearing that his father's diabetes was not a condition that was eligible for benefits. Again and again, he looked for counsel who might help him appeal the VA denials, without success. "No one got back to me, or they didn't do this kind of work."

For more than five years, he painstakingly filed his own claims, enduring rejection after rejection from the VA.

What could have been another in a long list of discouraging events instead became a turning point, when he appealed the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims: "That's when the judge said it would be better if an attorney handled things for me at this point." The Court issued an order requesting the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program (www.vetsprobono.org) investigate the possibility of representing Mr. McManus. The program responded to the Court's order, evaluated Mr. McManus's case, and assigned a volunteer attorney to represent him.

When [the Pro Bono Program volunteer attorney] got on board it was like a whole weight was lifted off me," Mr. McManus says of the moment his attorney took over his appeal for the accrued benefits and an Agent Orange award owed his late father. "The Pro Bono people organized things really well. They took my thoughts and made them go from regular TV to high-def."

After reviewing the case files, Mr. McManus' attorney determined that the Board of Veterans Appeals had erred in finding that his father did not have diabetes after its own regional office had determined that he did. The Board had also been wrong to contend that the Agent Orange award law did not apply, ruling that the elder Mr. McManus had had no claim pending when he died. In fact, the late Mr. McManus had filed a timely claim.

In light of the volunteer attorney's arguments, substantiated by VA's own records, the Court reversed the Board—a rare occurrence (most cases are remanded).

I could not have asked for a better ending," says Mr. McManus, now 61. "We're not quite through, but I was very pleased with how the Pro Bono people came in and took things to the next level. Being a veteran, this mattered a lot to me—and I hope it will be a case that others will see and can use."

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program provides free, volunteer attorneys to represent veterans appealing their benefits denials to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Learn more at www.vetsprobono.org.

a time of nationwide crisis in care and confidence in his department.

"Secretary McDonald is inheriting a VA in crisis," said Stroud, an Air Force retiree from Hawthorne, Nev., "but he also inherits a VA that is worth

saving, which is why the VFW looks forward to working with him and his team as they fix what's broken, hold employees appropriately accountable to the maximum extent of the law, and restore the faith of veterans in their VA."

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

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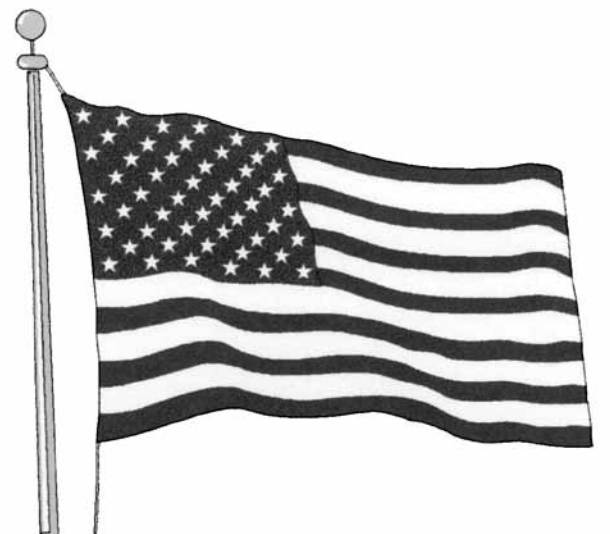
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MGCB and Governor Issue Emergency Rules Effective Immediately

On Thursday, July 3rd, Governor Snyder and the MGCB issued Emergency Rules that contain many of the provisions contained in the rule set that the Court of Claims enjoined in May.

A copy of the rules can be found here:

http://michigan.gov/documents/lara/Millionaire_Party_Emergency_Rules_461771_7.pdf

A summary of the Emergency Rules can be found here:

- 1) the Emergency rules are being adopted to protect the health, safety and welfare of Michigan citizens;
- 2) the argument is that the increased risk to the charities that they will be victims of criminal activity, including fraud and theft is the specific threat;
- 3) the Executive Director can authorize up to 2 millionaire parties per location per day and there shall be no more than 4 millionaire part event days per week per location;
- 4) a qualified organization may not enter into an agreement with the location owner or lessor other than those addressed in the written rental agreement approved by the Executive Director;
- 5) charities must have 3 bona fide members on site at all times;
- 6) the Executive director may determine the permissible hours of the day during which millionaire parties can be conducted.

