



**New York Veteran Elected New VFW National Commander**

*Schmitz takes office during a time of great momentum for the organization*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 29, 2019)** — William J. “Doc” Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., has been elected the new leader of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a congressionally-chartered veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from all five branches of the armed forces.

Schmitz’s election to VFW Commander-in-Chief occurred at the conclusion of the organization’s 120th national convention in Orlando, Fla., which drew approximately 10,000 veterans, and military family members.

— *NATIONAL COMMANDER, continued on page 4*



**Thomas Todaro**

**State Commander**

First of all I would like to thank Post 53, Chautauqua County Council, District 6 and all the members for their support and confidence on my election as State Commander. I would also like to congratulate William “Doc” Schmitz on being elected National Commander-in-Chief. He is the first one we have had from New York in over 30 years and hoping to have a good showing from the Department of New York at his homecoming September 5th thru the 8th in Albany.

As we start this new year let’s keep the momentum going and recruit new members as well as retain our existing members. Let’s

— *STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 4*



**Tom Howard**

**State Sr. Vice Commander**

Comrades:

I have been on the go since the State Convention and going to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida having a swell time. Driving to Orlando, I stopped in Norfolk Virginia and Mayport Florida...you can’t tell I was in the Navy. When

I got home, I went to New Paltz for some of their elections.

Comrades, it is time to get back to business and having a lot of changes made, I highly recommend all members attend post and district meetings so you can learn and see what they are. At the

— *STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 4*



**Michael Hoag**

**State Jr. Vice Commander**

This year’s Department OTI, recently held in Albany, was in my opinion a huge success! Congratulations to OTI Dean Dan Kell for putting it all together, Department staff for the preparations, all the instructors and the 80 + attendees who stayed right to the end. I believe that making it a Friday evening and a Saturday event enabled a better learning experience for all.

One or two questions/comments that I heard got me thinking about my VFW career. Being a Vietnam Veteran I joined at a time when many of the WW2 comrades didn’t think Vietnam qualified as a “war”. After attending some meetings and hearing various comments, I came to a personal decision. I set a goal for myself that I would try to encourage any younger “modern day” veteran to join

— *STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 4*

**WE HAVE ONE OF OUR OWN AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AFTER 37 YEARS!**

Photographer:



Editor:



*INSIDE this NYSOV*



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## New York State Overseas Veteran

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**\*\* ARTICLES:**

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, its members, member communities, awards and activities are welcome.

**\*\* SUBMISSION & FORMAT:**

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. Send JPG/PNG/PDF images with corresponding captions. E-mail articles and pictures as attachments with the sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the e-mail. Submissions from other sources must have complete credits such as publication name, address and dates published.

**\*\* EDITORIAL POLICY:**

Inappropriate, demeaning, unduly critical articles and/or statements will not be published. Article length, inaccuracies, composition and other miscellaneous errors and/or mistakes may be edited.

Although every effort is made to maintain an honorable and accurate publication, the Department of New York and/or its staff, editor and other publication participants are not responsible for the content, views and/or positions of any article(s)/submissions.

**\*\* ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO: [CITadmin@VFWNY.com](mailto:CITadmin@VFWNY.com). They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.**

**\*\* DEADLINE:**

Deadline: Articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month...July, October, January and April.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to CITadmin, P.O. Box 116, Carlisle, NY 12031.

**\*\* GRAPHIC DESIGN**



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## Harold Burke Jr.

State Adjutant

Comrades,

This is going to be a very exhilarating year with our newly elected State Commander Thomas Todaro.

Congratulations to our State Commander, Thomas Todaro, State Sr. Vice Commander Thomas Howard, Jr., Vice Commander Michael Hoag, State Quartermaster Daniel McMahon, State Surgeon Brenda

Serena, State Chaplain Father R.P. Kane and all the newly elected and appointed Department, District, County Council, and Post Officers on their election to office.

Congratulations to PSC William "Doc" Schmitz on his election as Commander-in-Chief, we are very excited that we have a Commander-in-Chief after 37 years. We all need to continue to work together to support the Department's choice, William "Doc" Schmitz.

