

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

October/November/December 2014

Volume 82 Number 2



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings comrades and sisters. As fall is turning to winter and the holiday season is quickly coming upon us, I was taking a glance back at Fall Convention. I have heard that everyone enjoyed themselves and that the hospitality room, aka "The Mash Unit," was a big hit. I am under the impression that everyone enjoyed themselves, except for our little black & white visitor, he may have left a little too much behind.

Everything is moving along really well at department headquarters. All donations have been entered on the website, and now are available for viewing. Please let us know if you have any issues or comments about the site.

It is a busy time of the year with

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 14



**Paul
McIvor**

**Senior
Vice Commander**

Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year coming due. It will be exciting to see what fun activities that Jim Galen has lined up for those young men and women.

I must say that I was able to experience another first for me. My wife Pat & I were able to attend the Big Ten Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. I really enjoyed meeting comrades from other Big Ten States. It

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

I would like to begin by wishing each and every one of you, a very happy and safe Holiday Season. Please drive safely where ever you will be heading this Holiday Season.

It is the end of October and most of the leaves have fallen off the trees. Hunting season is upon us and many of our comrades will be out in the woods hunting. It will not be very long before the snowflakes will start to fall upon the ground. By the time you read my article, the first half of our year will be over. It is hard to believe how fast the year has gone by.

Our posts, councils, districts, and Department have accomplished a great deal but there is more to accomplish the last half of the year. Membership has to be everyone's top priority. Membership is the lifeblood of our great organization. We need more members to be stronger, so our voice is to be heard in Washington D.C. I was looking at Memstats on our VFW National website today (10/22/14) and our Department is at 85.00% with 42,128 total members. Our goal is to reach 49,562 members by June 30, 2015. We are 7,434 members short from reaching 100%. WE can do it! WE can reach 100% by June 30, 2015. District 13 is in 1st Place at 87.67%. District 14 is in 2nd Place at 86.04%. District 10 is in 3rd Place at 86.02%. Now, will District 13 be the 1st District to reach 100% by June 30, 2015 or will WE have a different District reach 100% first? Also, will we have more districts reaching 100% by June 30, 2015? Congratulations to District 13th for being in 1st Place and to every district and member throughout the Department of Michigan for your efforts in recruiting new, reinstated, and continuous members. Keep up the great work!

We had a very good Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands located in Harbor Springs, Michigan from October 1st through October 4th. Unfortunately, it rained every day of the conference plus our Golf Outing was rained out. Big John Biedrzycki, Jr., Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, was our National V.F.W. Representative and everyone got to meet and know him throughout the weekend. He even dressed up for the "Mash" theme at our Saturday night hospitality room. Oh yes, I cannot forget to mention that State Commander Harry



**Jerry
Gorski**

**Junior
Vice Commander**

"Les" Croyle, dressed up as "Clinger". What a sight to behold!

We also had our Big Ten Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 17th through October 19th. Our own Ernie Meyers, Sr. was our Big Ten Chairman. Ernie did a fine job throughout the weekend. Our comrades and sisters from the Department of Indiana did a great job hosting this conference. Next year, the Big Ten Conference will be in Iowa. This Big Ten Conference had our National V.F.W. officers and staff put on a "Mini-Squadron Training Seminar." We had Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy, Adjutant General John Hamilton, Big Ten Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Designee Elect Keith Harman, Administrative/Operations Director Dave Prohaska, and Membership Director Bob Crider give us valuable training.

By the time you read my article, posts and districts will have already submitted and judged their Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year entries. I wish all the students good luck with their entries. Congratulations to all the winners at the post and district levels. We look forward to seeing the district winners at our Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing on Saturday, January 24, 2015. I want to thank every post, district and department chairman for all you do to make these programs successful.

Please consider sending Christmas packages to our active duty military personnel, wherever they are located throughout the World. Many active duty military personnel will "not" be spending time with their families this Christmas "but" will be protecting us all from harm.

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

STATE CHAPLAIN

It was a blessing to see so many of you at Fall Conference. That event had the added blessing of the annual VFW MI Chaplains' breakout session. The exchange of ideas and discussion of protocol and best practices with the post and district chaplains in attendance was informative and invigorating. Moreover, it was aptly suggested that certain points of ritual decorum be shared in this publication, which I will undertake in the near future.

For this edition, drive is the focus. Specifically, in terms of your posts, county councils, districts, and auxiliaries, having the proper inspiration is key. Please consider why you joined. When you honestly evaluate your motivations, I hope you discover they include a need and passion to help others reflected by the organizational mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As Proverbs 3:27 ESV advises, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it." That trait is a great foundation, with camaraderie, satisfaction from giving, and building upon a noble legacy added bonuses.

I humbly assert that the best leaders are selfless and not selfish; decisive but open to consider other ideas; caring for others and seeking cooperation; willing



**Jennifer
Smith**

State Chaplain

to mentor and empower; and desire that their organization lasts long after their respective leadership terms end. Most importantly, the best leaders do not let ego overwhelm reason or ethics. In our jobs and lives, many of us have seen those too self-absorbed with their own needs. However, no one can lead you forward when they spend their time looking at themselves in the mirror; that view is narrow and (literally) backwards. Instead, as Philippians 2:3-5 ESV relates, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Therefore, let us endeavor to be good leaders and followers with a focus upon worthy organizational goals, as both roles are needed for sustainability and all can positively lead-by-example. We certainly need those that are willing to try new things and/or improve upon existing

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued on 2

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Somehow, I can't shake the feeling that we are letting out commander down. If you look at the membership numbers, we are around 7,300 short of 100%. Currently the Department stands at 85.44%. Our commander asked us to try and make 95% by Fall Conference and we will not achieve that before Thanksgiving. The question, "How can we increase our membership numbers?" is quite simple. We get on the phone and call all of our unpaid members. We have 49,562 members in the State of Michigan; 36,233 are life members, 13,329 are annual members, and only 5,637 of those are paid. Just add up the numbers; if we collect half of our unpaid annual members dues we will have reached 100%.

John Harrow
Membership Director



Comrades, we must continue to recruit new members. Just look at the membership standings and you can tell the posts that are active just by the number of new members they have. It is vital to our organization that we increase of numbers and add to our influence with our political leaders.

Sandy and I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and best wishes for the coming New Year.

STATE SURGEON GENERAL

First of all, let me apologize for not getting an entry into the first MOV. I submitted one but unfortunately it could not be opened so I missed the first one and for that I apologize.

As most of you know the new web site is up and running and I am seeing more electronic reports and for that I am grateful. For those who submit your reports on paper I thank you for trying to get your reports in, because reporting is good for your post as well as your district and of course our Department.

You may see that I put together many trips to the same VA facility as one trip. You still are getting the same amount of credit; it's just a little less typing for me. I do see many reports that are showing many visits to the VA, but I am seeing that some comrades are putting the monetary value of clothing or hospital equipment in the cost section of the visitation reports. This is not where those donations belong. You will get credit for those articles in the appropriate section.

For those comrades who do not have passwords to do your reporting online, please contact Don Nettler or John Gubin as I can't give out passwords. For any other problems, I am available. Please feel free to call me at: 616-293-7544

Jerry Smith
Surgeon General



or at my personal email jerryismith@chartermi.net

I have been contacted about missing reports, and as I said from the beginning, I am here to help you if your report did not post. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at the phone number or email above. If you are missing a report, it is not the end of the world, just call me and we can fix the problem. This is why you should keep a hard copy of all your reports.

I am here to help. WE are all a team. WE are here for our veterans and their families. I am here for you. I would like to mention to some of you that send hard copies of your reports, to please ensure that they are readable and that your district and post number are on them. I have received paper reports that the heading was missing and just the information was there.

Again, I am here for YOU. If I don't answer my phone, please leave me a message and I will get back to you.

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued from 1

techniques to increase membership, better serve others, and ensure we remain strong. In short — Good leaders are also able followers. Let us support each other and always push forward as we follow and lead, remembering the positive and

altruistic aspects that drew us to join this commendable cadre of patriots, and ensuring that the VFW's noble purpose and objectives remain viable for generations to come.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

By the time of this printing, Election Day will have passed. I know that our VFW and our Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries got out and voted for the candidates that support our VFW members, our armed forces members, and retirees. I would like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary for all their support and especially for their help in the legislative arena.

Our VFW has been involved in every legislative victory regarding our veterans and armed forces since 1917. We must continue the fight as those who preceded us have done. As our Senior Vice Commander John Biedrzycki, Jr. so aptly stated at our Fall Conference, Washington never gave us anything. VFW has fought for every benefit we receive and we are still in the fight. Comrades, please ask our veterans to join the VFW and join the fight. We have to demand our rights and benefits as VFW members and veterans from our elected officials. They control the budget and legislative agenda that fund our VA health care, disability, pay, and benefits for our armed forces.

Once again, I am asking all members and those who support our agenda as veterans, VFW members, our armed forces, and retirees to join our Action Corps. By doing so you will be informed and up to date on all legislative issues that affect us. This is a grassroots effort whereby we can be informed and contact our legislators regarding pending legislation that affects us. The signup can be done online. Go to www.vfw.org. Click on the VFW in DC heading, then click on Action Corps. On the Action Corps page click on Join the Action Corps. Fill out the form and submit. You will then receive the Action Corps Weekly every Friday in your inbox. You will also receive legislative alerts that demand immediate action. By filling out a form it will be sent to your legislators automatically asking for their support.

Going forward, there is important legislation that is before Congress.

Steve Meredith
Legislative Director



We have S1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Act. This is one of the most comprehensive pieces of veterans' legislation in decades. It is currently in committee and needs to be voted into law. It addresses many of the issues we have been fighting for years. Also, the budget sequestration must end, which is one of our VFW legislative priorities. Congress must pass a budget that fully funds our armed forces. Our armed forces are crippled by sequestration and cannot accomplish their mission at current funding levels. A bill is currently before Congress to update our VFW charter, changing some wording to more reflect our current veterans and surviving spouses. By joining the Action Corps you can be kept up to date on all this important legislation.

At the state level, our legislators need to address the current emergency rules on charitable gaming put in place by Governor Snyder. These rules have destroyed charitable gaming as a fundraiser for our VFW. The courts have taken action, but we need the legislature to pass laws with permanent rules more in our favor. The Michigan Senate has passed SB 878 with rules more favorable, but the bill must be brought to the Michigan house floor for a vote. Please contact your State representative and ask them to press the leadership to bring this to a vote.

In closing, I would like to thank all who have joined the Action Corps and all who support us as veterans and VFW members. Thank you for what you do as VFW members, and we can't forget our great Ladies Auxiliary and our Men's Auxiliary for your work on behalf of our VFW organization.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Thank you for all that you do for "Our" great organization. If you have ever heard, "we couldn't have done it without you" before, this certainly applies to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As our ranks continue to grow thinner, never has there been a better time to give all the support you can to your post, district or Department. The VFW has been in the news often this past year as a champion and leader in the fight for veterans' rights. We are looked upon as a powerful voice with a great deal of clout and have much support and respect. It's inevitable we sometimes, in our haste to achieve our goals, may offend a fellow member. If this has happened to you, please keep a positive vision up by putting any past issues behind and whatever your position is for the year, whether a member or an officer, let's unite to focus on the reason we are here, veterans serving veterans. The same goes for our treatment of auxiliary members. We are all in this together and one hand washes the other. Do your part to keep us in that positive limelight! Keep your post or district up to date with VFW, local, state and federal laws, mandates or whatever

Andy Conklin
Judge Advocate



they throw at us. If there was a change of the Quartermaster, make sure IRS form 8822-B is submitted. Get the 990's in and file your incorporation renewal form with the State of Michigan. Just do your part in staying in compliance the best you can to make all our terms a success. Reserve your copy of 2015 National By-Laws and read them. These were created as a tool to guide you in decision-making affecting the membership at all levels; most of the answers are there, all you need to do is look for them. Please review your post or district By-Laws, check for any needed updates. As usual, anything I can do to assist you at any level, please call or e-mail.

"The test we must set for ourselves is not to march alone, but to march in such a way others wish to join us."

—Hubert Humphrey, Politician

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Advocating For Others



Paul Pirlot

The last issue of the Michigan Overseas Veteran I discussed and presented a brief overview of the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA). This issue of the MOV I will discuss the use of non-VHA care and how to avoid nasty surprises like a medical bill that can run over \$100,000.

First consideration when determining eligibility to have the VA cover a non-VA medical bill is you must already be enrolled in the VHA system. If you are not enrolled, the VHA will likely not pay the medical bill.

Second, the Prudent Layperson definition of an emergency must be used. *The prudent layperson definition of an emergency medical condition commonly in practice is any medical or behavioral condition of recent onset and severity, including, but not limited to, severe pain that would lead a prudent layperson, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, to believe that his or her condition, sickness, or injury is of such a nature that failure to obtain immediate medical care could result in placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy, cause serious impairment to bodily functions, serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part, or in the case of a behavioral condition, placing the health of such person or others in serious jeopardy.* (From a VA website).

Thirdly, the injury or illness must be service-connected. If not, the veteran must be rated as permanently and totally disabled or participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation & Education program. Additionally, VA care must not have been readily available. In other words, if a VA facility was closer and you chose not to utilize that facility, then the VA can deny reimbursement.

Another consideration is the avail-

ability of other insurance or third party liability. If the veteran has other insurance available, that option must be used before the VA will consider payment. An example of third party liability would be if you were a passenger in an automobile and the driver had liability insurance that would cover your injuries. Again, those billing options would have to be attempted before the VA would consider paying the bill.

Okay, so what are the procedures should you be hospitalized? First, ensure the billing department knows you are a VA-patient. Also, ask to see a social worker. The more people you involve the better. Ask for documented proof you informed the facility that you are VHA entitled. Additionally, the closest VA Medical Center must be informed within 72 hours of your hospitalization. The VA may decide to have the patient transferred to VA care. If the patient refuses, the bill then very well becomes the patient's responsibility.

So what if the VA refuses to pay? Do you have options? Yes! Like some other decisions rendered by the VA, you have one year from the date of the denial to file a Notice of Disagreement. Also involve the veterans service office at the very beginning. Too often we are contacted well after the event has taken place and too late to have any meaningful impact.

The rules for non-VHA healthcare to include reimbursement and billing issues, as well as appealing adverse decisions are many and complex. Please involve your service office before the event becomes a crisis. We can be reached at:

VFW Service Office
McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. #1215
Detroit MI 48226
Ph: 313/964-6510
Fax: 313/964-6545
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov

Department Service Officers SUCCESS STORY

Our field service officers have an established network throughout Michigan and assist veterans in all 83 counties. In many cases, their efforts extend well beyond state lines. The following story illustrates how one service officer assisted a veteran on the other side of the world.

A client came into one of our field locations to express his appreciation to our service officer because of a positive outcome to the veteran's claim. The client had recently returned from a unit reunion and renewed a friendship with someone he had served with. The veteran went on to say his friend has been unsuccessful in his efforts to gain VA benefits. Our service officer replied that he would be glad to help. Please have the veteran in need come see him.

This is where a slight problem arose. The veteran in need did not reside in the local area. In fact, the veteran didn't even reside in the same country. He was over 9,200 miles away on a different continent! Never one to shy away from a challenge, our service officer initiated contact with the veteran. He soon learned the veteran served in Vietnam. Having lived abroad

for many years, the veteran was unaware of the many presumptive conditions associated with herbicide exposure. Our service officer completed an exhaustive medical history. When the veteran started explaining some symptoms, our service officer advised the veteran to see his physician without delay. It was fortunate for the veteran he followed our service officer's advice, as he was soon diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, another Agent Orange presumptive condition.