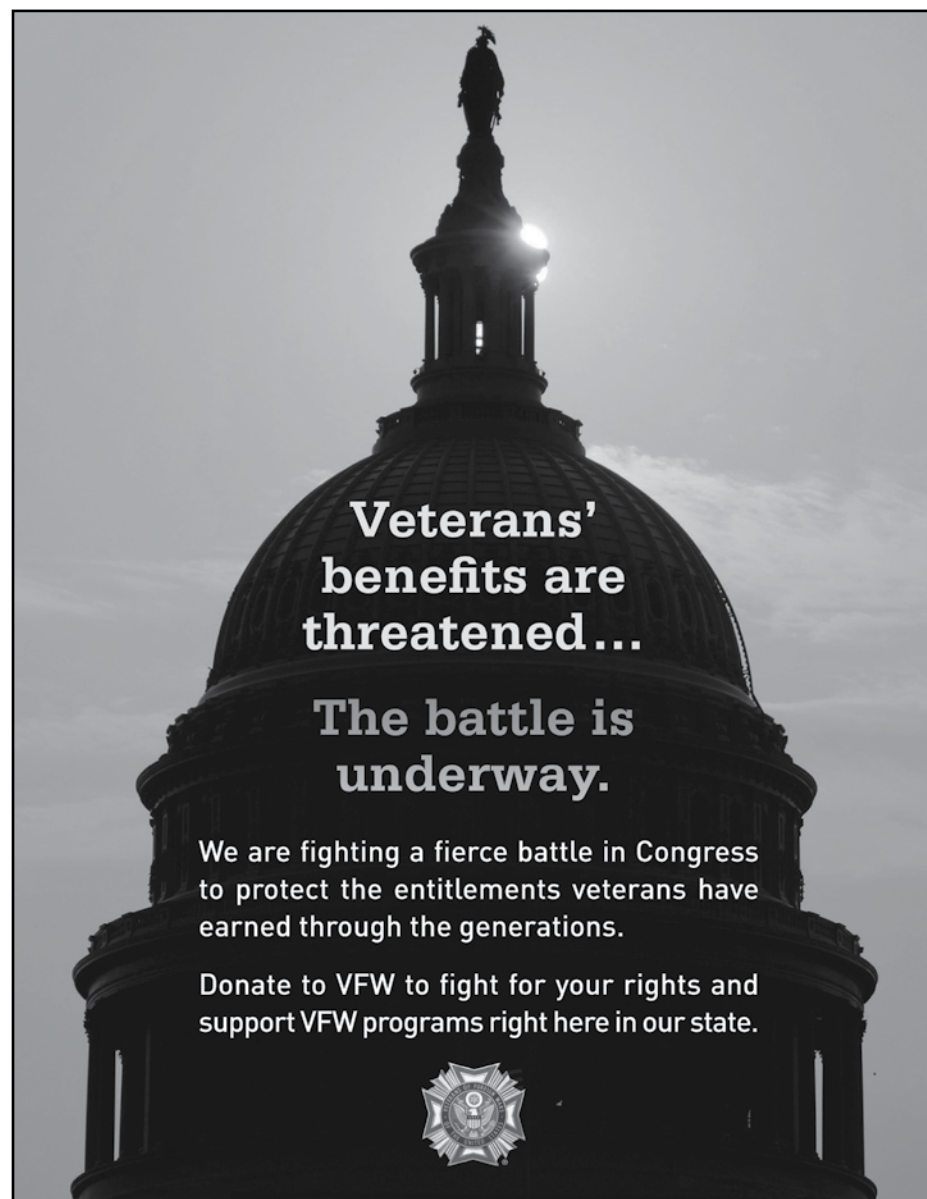
How does this affect the injunction that was obtained by MiCGA, charities, locations and suppliers who filed to enjoin the rules from May, 2014? That will be up to the Judge who has been assigned the case. This decision has not been made yet. We will notify members as soon as additional information becomes available.

In the meantime, it is critical that you contact the House of Representatives and let them know that you are displeased that Governor and Executive Director are trying to circumvent the judicial process and the House has to act when they return in September on SB878! Even if you called before, this new development is definitely worthy of another call to the House.

Representative Jase Bolger: (517) 373-1787

Representative Hugh Crawford: (517) 373-0827

Comrades this is an issue that effects every VFW, Men's Auxiliary and Ladies Auxiliary that raises funds by doing Charity Poker events across the state. If this measure withstands the scrutiny of the Judicial System and the Governor has his way it will virtually shut down all charity poker rooms. I encourage everyone to make the call to your State Representative and to the two Representatives listed above and ask them to put SB787 to an up or down vote on the House floor. Now is fine time to get in touch with them as they are at home campaigning for election in November. Let them know that this is not what the citizens of Michigan want and if they can't support us now then we can't support them in November. This is not a partisan issue it is. Veterans issue that we need to take a stand on.



VA's Medical Foster Home Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the development of the Medical Foster Home Program at the following locations in Michigan: VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Battle Creek VA Medical Center, John D. Dingell VA Medical Center (Detroit). A Medical Foster Home (MFH) is an Adult Foster Care Home combined with VA interdisciplinary home care team (Home Based Primary Care) to provide a safe, home-like environment and an economical long-term care alternative for Veterans who are unable to live independently. The Veteran will pay

the caregiver directly and will receive room, board, personal care, and 24-hour supervision while living in a Medical Foster Home.

For more information about this new program click here or contact:

April Bartlett, MFH Coordinator
VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
(734) 222-4269

Kirsten Dzialo, MFH Coordinator
Battle Creek VA Medical Center
(269) 223-5635

Brenda Chapman, MFH Coordinator
John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
(313) 576-1053

Ceremonial Rifles and Static Displays

There seems to be some confusion surrounding the US Army Ceremonial Rifle and Static Display program. Hopefully this article will help to clear up the confusion. First let's talk about the Static Displays. Static Displays can be anything from a M60 tank to a helicopter. Due to the high dollar amount of the display items (a condition of the conditional deed of gift that your post signed), an annual certification of Army material status form must re-filed every year (no later than the agreement date on the conditional deed of gift) which certifies that 1) the static display is still needed, maintained in a safe and clean condition so that its appearance reflects favorably on the US military 2) is in poor condition (when the restoration will take place and when it will be done) 3) is no longer needed and request disposition instructions. This certification form must be notarized prior to submission. If the display is no longer needed, the US Army will arrange to have it removed from the property. It may take up to 6 month before this happens. If your post does not comply with the conditions set forth in the conditional deed of gift, the display may be removed from the property and the costs associated with the removal may be charged to the post.