I would like to thank State Commander, Thomas Todaro for appointing me as the State Adjutant this year. I will continue to do my best to support him, the Department Officers, and the membership of this great State.

Commander Todaro is including many innovative initiatives for the membership this coming year.

— STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 5



## What Memorial Day Means to Me

By 13 Year Old Quinn Galilee Lefevre

In this moment, a respectful, heavy silence has fallen over the 150 children and 30 or so teachers that stand and watch. They watch the young soldier march steadily across the pavement, meticulously shined shoes clicking softly in the quiet space. The tomb she guards sits almost right in the center of a city. A very much alive, moving, breathing city. Yet here, there is still no sound. There is no sound because here time stands still purely out of respect. A respect for lives lost but never recovered; a respect for faces seen but never recognized. The only sound to be heard is the soft clicking, the measured breath, and the shifting of the metal on the rifle she carries. The only thing to be seen is her unmoving eyes, set on a point ahead, and the sharp, deliberate movements with which she moves. She resembles so much the soldiers she guards, eyes set ahead, charging deliberately forward. As they stood watch over us, she stands watch over them.

In another moment, I stand in front of a coffin. The coffin sits open, a man lies inside, he wears military dress blues, the uniform of someone honorable. I stare at him, a bit out of sadness, but mostly out of fascination, out of thought. I thought about how America, freedom, red white and blue, all these things we associate, are just ideas. The man lying in front of me was the heroic embodiment of those ideas. He was the living, breathing link between the idea of heroic sacrifice and humanity. He reminded us that there is a relationship between what makes us human, and what makes us exceptional.

So, that's what Memorial Day means to me. It means letting time stand still out of respect for faces seen but never recognized. It means recognizing when someone has successfully embodied these ideas that we claim as our country's great values. And it means being there for them because they were there for us.

*Quinn Galilee Lefevre lives in Pomfret, Connecticut with his mother Suzette Marie Lefevre and father Michael Joseph Lefevre and his brother Luca Michael Lefevre. This speech was written for an essay contest at his school. Quinn won the contest and went on to give the speech at his town's Veterans Day parade. Quinn's Grandmother sent me his speech feeling that as a veteran I would appreciate it. I was so moved by his work I asked if I could share his speech with my brother and sister veterans in the New York VFW Overseas Veteran newsletter. Quinn's answer: "Thank you for reading my speech and noticing it, it means so much to know that my writing moved you as a veteran. Please feel free to publish it."*



## Bob Mitchell

State Inspector

Comrades,

As we begin a new VFW year, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Department Commander Todaro for appointing me as State Inspector. We had a very successful inspection program last year having inspected more than

80% of the Posts in the Department. Our goal this year is to inspect every Post. It is imperative that we get an early start to ensure that each and every Post is Inspected in accordance with Department and National guidelines and as directed by our State Commander. Please review your past year's inspection report and be sure that you have addressed any and all deficiencies that were identified. As a reminder, the purpose of our Inspection process is to ensure that each Post in our Department is operating in a manner that supports the purposes set forth in our Congressional Charter, complies with National By-Laws, preserves the financial integrity of our Posts and most importantly, protects the interests of our membership.

I am confident that our Inspection Teams will provide you with a very informative, educational and constructive inspection this year. I encourage you to work with them, learn from them and if necessary, complete any follow-up items as may be required. Lastly, take pride in having your Inspection "accepted" by the Department and knowing that you are one of our "squared away" Posts!

I would also like to thank the membership of District 3 for their support and confidence in electing me as their 2019-2020 District Commander. I am honored and humbled and look forward to working with a great leadership team to make this another very successful year for District 3. We are well prepared at the District level to further our commitment and tradition that "No one does more for Veteran's", especially the Third District of the Department of New York.

The District had a very successfully Organizational Meeting and Picnic that was held on July 14, 2019 at Post 358 in Ballston Spa, NY. Thank you to all that attended to make this a great kick-off to our upcoming year together. District Auxiliary President Belinda Ellis and I were very excited to present our membership with our agenda and goals for the upcoming year. We are looking forward to working very closely and having a very enjoyable and exciting year together.