Our service officer thoroughly briefed the transplanted veteran on the forms he needed to complete and the evidence that needed to be gathered and submitted. The veteran was eventually granted a 70 percent disability rating within months of filing the claim; remarkable in that most of the correspondence was done via email. The outcome was all the more rewarding because the veteran had to quit his job due to health issues.

This goes to show that neither rain nor sleet, nor time zones, nor the International Date Line, will stop us from aiding a veteran in need. No one does more for veterans!

Three New Hires for the VFW Service Office!

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Joseph (Joe) Greene enlisted in the Air Force on June 25, 1985. His entire career was in the aircraft maintenance field where he initially performed duties as a crew chief on such aircraft as the C-130 Hercules, KC-135 Stratotanker, and E-3 AWACS. He progressed from aircraft mechanic to production superintendent, retiring after 26 years of service as a Senior Master Sergeant (E-8). He earned his eligibility for VFW membership when he deployed during Desert Storm and Desert Shield to the United Arab Emirates and Eskan Village in Saudi Arabia, and again during a deployment to Balad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has been an active member of the VFW for several years. He will be working out of the VFW Service Office located at the Detroit VA Regional Office.

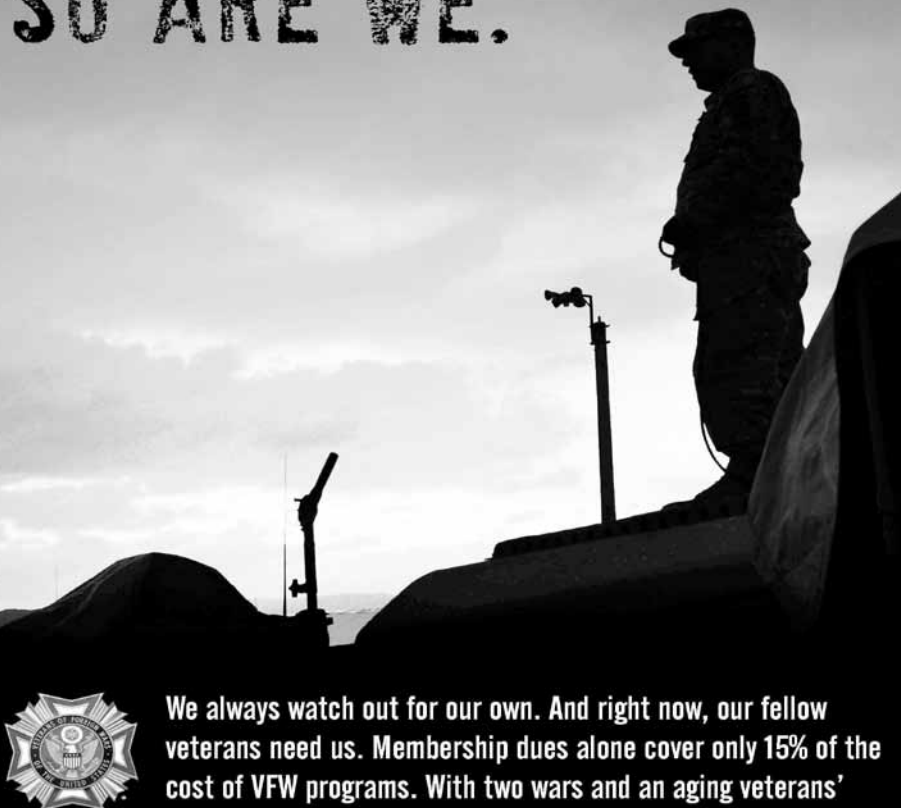
A Michigan native, Karen Greene enlisted in the United States Army April 29, 2008. Karen trained as an Army medic and was discharged at Fort Hood, Texas. At one point during her enlistment she was assigned to a CBWTU (community based warrior transition unit) in North Little Rock, Arkansas. There she assisted soldiers transitioning to civilian life after injury. Little did she know this experience was setting the stage for her own transition to a career in the veterans' benefits field. Her passion and desire to help her fellow soldiers was a driving force in helping her decide to seek employment with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Karen is nearing completion of a social work degree, which will aid her greatly as she assists our veterans at the

Detroit VA Medical Center where she will be assigned.

Although Karen volunteered for deployment, she was not selected to do so. That has not stopped her from being an active participant at the VFW post in Pontiac where she is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. And yes, Karen and Joe Greene are related. Married in May 2011 they have a blended family that includes seven children.

Our next newest member of our service office family is Robin Bailey. You may know her as the Commander of District 8. Originally from Carlsbad, New Mexico, Robin and her family moved to Texas when she was six. She comes from a family with several members having served in the military. Her dad served during World War II and participated in the Normandy campaign as a pharmacist's mate. Having both an uncle and brother who also served in the Navy, it was probably no surprise that Robin would follow in their footsteps. She enlisted in the Navy reserves in 1990 and retired as a Chief Petty Officer in 2010 after 20 years of service that included both reserve and active duty. Her various military assignments included Sigonella Naval Air station in Italy, Stuttgart, Germany, and Eskan Village, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is where she became eligible for VFW membership. Robin will be working in the field at such exotic locations as Ionia County, Battle Creek VA Medical Center, and the Wyoming (Michigan) VA Community-Based Out-patient Clinic. She will also see veterans at the VFW Sheridan Post.

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

State Veterans Homes

On Friday, 17 October at the Carson City - Crystal vs. Vestaburg High School home football game, the Walter T. Roach American Legion Post 182 made a \$2,000.00 donation to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. On behalf of the Board of Managers to the State Veterans Homes, we would

like to extend a huge thank you to American Legion Post Commander Roman Schafer, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary President Hailey McMillian, the SAL (Sons of the American Legion) Post Commander Brian Seymour, and the entire membership of the Walter T. Roach American Legion Post 182.



Pictured, ABOVE and to the RIGHT: The new renovation of the entrance and lobby area of the D.J. Jacobetti Home will be completed within the next week or so. Home Administrator Brad Slagle and Home Maintenance Manager Mike Harrington have worked tirelessly to get these renovations completed.

2014 VFW Pool Tournament

I want to thank all the staff members and district chairmen for the great 2014 Pool Tournament. Also a big thank you goes out to the Manistee Post and workers for a great job on hosting our tournament.

Congratulations to all pool tournament winners:

Team:

- 1st Place: Walsh Post 4499, District 12
- 2nd Place: James D. Donovan Post 78, District 4
- 3rd Place: Joe Ulsh Post 8215, District 11
- 4th Place: Olson-Kiste Post 4406, District 9

Singles:

- 1st Place: Jack Grimshaw Post 4406, Belding, 9th District
- 2nd Place: Mike Hart Post 4406, Belding, 9th District
- 3rd Place: Ray Pawlowski, Sr. Post 9363, Flat Rock, 4th District
- 4th Place: Andy Conley Post 4012, Northville, 4th District

Doubles:

- 1st Place: Jack Bailey/Mike Hart, Post 4406, Belding, 9th District
- 2nd Place: Fred Kemp/Mike Hindjosa, Post 78, Dearborn, 4th District
- 3rd Place: Lou Barrie/Jerry Drozdyski,

Post 1669, Royal Oak, 5th District
4th Place: Roger Fater/Jim Woldt, District 16

Our next tournament was set for the Chevrolet Motor Post 3087 Flint, but while working at the Pool League table at the State Convention, the commander of the post told me that they may not be open in April, 2015. Our staff held a meeting on July 12 to discuss the situation. The post commander again stated he doubted the post would be open. We schedule the tournaments 3 years in advance and this has never happened before. The Manistee Post came to us and offered to host the tournament in April 2015 and so we agreed to do so. You can call the Days Inn, Manistee 231-723-8385 to reserve your room and lock-in the room rate of \$57.00 per night for a double room. The dates of the pool tournament will be April 16, 17, and 18, 2015. Sorry to have to have made this change but we needed to make a decision quickly to secure a location and assure the tournament runs smoothly.

We now have our raffle tickets and Val informed me they will be in the mail soon.

I wish all districts the best of luck in your district tournament. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans



American Legion Post Adjutant Dan Heckman presenting the check to VFW Department of Michigan VAVS Rep. Steve VanValkenburg and Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary VAVS Rep. Sonya VanValkenburg, along with residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Mel Campbell USA (Korea) and Dave Zimmerman USA (Vietnam).



Military Order of the Cootie

"Fight for What's Right"

2014-15

"Making a Difference"



VFW Comrades, Ladies and Men's Auxiliary and fellow Cooties, Grand Commander Eric S. Bell and Sr. Vice Commander John Miller, along with MOCA



President Pat Thorsby and the Ladies of the MOCA, would like to thank all of you who participated and donated to the 86th Grand of Michigan MOC VFW National Home Christmas Party.

The kids had a great time and had a very special quest. Santa Claus took time off from his busy schedule and paid them a visit. We look forward to seeing you there.

As of this print the Cooties have already participated in the 80th Tomb Trek 2014 at Arlington National Cemetery. If you have never participated in this program, I promise you will never forget it.

In June we send the National Home kids to Cedar Point Amusement Park for a day in the sun. We are always looking for donations for that trip. Please help if you can. Please send all donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2013-2014

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

In closing, remember membership. It's the life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie. 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
Grand Adj./VFW-Cootie Liaison



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Horace Frazer
District 6 Commander



As the District 6 Commander, I'd like to take a moment just to say thanks to everybody from my home VFW 423 Post in Ann Arbor, MI, to all District 6 VFW Posts & Auxiliaries, to the entire Department Staff in Lansing, MI (our VFW MI Headquarters), to all other district commanders of our great state of Michigan, and most of all to our communities where we live and serve our fellow veterans and their families with VFW programs. Again, thank you all for your support and for allowing me the honor to be of service in the VFW.

I'm in support of Commander Croyle's direction, leadership, and goals for the State of Michigan VFW, while working with the C of A to maintain a balance in guidance on this "Ship." Let us stay the course, despite the turbulent seas and challenges. The mission's the same; we serve veterans and their families.

Commander Croyle referred to the three "R's" in regards to membership. They are, (1) renew (2) recruit (3) retain. It is my understanding it is our responsibility as members to use these mentioned three R's at every opportunity. One of

his big goals is to increase membership and retain our members. Our district had a membership drive at the Ingham County Fair, which recruited 23 new members for the district and one member for District 5. There was another one in Tecumseh where they distributed applications and information about the VFW and our programs.

District 6 Post Commanders, I'm behind on visiting each of your posts but I will be contacting you soon to set up an appointment to get this done.

There are often changes in elected or appointed officers at the post, district, and Department; it is necessary that these new officers be mentored and receive the necessary training so that they can succeed. Don't just throw someone new into a position without help.

I also want to remind all members in the district and throughout the State that the Mid-Winter Conference is coming in January and the 6th District Wild Game Dinner is scheduled for February 21 at the Mason Post 7309. I look forward to seeing my fellow comrades and Ladies Auxiliary members at both of these events.



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Bill Constant
District 7 Commander



It's been a busy past few months. I have been doing some traveling, visited the VFW National Home for Children on Michigan Day, and also visited Camp Trotter on Michigan Family Day. This was my first visit to Camp Trotter and I was truly impressed with the campgrounds and activities for the children. If you have not visited, I would suggest you make plans to check out the Camp and see why it is important for us to support this great program. I also attended the Fall Conference in Boyne Highland. It was a very wet and rainy experience.

It's the holiday season so make sure you remember your hospitalized and overseas veterans. Some ideas for your post and auxiliaries would be to make arrangements with the VA hospitals and visit and bring Christmas gifts to the veterans. The hospital director will be glad to give you a list of items that you can actually deliver directly to the

patients. There is nothing like putting a smile on a hospitalized veteran's face.

Let's not forget our troops. Get your packages together and send items overseas. The Post Office has special size and priced boxes just for the troops. Send them a little Christmas spirit. Even though the post office might tell you it's too late to be there by Christmas, it's never too late to send a little uplifting spirit and let them know that we are thinking of them.

Mid-Winter Conference is coming up. It will be held in Lansing, MI this year. Date is January 21st thru January 25th. Mark your calendars. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet is held during this Conference. Make sure you have your reservations. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Hope you all had a Blessed Thanksgiving Holiday.

Wishing you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Robin Bailey
District 8 Commander



Well, it has been a busy 6 months into the year and we are motoring on. To date, District 8 membership is at 86.12%, placing us 4th in the state. Just a reminder that if you have any officers that are annual members, please make sure that their membership is paid up before the end of the year. Also commanders, please make sure that your audits are turned in on time. We have approximately 12 posts needing to get their audits in, 3 need to get their QM bonded, and 2 need to become incorporated.

I hope to see as many of you all as possible at the Mid-Winter Conference with your Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners. It is important that we support these students throughout this process. It does have a lasting effect on them and us as well.

Also, remember that even though the holiday season is fast approaching (family, gatherings, etc.), our regular post work (audits, membership drives, etc.) still needs to be done. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. TIA.

DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Michael Fineis
District 9 Commander



Comrades and sisters of the 9th District, please be advised that I became your District Commander at the end of October. Our district meeting on November 2nd was very productive and laughter and humor again restored. Your new line officers are at work to revitalize the Mighty Ninth. We are committed to traveling to your post and you will see us soon. Your line

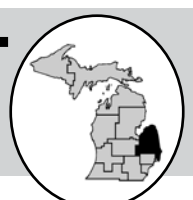
officers are committed to improved communications and education within the district. We have an open door policy. Contact us!!

Please check the Department web site for District 9, send me an email, and I will respond. I check the site daily. This article is brief but the next one will be more informative. Call me at 989-287-3404.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Robert Wilson
District 10 Commander



We have completed our 1st quarter of the year. I want to thank all of you for participating in your post activities. We have had our ups and downs, but we always manage to pull through. Please remember as you go through your daily operations that you must follow the VFW By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, and Ritual. Follow the podium book and you cannot go wrong.

Ensure your minutes reflect all motions, monies authorized to be spent, and names of new members to your post. Some of you ask why I say that. Well, visiting the various posts throughout the district, I have noticed little things, which could lead to big things. Trust me I know, it's happened to me.

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

GOAL NUMBER ONE - To increase the number of reporting on the Evaluation Program. To date we are at 86% reported in this goal. We still have a few posts that need to complete this task. We can't do it for you. If you are having issues with your audits, Quartermaster Bonds or District Dues, please let us know. Do not wait until it's too late.

GOAL NUMBER TWO - Improve reporting of all monthly reports such as hospital and Committee Reports. On this goal we are at 84%. We should be at 100%. This is the area the IRS would be

looking at. Let's work together at getting this at 100%. There is no reason a post should not be at 100% in recording their activities.

GOAL NUMBER THREE - Ensure the post and district supports the various VFW Programs within the District. 60%. We are doing very poorly with this. But, it's still early in the year. We had a district function (USO Show) but we did not get the participation we needed.

GOAL NUMBER FOUR - The District be 100% reported in Buddy Poppy Reporting. 81%. We seem to be doing ok, although we only have a few days left to meeting the ALLSTATE Points. 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. 86%. We didn't hit the 90% membership by October /November, but the day is still young. The State Commander has requested we set up teams to help with building membership. Therefore, the district has a membership team to help with achieving these goals. If you are interested, please contact one of us to get onboard. National and Department will provide the necessary resources to help us.