Ceremonial rifles used to require an annual certification but the Department of the Army and the General Services Administration (GSA) have decided that due to the low dollar amount of each rifle they only need to be certified every 3 years (triennially). This certification form is a little different than the one for the static display. On this certification, if your post does not need all or part of the weapons or needs replacement weapon, put an asterisk (*) next to the listed rifle and you will be contacted with disposition instructions. If weapons need to be returned, the post will be issued a prepaid shipping label. The post will have

to pay for the container to ship them in (cardboard, wooden crate, etc).

Both the static displays and weapons are the property of the US Army and have been loaned to the posts. Under the conditional deed of gift that was signed by the post, the display pieces and weapons CAN NOT, I repeat CAN NOT be given, loaned, rented, leased (or whatever you want to call it) to any individual, organization (VFW, American Legion, etc) or municipality. Your post is responsible for these items.

If your post was issued weapons and they are missing, it is the responsibility of the post to contact the local police department, file a report and submit that report to the US Army TACOM. Since I work for the US Army TACOM I have asked Department Commander Croyle to be the liaison between the Posts and TACOM. I am asking that you send me all the certification forms, police reports or contact me with questions. Once I receive the information I will be in contact with the display coordinators (who works that position part time) and make sure everything is documented correctly. My contact information is:

Phil Merrow
36772 Angeline Cir
Livonia, MI 48150
phillip.s.merrow.civ@mail.mil
(586) 282-1005 Work
(734) 855-4126 Home

The required certification forms and ceremonial rifle and static display questionnaire have been placed on the Department of MI website (www.vfwmi.org). Once on the website click on the recourses tab (fourth tab under banner), then towards the bottom of the page click on the reports and forms link.

Yours in Comradeship,
Phil Merrow





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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.

Materials for Publication

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TAPS

SEND TO:
Department of MI VFW
924 North Washington
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 485-9456

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for the Taps that you send in.

Send completed form to: VFW of Michigan, 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post #)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):

USA

USAAC

USN

USMC

USAF

USCG

Served In (Circle One):

WWI

WWII

Korea

Vietnam

Gulf

Other

Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,

A VETERAN DIED TODAY



116 BAD AXE
LEITCH, NORMAN A. 89 USA/WWII
334 OXFORD
ZIKEWICH, JOSEPH 90 WWII
345 REDFORD
DEMANINCOR, WILLIAM 90 USA USAF/WWII
MORRIS, LAWRENCE 81 USA/KOREA
STEP, CHARLES 87 USA/KOREA
446 MUSKEGON
BALCOM, RICHARD 82 USA/KOREA
FULLMER, DANIEL JR. 73 USN
607 ROGERS CITY
ERKFRTZ, NEIL 82 USA/KOREA
796 PORT HURON
BUSCH, CONRAD A. 92 USAF/WWII
822 FLINT
DOWELL, RAYMOND 89 USAF/WWII
MILLER, WAYNE 65 USA/VIETNAM
WIRGAU, LOUIS 80 USMC/KOREA
830 GRAND RAPIDS
NIEWIADOMSKI, GEORGE JR. 92 USN/WWII
1136 WYANDOTTE
NOWLAND, PATRICK H. JR. 67 USAF/VIETNAM
1137 BENTON HARBOR
FAULTERSACK, ERNEST 89 USA/WWII
1138 MONROE
ALBAIN, JAMES J. 94 USA/WWII
KNABUSCH, MILTON 93 USAF/WWII
MILLER, ROBERT 82 USN/KOREA
PARKER, EVERETT 72 USA/VIETNAM
STEELE, JAMES 67 USA/VIETNAM
STONER, ROBERT 66 USA/VIETNAM
1146 ST. CLAIR SHORES
BARTOLOTTA, DOMINIC 83 USA/KOREA
CREAGH, DAVID G. 79 USAF/KOREA
DOPTIS, JOSEPH 86 USN
FERRANTI, PETER 66 USA/VIETNAM
ROCHOCKI, FRANK 88 USA/WWII
KAISER, LAWRENCE 92 USA/WWII
KELLER, EDWARD 92 USA/WWII
MAMULA, CHARLES 93 USA/WWII
MEGGE, JOHN W. 86 USA/WWII
O'CONNELL, BRENDAN 84 USA/KOREA
PLANT, PATRICK 78 USMC/WWII
STEIN, HAROLD USN/WWII
TARTAMELLA, CHARLES 91 USA/WWII
VAGO, JAMES 66 USA/VIETNAM
WATKINS, ROBERT 86 USA/USN
1153 CHARLEVOIX
KING, LYLE S. 85 USA/KOREA
1355 STURGIS
GLEASON, JOSEPH 73 USN
RATKOWSKI, HARRY 95 USA/WWII
1519 DETROIT
BAECKEROOT, MAURICE 86 USA/WWII
CALLAHAN, SYLVESTER 84 USN
FUMEROLA, WILLIAM 83 USA/KOREA
WHITING, JERRY 87 USA
1669 ROYAL OAK
HARLEY, HAGAN 71 USA/VIETNAM
LEONARD, WILLIAM P. 58 USN/VIETNAM
SWARTWOOD, WILLIAM 88 USN/WWII
WHITTE, MARVIN 93 USA/WWII
WILKINSON, CALVIN 71 USA/VIETNAM
1855 DOWAGIAC
GARRITANO, ALBERT 82 USA/KOREA
SHEMICK, LAWRENCE 75 USN
2144 HOLLAND
BARANOWSKI, HENRY 88 USA/WWII
BOES, HARRIS 81 USA/KOREA
DEPREE, LESTER 81 USA/KOREA
FERRIS, DWIGHT 95 USA/WWII
HUYSER, ALVIN 92 USA/WWII
JACOBS, ALVIN 84 USA/WWII
KAMER, HARRY 90 USA/WWII
KIMBER, MILTON C. 94 USA/WWII
LANGKAMP, FRANCIS 87 USN/WWII
LEE, TRUMAN 88 USA/WWII
NYLAND, LLOYD A. 86 USA/WWII
ROSENDAHL, RAYMOND 85 USA/KOREA
VAN ARK, ROBERT 83 USA/KOREA
VAN RAALTE, CARL 86 USA/WWII
VAN WIEREN, MITCHELL 61 USA/KOREA
WIERDA, HARVEY 93 USA/WWII
2292 EDMORE
BARNES, DORMAN 88 USA/WWII
2326 GRAND HAVEN