It is essential that we again focus our efforts this year on "Membership". I am very proud of District 3 for finishing first in membership this past year at the Department level! We have to keep the momentum going and work very diligently together and focus our efforts to enhance our recruiting and retention plans. Together we can "make it happen" again!

Sincerely,

**Bob Mitchell**

State Inspector/Commander, District 3



## Dan McMahon

State Quartermaster

The 120th National VFW Convention in Orlando was very interesting with a lot to see, learn and attend during the convention. By-Law changes were the focus of attention. I very strongly suggest to every VFW Officer to order the latest copy of the By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. The newest copy should be out sometime in September. There are several formats of the latest issue to choose from, hard copy, CD's, and/or download a copy to your computer from Barnes and Noble. That being said, of the changes to the By-Laws one will affect how the Posts, (County Councils, as appropriate), Districts and Departments process the bills received. See below.

The change is:

**M-4**

Recommended by National By-Laws Study Group Proposed by the Commander-in-Chief

### ARTICLE II – POSTS

Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Amend Sec. 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations., **Manual of Procedure, under (a)(1)f., by adding "by use of voucher or payment order." at the end of the sentence.**

The Department of New York has been using vouchers for many years and will continue to do so. As stated earlier, this effects every level of the VFW, I am only listing the Post level. There is a sample of the voucher in the Quartermasters booklet. At the Department OTI several questions were presented and, I will be traveling to Kansas City in October for the annual Quartermasters training and will attempt to better clarify the signatures and the process of using vouchers.

The initial voucher/order must be self-explanatory and show clearly to whom the money is to be paid, how much is to be paid and for what, set forth in detail. It must also carry the correct signatures as required by the Bylaws and the Post. If the payment is reimbursement for expenditures already made, the voucher/order must be supported by the receipted bills made in detail. If it is for a bill being presented for payment, the itemized bill must accompany the voucher/order and remain a part of that voucher/order in the permanent file.

Always keep this in mind. You can never have too much proof for the proper receipt and disbursement of funds, because doubt can attach to any person, despite a record of probity and honesty. A Quartermaster may, with or without cause, be called upon at any time to account for stewardship. Never honor a voucher marked "miscellaneous expense." If such expense cannot be detailed and itemized for Post approval, you are not required to make that disbursement.

OTI for Post Quartermasters - This is a requirement for any Post wishing to be an ALL STATE Post. Last year there were several Posts which missed out on All State accomplishment due the Post Quartermaster not attending a Quartermaster training program. Each District is required by the Bylaws to conduct one School of Instruction. Find out when your district has it scheduled and attend it. If the district notifies the department with sufficient time Hal, will add it to the Department Calendar.

There are several posts which are selling their property, closing and or

— *QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 4*

**WE SUPPORT  
OUR TROOPS**

— *NATIONAL COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

Each year, VFW members from around the globe representing a myriad of conflicts converge at the event. Their mission during the week long convention is to approve new national priorities to guide the organization in its advocacy and business efforts throughout the ensuing year.

Schmitz takes office during a time of great momentum for the organization which recently announced its first increase in membership numbers in 27 years, reached a milestone achievement of more than \$8.3 billion in benefits and compensation collected from the VA on behalf of veterans, and fought for the successful passage of the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019*. Through donations and corporate partnerships, the VFW has also surpassed \$11 million in financial grants and \$6.5 million in scholarships awarded to veterans, and is celebrating 100 years of its National Veterans Service and National Legislative Service programs which advocate for the best possible quality of life solutions and benefits on behalf of America's veterans, service members and military families.

Aiding the VFW's corporate relationships is its VFW Foundation, an IRS 501(c)(3) charity which maintains a coveted four-star rating by Charity Navigator, setting the VFW Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrating to the public its trustworthiness.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Schmitz served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970, with deployment to Vietnam as a corpsman attached to United States Marine Corps infantry and artillery. He then joined the VFW in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he has served the VFW in many vital leadership positions at the local, state and national levels.

During his tenure as national commander, Schmitz will log thousands of miles across the U.S. and abroad to promote the many objectives of the VFW. His charge to members and supporters the \$102 million nonprofit organization over the next year is to "Dare to Care," calling on individuals to help confront the challenges that hinder America's service members and families from living their best lives.