If you have any questions on these goals or the action plan I develop, please feel free to contact me. We are here for you. Without you there is no post,

DISTRICT 10, continued on page 6

DISTRICT 10, continued from page 5

district or state. But also remember we have by-laws to follow too. I also want to remind you of the important work our ladies and men's auxiliary are doing for our post and district. We need to continue to support our local, district and state Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries. Without them, I do not believe we could ever achieve our goals.

I want to remind everyone that your meetings will be run in accordance with the VFW Congressional Charter By-Laws Manual of Procedure Ritual. I will not, nor will the Department, accept the phrase "that's the way we have done it in the past." 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 know you all know the requirements of being the commander of your post. Plus, you know your responsibilities under the Congressional Charter By-laws and Manual of Procedure

Ritual. You all should have your 2015 Podium Edition. If not, why not!? That is a requirement within the by-laws. Christmas is coming, remember those who are serving overseas. Have a Safe and Happy New Year. Let's continue to work for a better way of life for our veterans and their families. I believe in having fun while we do our jobs. Remember, we are all veterans of the best country in the world.

The 10th District 2014- 2015 meeting dates and places, School of Instruction, 10:00am, lunch after, 13:00 meetings will start. Meeting notices will be posted in the MOV and the web page vfwmi.org. Please remember these dates, 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.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Terry Kunst
District 11 Commander



As they say in golf, there are only three things to remember, "Keep your Eye on the ball," "Keep your Eye on the ball" and "Keep your Eye on the ball!" The same is true for the future of our District, State and National VFW when it comes to membership. "Keep your Eye on Membership," "Keep your Eye on Membership," and "Keep your Eye on Membership!" Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Previously it has been reported that our membership numbers are in a crises mode. The current VFW National Membership is just under 1.4 million and 35% of that number is age 81 and older. If we do not recruit new members, in the next 10 years we will lose over 470,000 members (primarily WW2) and if we fall below 1 million members we risk losing some of our political clout. There are approximately 22 million living veterans in our country today and I've got to believe at least 20% (4.4 million) are VFW eligible.

Now that I've painted this dire picture of our membership numbers, what should we be doing? When we talk to a prospec-

tive member, what are their reasons (not ours) for belonging to the VFW? I will tell everyone that I speak to about membership, the reasons I belong is because of the numbers (the more members the more our politicians will listen) and advocacy (someone to speak up in Lansing, Michigan and Washington, DC on our behalf.) That old saying still holds true in politics, "If you are not at the table you are on the menu" and it costs money to have a seat at the table. That is what a part of your dues go to, to have a seat at the table!

State Commander Croyle would like all of our Posts to be at 90% by the end of October, and as of October 24, 2014 we were as a district at 84.11%! I would like to see all of our posts at 100% for the year. So get your membership lists, contact your unpaid members, replace deceased members with new recruits, and convert more members to Life Members.

Membership is everyone's responsibility! As has been said before "If it is to be, it is up to me!" Recruit, Recruit, and Recruit new members. It is everyone's responsibility!



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Barb Locke
District 12 Commander



Our time is closing in on our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year selections. By now all applications should be turned to the post. Please make your selections carefully. The final post winners should be in the hands of the leader of the District. District 12's announcement of the District winners will be held on January 17 at Post 6017 in Pentwater.

Now that the weather is getting colder, pay close attention to our veterans that are homeless. Please do not let them freeze. Make sure that you help out in any place

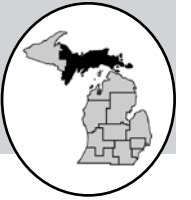
that might be serving food, clothing, and shelter. Please check up on your current membership. Find out where the veterans can get help with heat, food, and clothing. Our Sailors and Soldiers Relief fund, Veterans Trust, and many service organizations will be glad to help if that veteran is qualified. Being aware will ensure we are taking care of our comrades.

My wish to you is that this message will find you and yours in good health. Remember; be thankful that we are strong in our bond as a VFW member. God Bless.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Bernd Ekdahl
District 14 Commander



Well, another quarter has gone by and winter is fast approaching us. As of this writing our post inspections should be complete and no problems found. My trip to this year's Pow/Wow was very informative and insightful; it was a very busy, wet weekend but was well worth going to. As we approach the next few quarters we need to work on recruitment for every post and our district. If every post could recruit one person, what a difference that would make. At the beginning of my term I asked every post to appoint someone as recruitment officer. How many of you have done that? If you have not, please do it because it is

for the benefit of your posts. We also need to make a special effort to try and recruit our female comrades.

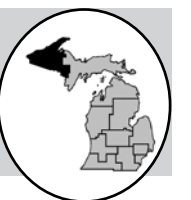
Remember that Poppies are just around the corner. If you haven't ordered them, please do so. Also, each post must report to the Poppy chairman in the district the total number of poppies sold, and who the number one Poppy sales person is.

Please keep up the good work on your quarterly reporting, it certainly makes being the district commander a lot easier. I thank everyone in the 14th. We should be proud of what we have done and what we are accomplishing.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Daniel Caron
District 15 Commander



Our Department Fall Conference in Harbor Springs is past us now and we're looking forward to our 36th Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing January 21-25. If you didn't make your room reservations you better get on the ball, time is running short. We will have our District 14 & 15 Combined Hospitality Room. (THE YOOPER ROOM) is available for our gatherings.

Patriot's Pen/Voice of Democracy/Teacher of the Year Program is up and running full bore and Bill & Sunny Cole are working hard and this is why it is running smooth.

Post Inspections are completed. Thanks to the inspectors that stepped up this year.

Membership - We are still working hard on membership - Never stop plugging away at this. We need members to keep this great organization number one.

Activity Reports /Hospital Reports - POSTS, get those reports in! If not by electronic means, do it by mail. But they MUST get reported.

Post Audit Reports - These reports must be sent in on time. Every year we have posts falling behind.

POST MEMBERS - Yes, YOU-as a post member, you should ask your post commanders, adjutants and quartermasters if these reports are sent in on time. If not, see to it as a member of your post that all activity and hospital reports, audits, dues, and other fees are reported on time. Get involved in all aspects of your post. This is the only way your post will function properly.

District 15 - Upcoming Mid-Winter February 8th, Crystal Falls Post 2891

Day of Challenges - February 28th - For more information and updates go to MTU.EDU web page.

Remember it is mandated that ALL POSTS MUST have representation at these conferences and conventions. If your commander cannot make it, he must send a delegate.

Thank You all for serving and see you at the Conference in February.

**SUPPORT
OUR
TROOPS**



CPL Walter Bruce VFW Post 1146 Celebrates 80 Year of Service

On Aug 20, 2014 the CPL Walter Bruce VFW Post 1146 celebrated 80 years of service to veterans and the community. The VFW 80th Anniversary Citation was presented to Post Commander Tim Litz by State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle at their regular monthly meeting. Congratulations and thank you Post 1146 for your service over the years to veterans and the community.



Pictured, L-R: State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle presents the VFW 80th Anniversary Citation to Post 1146 Commander Tim Litz.



Pictured, (L-R): State of Michigan Special Tribute is presented to VFW Post 1146 for their 80 years of service. The Special Tribute was presented to Post Commander Tim Litz by State Representative Sarah Roberts and State Senator Steve Bieda.



A heartfelt wish to all veterans and their families during this holiday season-

May the new year bring you health, wealth and happiness.

To our troops overseas, our hearts and thoughts are always with you.



"Freedom is not free."



On 9-11-2014 the members of the North Oakland VFW Post 334 Honor Guard, along with other service groups, attended a mass ceremony for 13 veterans who were laid to rest with full military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Several hundred people came to pay their respects to our fallen comrades. The veterans came from Detroit in 13 hearses led by a Michigan State Police motorcycle escort. The honor guards escorted each flag draped coffin down a veteran lined path bearing flags

and were given a salute as they passed. After the eulogy, a 21-gun salute and taps were played. Each flag was folded by each branch of the military and presented to family members or to Gold Star mothers who were also present. It was a very emotional day for all involved. We have to take care of our veterans and give them the full measure of respect and honor for what they have done for our country to keep it free and secure. It is the least we can do. After all "Freedom is not free."



VFW Post 582

On Aug. 2nd, VFW Post 582 Ortonville honored Past Post Commander (19 years) Donald J. Kengerski by renaming the Veterans Memorial Park to the Donald J. Kengerski Veterans Memorial Park and placing a plaque at the park in his honor in downtown Ortonville. Don fought in the Korean War where he was awarded the Silver Star and received a Purple Heart. Don was an All State Commander in 1993-1994 and was on the State Color Guard.



Post members and guest.



Don Kengerski and his wife, Margret. They have been married for 58 years.



Don Kengerski and new Post Commander Dennis Hoffman.

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Candy Beatty

I'm so thrilled to be traveling extensively throughout our great state this year and crossing paths with as many members as possible. It is such an honor to be representing you as I attend the National events across this great country we call America; from St. Louis, to Mystic, CT, to Indianapolis, IN, to Baltimore, to Anaheim, CA and ending in Pittsburgh, PA. For this I thank you for giving me this great honor.

We are halfway through our year. Fall has turned into winter and spring is peeking through. It is time to look at those guide sheets to check what you still need to do to attain the goals.

Please plan on attending our Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing, January 23-25 and help us honor our students and teachers. We are planning to change the way our department chairmen give their program presentation at the conference. Bring some of the ideas you have used to make your programs a success and share them with the other sisters. Together we can climb to the top.

A new program in Veterans and Family Services this year is called "National Veterans Services" with the theme of "Operation Changing Lives." Our National Commander in Chief John Stroud and National President Ann Panteleakos set a goal of raising \$1,000,000 for this program. By doing this, it will help expand and secure our programs that benefit all veterans. Please help us make this goal a reality.

Another program that touches my heart is our Scholarship Program. The

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, gives over \$3,000,000 in awards every year. Teacher of the Year award honors our teachers for all their hard work in teaching Americanism to our youth.

Another goal of our National Leaders is to strive to work together side by side to accomplish great things. Our State Commander Les and I are doing this. Can we count on you fulfilling their request? I for one, say it's the right time and right thing for each of us as auxiliaries to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be doing. Leave the negativity, bullying, apathy and personalities out of our meetings. It is the responsibility of the Auxiliary to work out these situations for the betterment of the Auxiliary.

Be sure to say "Thank You" to the sisters for all their hard work. Go to our department web site lavfwmi.org for a wealth of information to help you. It is a gigantic toolbox and will aid you in building and/or maintaining a healthy auxiliary.

In closing, keep those dues coming in. I know we can make Michigan 100+% for the first time in many years. Taking a point from the Department Membership Chairman, Nicole, be a Michigan Dues Angels and help the sisters who have fallen on hard times. Sometimes they don't let us know they are having a hard time. This is just a way of saying we care. Also, if your auxiliary is already at a 100+%, why not help another auxiliary with their dues. This could be done in many ways, assist in sending dues notices, conduct a membership drive or being a DUES ANGEL. This way, we all win because we are the Veterans Angels, Protecting Those That Protected Us.

Keep up the good work and thank you for all you do for our veterans, their families and for our youth.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN



Carrie Turner

Could you be a Veteran's Advocate? The answer is YES! It is as easy as taking a small bit of time, learning about veteran's issues and communicating your feelings on those issues to our elected officials.

WHY should you do this? You can make a *personal* effort to be an advocate for all veterans –

- If you are a veteran
- Or are related in any way to a veteran
- Or the only veteran you know is a neighbor, someone at work or anywhere else you encounter them in your daily life
- OR you aren't sure you even know a veteran

Whatever your connection . . . if you personally believe that veterans deserve the care and benefits they were promised AND earned through their service to our country . . . the service that they selfishly gave on behalf of all Americans . . . then YOU CAN BE a veteran's advocate.

One of the easiest ways to be a veteran's advocate is by joining 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. All you need is an email address . . . and the more people who sign up the better, so don't restrict it to one person per household.

VFW Action Corps members receive:

- efforts on Capitol Hill. Current issues, pending legislation, good news and POW/MIA recoveries are just some of the things that will be shared with you.
- Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.
- Regular VFW "Action Alerts" telling you how you can get involved when our nation's veterans, service members, and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill. By simply hitting "Take Action" on the Alert email you receive, you can immediately send emails to your elected representatives (the system does all of that for you) and help make a critical difference on current legislation.

Our military men and women have, still are and will always serve in harm's way in some capacity all over the world. We must always keep it fresh in the minds of our elected officials that they cannot "vote for war but not the warrior."

Become a Veteran's Advocate . . . join the VFW Action Corps!

AMERICANISM



Carol Johnson

"Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."

This definition was originated at a conference in Washington DC in February 1927. Commanders-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as well as National Commanders of the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans of the World War worked many hours to create this definition and outline the programs American citizens should always strive to achieve.

Each year the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars appoints several Americanism / Patriotic Instructors on the National, Regional, Department, District, and Auxiliary levels to accomplish these goals. It is their aim and objective to promote four major goals:

- 1) Flag Education in Schools, communities & homes, to demonstrate

proper flag retirement, and federal flag code. For further information visit: www.vfw.org/community/Flag-Education/.

2) Promote Patriotism- Celebrate Patriotic Holidays, for more information about patriotic days and ways to celebrate visit: www.vfw.org/Community/PATRIOTIC-DAYS.

3) POW/MIA Recognition-(Prisoners of War / Missing in Action.) The Ladies Auxiliary is adamant about educating their communities to honor these special veterans by conducting ceremonies and programs, such as The Missing Man Table. Find a sample of the ceremony wording and table setup at: www.ladiesauxvfw.org/programs-page/americanism/.

4) The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award:

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics, promote America's history and traditions effectively. Teachers that are candidates for this award typically promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

For more information visit: www.vfw.org/Community/Teacher-of-the-Year.

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2015-2016

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

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

Please Remember!

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



CANCER AID AND RESEARCH CHAIRMAN



Sharon Lewinski

Hello Auxiliary Sisters:

I would like to thank all the auxiliaries that have shared their Cancer Aid and Research Program with so many throughout our great State of Michigan, especially the special programs for our cancer survivors. As we move forward in our Cancer Aid and Research Program this year, I have asked our Cancer Pin Chairman Ruth Barnhill to write an article regarding the meaning of our Cancer Pins. We have bought them year after year, but do we know why?????

*Written by Ruth Barnhill
(A.K.A.-Raffle Ruthie)*



Ruth Barnhill

I understand that there are thousands of people that read this publication...I hope I won't bore you or disappoint you, so please read on. I will try to be short and hopefully to the point. I hold the position this year for Department President, Candy Beatty as her "Cancer Pin Chairman."

Being the Cancer Pin Chair is an easy position for me because I consider myself a SALES person. After getting into this and realizing the reason we sell these Cancer Pins...I want to be even more diligent in getting the word out for what we do as a Ladies Organization. Soooooo, let me start with the "WHO, WHAT and WHY".

WHO, gets the revenue from the sale of our Cancer Pins? YOU CAN as a member... our donations go to help fund the National Cancer Grant Program. Also,

some monies go to supporting research efforts at specific facilities.

Grants are available to members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW designed and made available, the Cancer Grants back in 1951. The grant is a financial gift to members who meet the eligibility requirements. Eligibility: the Applicant MUST be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW for one (1) full year. Current dues must be paid before applying for a Cancer Grant. Also IMPORTANT, a member is allowed TWO (2) Grants during her lifetime. For more information on Cancer Grants and Cancer Aid & Research, please check out "Your Guide to Cancer Grants" on the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Websites at lavfw.org.