BUZAS, LOUIS 91 USA/WWII
2496 ALPENA
FUNKE, EUGENE 89 USN/WWII
2780 TRAVERSE CITY
EINODSHOFER, JOHN D. 83 USAF/KOREA
HAKALA, JOHN 79 USN/USAF/KOREA/VIETNAM
LANHAM, JOHN A. JR. 86 USN/KOREA
SLEIGHT, RALPH 90 USMC/WWII
THOMPSON, DONALD 80 USA/KOREA/VIETNAM
2891 CRYSTAL FALLS
ROJEK, LEO 90 USN/WWII
2943 BROWN CITY
STEMPEL, WILLIAM O. USA/WWII/KOREA
3023 GRAND RAPIDS
CEDERQUIST, ROBERT 77 USA
CRAMER, ROBERT J. 80 USMC/KOREA
DEBOER, ALBERT J. 90 USA/WWII
DYKEMA, PAUL 80 USA/KOREA
FULLER, HARRY 89 USA/WWII
HOGENDYK, ROBERT T. 86 USA
HOLZGEN, THOMAS 64 USMC/VIETNAM
IMPERI, ROBERT C.
KLEIN, ROBERT 78
LEAKE, JAMES 67 USMC/VIETNAM
MUNGER, JOHN C.
QUICK, MELVIN 86 USN
RODGERS, ALVER 96 WWII
SCHUELKE, DALBERT 83 USAF/KOREA
SLOT, RUSSELL 90 USMC/WWII
SMITH, FORREST L. 88 USA/WWII
TODD, ROGER D. 67 USA/VIETNAM
TUMBLING, ROBERT L. WWII
WECKWERT, LARRY A. 68 USMC/VIETNAM
WESTON, FRANK 89 USN/WWII
WOODBIDGE, GEORGE WWII
WRIGHT, DARRELL 82 KOREA
3030 OTSEGO
BUCKMASTER, ROBERT 89 USA/WWII
LARSON, RONALD 74
MYERS, JHN WWII/KOREA
ROCKAFELLOW, HENRY E. 89 USMC/WWII
ROUSE, RICHARD 89 USA/WWII
SLATER, FLOYD 76
3165 NEGAUNEE
DUSTAND, GARY C. 63 USN/VIETNAM
JENNINGS, ALGER E. 89 USMC/WWII
TROMBETTA, VICTOR 91 USA/WWII
3644 CASS CITY
WILSON, DONALD
3676 SAULT STE MARIE
CAMPBELL, LAWRENCE J. 91 USCG/WWII
GARRETT, ROBERT C. 79 USN/KOREA
IZZARD, RUSSELL 86 USA/WWII
3724 STANDISH
BOZA, MICHAEL 82 USA/KOREA
3727 HOLT
VAN OORDT, PAUL 90 USAF/WWII
3733 FOWLER
BUSSELL, GARY 66 USA/VIETNAM
O'BRIEN, DANIEL 95 USA/WWII
SIMON, HILARY M. 87 USN/WWII
THURLBY, THOMAS 68 USA/VIETNAM
3900 CALUMET
ROTH, JAMES 83 USN/WWII
3925 ERIE
BARRON, ALPHONSUS 93 USAF/WWII
4005 CORUNNA
KLINE, RICHARD G. 87 USA/WWII
MAURER, LEON 92 USA/WWII
RUNYAN, WILLIAM SR. 90 USN/WWII
SCHNEIDER, MAX L. 90 USA/WWII
4054 MARCELLUS
CHUCTA, DONALD 84 USN/KOREA
CHURCHILL, FRED 68 USN/VIETNAM
FOSTER, DELL 82 USA/KOREA
GRAY, HARRY 81 USA/KOREA/VIETNAM
PRIMM, WILLIAM 79 USN/KOREA
4087 DAVISON
CONFER, KENNETH G. 62 USA/VIETNAM
MARSH, GERALD 88 USA/WWII
4090 PORTLAND
GLEDENNING, GAYLORD D. 62 USN/VIETNAM
YOUNG, GERALD L. USA/WWII
4115 SEBEWAING
FIEBIG, RAYMOND H. 83 USA/WWII/KOREA
KOTHE, PATRICK D. 64 USN/VIETNAM