To watch Schmitz's acceptance speech, visit <https://livestream.com/accounts/8386284/events/8736150/videos/194142580>

— *STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

meetings ask how you can help your post and district out.

I cannot stress enough to get all your reports in and on time. Of course, we need members, lets beat last year's goal. If you need help let me know and I will find the help.

Sincerely,

**Tom Howard, Sr. Vice**  
**LET'S WORK TOGETHER**

— *QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 3*

turning in their charters or merging. If your Post is planning or must do one of the listed items, please take the time to contact the Department Adjutant with the details for proper guidance and instructions.

Thank you,

**Daniel McMahan**  
**Quartermaster**  
[dmcMahon@vfwny.com](mailto:dmcMahon@vfwny.com)  
**518-424-2605**

— *STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

see if we can put New York over the top again this year and attain 100% as I know we can do it!! As I've said before, retention is the goal, not just to sign up new members, but to mentor them and keep them active. Use the installment life plan as this works and we don't have to worry about them not paying dues annually.

I ask that you go out to fairs, trade shows, car shows, etc. and set up the tents that we gave to each District and RECRUIT new members as every member is on the Membership Team!!! Continue to work with the Student Veterans of America groups at the colleges and continue to bring them into the fold. If you have a college nearby find out if they have an SVA group there and try to meet with them and foster relations. Go in and make a presentation on what the VFW has to offer and find out if they need help or if they need to file claims. A service officer should be involved in every outing, whether it be a County Service Officer or an Accredited Service Officer, this will enhance the recruiting effort.

The Senate has passed the Blue Water Veterans Act, this opens the door to the veterans who served on ships within the 12 nautical mile limit, they will be afforded the Agent Orange presumptive that the veterans who served on land have been getting. The VFW was instrumental in getting this passed. You can present information like this during your presentations to the SVA or at your District meetings.

So let's get out there and have a banner year!!

Yours in Comradeship,

**Thomas Todaro**

— *STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

our ranks and nurture them as much as I possibly could and, in short, make them feel welcomed. I would never use the words such as 'that won't work', 'we already tried that', etc. As a Post commander my words are 'if you have an idea and are willing to at least be a part of making your idea work', let's try it.

We all know that a couple of words or even one word can either bring great joy or cause great pain. Those of us who have been around for a long time, in fact all of us, need to be very mindful of that when addressing other veterans either directly or as a group. How, (tone, inflections, mannerisms etc.) the manner in how we are addressed is very important to us all.

I had the privilege of visiting several Post events since being elected Jr Vice Commander. Great functions and camaraderie. Some were community orientated events which I totally support. None, however, had any recruiting table, material, or applications readily available. When we are doing great things and are proud of them let's be thinking of offering the attendees the opportunity of being a part of our efforts.

Congratulations to PSC Ratigliano for raising over, \$22,000.00 for the Saratoga War horse Project. I was honored to be invited and attend the War Horse fund raiser in Saratoga Springs August 12th. Three female graduates of the project spoke telling their stories which brought tears to my eyes. Anyone who raised and or donated money to this should know the money was very well spent.

**Michael Hoag**  
**Junior Vice Commander**



— *STATE ADJUTANT, continued from page 2*

If you find areas on the Website that need to be improved or are not working, please contact Don Mackey at CITAdmin@VFWNY.COM.

Communication is vital to our State Commander and he plans to provide all the information necessary for you to be successful. Currently, as information is received I am forwarding it to those who we have an e-mail address for. Please provide me with your e-mail address if we do not already have it so you can receive information as we get it at Headquarters.

State Commander Thomas Todaro has placed enormous emphasis on the importance of the Department of New York, VFW to respond to all communications in a timely manner. Therefore, he is requesting that all correspondence regarding VFW matters be sent to the Department of New York Headquarters to assure that we are successful in our quest. Headquarters will confirm the correspondence is properly annotated, distributed and responded to with actions that may be necessary to bring the issue to closure.

As stated, Communication is very important and to assure that the Department of New York is not misquoted we Officers, Members of the Council of Administration, Past State Commanders, Chairman of Committee, Committee Members and Members of the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars should not speak to the news media as an official or unofficial spokesperson of the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars without prior clearance from the Department Commander or Department Adjutant. All inquiries from the media should be referred to the Department Adjutant.