WHAT are we selling this year????? Well, it is just a beautifully designed pin picked by our own Department Ladies Auxiliary President, Candy. I wear one on my lapel most of the time when I'm out and about and you'd be surprised at the conversations it starts. It is a beautiful gold-toned heart with a silver angel inside the heart. I know a lot of people love the angel pins, so now you have a two in one, heart and an angel.

WHY do we sell these pins???? It is a way of fundraising to donate to Cancer Aid and Research, and the Pin Promotion is an excellent way for us to speak about our programs.

Ending up I'll say...if you want A pin or SOME pins....PLEASE, call me or email me (Rbarnhill@att.net) and I will make sure you get one or some. The cost of each pin is still only \$2.00. The PIN makes a great little gift for YOURSELF or a friend. Guys...you can get in on this and surprise your sweetheart with a beautiful, thoughtful, inexpensive little gift, while also contributing to a very worthy cause. Anyone can purchase these pins!

I'm anxiously waiting to hearing from you...please bombard my email with your Cancer Pin requests.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Dianne Donan



Greetings from the 5th District,

Ladies, the summer is over, kids are back in school and our auxiliaries have been busy. They held a cancer awareness program at VFW Post

2269, Wixom. Some are busy sending packages to our troops; many are hosting Halloween parties for children and adults.

Join us at the John Dingel VA hospital

on Veterans Day to visit and comfort the sick and injured veterans.

Many auxiliaries are hosting Thanksgiving Day dinners for Veterans and the community. Join us at VFW Post 4156 in White Lake as we prepare Thanksgiving dinners to be served to Veterans at the Freedom Center at Metro Airport.

Contact the Royal Oak Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 1669, (248-542-6564) as they are having a membership dinner on December 16, 2014.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Shanon Meredith



Hello again and thank you for taking the time to read my article about what we do to help our veterans. At my post, Hall-Slater VFW Post 4187 in Tecumseh, we just wrapped up a two-day membership

drive at the Tecumseh Appleumpkin Festival, the weekend of October 11-12. The reason for my including this is because this festival takes place every year. It is a destination. There are many booths and vendors. We get thousands of visitors to our city. We gave out lots of applications for both the Post and the Ladies Auxiliary. We had lots of information available that explained how

we help our veterans and for anyone wishing to join our organization. The next function we are having is a bake sale on December 3rd at our local credit union and at the post. This also gives us a chance to talk to people about our great VFW organization, and once again work on membership.

Our next District meeting will be at Lambertville Post 9656 on December 6. Please get reservations for food in to the Post at 734-856-3245. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank the posts that are working hard and doing the work of our VFW organization. Also, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and good thoughts and gifts. Blessings to all of you.

WHAT IS THE BUDDY POPPY?



Vickie Bushong

The Buddy Poppy is a small red flower symbolic of the blood shed in WWI by millions of allied soldiers in defense of freedom.

The Buddy Poppy actually originated in France. Madame

E. Guerin, founder of the American and French Children's League, became worried that the free world was forgetting the needs of the children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium following WWI. She was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Col. John McCrae. She felt the poppy would be the appropriate memorial flower. She began speaking to any serviceman's organizations conventions that would listen. The people of France and five other countries quickly embraced the Poppy Program. They agreed to sell memorial poppies for the benefit of the children of France.

The "Poppy Lady," as Madame Guerin had quickly become known, approached the VFW in 1922. They agreed to conduct their first nationwide distribution of poppies in the US in May 1922. At their national convention that August, they adopted the poppy as the official memorial flower of the VFW. There was one problem, the American and French Children's League had dissolved and much of the supply of poppies went with it. Because of this, a plan was evolved to pay disabled and needy American veterans to make the poppies. In most

cases, this extra money helps to pay for the little luxuries that make hospital life a little better. Also, this is a form of therapy for exercise for fingers and hands crippled by wounds, disease and the effects of old age.

The flower's trademark came from the poppy makers. It was their way to remember their buddies who never returned from war. It was such a simple expression of the significance of the Poppy Plan. The little red flower quickly became known as the "Buddy Poppy" all over the country.

On May 20, 1924, the VFW was issued all trademark rights to the name of "Buddy." No other organization, firm, or individual can use the name "Buddy Poppy." This allows the VFW to guarantee that all poppies bearing that name are the work of disabled and needy veterans.

Because of the effort of the VFW, the Poppy Lady's dream continues to be successful. Currently, Buddy Poppies are distributed in every state and dozens of other countries. Over 14 million are distributed annually, generating over 11 million dollars. The monies generated provide compensation to veterans who assembled the poppies, financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans rehabilitation and service programs and partially support the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans.

Remember—if you are handed a Buddy Poppy, accept it with pride, even if you are unable to make a donation at this time. A poppy on anyone's lapel honors all veterans!!

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Sandra Borieo



Greetings to all of the 4th District Ladies Members:

This news article was to consist of events and fundraisers planned for the 4th District for the upcoming months.

Thus far, there was not anything reported that wasn't already on Facebook. Therefore, congratulations to all the successful events and I know everyone is working for the veterans, hospitals, youth, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations 4th District Auxilia-

ries for passing your inspections. I made this a training project for Sr. Vice, Sandi Merrow, and Jr. Vice, Debbie Allen, so when they are elected as President, they know now how to do a successful inspection. While inspecting the auxiliaries, I made notes on projects that were overlooked and reported them on quarterly reports. We made a diligent effort at mentoring rather than dictating and leading by example. Educating our auxiliaries makes a better environment for teamwork.

Sandi, Debbie and I are proud of each and every one of you for endeavoring to be a team in District 4 and not a "them and us" attitude. Go Ladies!!!

**God Bless
Our Troops**

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Tonya Dietz



Greetings from the GREAT 8 District President,

Hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. We're now into fall and the holidays are fast approaching. Here is

a list of some of the upcoming events and happenings at some of our Posts:

The Otsego Post Ladies Auxiliary #3030 will be having their monthly dinners on the 2nd Friday of every month. The VFW will be having their monthly Fish Fries on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month through May 2015.

Pullman Ladies Auxiliary #6134 will be opening a BRAND NEW BINGO starting on NOVEMBER 12, with doors opening at 3pm and early birds starting at 5pm. Bingo will take place every Wednesday. Hours of operation are 3pm-9pm. COME OUT and show your support. Any questions, please contact the Pullman Post at 269-236-5531.

The Portage #5855 will also be starting their monthly Fish Fries and they are on the 1st Friday of the month. They also have karaoke every Saturday night from 8pm-12am. COME ON OUT and show your singing skills and have a great time.

The Wayland VFW #7581 will be having their Fish Fries starting Friday, January 23 and then on the 30th. February dates are Fridays the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. March dates are the same as February and the last will be on April 3rd.

Junior Girls Unit to Charlotte Auxiliary #2406, under the direction of Holly Allison, will be doing their annual Christmas caroling at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on December 21. What an awesome treat for our heroes!

Holland Auxiliary #2144 has bingo every Monday and doors open at 4:00 pm; the VFW has bingo every Wednesday and Friday, with doors opening at 6:00 pm for early bird bingo.

Happy Holidays to all and GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS AND KEEP THEM SAFE!

DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

Diane Ward



Greetings Sisters and Comrades of the 10th District,

I bring you greetings from the District. It's hard to believe that the year is almost halfway over. At the writing

of this article, the District is in 3rd place in Membership at 83.68%. Good Job ladies. We have two Auxiliaries that are 100% - Ruth Auxiliary #5740 and Mayville #10884. Congratulations, and several Auxiliaries that are very close. Keep those dues coming. We'd like to make our District 100% and get Department there as well. Don't forget to send in your Dues Angels. Any time your Auxiliary or a member of your Auxiliary pays for the dues of a sister who is in need, send in a Dues Angel form to our Department Chairman Nicole Koutz.

The District VOD Banquet will be on January 11, 2015 at the Fenton VFW Post #3243. Doors will open at 1pm, lunch at 2pm, and the program following at approximately 3:30pm. Be sure to order your tickets. There will be no tickets sold at the door! Please contact Kathy Kirby (810) 577-7350 to get your tickets ordered.

Mid-Winter Conference is January 22-25, 2015 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Make sure that you make your reservations prior to December 24, 2014 or you will not be able to get the VFW conference

rate. Be sure to get rooms for all of your students and/or teachers. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The new quarter reporting period is November 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015. We are working very hard to make sure that all the Auxiliaries are 100% reported each quarter. If you are having difficulty getting your activities and work reported, please don't hesitate to contact me. You all do such wonderful work for our veterans, their families and the communities; let's make sure that we get it reported.

If anyone is interested in attending, November 7-12, 2014 is the Branson, MO trip and the National Mid-Winter Conference is Feb 12-15, 2015 in Anaheim, CA. You can contact Department for information.

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. Share your events with the other Posts and Auxiliaries in the District - we all like to support each other and help make our District stronger so publicize your events. If you let me know, I can add it to the next MOV article. If you ever need anything, I can be reached on my cell at (810) 955-2931, at home (810) 629-3976 or (810) 714-3568; and even by internet at legalblaze@aol.com and Facebook. Keep up the good work; we are having a great year!

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Arvella Peterson



Hello Ladies of the 13th District,

Hope everyone is working on their membership and getting their dues in. Don't forget to keep up on your quarterly reporting. The Holi-

days are coming up quickly so I have a few things that are going on in the District that I would like to share.

Post #2051 in Harbor Springs will be going to the three Care Centers in the county to distribute gifts to our veterans for Christmas. Want to see a smile? Want to show your appreciation? Remember our veterans during the holiday season

by either a card, cookies, or just the most precious gift...the gift of time.

Auxiliary to Post #2496 in Alpena will be having a craft and bazaar on December 13 from 11-4. Post #2780 Auxiliary in Traverse City will be having a kids Christmas Party on the 13th and on the 14th the local Girl Scouts will be visiting the veterans at the Bortzs Care Center.

Various other events are happening around our District; watch for them and try to attend and support our veterans and community.

My inspections are completed and it was an honor and pleasure to visit all my sisters in the District. Keep up the good work!

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Della Petaja



Hi again from the 15th District. It has been a very busy Fall. Our Fall Convention was in Iron River at the Ottawa VFW Post 3134. The Ottawa Post treated us royally

and we appreciated all their help. We also had the delightful company of Gloria Dobbie, Department Jr. Vice President and Carrie Turner, Department Legislative Chairman. All of our Auxiliaries were present, and I am so proud of all of them and what they do for our Veterans. The collection of toothpaste, brushes and floss was so terrific. I had half my car filled with these items going to Fall Conference.

Our major event for the 15th District is the Day of Challenges for our youth. The Chairman for this event is Butch Paavola from Post 6165. It is a day of sports-related trials of strength and endurance. There is a swimming event. First they swim 25-meters to judge the participant's swimming abilities; Next to the diving pool to swim 15-meters while

wearing military load-bearing vests and belt; Then to the 5-meter platform where they step off.

There are also Skill Challenges:

1. A Physical fitness test; Push-ups, sit-ups and a 400-meter run.
2. A Challenging Leadership Reaction Course.
3. A Skills Event
4. An Obstacle Course

There are two Divisions: Senior for grades 9-12 and Junior for grades 5-8 and in teams of 6. The event is February 28 at the Michigan Tech Student Development Complex in Houghton.

At the conclusion of the event, lunch is provided by VFW Post 6165 of South Range, and served by members of the 15th District. Jan Lawrence, our Department Treasurer, will join us for this event in February. We are so happy to have her attend.

It's been a good Fall here with lots of color in the Keweenaw and we are wishing for a great Winter, which means less snow and warm temps. We will see all of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in January.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



We Protect Our Own.

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

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



VFW Post 3733 Member Retires from US Navy



On October 10th, 2014 Master Chief Mac Fralic held a retirement ceremony at the E.J. Werner VFW Post 3733 in Fowler, MI. After 30 yrs. of loyal service in the United States Navy, Mac Fralic has decided to retire. His deployment on Air Craft Carriers includes: USS Nimitz, USS Theodore Roosevelt (2 deployments), USS George Washington, USS Truman and USS Carl Vinson. Mac's last duty assignment was to HSC 28 the Mighty Dragon Whales. At the ceremony service, awards and letters of commendation were presented by Navy Command Master Chiefs Eric Kafka and John Lees.

In the picture, Mac Fralic is receiving his Shadow Box Award with all of his service medals and ribbons displayed. Presenting the award to Mac Fralic is Command Master Chief John Lees.

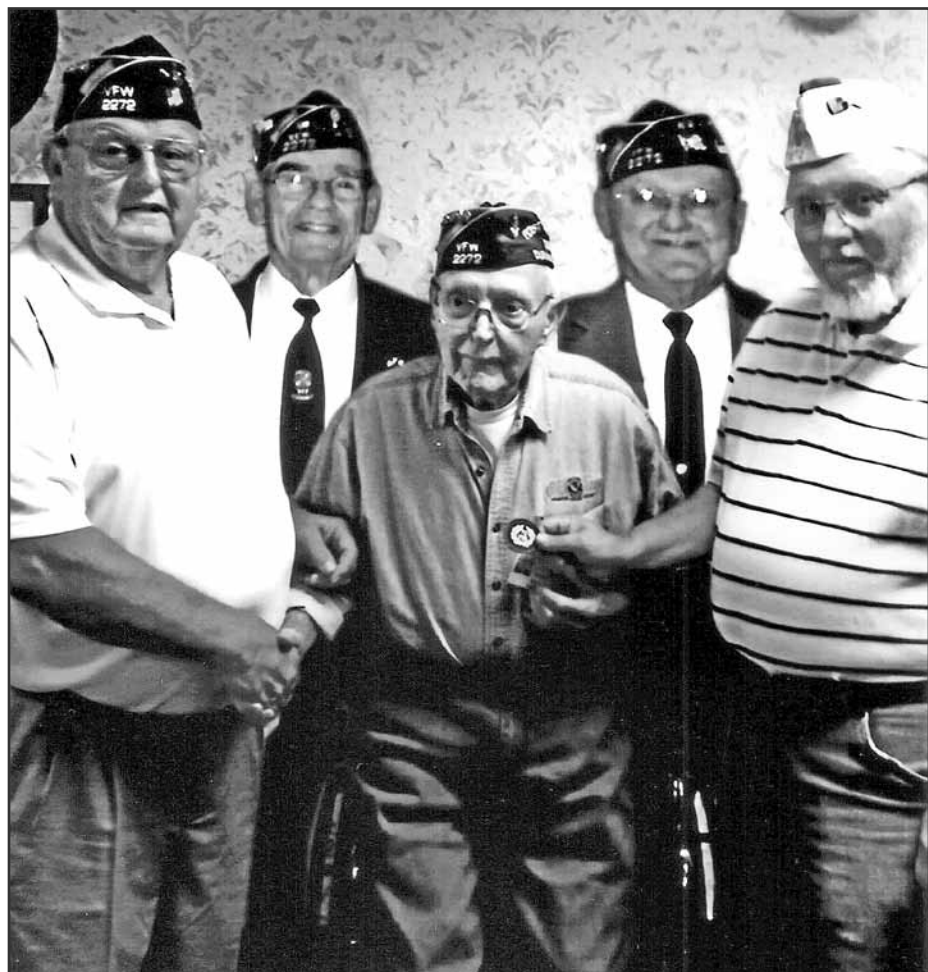
Mac is married to Annette (Jacobs) Fralic, whose grandmother is Ruth Girvin of Carson City. They have 2 sons and a daughter and one grandson, Ethan. They plan to live between Carson City and Florida. Mac is a Life Member of VFW Post 3733 Fowler and also attends the Mt. Hope United Brethren Church.