4159 ROSCOMMON
RODEN, GARY 68 USA/VIETNAM
WILLOBEE, RUSSELL 89 USA
4162 HAMTRAMCK
KOLAD, DANIEL 63 VIETNAM
4164 CARO
RAVEN, WESTON F. 91 USN/WWII
4230 ROCKWOOD
BEAUDRIE, RAYMOND USA/WWII
DEROSE, ERNEST USA/WWII
DISHNEAU, DAN 71 USN/VIETNAM
FONTAINE, RUDY USA/KOREA
4249 NEWAYGO
RICE, KEITH 90 USAF/WWII
4461 LAKE ODESSA
LEHMAN, HAROLD 69 USA/VIETNAM
MCLEOD, ARNOLD R. 90 USN/WWII
4581 NORWAY
LOUNDS, CLAYTON 82 USA/KOREA
VISINTAINER, ELMO 82 USA/WWII
4659 SHELBY TOWNSHIP
ALLINGER, EDWARD 91 USN/WWII
LALLY, LEO 86 USA/WWII
VAN PANEL, MICHAEL 65 USN
5065 SHERIDAN
CHAMBERS, DALE 70 USA
EDMONDS, WILLIAM 70 USA/VIETNAM
ELLER, DONOVAN M. 89 USN/WWII
GRISWOLD, GARY USA USAF/VIETNAM
LEHMAN, STANLEY 88 USN/WWII/KOREA
MASON, MAX M. 87 USA/WWII
MILLS, BERNARD L. 82 USN/KOREA
SHERD, GERALD 87 USA/WWII
SLY, BURTON 83 USA/KOREA
TANNER, GARTH USN/WWII
WESTOVER, JACK 97 USA/WWII
WOOD, EDSON E. 94 USA/WWII
WOODBURY, CHARLES E. 86 USN/KOREA
5096 CUSTER
SMITH, RICHARD 91 USA/WWII
WAGNER, DALMER 88 USA
5189 VICKSBURG
HOUGHTON, GLENN 90 USAF/WWII
5572 ALLEN PARK
HENDRIE, JOSEPH 67 USN/VIETNAM
5585 EMMETT
BOWEN, VINCE
5598 COOPERSVILLE
HUSTON, WAYNE D. 64 USA/VIETNAM
KNAPP, ERNOL 89 USMC/WWII
SCHMIDT, EDWARD J. 89 USMC/WWII
5600 ONTONAGON
BROEMER, JACK 82 USA/KOREA
HAWLEY, JOHN 86 USA/KOREA
MENIGOZ, ROGER 75 USN
5602 SIX LAKES
RHODES, STANLEY 97 USA/WWII
WATTS, CARROL D. 90 USN/WWII
5666 FLUSHING
BEEBE, IVAN D. 91 USA/WWII
NOWAK, ISIDORE 89 USA/WWII
PHILPOTT, CLAUDE 95 USA/WWII
5670 GWINN
FORD, JOHN L. 81 USA/KOREA
5738 CLARE
GRIGG, BARRY 67 USA/VIETNAM
MARTZ, KENNETH O. 85 USA/WWII
5740 RUTH
KLEE, LEO 90 WWII
5857 ONAWAY
BISHOP, LAWRENCE R. 90 USA/WWII
CZAJKA, LEON J. 88 USA/WWII
DUNBAR, JOHN 85 USA/VIETNAM
FREEL, CHARLES F. JR. 92 USA/WWII
HICKERSON, PAUL J. 92 USA/WWII
LALONDE, DONALD W. 81 USA/KOREA
6248 DECATUR
HALL, WAYNE 94 USA/WWII
6250 STERLING HEIGHTS
SLYZIUK, EUGENE
6333 KALEVA
NYRKKANEN, TAUNO 92 USN/WWII
6466 HARRISVILLE
VINSON, TRUMAN W. 86 USN/WWII
YATES, HENRY 88 USA/USN/WWII
6507 CHASELL
LAPPI, LAURI 90 USN/WWII