Should you receive a media inquiry, you should respond: "I have no authority to respond to your request." You should refer your question to the Department Adjutant.

Dale, Monica, Gene, Don, and I are excited about the New VFW Year and look forward to assisting each of you this coming year.

On Behalf of the Staff and myself, we offer our Best Wishes for a successful year. The staff and I pledge our support to the Officers and members of the Department of New York.

If we can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact us at 518-463-7427.

Sincerely,

**Hal**

**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr., PJAG/PSC/PSQM  
State Adjutant**

## Patriot's Pen Report

Hello Comrades:

Let me introduce myself. I am Wayne Campbell this year's Patriot Pen Chairman for the Department of New York.

I have sent Letters to the nine District Commanders asking for them to contact their Posts to get out the word about this program. The Theme for this year is "What Makes America Great."

At midnight October 31st the entries must be to the post. November 15th the post judging must be complete. December 15th the District judging must be complete.

**Wayne Campbell  
Chairman**



## Voice of Democracy Report



### *What Makes America Great*

Dear Comrades, Sisters & Friends,

Department Commander Thomas Todaro has asked me to chair this year's Department's Voice of Democracy Program and I graciously accepted knowing with your continuing effort this year's program will be a huge success.

This year's theme sounds very interesting for our Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy contestants. I am very excited about this year's program for a couple of reasons: First our VOD awards structure will be increasing 400%. That's quite an incentive for High Students to participate in our essay contest. So please help get the word out in your communities. In the near future I'll be preparing a news release please try to have it published in your local newspapers and public service announcements. Secondly, over the years our program has been very well received at Columbia Green Community College. Former College President James Campion retired in July and I wish him the best in his retirement as he is a truly a friend of all Veterans and particularly the Veterans of Foreign Wars. After a long and extensive search the College Board of Trustees named PhD Carley Drummer the new college president. I met with President Drummer recently explaining to her our essay program. She was very impressed and pledged the colleges continued support. We set a date of December 28th for the use of the college board room to conduct our Department's final VOD judging. President Drummer also said she would be honored to be part of that panel.

Some important program dates:

- Oct. 31st all student entries must be submitted to Posts
- Nov. 15th Completion of Post Judging
- Dec. 15th Completion of District Judging
- Upon completion of District Judging forward Districts 1st place winner to Department Chairman (yours truly)
- Jan. 15th District Participation report to Department Chairman

Please, if a student brings an entry to your Post accept it and forward it to your District VOD Chairman.

Our Department's reigning VOD, winner Miss Sofia Isabela, will be attending SUNY Fredonia in the Fall. I'm sure all her friends in the Department of New York wish her best in all of her future endeavors. I spoke with her recently and asked for thoughts regarding our program, Sofia replied:

*"As the local, district, and state winner of the Voice of Democracy competition, I was honored to represent New York in Washington, DC. Meeting all the other state winners and the courageous Veterans was an opportunity that I'll always cherish. An added bonus was touring our nation's capital, visiting the museums and monuments, and participating in many fun activities during my stay. I made so many new, lifelong friends that I was lucky enough to see in Valley Forge.*

*Overall, I am so grateful to the veterans who, in addition to giving their lives to protect America's freedoms, sponsor the Voice of Democracy competition and provide this amazing opportunity for high school students. I am profoundly thankful to have been selected."*

Hope to see all of you at the Fall Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Wally Zincio**

**State Youth Development Recognition  
& Scholarship (VOD) Chairman**

## No Veteran Should Be Without a Place to Call Home

First I would like to thank Department of New York Commander Todaro for giving me this appointment as Homeless Veterans Chairman. Each year the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as many of the other veteran organizations, are committed to ending homelessness among veterans. The VA's programs provide Veterans with:

- Conducting coordinated outreach to proactively seek out Veterans in need of assistance.
- Connecting homeless and at-risk Veterans with housing solutions, health care, community employment services and other required supports.
- Collaborating with federal, state and local agencies; employers; housing providers, faith-based and community non profits; and others to expand employment and affordable housing options for Veterans exiting homelessness.