Young Marines Present the Colors



North Oakland VFW Post 334 Young Marines had the honor of presenting the colors at the Detroit Tigers game on September 9, 2014 against the San Francisco Giants. This is a first for the Young Marines and they made a great impression on the crowd and received a big ovation. Pictured are Commander Clarence Cameron, XO Wes Klein, and Young Marine members Sean Klein, J.P. Williams, Adriana Deion, Martin Mowat, Martin McGrath, Michael McGrath, Ethan Whiting, Jameson Anderson, Aidan Roundy, David Deion, and Jeremiah Pearsall.

70-Year Patches



VFW Post Commander 2272 Bert Winer and Past Post Commander Dennis Martin present 70-Year Membership Patches to post members Faye Winters, Bob Middleton and Roger Tyler.

Hall-Slater VFW Post 4187 Membership Drive



Hall-Slater VFW Post 4187 and its Ladies Auxiliary, located in Tecumseh, held a membership drive on October 11-12 at the annual Appleumpkin Festival. Attendance was estimated at 30,000 people. Many membership applications were passed out and many veterans and VFW members stopped at our booth over the weekend.



Fall Conference, October 2 – 4, 2014

In October, the Department of Michigan held its annual Fall Conference, also known as Pow/Wow, at Boyne Highlands. Our National Rep. for the weekend was National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. The Council of Administration meeting was held on Friday, Oct. 3. On Saturday, Oct. 4, the Department held a VFW training class for members. A lot of good information about VFW programs and how to successfully run a post was provided for members. If you have new officers in your post, please send them to these training classes so they can learn and be better leaders within the post. Also, 2 posts in the State earned the prestigious All American award last year, Posts 334 and 9914, and were presented with their awards.



National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. offers instruction during VFW Training.



National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki, Jr. addresses the C of A.



Members during the C of A meeting.



Department Secretary Amanda Helms is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of service to the Department of Michigan by State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle.



High-White-Milford VFW Post 9914 Commander Vincent Oltesvig is presented the All American Award, 2013-2014, by National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.



National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. is presented a Camp Trotter shirt by PSC and Camp Trotter Chairman Ernie Meyers, Sr.



North Oakland VFW Post 334 Commander James Hubbard is presented the All American Award, 2013-2014, by National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.



Districts 14 & 15 Commanders Bernd Ekdahl and Dan Caron during VFW Training.



National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki, Jr. and Past State Commander Dave Miller. They were State Commanders together from 2002-2003.



The theme of the Hospitality Room was "MASH." People joined in the fun and dressed as their favorite MASH character. State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle dressed as Klinger.



Gold Star Mothers Banquet



On Sept. 28th, 2014 the 5th District hosted their annual Gold Star Mother Banquet at the Cpl. Richard W. Menge VFW Post 6756. Every year, the 5th District holds a banquet to bring together members of the Department of Michigan American Gold Star Mothers honor them. Past District Commander, 5th District Gold Star Mothers Chairman Ken Klee, was the MC this year. Guests included AGSM Department President Carol Johnson, VFW State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle, Ladies Auxiliary State President Candy Beatty, and many others including dignitaries from the Catholic War Veterans, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Military Order of the Purple Heart. Donations totaling \$6,355.00 were presented to Department President Carol Johnson.

Thank you to all who came and donated!

- VFW Department of Michigan: \$3,905.00
- Purple Heart Department of Michigan: \$500.00
- Purple Heart Department of Michigan Auxiliary: \$500.00
- Catholic War Veterans Post 1346 Eastpointe: \$250.00
- VFW Post 1146: \$250.00
- Vietnam Veterans Chapter 154: \$200.00
- Catholic War Veterans Department of Michigan: \$200.00
- Polish Legion of American Veterans Department of Michigan: \$200.00
- VFW Post 6250: \$140.00
- VFW 9283 Ladies Auxiliary: \$100.00
- VFW Post 6756: \$50.00
- District 5 Ladies Auxiliary: \$25.00
- Angie's Toy Chest, Fraser MI: \$25.00
- VFW 2645 Ladies Auxiliary: \$10.00



Pictured, L-R: 5th District Gold Star Mothers Chairman Ken Klee, State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle, AGSM Department President Carol Johnson, State Sr. Vice Commander Paul McIvor, State Jr. Vice Commander Jerry Gorski, and 5th District Ladies Auxiliary Gold Star Mothers Chairman Linda Gloger.

10th District Presents POW/MIA Flag

On September 25th, 2014 members of the 10th District presented a POW-MIA Flag to the Genesee County Court House. The members who participated were Jerry Lemon, Bob Wilson and Ron Duncun of VFW Post 1452, Billy Bettys, Samuel Morgan Sr., Paymond Clemans of VFW Post 8236, Marvin J. Daniels, Ted Henry of VFW Post 3720 and PGC Robert E. Wilson 10th District Commander VFW Post 2777.



Pictured, R: Members from the 10th District raising the new POW-MIA Flag in front of the Genesee County Court House.



Jerry Lemon, Bob Wilson and Ron Duncun of VFW Post 1452, Billy Bettys, Samuel Morgan Sr., Paymond Clemans of VFW Post 8236, Marvin J. Daniels, Ted Henry of VFW Post 3720, PGC Robert E. Wilson 10th District Commander VFW Post 2777.



10th Dist POW-MIA 2: 10th District members from VFW post 1452, 2777, 3720, and 8236 rendering salutes to the new POW-MIA Flag at the Genesee County Court.



Veterans Appreciation Day

The South Shore Fishing Association of Marquette sponsored a day of fishing, September 7th, on Lake Superior for 66 veterans, followed by a pig roast for the vets and their guests. It was a great day. Clear skies, calm water, and the fish were striking. Every boat caught fish.



The SSFA members volunteered with 33 boats, the US Coast Guard with a cutter, and the Marquette Fire Department with a ladder truck. Colors were presented by the V.V.A. Following fishing, the boats were lead by the Coast Guard in a parade through the harbor. Colors were flying on all craft. The pig roast was the icing on the cake. Great camaraderie to cap the day. The SSFA hopes to make this an annual event to show their appreciation to the veteran community.

Summertime Fun 2014!!!

Summertime at the VFW National Home for Children is a time of exploration, learning, and FUN!

Whether immersing in LSA - Literature, Science, and Arts - going to Michigan State University's Abrams Planetarium, or working hard to keep the National Home's grounds beautiful, the young people have been busy this summer.

National Home residents and staff recently celebrated the end of summer and got an overview of the young people's achievements and activities.

The kids made bottle rockets and polished Petoskey stones. They worked on individual projects and the younger ones peered into microscopes to look at bacteria.

"I made bottle rockets and a plane," said one red-headed little boy.

"I made this car out of clay," said another boy, pointing out the clay windows of his car.

And they took field trips to such places as a local U.S. Veterans Memorial Park, the Air Zoo, and the East Lansing Aquatic Park.

When asked what his favorite field trip was, one boy said, "the water park." Another boy really liked going to the Air Zoo.

They visited the veterans at the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and read to the little ones in the National Home's preschool and childcare center.

One young girl did a project on birthstones and the meaning behind each one of these colorful, beautiful stones.

"You can see she put a lot of work into her individual project," said Education Services Supervisor Laura Lonsbery as she held up a board covered with facts and pictures of birthstones.

Presented next was a project done by another young lady on her favorite band.

"You can see by her project that she likes the band R5," Laura said.

Another girl studied and learned about

dolphins.

"Compared to other animals, dolphins are believed to be very intelligent," she said.

Next, Education Specialist Sue Peterson talked about the summer reading program. The kids did their own Adopt-A-Book program, repairing some of the books in the campus library, and then attaching a bookplate inside each book with their name on it.

Then there's the reading challenge. Sue agreed to eat pickled pigs' feet if the kids read 1,000 minutes. There were no pickled pigs' feet to be found, however, and so she had to eat cows' tongue instead.

"Our kids read over 5,000 minutes," Sue said.

And that means Sue gets to eat chocolate-covered bugs.

The older kids then talked about visiting the veterans at the VA, and what it meant to them.

"Learning more about them," one teenage girl said.

The VFW Dynamos was in full swing this summer, and 10 kids enjoyed participating in such 4-H activities as raising bunnies and pigs and showing them at the Eaton County Fair.

"A very enjoyable group," said Nancy Bowers, the Dynamos' leader.

The celebration wrapped up with Life Skills Coordinator Brian Lorente giving an overview of this year's Work Crew. The Work Crew is made up of young people ages 14 through 18. The teens primarily do maintenance and yard work, and they also regularly visit the veterans in the VA Medical Center.

Brian introduced each young person and gave him or her a special award.

"You were definitely our little ray of sunshine," he said of one young lady.

"There are not many places ... around campus they haven't touched," he said.

Welcome Home

VFW Ladies Auxiliary 9455 in Owosso held a Welcome Home Celebration for Viet Nam veterans on September 14th. Ladies Auxiliary President Karen Horn MC'd the event and gave all the credit for planning and organizing to Debbie Gorte, the veterans and family support chairman of the auxiliary.

The veterans walked onto the stadium through an aisle of flags held by the members of the Auxiliary color guard, and Col. Quinton Brainard welcomed them home. Brig. General Michael A. Stone was one of the speakers and he said that this event was the first program of this kind to be held in Michigan. In her welcome home greeting Debbie Gorte told the veterans that the job they did in Viet Nam was important not only to the US, but to the people of Viet Nam and because of their sacrifice we still live in the greatest nation in the world.

A POW/MIA Remembrance segment was also held to remember those who haven't returned home yet by Amy Kummerow and a group of High School students. Department of Michigan Americanism Chairman Carol Johnson read the names of those still missing.

There were a few tears but as one veteran said, "they were tears of healing- not tears of sorrow because after the program they felt they were appreciated and now he could begin to heal." They thanked the ladies for doing this program for them.

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

was very enlightening to sit thru the flying Squadron that was put on by the VFW National.

On a side note, I believe that everyone is working hard at getting their reports in on time, however there are still a few posts that are working diligently to get caught up. Please make every attempt to get your unpaid and re-instated members up to date. I know you are all working hard to make our state 100% this year.

Comrades and sisters, in closing may each and everyone have a great and joyous holiday season and may God watch over us and over our troops that are overseas guarding us and may God bless the USA.



Welcome to Ohio and Michigan!

The kids ran around, playing with inflated balloons bent into shapes by clowns. The adults talked in small groups, and one lady passed around red, white, and blue carnival beads.

All along, the group kept peering past the yellow road barriers to Waverly Road. It was almost time...

It was a fun and busy time here at the VFW National Home for Children! Our friends from the VFW Departments of Ohio and Michigan and the Ladies Auxiliaries visited the weekend of August 9-10.

The weekend began with the Ohio caravan. A group of National Home residents and staff, and several people from Ohio, gathered by the entrance to welcome the visitors from Ohio.

Soon, the Ohio visitors were ready to have some fun with the National Home adults and children! The inflatable bounce house, games under a green and white tent, ice cream and popcorn in the cafe, and more were all part of the fun.

The day also had its solemn side, the posting of colors on the Community Center's lawn. The VFW Department of Ohio Commander Robert Poole and Ladies Auxiliary President Sandra Uzell spoke

during the afternoon program.

The Ohio group toured the campus, including the Ohio House, the Museum, the Guest Lodge and Chapel, and the National Home's daycare and preschool.

The next day, it was time for our friends from Michigan to visit! The group arrived and soon was setting up the flag and POW/MIA displays.

Next was the annual fishing contest at Lake Romanis! The lake was calm and peaceful and several fish were biting, to the kids' excitement. The kids mingled and fished with veterans from the VA Medical Center - Battle Creek.

The Michigan visitors had the opportunity to tour the Michigan I House, the Firebarn, the Museum, and more. Souvenir T-Shirts, ink pens, jackets, and other items were available for sale inside the Administration Building.

The VFW Department of Michigan Honor Guard presented the flags in a solemn march inside the gym. Grant, the 2014 Buddy Poppy Child, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony also included remarks by State Commander Les Croyle and State President Candy Beatty.

Illinois Day 2014!!!

The VFW Department of Illinois and its Ladies Auxiliary recently visited the National Home community, and part of the day included reflections by two first-time visitors.



Dick McLaughlin is from Napperville, Illinois VFW Post 3873.

"At our meetings, we always pray for the Home," he said.

Illinois Day was the first time Mr. McLaughlin had visited our campus.

"It's beautiful," he said.

Mr. McLaughlin is a native of Eastern Pennsylvania, and said the Illinois House looked just like the house of home.

Mr. McLaughlin is a veteran of World War II and served in the Pacific Theater.

"It's a wonderful thing you are doing here," he said.



Susan Dorn hails from Ramsey, Illinois.

She is very involved in the VFW Ladies Auxiliary - she is the president of Ladies Auxiliary 99 in Decatur, Illinois; the District 11 president; and the Veteran and Family Support Chairman for the VFW. Department of Illinois.

This was also her first visit to the National Home.

"I love it," she said.

The Chapel was her favorite place to visit.

"I just got a feeling when I walked in the door," she said.

Ms. Dorn was impressed by what she saw at the National Home.

"You are doing a good job," she said.

Support Our Troops



Army Vet Grateful For Car Donation

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Brad Kadrich, bkadrich@hometownlife.com

In November 2013, U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil was involved in an accident that totaled the car she was driving and left her without transportation ever since.

Her inability to replace the vehicle made it tough to get to her job at the Veteran's hospital in Ann Arbor.

In a ceremony at the Progressive Insurance office in Livonia Tuesday, the Jack Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance joined forces to help her out, donating a refurbished 2005 Ford Escape to O'Neil, a Saline resident and a member of the Plymouth VFW.

"I really appreciate this," said O'Neil, who joined the U.S. Army in 1998 at the age of 20. "I've had trouble getting to work ... This is the best thing anyone could ever give to me."

When O'Neil's original enlistment was up in 2002, she decided she hadn't done enough, and signed up for a stint in the Army Reserves. Her unit was activated in January 2003, and by April, O'Neil was in Iraq. After her tour was up, O'Neil was discharged in November 2003.

When officials at Demmer and at Progressive were looking for a veteran to honor, Plymouth VFW officials recommended O'Neil. Demmer partnered with Progressive, the National Auto Body Council, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and several other organizations.

With parts donated from vendors, the staff at Jack Demmer Collision Centers repaired and refurbished the Escape for O'Neil, one of more than 100 veterans across the country who will receive a special vehicle on Veteran's Day through Progressive's "Recycled Rides" project.

"Amy's new job made her a perfect candidate," for the program, said project coordinator Tommy Ryan of Progressive. "We're hoping to make a difference in a lot of lives today."

Enterprise Rent-A-Car provided



U.S. Army veteran Amy O'Neil turns the ignition on the refurbished 2005 Ford Escape she received from the Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance Tuesday.

Photo: Brad Kadrich

O'Neil with six months' worth of free auto insurance. Regional vice president Vincent LaBella pointed out that some 10 percent of Enterprise employees are veterans and Reservists. That, LaBella said, makes the company's participation in the program special.

"We get to give back to our communities, and we get to honor our veterans," LaBella said. "It's really important for us to give back to (O'Neil) for what she has done."

The Demmer family also has a military history. Patriarch Jack Demmer is a World War II veteran, and Jim Demmer, who spoke at Tuesday's ceremony, has a son, C.J., who is in the U.S. Marines.

"We want to say 'thank you' to all those who put their lives on the line for our country," Demmer said. "We never take that for granted."