TAPS, continued from page 20

6579 NEW LOTHROP
HERRICK, CLARE E. 89 USN/WWII
6695 PLYMOUTH
FRANK, ELDON 63 USMC/VIETNAM
RIORDAN, FRANK 90 USN/WWII
WILLIAMS, OSCAR 84 USN/WWII
6754 SPRUCE
ALSTROM, WILLARD 89 USN/WWII
BUTT, ANDREW 90 USN/WWII
COUSINEAU, CHARLIE 88 USA/WWII
KNEESHAW, LAWRENCE 88 USAF/WWII
KOHUT, EDWARD 91 USAF/WWII
STEVENS, DALE 92 USA/WWII
6756 CENTER LINE
PICKLO, JOHN E. SR. 83 USA/KOREA
RAJALA, WALLACE 92 USN/WWII
ZELLNER, RICHARD 84 USN/WWII
6782 EASTPOINTE
COYNE, DONALD 91 USMC/WWII
MONFILS, DONALD C. 90 USA/WWII
6864 CADILLAC
NELSON, HARRY R. 86 USA/KOREA
7170 TROY
KAMINSKI, EDWARD J. 88 USN/WWII
7302 HEMLOCK
BRALEY, CHARLES 67 USA/VIETNAM
KENNY, RAY 82 USA/KOREA
PUTNAM, DELOS 87 USA/WWII
ROTH, ALEXANDER 82 USMC/KOREA
7542 BIRCH RUN
BAUMGARDT, MARVIN C. 87 USA/WWII
SMITH, VERNON SR. 92 USA/WWII
7546 DEARBORN HEIGHTS
SCHWAB, HENRY 96 USA/WWII
7804 POSEN
MOMRIK, FRANK M. 84 USA/KOREA
7805 ITHACA
WIDEMAN, ROBERT 92 USA/WWII
7806 MANTON
MEININGER, HAROLD
SCHONE, JOHN USA/WWII
7979 EVART
CASS, RICHARD 90 USA/WWII
8465 PORT HURON
COVERT, HERBERT 86 USN/WWII
TETREAU, CHARLES D. SR. 79 USA/KOREA

8846 MUSKEGON
COOPER, HERBERT J. 93 USN/WWII
JOHNSON, THOMAS 67 USMC/VIETNAM
OESTMAN, EDWARD G. 95 USN/WWII
WILLEA, CLARENCE 75 KOREA
8964 OVID
BAESE, LEWIS 83 USA/KOREA
TESARIK, GEORGE 83 USA/KOREA
9023 BRIMLEY
DEUMAN, TERRY 69 USN/VIETNAM
9084 WAKEFIELD
BLASKOWSKI, JOSEPH 92 USA/WWII
REIL, RONALD L. 62 USA/VIETNAM
9388 MUSKEGON
WILLIAMS, FRANK 64 USA/VIETNAM
9656 LAMBERTVILLE
KNIGHT, MARION 92 USAF/WWII
10194 GRASS LAKE
TABOR, MILO 97 USCG/KOREA
10912 BLISSFIELD
MILLS, LOY R. 84 USA/KOREA
15023 LANSING
CRINER, GEORGE 92 USAF/WWII