You can learn more about these programs at VA's Programs for At-Risk Veterans and Their Families page.

American veterans deserve to be made whole, and to have a place to call home that is their own. As Americans, we owe them this, as well as our gratitude for everything that they have risked or lost while in military service. Some possible ideas on how you can help the homeless veteran population in your area of the USA include:

- Take a look around your own local community and see if there is a need for helping homeless veterans. The odds are if you live in a city or urban area there are veterans who need help finding stable housing and other resources.
- Contact homeless and veteran organizations in your area to see what you can do. Volunteer to help in any way that you can, whether that is filling out paperwork or trying to locate homeless veterans who need assistance and shelter.
- Contact any agencies and coalitions in your area who work with the homeless. Inquire about helping homeless veterans; you may be surprised at how great the need is in your area.
- Donate to veteran organizations and charities that are specifically designed to assist the veteran population. These funds are sorely needed, and even a small donation can have a big impact on the life of a homeless veteran.
- Contact your politicians and elected officials to bring attention to the need for helping homeless veterans. When voters reach out to those in elected positions changes in the current laws or veterans' programs are possible so that veterans receive additional assistance and have an easier time accessing the programs designed to help them once their military service is finished.

Give something back by helping homeless veterans. After everything that they have done to keep us safe and protect our country, they deserve our support now more than ever.

In closing with the support of all the posts in the Department of New York any amount of donation will help our Homeless Veterans in our area and get them the help and support they need.

Yours in Comradeship

**Daniel L. Kell**

**Department Homeless Veterans Chairman**

## Past State Commander Article



It is impossible to believe that a year has gone by and we are into the second month of a new VFW year. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers for 2019-20. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your tremendous support and hospitality during my year as your Commander. I am happy to report that we had 7 Districts, 14 County Councils and 67 posts qualify for All-State. A tremendous effort by all of you!

I was very proud to represent you at the National Convention in Orlando and accept my cap as an All-American Commander for the Department of New York. WE were successful because of the team effort you put forth and ask that you continue your hard work to make Commander Todaro's year a successful one as well. This is especially important because we have a New Yorker as our new National Commander-in-Chief this year and New York needs to continue to lead by example.

I would also like to report to you that I presented our Department donation to Saratoga War Horse which was my special project for last year. Thanks to your generosity and that of our Auxiliary I was able to present a check to Saratoga War Horse for \$22,252.79 and had the opportunity to visit with the class of veterans who just graduated from a course this last week. This donation will enable Saratoga War Horse to cover the lodging and travel expenses for all the veterans attending one full class at the farm here in Saratoga Springs as many of the veterans attending the course travel from all over the United States. Your donation will go a long way in assisting those veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI and other physical and psychological injuries and the staff at Saratoga War Horse are very appreciative of your financial support to this great organization.

As we move into the new year everyone needs to begin preparing to make contact within the schools and civic organizations in your communities to publicize our Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, and Scouting Programs as well as thinking about those in your community who deserve to be recognized for their special achievements. We do not do enough to publicize to the public who we are and what we do. These programs open up the world of what the VFW has to offer and enables us to honor those who deserve recognition.

Post inspection time is here again. You may think it early, but if your Post has not been contacted for an inspection, make arrangements to do so with your County Council Commander or District Commander. Failure to do so puts your post in arrears and if a post needs help, it is the time to make it known so that help can be provided. Your District and Your Department are there to help - use the resources at hand.

Enjoy the rest of the summer as winter will be upon us before you know it. Use the great weather we have been having to get out and "show the VFW flag" - make us more visible in your community - and work membership. We are on an uphill climb so let's not slide backwards. You know now that you can do it so strive for that 100% and as my National Commander BJ Lawrence espoused last year - "Make it Happen!". I know you can do it again.

**Gene Ratigliano**

**Jr. Past State Commander**

## Employment Report

Congressman Anthony Brindisi, represents the 22nd District of New York and has shown his commitment in assisting veterans, forming a Veterans Advisory Committee of which I am a member. On July 22nd the Congressman held a Veterans Resource Fair at our local community college, that included Veterans Service Organizations and state and county agencies. The program provided information that can assist Veterans and their families.