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The VFW Continues to Burn the Candle of Hope this POW/MIA Recognition Day

We will not rest until they all come home
September 17, 2014

On September 19, we pause to remember the sacrifices of the 83,193 Americans who are still missing or unaccounted for. We remember their families — those whose pain and suffering does not subside with the passage of time.

POW/MIA Recognition Day serves to remind us that the true cost of war extends far beyond the last shots being fired. WWII claimed more than 130,000 Americans taken as prisoners of war, and at the beginning of this month, continues to list 73,539 Americans as missing in action.

During the Korean War, more than 7,100 were taken captive, and 7,881 continue to be listed as missing in action. Vietnam brought nearly 800 American POWs, and today, 1,641 are still missing.

We must also remember the 126 Americans who are still missing from

the Cold War, and the three military pilots and three Department of Defense contractors who remain missing from Operation El Dorado Canyon over Libya in 1986, Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The VFW will not rest until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of all those who have not yet come home. In fact, as part of our full accounting mission, we remain the only veterans service organization to return to Southeast Asia every year since 1991, Russia since 2004 and to China for the past several years.

The VFW salutes the families of the missing who continue to join us in keeping the candle of hope alive. And as veterans and family members of veterans, we must all do our part to remember their service and their sacrifice.



VFW Celebrates 115 Years of Service

From 1899-2014

No One Has Done, Does More For Veterans

September 25, 2014

On the evening of September 29, 1899, thirteen men — veterans who had fought in Cuba during the Spanish-American War — gathered at a tailor shop in Columbus, Ohio. They shared their accounts of what was then, the most popular war in America's history, but further, to discuss how they could assist their fellow veterans and the dependents of their fallen comrades.

These men could not have known then what would grow from such humble beginnings.

The simple and selfless desire to care for those who share in the common bond forged by war, laid the foundation for what has grown to become the multifaceted organization that is the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Arguably the most recognized veterans' service organization in America — and certainly the oldest and most accomplished — the VFW has evolved into nothing short of a powerhouse for veterans. It's the veterans' service organization that has positively impacted the life of each American veteran, or at the least, helped to provide them the promise of opportunity and a better future.

Since its inception so long ago, the VFW has been a determined advocate for all veterans, service members and military families. Generations upon generations have joined in its cause, each as steadfast and determined to help fulfill the VFW mission as the last.

Before the VFW came into existence, veterans did not receive health care for wounds received in combat; most of them didn't receive any treatment for any disease or illness acquired as a result of military service; pre-VFW veterans had no reasonable expectation of receiving compensation of any sort.

The men who founded the VFW challenged the status quo and by doing so, helped shape the future for veterans forever.

It was the VFW that demanded America promise to graciously and appropriately care for those who bear the burden of war and put their lives on the line in defense of our nation and way of life. And throughout the years, it has been the VFW that has remained tenacious and resolute in its fight to ensure that America lives up to that promise.

Over its storied 115-year history, the

VFW's efforts led to the establishment of the Veterans Administration. It helped to create the Montgomery and Post-9/11 GI Bills. It was a key player in the development of the national cemetery system. It led the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. It was a powerful force in the passing of a record VA discretionary budget, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act, the reinstatement of military Tuition Assistance programs and most recently, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014. These achievements offer merely a glimpse into its long list of legislative accomplishments.

But, the effect the VFW has had on the lives of those who've worn the uniform, as well as those of their families, extends far beyond its advocacy efforts. Its programs and services are second to none and have provided a hand up to millions of those who have needed it and deserved it the most. Its service officers have helped hundreds of thousands of veterans recover billions of dollars in benefits and compensation from the VA. It has provided millions of dollars in grants to military families who've fallen on hard times, millions of free calls home for deployed and hospitalized veterans, and raised billions of dollars for needy veterans through its "Buddy" Poppy program.

VFW Posts have and continue to act as pillars of support in communities across America and abroad. Posts are often the first to organize and offer aid or assistance to local veterans and military families in need. They are the patriotic pulse of local communities, working to foster patriotism in our nation's youth, inciting good citizenship, erecting memorials, maintaining cemeteries, organizing community events and donating millions of volunteer service hours within their communities each year.

Though much has changed over the years, today's VFW operates by the same creed upon which it was formed back in 1899. It exists only to care for those who fight to ensure America remains a nation free from tyranny and fear. It's an organization that was created by veterans, for veterans, and owes all that it has accomplished over its many years to its members; the lifeblood of the organization.

No one has, does or will do more for veterans.

God Bless Our Troops

Burger King® Franchisees to Launch VFW Unmet Needs Fundraising Campaign

The annual fundraiser enters its eighth consecutive year

October 30, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation is pleased to announce that for the eighth consecutive year, Burger King® Franchisees across the country will host a fundraiser to benefit the VFW Unmet Needs program during the month of November. Patrons of participating Burger King® Restaurants are encouraged to donate \$1 or more to the Unmet Needs program with the purchase of their meal. Through its annual fundraiser, Burger King® Franchisees have contributed more than \$2.6 million to the program to date.

The Unmet Needs program assists service members and military families during times of financial hardship by providing financial grants to help with basic necessities like rent, mortgage and utility payments, vehicle repair, medical expenses and groceries/basic assistance. Since 2004, the program has provided approximately \$5 million to aid U.S. service members.

"Burger King® Franchisees want to ensure that America's military service personnel and their families will never be forgotten in their time of financial crisis. The money contributed by our loyal customers helps military families make ends meet during these tough financial times. Burger King® Franchisees have pledged to be there for our military families until all needs are met," said Mike DeRosa, a franchise owner, and spokesperson for the group.

"Participating Burger King® Franchise owners and their customers are incredible, patriotic Americans who truly understand the financial challenges that military service personnel and their families often experience. Through their commitment to this campaign, the morale of thousands of U.S. troops has been greatly boosted," said VFW Foundation Manager Richard Freiburghouse. "Our brave heroes have often personally sacrificed so much for us all and we welcome the opportunity to do everything we can to provide them this vital assistance."

Chiefs Join With Anheuser-Busch to Raise Money for VFW During Military Appreciation Month

Local Fundraising Initiative to Benefit Veterans in Need

November 7, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — On Wednesday, the Kansas City Chiefs announced a joint initiative with Anheuser-Busch to benefit Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) programs as part of Military Appreciation Month during the month of November.

Through the program, seven local Anheuser-Busch wholesalers in Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas will donate \$0.05 per case of Bud Light sold throughout the month of November. The participating wholesalers include County Beverage (Lee's Summit, Mo.), United Beverage (Kansas City, Mo.), North Kansas City Beverage (North Kansas City, Mo.), O'Malley Beverage (St. Joseph, Mo.), Crawford Sales (Olathe, Kan.), Wil Fischer (Lenexa, Kan.) and O'Malley Beverage of Kansas (Lawrence, Kan.).

"This is an extremely unique opportunity to engage with a great partner — Anheuser-Busch — as part of a larger effort to make a difference in the lives of the courageous men and women who defend our freedom at home and abroad," Chiefs President Mark Donovan said. "The Hunt family and the Chiefs organization have long saluted the bravery and dedication of our veterans and active-duty personnel

while recognizing the many untold sacrifices made by military families. We hope that this initiative generates positive results locally for members of the VFW."

In addition to the \$0.05 per case donated by the seven wholesalers, the Chiefs organization and the Anheuser-Busch corporate office in St. Louis, Mo., will each match the final donation up to \$10,000 for the VFW. All donations will benefit VFW programs exclusively in order to help veterans in need.

In April of 2014, the Chiefs announced a long-term exclusive agreement with Anheuser-Busch to extend their decades-long partnership through 2020, focusing on programs designed to encourage responsible drinking and recycling, as well as highlight fan-focused events.

Headquartered at the corner of 34th and Broadway in Kansas City, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is a non-profit veterans service organization composed of combat veterans and those who currently serve on active duty or in the National Guard and Reserves. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and is one of the oldest veterans' organizations.



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.



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

A Veterans Day Greeting from the VFW National Commander

'Our veterans deserve our lasting gratitude and respect'

November 10, 2014

Our great country produces a lot of things. But the standout, the strongest, most resilient, honorable, dedicated, committed and true American product will always be the American veteran. Veterans exist to protect our way of life and on Nov. 11, Veterans Day, we join with the hundreds of thousands of patriotic Americans across the nation in paying tribute to America's most selfless citizens.

On Veterans Day we honor those who are dedicated to something bigger than themselves. We honor every man and woman who has proudly worn the uniform of our armed forces and bravely defended America from the many evils of the world. Whether serving here at home or abroad, this elite group of individuals has ensured that we are able to live our daily lives free of tyranny and fear.

This relatively small group of individuals does not ask for anything from us in return. Our veterans have bravely answered the call to preserve the values upon which our nation

was founded and their service should make every American feel a deep sense of pride.

For those currently deployed, we pray for their safe return, and the VFW stands ready to support their families while they are away.

Our veterans deserve our lasting gratitude and respect. Each and every American veteran has had a significant role in shaping America's past, our present and undoubtedly, our future. Though we cannot repay them for their many sacrifices, we must show our appreciation through whatever means possible.

This Veterans Day, I ask all Americans to join me in focusing your thoughts of thanks to those who fight to protect our way of life. We are truly privileged to have such noble and extraordinary citizens.

And to my fellow veterans, I thank you for your commitment and extraordinary sacrifice. I'm proud to call you my comrades!

*John W. Stroud
VFW Commander-in-Chief*





Get a Haircut, Help A Hero During Sport Clips' Scholarships for Veterans Campaign

*Nation's leader in men's and boys' hair care
hosts annual fundraiser*

October 13, 2014

When you get a haircut at one of the more than 1,200 Sport Clips across the country, you can "help a hero" at the same time by donating to the company's Help A Hero program now through November 11, Veterans Day. Over the next four weeks, Sport Clips' locations nationwide will have a collective goal of raising \$600,000 for the company's annual fundraising program that provides scholarship money to veterans. Since 2007, the company has partnered with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to support service members, and last year, created the "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program to help service members and veterans in the next chapter of their lives. Each scholarship provides up to \$5,000 of assistance to service members and veterans who are pursuing an education at post-secondary institutions, including trade schools.

Donations to Help A Hero will be collected in-store and at local fundraising events through November 11. In addition, Sport Clips will hold "The Biggest Haircut Day of the Year" on Veterans Day, when each store will donate a dollar from every haircut service to the VFW-administered scholarship program.

"Sport Clips team members, partners and our clients have already made a positive difference in the lives of more than 130 veterans by helping fund their education through Help A Hero scholarships. We're hoping to award even

more scholarships in the year ahead, and anyone can help — it's as easy as getting a haircut," says Sport Clips Founder and CEO Gordon Logan, a U.S. Air Force veteran and lifetime member of the VFW.

"Thousands of U.S. service members returning home from the front lines still face an unstable economy," says VFW Commander-in-Chief John Stroud, a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "Together with Sport Clips, the VFW remains committed to providing our service members and veterans with the tools they need to reach their educational goals and successfully transition back into civilian life. The Help A Hero Scholarship has proven to be vital to those efforts."

Veteran recipient James Robak says of his Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship, "It will help out immensely since my GI Bill has been exhausted, and I still have a year left in my dietetics program. As a father of four, with ages spanning 14, 8, 7 and nearly 2; a wife that works full-time; and me being a full-time student; this couldn't have been a bigger blessing. It will really help take the edge off of the financial burden that a higher education carries, along with the benefits for a brighter future."

Sport Clips is the official haircutter of the VFW, and its Help A Hero campaign is just one of the many ways it supports active-duty military and veterans. To find out more, visit your local Sport Clips or SportClips.com.

DoD Celebrates Military Family Month in November

Help recognize modern military families this month

November 3, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C. — November in America traditionally is a month of thankfulness, and the Defense Department chose this month to recognize those who support the nation's armed forces but who don't wear the uniform: military families.

Barbara Thompson directs the department's Office of Family Policy, Children and Youth, and Special Needs. She recently spoke with *DoD News* about Military Family Month and why it matters.

"In November, we take the time to draw attention to and highlight the great sacrifices and support that military families offer our men and women in the armed forces," she said.

Thompson's office oversees programs and policies that promote military families' well-being and quality of life. Thompson's portfolio covers a range of military family concerns, from child development programs to spouse career development, personal financial readiness and nonmedical counseling.

DoD Honors Military Families

Senior Pentagon officials will participate throughout the month in events designed to honor military families, Thompson said, and the military services, installations and family support centers also will be working to recognize military families.

"There will be a lot of events and special recognitions," she added.

Thompson noted that the modern military family mirrors the modern American family — some families are blended, some have single parents, others consist of unmarried or same-sex couples, and still others have special needs.

"Just like the American family, we have all different shapes and sizes. ... They all comprise this fabric of military families," she said.

Families contribute to the U.S. military's strong, resilient and ready force and to their communities as well, Thompson said.

"When we think of our military

members and the values that they embody, such as courage and duty and ethics and loyalty, those same attributes are key to our military family members," she noted.

Thompson said the department considers military families an integral part of the force.

"We like to say that military families serve, too," she said. "Because without the support ... that they provide the active-duty force and the reserve component force, it would be very difficult for service members to do their mission."

She continued, "I like to think that military families are right there, throughout the greatest challenges as well as right there during the greatest triumphs of the service member."

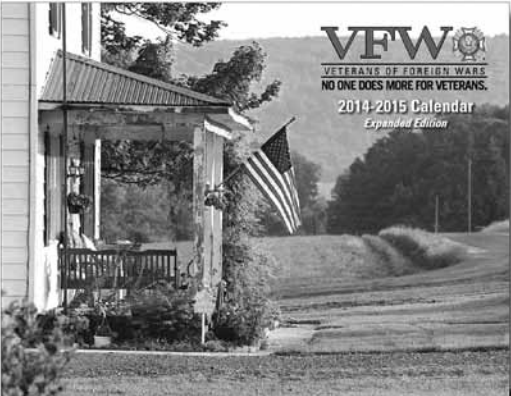
Military Families Are Your Neighbors

The department can't be everything to everyone, she noted, "So we rely on the community assets where our service members and their families live — whether the faith-based community or the school community."

Military families in communities across America typically live, shop, go to school and worship with their neighbors. According to recent statistics from the Defense Manpower Data Center, 61 percent of all service members live in off-base housing, and 70 percent of married troops live off base.

"So that community needs to recognize the sacrifices that military families make," Thompson said. She noted that November is "the perfect month for them to reach out and thank our military families for their sacrifice and what they do to support our nation."



"They have challenges such as caring for aging parents, they may have children with special needs, they relocate on a much more stringent schedule than their civilian counterparts, so children are changing schools and adapting to new environments," Thompson said. "And I think America at large needs to recognize that, and to reach out, and step up, and thank them for their service."



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!

STATE COMMANDER, continued on from 24

Michigan, you will find that 127 posts have not recruited a single member nor have they reinstated a single member. At the planning meeting, each district was asked to put together a membership committee to assist the posts in the membership effort. We had hoped to be 90% by October's end; we did not make it. We stand at 86.11% only 13.89% short of our goal. Post Commanders, please try and get your posts to 90% by the end of November. With a concerted effort this can be accomplished.

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

Our Mid Winter Conference will be here in no time. Please remember to put an ad in the ad book as all the proceeds go to help defray the cost of Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year. I would like to thank all the Districts, Posts and Auxiliaries that make these programs possible. Without your hard work they just would not happen.

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



VFW Hosts Leadership Summit to Benefit Student Veterans

***Event is VFW's latest show of support
to America's future leaders***

October 2, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— The VFW will host the 2014 Student Veterans of America (SVA) Leadership Summit Oct. 2-4 in Kansas City. The VFW's involvement with the upcoming summit is in keeping with its commitment to ensuring America's student veterans have the tools and support needed to succeed in their education endeavors.