Auxiliary TAPS

1136-Wyandotte Cahalan, Noreen Roupe, Mary Schiaffo, Evelyn	Hitzelburger, Ann Gorney, Dorothy LaFata, Mary Poterek, Constance	702-Wyoming Simons Joyce Veenendall Jean	Yaw Norma	6574-Spruce Rea, Earlene 84	3165-Negaunee Finkbeiner, Phyllis Kangas, Jean C
1519-Northville Miller, Delia	6802-Richmond Friedman, Marla	2166-Holland Alofs Delores 73 Brewer Linda 65 Clendening Helen Carol Elizinga Sharon Hewitt Beatrice 90 Japinga Gladys 2326-Grand Haven Harden Louise	6579-New Lothrop Baker, Marilyn Herrick, Betty Moore, Brenda	6950-Kawkawlin Gobeski, Gertrude	3676-Sault Ste. Marie Allen, Marguerite Formolo, Mary Fox, Agnes Gregg, Adeline Locke, Rosalie Matthews, Martha
1888-Trenton Scheffler, Randine	423-Ann Arbor Perreault, Lois West, Marilyn Wilson, Jennie	3023-Grand Rapids Briggs Inez 90 Jermanski Barbara 78 Przyblo Mildred 90	7541-Birch Run Moore, Berchadine	7303-Gladwin Belert, Maxine Crockott, Eleanor	4573-Ishpeming Denofre, Barbara Lynn, Paulette Suardini, Mary Lou
2233-Detroit Campbell, Flora	701-Lansing Barnes, Marjorie Jones, Eileen Jones, Eileen Mary Trendel, Elma Jean Wieber, Teresa	7956-Augusta Hitchings Beatrice Lounsbery Marilyn Nichols Jaime	9455-Owosso Baker, Louise Lair, Patricia Stambursky, Florence	446-Muskegon Fisk, Patricia	9023-Brimley Albrough, Lucille Brehm, Geraldine Gilles, Ellen Perron, Janet
3323-Westland Falsetti, Hortense Hebbard, Erma Helka, Barbara Lautner, Sharon Leinonen, Mildred Parker, Joan Stewart, Evelyn	1138-Monroe All, Grace Dushane, Mary Lou Fenley, Judith Guyer, Delores Honeycutt, Gertrude Whitesell, Jacqueline	671-Dewitt Brown Betty Wrzesinski Frances	203-Berville Jackson, Shirley	2964-Reed City Galloup, Maxine Gilchrist, Elizabeth	2891-Crystal Falls Beck, Charlene Rucinski, Beverly
4553-Detroit Ligenza, Nancy	3925-Erie Borck, Joanna	1566-Saginaw Keyser Donna	796-Port Huron Aspenleiter, Gertrude Fleury, Verl Rowland, Mary Lou Streitz, Louis	4499-Baldwin Oleniczak, Mary Jo	4176-Mass City Savela, Shirley
6896-Westland Rajnish, Pauline Drue, Georgia	3727-Holt Cook, Patty Eskovitz, Cecelia Haker, Joyce	2272-Durand Richards Ruth	822-Flint Stambursky, Florence	6333-Kalava O Shea, Vlasta	6165-South Range Koski, Aili Manninen, Virginia
7546-Dearborn Hgts Belanger, Margaret	4093-Carleton Wood, Virginia	2292-Edmore Crosby Marilyn	2492-Imlay City Vandyke, Ada	607-Rogers City Bade, Darlene	6507-Chassell Jacobson, Elaine
9283-Southgate Wingate, Iva	6248-Decatur Schaarschmidt, Lillian Vliek, Betty	3306-Howard City Henderson Katherine Klunder Bonnie Ristau Margie Seadorf Helen VanderWerf Madeline Zylstra Irene 4005-Corunna King Betty Kribs Elizabeth	4115-Sebewaing Fischer, Bonnie Belle	2051-Harbor Springs Maglothin, Lillie	8945-Covington Besonen, Alice 86 Bessen, Eleanor 87 Brown, Donna 91 Stenson, Margaret 94
1146-St Clair Shores Haack, Ethel Krictzs, Ann Merkler, Lorraine Sobocinski, Betty	6464-Fowlerville Smith, Catherine	4406-Belding Edmonds Jacqueline Geiger Edwards Jackie Maciejewski Sandra Payne Carole Wilson Ruth	4087-Davison Armstrong, Martha Baldwin, Delores Bedore, Marianne Pillen, Hope	2780-Traverse City Egeler, Donna Folder, Frances Owens, Mary Pahl, Lois	15023-Member At Large Anderson, Mildred Arn, Elanor Brown, Rosemary Gorski, Margaret Hockeborn, Lois McEntire, Retha 95 Myers, Dorothy Paddock, Patricia Safranek, Betty Sommers, Donna Switek, Edwina Vinskunas, Peggy Wheeler, Edna
1224-South Lyon Green, Marian Skrlec, Susie	7309-Mason Stubbert, June	4461-Lake Odessa Brock Pam Jordan Audra	5740-Ruth Kociba, Helen 91	5857-Onaway Jesson, Dora Szymoniak, Mary Ann	
1407-Berkley Rivett, Frances	9656-Lambertville Dixon, Marjorie	5065-Sheridan Abbott Mary Davenport Lois Harris Carolyn Holton Ruth Jeffrey Donna Lindsey Elizabeth Mason Berniece Richards Grace Shaffer Lois	7486-Akron Beneman, Alice Gilbert, MaryLou 89	1887-Menominee Brix, Nancy Doyal, Lois May Johnson, Juanita Tanquary, Mary	
1794-Mt Clemens Cowan, Ruth	1137-Benton Harbor Gerencser, Connie Schaenfeld, Betty		3033-Mt. Pleasant Mason, Joyce	2298-Escanaba Bernard, Connie Botwright, Alvina Briere, Lorraine Breitenbach, Mabel Carlson, Lois Charlebois, Robin Deno, Dorothy Desotelle, Ivy Dubord, Lorayne Dupuy, Lois Fillion, Cecile Grabowski, Donna Levesque, Virginia Robitaille, Beverly Vendrese, Lorraine Vincent, Nancy Way, Lillian	
2052-Romeo Anderson, Audrey Salside, Lucille	1855-Dowagiac Sievert, Marie		3039-Farwell Green, L Frances		
2269-Wixom Sypula, Georgianna	5319-Athens Elkins, Marjorie		3735-Oscoda Cauvin, Mickey Kurschenski, Shirley Roche, Fiona Swift, Mary Lou		
4156-White Lake LaBelle, Mary	6248-Decatur Everett, Helen Massura, Frances Smith, Dorothy		4106-Weidman Shenk, Luella Smith, Elanor		
4659-Shelby Twp Schachermeyer, Ellen	10704-Cassapolis Walls, Phyllis		4159-Roscommon Allen, Geraldine Solecki, Elizabeth		
6691-Fraser Adams, Karela Brown, Loretta Coman, Josephine Hardy, Phyllis					



Carrie Turner
*Candidate for Department of Michigan
Department Guard
2015-2016*



Endorsed and supported by:

**VFW and Aux District 8
VFW Post and Aux 2406
Her Family and Friends**

Harry "Les" Croyle
*Candidate for Department of Michigan
National Council of Administration Representative
2015-2019*



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5th District

**Oakland County Council
Macomb County Council
Cpl. Richard W. Menge Post 6756
His wife and family**

Matthew David
*Candidate for Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2015-2016*



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**6th District
Graf-O'Hara Post 423
His wife and family**



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86th GRAND OF
MICHIGAN
Military Order of the Cootie



VFW NATIONAL HOME
COOTIE CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 6, 2014

The Grand of Michigan will be hosting and sponsors of the "86th Cootie Christmas Party" for the children of the VFW National Home. Your donations are necessary for this program to continue its great work. We could use your HELP!