During the summit, 40 student veteran leaders from campus chapters across America will convene to discuss campus level concepts that work to ease a veteran's transition from the military to higher education and then to the workforce. Further, it allows them the opportunity to network with and gain personal feedback from area business leaders, as well as VFW leadership.

Students will be greeted with a welcome reception Thursday evening. On Friday, local area business leaders will join the group to discuss strategic planning, resource management and best business practices. Students will be paired with area leaders to mentor them as they work to design and develop a business plan to further their local chapter's initiatives. Then on Saturday, the plans will be presented to a panel of business experts who will provide feedback and advice on the further development and

implementation of the plan.

“We’re pleased to be able to host this important event. Today’s student veterans must work to overcome the adversity that comes with successfully transitioning from the military to the classroom,” said VFW National Commander John W. Stroud who graduated with honors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. “They need all of the support they can garner, and we want them to know they can rely on the VFW. We’ve been there, so we know what they need to succeed in their next mission in life.”

The VFW and SVA teamed up in 2002 to combine expertise, resources and effort to ensure student veterans receive the support they need as they work toward attaining a higher education. Together, they've achieved much success in their young partnership. In early 2013, the groups led a successful fight to reinstate military Tuition Assistance programs. They battled for equitable tuition for student veterans attending public schools — a hot-button issue that affects more than 40,000 veterans on college campuses around the country. And together, the VFW and SVA launched the 1 Student Veteran program to ensure student veterans gain access to their earned benefits and are able to navigate the complex education claims process.

VFW, SVA Fellowship Program to Bring Student Veterans to Capitol Hill

New fellowship will allow today's student veterans to share their concerns with Congress

October 3, 2014

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. announced a new program developed in conjunction with Student Veterans of America (SVA) that will offer legislative fellowship opportunities for up to 10 student veterans to join VFW advocates on Capitol Hill next March. The announcement came at the start of the 2014 SVA Leadership Summit, hosted by the VFW.

Student veterans interested in the new VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship must complete an application package that includes an essay discussing one of the VFW's Legislative Priority Goals, and how that priority goal applies to the veterans' community at large. Selected fellows will then be flown to Washington, D.C., to storm Capitol Hill alongside fellow veterans' advocates as part of the 2015 VFW Legislative Conference, March 1-5. All applications must be submitted to the VFW by Dec. 31, 2014.

“The VFW has been at the forefront of advocating for veterans, service members and their families for more than a century,” said VFW National Commander John Stroud, a retired Air Force first sergeant from Hawthorne, Nev.

“We are proud to extend this unique opportunity to the newest generation of veteran leaders through our continued

partnership with Student Veterans of America,” said Stroud, a former student veteran who graduated from Embry-Riddle University in 1990. “The VFW sees SVA members advocating on college campuses across the country every day. This fellowship will enable them to bring that concern and passion for their fellow student veterans directly to Capitol Hill, where they can and will make a difference on the national level not only for their generation, but for those that will follow.”

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowships are open to student veterans at SVA chapters nationwide. Candidates must also satisfy VFW membership criteria, which can be found here. For full details about the fellowship and to apply, visit: www.vfw.org/StudentFellowship.

The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is the latest collaboration between VFW and SVA that resulted from a memorandum of understanding signed by the two organizations at the SVA National Conference in January 2013. To date, the collaboration has resulted in a variety of initiatives such as commissioning VFW Student Veteran Liaisons in every state; establishing the 1 Student Veteran education benefits assistance program; and successfully pushing for in-state tuition for veterans via the #InState4Vets campaign.



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**Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Mid-Winter Conference
January 22 - 25, 2015**

BEST WESTERN PLUS HOTEL - LANSING, MICHIGAN

AUXILIARY AGENDA

Thursday, January 22, 2015

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| 4:30 pm-5:00 pm | Department Officers meeting | Suite 563 |
| 5:00 pm-6:00 pm | All Council Members Meeting (including Budget & Audit & PDP's) | Suite 563 |

Friday, January 23, 2015

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 8:00 am-5:00 pm | Registration | Conference Ctr. Lobby |
| 8:00 am-5:00 pm | Cancer & Camp Trotter booths Buddy Poppy Contest | Room D |
| 8:30 am-10:00 am | Council of Administration Meeting | Room E & F |
| 10:00 am-10:30 am | Presentation of District Presidents | Room E & F |
| 10:30 am-11:30 am | Stump the Chief | Room E & F |
| 11:30 am-1:00 pm | LUNCH ON YOUR OWN | |
| 11:45 am-12:45 pm | District Sr. Vice President meeting with Dept. Sr. Vice President Deb Eernisse | Suite TBA |
| 11:45 am-12:45 pm | District Jr. Vice President meeting with Dept. Jr. Vice President Gloria Dobbie | Suite TBA |
| 1:00 pm-3:30 pm | Program Presentations | Room E & F |
| 4:30 pm | District President's Reception | Suite 563 |
| 5:30 pm | Night on the Town | |
| 5:45 pm-6:30 pm | Big Ten meeting | Exec. Training Room |

Saturday, January 24, 2015

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 8:00 am-10:00 am | Registration | Conference Ctr. Lobby |
| 8:00 am-12:30 pm | Cancer & Camp Trotter Booths Buddy Poppy will be judged at 9:30 | Room D |
| 8:00 am-9:00 am | Student Reception (everyone welcome) | Room E & F |
| 9:30 am-11:30 am | Program Presentations Auxiliary & District Achievement, Voting Workshop, Cancer Donations, Buddy Poppy Awards and Membership Awards/Transmittals | Room E & F |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | 2014-15 All Chairmen Meeting | Room E & F |
| 11:30 am - 12:45 pm | 2015-16 All Chairmen Meeting | Exec. Training Room |
| 11:30 pm-1:00 pm | LUNCH ON YOUR OWN | |
| 1:00 pm-2:00 pm | Joint Camp Trotter Meeting | Exec. Training Room |
| 2:00 pm-3:00 pm | District Presidents & District Sr. Vice Presidents | Imperial Room |
| 2:00 pm-3:30 pm | National Recruiter Trainer for Membership | Exec. Training Room |
| 4:30 pm-5:30 pm | VOD/PP Students, District Commanders, Presidents and Head Table | Imperial Room |
| 5:30 pm | Head Table escorted into Banquet room, followed by the VOD/PP Students | |
| 5:30 pm | Banquet | Room E, F & G |

Sunday, January 25 Have a safe trip home

**TIMES MAY CHANGE – REVISIONS WILL BE POSTED ON
DEPARTMENT WEBSITE @ www.lavfwmi.org**

**Veterans of Foreign of Wars
Department of Michigan
34th Annual Mid-Winter Conference
January 22 - January 25, 2015**

BEST WESTERN PLUS HOTEL - LANSING, MICHIGAN

AGENDA



Friday, January 23, 2015

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| 7:30 am-4:00 pm | Registration | Conference Ctr Lobby |
| 8:00 am-4:00 pm | Cancer Table Program Display Tables | |
| BANQUET TICKETS | | |
| Closed for lunch from 11:30 am-1:00 pm | | |
| 8:30 am-11:30 am | Service Officer Committee Budget & Finance All Directors Buddy to Buddy | Ballrooms G-J |
| 11:30 am-1:00 pm | LUNCH ON YOUR OWN | |
| 1:00 pm-2:30 pm | Judge Advocate | |
| 2:30 pm-4:00 pm | Commanders, Seniors & Juniors Post Officers Training | Imperial Room |
| DINNER ON YOUR OWN | | |
| 4:30 pm-5:30 pm | District Commanders/Presidents Reception | Hospitality Ste. 463 |
| 5:30 pm | Night on the Town | TBA |
| 6:30 pm | VOD Event (Winning Students Only) | TBA |
| 7:00 pm-11:00 pm | Joint Department Welcome Room | Hospitality Ste. 463 |

Saturday, January 24, 2015

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------|
| 7:30 am-Noon | Registration | |
| BANQUET TICKETS | | |
| ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 12:00 NOON | | |
| 8:00 am-Noon | Cancer Table Program Display Tables | Ballroom D |
| 9:00 am-11:30 am | Men's Auxiliary Meeting | TBA |
| 8:30 am - 12:00 pm | 2014-15 All Chairmen Meeting | Room E & F |
| 11:30 am - 11:30 am | COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION | Ballrooms G-J |
| 11:30 pm-1:00 pm | LUNCH ON YOUR OWN | |
| AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL | | |
| 1:00 pm-1:45 pm | Joint Camp Trotter Meeting | Exec. Training Room |
| 4:30 pm-5:30 pm | VOD/PP Students, District Cmdrs., Presidents and Head Table | Imperial Room |
| 5:30 pm | Head Table meet for Line Up | |
| 6:00 pm | Voice of Democracy Banquet | |
| 9:00 pm-11:00 pm | Joint Department Welcome Room | Hospitality Ste. 463 |

Sunday, January 25 Have a safe trip home

God Bless Our Troops



Matt David, Editor

Editorial Committee:

Harry "Les" Croyle, Commander
Paul McIvor, Sr., Vice Commander
Jerry Gorski, Jr. Vice Commander
Matt David, MOV Editor
Cindy Peto, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

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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



345 REDFORD

BARG, CLARENCE 93 ARMY WWII
BEATTY, HAROLD 60 ARMY/VIETNAM
BJERKNES, RUBEN 97 ARMY/WWII
JOHNSON, THOMAS M. 64 ARMY/KOREA
LICARI, JOSEPH 93 ARMY/WWII
TALBOT, JOSEPH 87 NAVY/WWII

822 FLINT

ADAMSON, WILLIAM 72 NAVY/VIETNAM

1138 MONROE

KONOPKA, THOMAS 66 ARMY/VIETNAM

1146 ST. CLAIR SHORES

ALFRED, SZANDZIK 97 AIR FORCE/WWII
BOTT, DANIEL A. 88 ARMY/WWII
CAPOFERI, ALFRED 92 ARMY/WWII
GEROMETTE, RAYMOND 83 KOREA
HARDOIN, DONALD 84 ARMY/KOREA

HESS, ERNEST 88 NAVY/WWII

KAIN, SAMUEL 86 ARMY/KOREA

KNOP, THOMAS F. 90 ARMY/WWII

MACLEAN, THOMAS 88 ARMY

PUKALA, FRANK 90 ARMY/WWII

PULLIN, RANDALL 66 MARINES/VIETNAM

SERRIDGE, FRANCIS J. 92 ARMY/WWII

1355 STURGIS

ROBINSON, ROBERT 94 ARMY/WWII

WILLIAMS, CHARLES 86 ARMY/KOREA

1566 SAGINAW

BONKOWSKI, FRANK 90 ARMY/WWII

SCHAFER, ADAM 92 ARMY/WWII

1669 ROYAL OAK

KRIEGER JOSEPH 85 ARMY/KOREA

MORRISON, CALVIN F. 84 NAVY/WWII/KOREA

THORNTON, CLYDE 89 ARMY/WWII

2144 HOLLAND

FLESER, ORVILLE 90 NAVY/WWII

MAAS, CHARLES 83 NAVY/VIETNAM

MELLANG, RICKY 66 ARMY/VIETNAM

STEWART, ROY 90 ARMY/WWII

2269 WIXOM

KLING, JOSEPH J. 97 AIR FORCE/WWII

SAMHAT, DONALD C. 83 NAVY/WWII/KOREA

2645 SOUTHFIELD

MUCKENTHALER, RUDOLPH

2943 BROWN CITY

NOLET, EDWARD 76 AIR FORCE/KOREA/VIETNAM

2964 REED CITY

THOMAS, LYELL 88 NAVY/WWII

3165 NEGAUNEE

BJORK, GLENN C. 89 NAVY/WWII

BOND, WILFRED J. 90 NAVY/WWII

ELLIS, GORDON L. 81 ARMY/KOREA

HOLMAN, SIDNEY T. 83 ARMY/KOREA

JOHNSON, MELVIN A. 89 ARMY/WWII

KRAUSE, DAVID F. 74 ARMY/VIETNAM

MORRISON, ROBERT A. 68 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

PARIS, LOUIS R. 90 ARMY/WWII

SPIPKER, WILBERT A. 89 ARMY/WWII

3293 GRAND LEDGE

SAWYER, DAVID 69 NAVY/VIETNAM

3314 ARCADIA

SAUER, ROBERT O. 88 ARMY/WWII

3676 SAULT STE MARIE

BRIGGS REXFORD 92 ARMY/WWII

FINNER, HAROLD J. 95 ARMY/WWII

LAWRENCE, GEORGE J. 93 ARMY/WWII

POLISKI, NICHOLAS M. 91 COAST GUARD/WWII

3720 SWARTZ CREEK

SMITH, VICTOR H. JR. 90 MARINES/WWII/KOREA

3733 FOWLER

FOX, PAUL 88 NAVY/WWII

3753 PINCONNING

FOCO, LEO J. 83 AIR FORCE/KOREA

4005 CORUNNA

BROWN, ALLAN 96 ARMY/WWII

BUKOVICK, GEORGE JR. 95 ARMY/WWII

SIMMONS, CHRISTOPHER 61 MARINES/VIETNAM

4063 PERRY

DEFREESE, AARON V. 89 ARMY/WWII

4076 CHELSEA

KIRKLAND, KIMBERLY 47 DESERT STORM

4090 PORTLAND

MAXWELL, JOHN W. SR. 86 ARMY/KOREA

REYNNET, FRANCIS D. 89 NAVY/WWII

SPITZLEY, DAVID E. 82 ARMY/KOREA

4115 SEBEWAING

MAROTEKE, KENNETH E. 89 NAVY/WWII

4159 ROSCOMMON

ALEXANDER, ROBERT 96 ARMY/WWII

SCOTT, W.H. 85 ARMY/KOREA

SOLTMAN, ROBERT 83 ARMY/KOREA

4162 HAMTRAMCK

GATES, EDWARD 92 ARMY/WWII

4422 TAYLOR

GISMONDI, MICHAEL E.

SMOUTHERS, RAYMOND L. 71

4461 LAKE ODESSA

CUNNINGHAM, DALE 86 ARMY/KOREA

MICHAEL, BILLY 90 ARMY/WWII

5065 SHERIDAN

ALLEN, KENNETH 90 AIR FORCE/WWII

LOPER, MORRELL 72 NAVY/CUBA

PETERSEN, DALE 81 ARMY/WWII

SMITH, CARL 91 ARMY AIR FORCE/WWII

5319 ATHENS

MASON, MARY LOU 87 ARMY/KOREA

PARSHALL, GENE 65 ARMY/VIETNAM

RISNER, RAY 86 ARMY/WWII

YOUNG, RICHARD 82 ARMY/KOREA/VIETNAM

5666 FLUSHING

COOKINGHAM, MARION 90 ARMY/WWII

5670 GWINN

BLACK, ERVIN 81 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM

5738 CLARE

ACKERMAN, JOE 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

CLARK, NEIL 76 NAVY/VIETNAM

GILMORE, LEO 93 ARMY/WWII

SHAKULA, ANDY 75 ARMY/VIETNAM

5740 RUTH

KLEE, LEO 91 ARMY/WWII

6013 ELKTON

EBY, JERRY 64 NAVY/VIETNAM

6248 DECATUR

OVERTON, FREDERICK H. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

6250 STERLING HEIGHTS

KOCSIS, SIGMUND

6579 NEW LOTHROP

ALFORD, ORVEL 81 ARMY/KOREA

WILLIS, ROLAND 75 AIR FORCE/WWII

6695 PLYMOUTH

DAUM, GEORGE 87 MARINES

6756 CENTER LINE

JEBRZEJEK, WILLIAM 66 MARINES/VIETNAM

6864 CADILLAC

REYNAERT, ALBERT H. 97 ARMY/WWII

7302 HEMLOCK

BIGELOW, JOHN 86 NAVY/WWII

GUZIAK, ROBERT 88 NAVY/WWII

7546 DEARBORN HEIGHTS

DUDA, WALTER 88 ARMY/WWII

EHENALT, WILLIAM 89 NAVY/WWII

KARCZEWSKI, LEO W. 87 ARMY/WWII

KLUCK, DONALD 89 ARMY/WWII

RAMSEY, RICHARD 88 ARMY/WWII

RYGIEL, LAWRENCE 74 MARINES

SCHWAB, HENRY 96 ARMY/WWII

7573 NEW BALTIMORE

BENNETT, WILLIAM P. 82 ARMY/KOREA

7804 POSEN

CHOJNACKI, DAVID 79 ARMY

DARGA, HARRY 87 ARMY/WWII

GREENGTSKI, DONALD 81 ARMY/KOREA

WIZA, DAVID 84 NAVY/CUBA/VIETNAM

8846 MUSKEGON

CATO, BEN 88 ARMY/NAVY/KOREA

DRENT, BERT 94 ARMY/KOREA

LAMOREAUX, ARTHUR 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

NORMAN, CLIFFORD 95 NAVY/WWII

REYNOLDS, MELVIN 87 ARMY/WWII

STRANBERG, WILBUR 70 NAVY/VIETNAM

9023 BRIMLEY

WILSON, WALTER JR. 86 ARMY

9084 WAKEFIELD

GEROUX, JOHN 89 ARMY/WWII

9973 DEARBORN HEIGHTS

MARKEN, ROBERT M. 67 NAVY/VIETNAM

15023 LANSING

BLAIR, JAMES W. JR. 94 NAVY/WWII



Auxiliary TAPS

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1136-Wyandotte Chamberlan, Lucelle Plummer, Mary Ray, Liz | 701-Lansing Clark, Roberta Smeltzer, Mabel Smith, Evelynne Templin, Anita | 2272-Durand Laser ,Patricia Nimphie Eileen | Schrader, Shirley | 8846-Muskegon Bailey, Nancy Gebrowsky Momica, Sue Houtman, Sally Phillips, Thelma Posobiec, Dorothy |
| 2233-Detroit Gilchrist, Elizabeth | 1584-Adrian Ansted, Ila Denig, Lori Dusseau, Nellie Gier, Dorothea Rhea, Julia Ruby, Margaret | 3055-St Louis Schultheiss Isabell | 4164-Caro Osborn, Mary | 1518-Gaylord Montgomery, Blanche Sehl, Pearl |
| Roseville Byram, Dolores Haven, Anna Holinsworth, Marie Tomala, Irene | | 3306-Howard City Banfill, Luella Cody Dorothy Kellogg Ruth | 3033-Mt Pleasant Bushong, Gloriana Holp, Ida Jacobs, Arlene | 2780-Traverse City Buchan, Georgann Loomis, Vivian Powers, Virgie Schwartz, Irma Stewart, Theresa |
| 7546-Dearborn Hgts Urtzeck, Mary | 4187-Tecumseh Slick E, Joan Socks, Norma | 3733-Fowler Collins, Rita | 3724-Standish Gallop, Veronica Osier, Christina | 3623-Cheboygan Bur, Margaret Mineau, Betty |
| 7575-Garden City Hefner, Dorthea | 4357-Brighton Ernest, Nancy | 4090-Portland Briggs, Inez Hodge, Geraldine | 4034-Hought Lake Hgts Lash, Kay Wrobel, Lauretta | 7439-Indian River Skoczylas, Judith |
| 9283-Southgate Black, Cheryl Brown, Jeanne Napier ,Novella | 6464 Fowlerville Baltrus, Betty | 4406-Belding McConkey, Helen | 6754-Spruce Golder, Dorothy 80 Murray, Lucille | 1887-Menominee Buyarski, Helen Maske, Mary Norman, Carol Walters, Doris |
| 9885-Westland Witt, Dorothy | 1855-Dowagiac Hagemann, Patricia Poole, Mary Joan Radtke, Florence | 5065-Sheridan Burton, Elna Miller, Zeda | 6950-Kawkawlin Henning, Sandra | 3165-Negaunee Langlois, Mary 95 Rimert, Ruth 89 Stagliano, April 46 |
| 1008-Waterford Bell, Theresa Hopson, Kathleen Prasil, Elaine | 6248-Decatur Karasch, Lezbie | 7302-Hemlock Davis, Dixie Kricher, Karen Peak, Helen Schmidt, Elaine | 995-Bitely Barron, Katherine | 4420-Manistique Osterhout, Laura 9023-Brimley Tinkis, Loretta |
| 1146-St Clair Shores Condina, Mildred | 9411-Homer Evers, Velta | 9455-Owosso Burley, Louise Manas, Eleanor | 2964-Reed City St Onge, Veronica | 2891-Crystal Falls Dahl, Joyce 86 |
| 1224-South Lyon Partello, Diane | 2326-Grand Haven Robbins, Millicent | 9809-Saginaw Krawczyk, Elizabeth | 3256-Montague Hysell, Carol | 3900-Calumet Capello, Elsie |
| 1370-Pontiac Anson, Betty Vandecar, Beth Emma | 2406-Charlotte Hanson, Marjorie | 796-Port Huron Wisson, Beverly | 3734-Muskegon Fulkrod, Geraldine | 6507-Chassell Britz, Glenda |
| 1669-Royal Oak Phillips, Phyllis | 3023-Grand Rapids Prorok, Florentine | 2777-Burton Meade, Emogene Sweet, Lillian | 4249-Newaygo Baker, Helen | 7646-Pelkie Fraquelli, Helen |
| 2052-Romeo Noteboom, Sharon | 5855-Portage Price, Phyllis | 2945-Sandusky Lopez, Carmen | 4499-Manistee Cromwell, Phyllis | 15023-Member-At-Large Beland, Delphine Currin, Joyce Grover, Mary Mroczkowski, Theresa Stratton, Grace Zanon, Amelia |
| 6691-Fraser Murphy, Marilyn Spada, Frances | 6252-Comstock Thorpe, Mary | 3243-Fenton Feldhahn, Dorothy Nims, Leya Tasselmyer, Joan | 5315-Baldwin Aupperlee, Suzanne Davis, Janet Good, Marianne Richter, Elizabeth | |
| 6782-Eastpointe Barnes ,Teresa | 7581-Wayland Foote, Dorothy Russel-Howland, Sue | 4087-Davison North, Mary Sabo Virginia Sanborn, Lucille | 6015-Marion Beaudoin, Flora Kitson, Joan Neubecker, Sylvia Williams, Josephine Zeeryp, Dixie | |
| 9507-Madison Heights Helton, Mary | 671-Dewitt Smith, Coral | | 6898-Fremont Hart, Lois | |
| 423-Ann Arbor Perrault, Lois | 1454-Alma Hubbard, Virginia Freed, Joyce | | | |



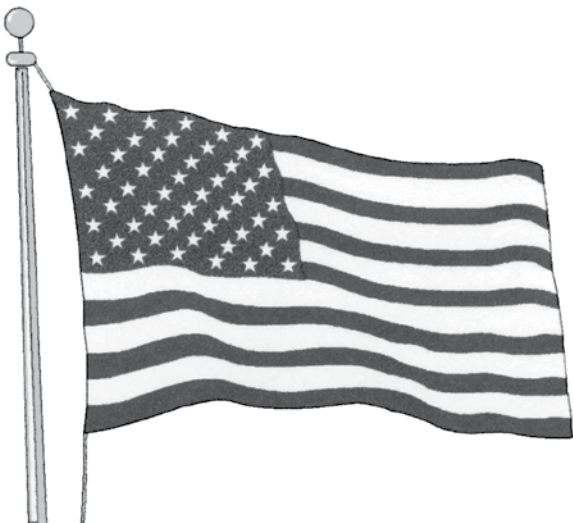
MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



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



Endorsed and supported by:

VFW and Auxiliary District 8
VFW Post and Auxiliary 2406
Her Family and Friends

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



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Department Treasurer
2015-2016



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Post & Auxiliary 4005
Her Family and Friends

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Candidate for Department of Michigan
National Council of Administration Representative
2015-2019



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10th District
Dr. George Washington Carver-Leo R. Crow
VFW Post 8236
His wife and family



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www.vfwstore.org | 1-800-821-2606

Your purchase supports veterans, military service members and their families.

Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
36th Mid-Winter Conference
Wednesday, January 21, 2015—
Sunday, January 25, 2015

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS DECEMBER 26, 2015
Please do not wait until the last minute to make your room reservations. The rates will be available until 12/26/14 or until the block is full, whichever occurs first.

Call your reservation to:
Best Western Plus Hotels Lansing
6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: 517-694-8123

- RESERVATION REMINDERS:**
- Reservations received after December 26, 2014 or after the block is full will be subject to availability at a higher room rate.
 - To reserve your room, please call 517-694-8123. Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.
 - To receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a Department of Michigan VFW Mid-Winter Conference participant when call.
 - Quoted rates are subject to state and local taxes (13%).
 - A credit card and valid photo ID will be required upon check-in.
 - Check-in time is 3 pm. Check-out is at 12 Noon.

Room rates (includes tax):
Standard \$93.23 Jr. Suites \$167.24 Presidential Suites: \$449.74

Please write your email address and phone number below to receive your confirmation number from the hotel.

Email: _____
Phone: _____

Group: **Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars**
 36th Mid-Winter Conference
 Wednesday, January 21, 2015—Sunday, January 25, 2015

Please reserve: _____ Standard Room(s) _____ Jr. Suite(s) _____ Presidential Suite(s)
***Request room with:** _____ King bed _____ 2 Double beds *No Doubles for Suites
***PLEASE NOTE:** We would love to accommodate your room-type request, but room-types are not guaranteed*

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____
If you have special needs or need a barrier-free room, please indicate here:

Type of Payment: Credit Card
Card Type _____ **Number** _____ **Exp. Date** _____
Signature of Card Holder _____

***IF YOU CALL IN YOUR RESERVATIONS - YOU MUST STILL
SUBMIT HOTEL RESERVATION FORM WITH CONFIRMATION
NUMBER. (WE MUST HAVE A HARD COPY ON FILE)***

Department of Michigan
VFW Legacy Life Membership Raffle

Yearly drawing of 3 prizes:
1st prize - GOLD LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP = \$1200.00
2nd prize - SILVER LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP = \$800.00
3rd prize - BRONZE LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP = \$400.00
You don't have to be present to win. Each ticket is \$10.00 to purchase. You must be a VFW life member in good standing to receive a Legacy Life Membership. If you are not a life member and win 1st prize, you may use a portion of the \$1200.00 Legacy Life Membership toward a VFW Life Membership and the remaining money will go toward the 2nd or 3rd place prize. Drawing will be held at the VFW State Convention on June 6, 2015 at 12:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Gateway in Flint, MI. The winning number will be available on the VFW Department website (www.vfwmi.org) on June 7, 2015.
We are in need of ticket distributors. Please call:
Larry Coleman (Home) 734-671-5134 (Cell) 734-818-6677
John Coleman (Home) 734-771-8935
VFW Department Headquarters 517-485-9456
Please mail all purchased ticket stubs with money or any unsold tickets to:
VFW Department of Michigan
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

 **VFW and AUXILIARIES** 
36th Mid-Winter Conference
Best Western Plus • Lansing, Michigan
BANQUET TICKETS
January 24, 2015

Price \$35.00 per person / All seats are reserved
No tickets sold at the door

Deadline Date for Ordering Tickets is January 6th, 2015
BANQUET TICKET ORDERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE,
INCLUDING NO SHOWS, UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY
THE STATE COMMANDER FOR REFUND.

All tickets must be picked up by 12:00 NOON, SATURDAY,
the day of the banquet.

BANQUET TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

District # _____ **Post #** _____ **Number of Tickets** _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make all checks (NO CASH) payable to:
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW

Mail to:
Patrick Patterson
21672 Elmway
Clinton Township, MI 48035

BANQUET STARTS AT 6:00 PM

Department of Michigan
VFW and AUXILIARIES
86th Annual Mid-Winter Ad Book
COMRADES & SISTERS- WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
Deadlines for all Ads is January 10, 2015

Rates:
Full Page\$100.00
1/2 Page\$70.00
1/4 Page\$45.00
Patron (Name and Post or Auxiliary # only)\$400.00

PLEASE PRINT DO NOT WRITE

Make checks payable to: Department of Michigan VFW
(NO CASH)

Mail to: Scott Gloger
6718 Academy #5
Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: 734-323-1188
Email: lingloscot@yahoo.com

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS JANUARY 10, 2015

MESSAGE: Print clearly or attach a copy of your ad

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

 • *Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community* •  **Volume 82 Number 2**
October/November/December 2014

“Past Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell to be National Representative at Mid-Winter Conference.”



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

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

Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander 1999-2000. He served as national inspector general in 2001-2002. He also served as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005.

Tradewell earned an associate’s degree in industrial safety. Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service.

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

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



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

INSIDE

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| Military Order of the | |
| Cootie | 4 |
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Coming Events

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
January 22-25, 2015

STATE COMMANDER

VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER

PUTS POSTS ON NOTICE

The following is a message from VFW National Commander John W. Stroud

November 06, 2014

I am extremely disturbed by the recurring reports from the field as well as the media’s portrayal of the VFW as an organization that is comprised of old and out of touch veterans who would rather drink in a dimly lit canteen than open their doors to our younger veterans. The VFW’s mission is far too important; our objectives and causes for which we work far too critical; and the current situation of the veteran population far too dire to let the negativity of a few divide us and dilute our efforts. We must empower the younger veterans to be forces of change within our organization while lending them the institutional knowledge to be effective leaders for future generations of veterans.

The fact remains that the stereotypical, dingy, dark and smoke filled VFW Post and canteen do exist, but they have no benefit to our organization, provide no aid to our mission nor to the veterans we strive to help and serve. These Posts are in the minority of our organization, but in order to shift the paradigm we must challenge every member to hold their Post accountable. It’s time for our membership to be emboldened into action and to push their Posts to strive for the high ideals that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded upon.

Accordingly, I am charging my current Department VFW Commanders to be advocates of change and to challenge the officers of the subordinate units within their command to be more than officers — challenge them to be leaders cognizant of the current challenges today’s veterans face. To do this, our VFW Posts must change their operational tactics to better reflect the

Harry “Les” Croyle

State Commander



modern crises younger veterans are facing on their new “battlefield” — the home front.

For those members and Posts who would rather serve themselves than the countless veterans who are in need, remind them that this organization exists for the benefit of all veterans rather than those of an entitled few. I want to make it clear that I will willingly provide my complete support to any of my Department Commanders who move to shut down any Post, or remove from our leadership roles, anyone that is not committed to the goals of the organization. They simply don’t belong here. The need is too great for a dynamic and modern VFW that can continue to advocate and respond unhesitatingly to the needs of all veterans in the 21st century and beyond. To do less, would be an unconscionable betrayal of our responsibilities as Americans and as veterans.

John W. Stroud
VFW National Commander

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

Membership is the life’s blood of our organization. Looking over the membership stats of the 12 districts that make up our Department of

— **STATE COMMANDER**, continued on page 17