Make your checks payable to:
MOC Grand of Michigan
and send to Ernest A. Paulin
Grand of Michigan Quartermaster
710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050
Earmark your checks as to how you wish

The host hotel is Quality Suites Hotel, 901 Commerce Drive
off West Saginaw Street in Lansing, MI 48917.

CALL (517)886-0600 or 1-800-456-6431 for reservations.

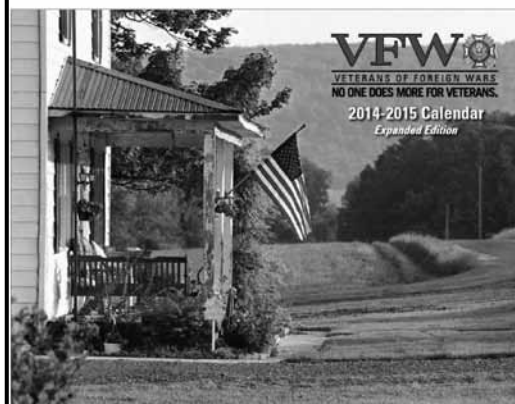
Room rates are appx. \$80/night.

Be sure to say it is for the Military Order of the Cootie!

Banquet tickets are approx. \$35/person;

CALL Banquet Coordinator Naida Schelter at (517)626-6942 for reservations.

DON'T DELAY. John Miller is the MOC Chairman.



*Fly the Flag
and Scenic*
2014 - 2015
CALENDARS

COMING SOON!

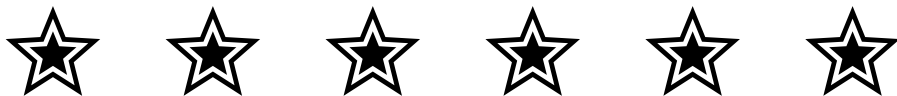


The calendars honor the service of every veteran who has honorably worn the uniform ... and includes important information about VFW Programs available to veterans, service members and their families.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR DEPARTMENT!



God Bless Our Troops



Michigan Overseas Veteran 2014-2015
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
Auxiliary Editor: Diane Ward, legalblaze@aol.com



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, or go to our website at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.



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Coming Events

VFW NATIONAL HOME
COOTIE CHRISTMAS
PARTY,
December 6, 2014

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
July/August/September 2014
Volume 82 Number 1

STATE COMMANDER

To all the newly elected officers at all levels of VFW Michigan, welcome aboard and congratulations. The State of Michigan is Two Peninsulas joined by a bridge of steel and as Michigan Veterans we are “United in Patriotism.”

“This is our year.” That’s a quote from our newly elected National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, John Stroud. The Chief also stated that we must turn around the twenty-two years of negative growth that we have been in. There is only one way to stop that comrades and that is with hard work and tenacity. There are three Rs to this equation and those are; Reinstating those that have left our organization, Retaining those that are in our organization, and Recruiting new members to our organization. The district commanders, council commanders, and post commanders must assist to get this job done early as this is the best time to get those recruiting teams working. If you need help, get in touch with our State Membership Director PSC John Harrow and he will get you all the help he can for your recruiting team. The goal for this year is 90% by October 31st for everybody across the breadth and width of the State of Michigan. That early 90% figure will set the stage for our first 100% Department since Moby Dick was a minnow. I know we can do it and hard work and tenacity are the keys to success in this endeavor. Our new VFW Commander-in-Chief said it all in Air Force jargon, “Kick the tires and light the fires because we are going to break the sound barrier and Get This Job Done!”

(Excerpts from the acceptance speech of National Commander-in-Chief John Stroud)

Just in case you may have forgotten the reasons for joining the VFW, “The VFW has a cadre of 1,400 service officers who in the past two years helped 205,000 veterans recoup \$5.9 billion dollars in earned compensation and pension from their government.”

And we provide this service for FREE..and we do it whether they are VFW members or not...and if



**Harry “Les”
Croyle
State Commander**

the claim is rejected or rated too low, the VFW will represent them before the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington....again for FREE.

The VFW volunteers more than 11 million hours annually at VA’s 1,400 medical facilities.

We award \$3.2 million annually in 6th through 12th grade Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen patriotic scholarships.

We have provided 7.5 million free telephone connections between deployed personnel and their loved ones back home.

We have hosted 2 million military and their families at departure and homecoming ceremonies.

Through our UNMET Needs program we have provided almost \$5 million in grants to help more than 3,500 military families through emergency financial situations.

No one does more for our veterans isn’t just a catchy phrase, it is what we do as an organization...It’s who we have always been.

The new web site is up and running and it can be accessed by going to www.vfwmi.org. The site has or will have, all the fillable forms you need to do your reporting on line. Always make a hard copy of your reports for your records just in case something gets lost in cyberspace.

If the Department can help you in any way, do not hesitate to call on us.

On a personal note I want to thank you all for electing me as your State of Michigan VFW Commander and I promise you I will give you the best I have in helping you to make this a GREAT YEAR!!!