**Ron Jubis**  
**VFW Department of New York**  
**Employment Chairman**

## State Chief of Staff

First, I would like to congratulate the Department of New York, and Past Department Commander Eugene Ratigliano, and all 2018-2019 District Commanders, and all the members throughout the Department for an outstanding year, on helping to put the Department over 100% in membership. It was not easy, however with everyone's participation in recruiting new members, we made it happen. This can be done again with the same enthusiasm, that has been displayed in 2018-2019. I had said over and over in my term of office: "Just Do Your Best."

All programs and reports should be completed and submitted on time to Department in order to be eligible, for All-State status. It should be your goal as Post, County and District Commanders to become All-American Commanders. As for myself, achieving All-American District Commander for 2018-2019, has been overwhelming, and could not have been done without the cooperation and hard work of my entire membership throughout the district. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is involved in many programs and activities, at every post you have both business and social activities going on. Be sure that when you conduct "business" activities to present yourself as a professional team, and when you are conducting a social activity, remember that we are representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars all the time, and we should have fun, but conduct ourselves in a professional manner. Social media is an excellent way to recruit membership, however when recruiting, inform the potential members what Veterans of Foreign Wars is all about, a Community Service Organization, support Active Military and their Families, let them know what the VFW does for the veterans, such as lobbying for benefits, inform them of our scholarship programs, our VFW National Home for Children, believe it or not, there are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that do not know of these programs, mainly because they were never informed.

In closing, I want to wish all of you the very best for 2019-2020.

**Pat Iulucci**  
**Department of New York, Chief of Staff**



## Public Servant Awards 2019-2020 Program

There are many unsung heroes in our communities who serve the public day in and day out and many times risking their lives for their fellow neighbors, community members and who rarely receive the public recognition they so rightly deserve.

I am appointed Chairman for the Safety & Public Servant Awards 2019-2020 programs by Department of New York Commander Tomas Todaro. This year my goal is to have a Department of New York Awards Winners for each category. The categories are as follows:

1. Emergency Medical Technicians
2. Law Enforcement Personnel
3. Firefighters

It is the responsibility for each District Commander and Post Commander to appoint a District and Post Member as your Safety & Public Servant Awards Chairman. This Chairman should seek out qualified public servant's that meet the awards program qualifications.

Posts should have their winner selected by November 1, 2019. Post selected winners need to be submitted with all proper applications and supporting documentation to your District Chairperson by December 1, 2019. District Chairpersons need to have their selections to the Department of New York by January 1, 2020. Any entries received at the Department of New York after January 1, 2020 will not be considered.

Your District / Post Chairperson can download and print the Safety & Public Servant's program guide from our National Web Site. The Program and Applications are available by clicking on MY VFW - Training & Support, next click on Community Service and Youth Programs, next click on Public Servant's and Safety. This will show all necessary information and forms.

I wish to thank all District/Post Commanders and Program Chairperson's for your participation and efforts in selecting your Winners.

**James J. Haas, Department of NY VFW**  
**James J. Haas, PDC**  
**Chairman, Safety and Public Servant Awards Chairman**  
**518-461-3829**  
**[jimhaas10@gmail.com](mailto:jimhaas10@gmail.com)**





## Mike Webster

**Veterans & Military Support Programs**

It is a new VFW year and the need for donations has not gone away. If nothing else the demand seems to increase with each New Year. We were doing better as last year ended so my request is that we continue that trend.

I attended the National Convention in Orlando and as I mentioned in the spring, I would be picking up \$1200 worth of pins. I now have them and I will be bringing them to the Fall Conference. I ask you to be prepared to take them off my hands and I thank you now as you all have done just that these many years.

There were many changes made this year to the requirements for All-American. The one that involves my program is the Veterans and Military Support Programs fee for Posts seeking that level. It went from \$50 to \$100. I am sure that there will be many discussions about that and several of the other changes wherever VFW members are gathered.

I hope to see you all at the Fall Conference.

**Michael W. Webster**  
Chairman

## Roland Abare

**VAVS Chairman**

As your VAVS Chairman, I am an active VAVS Representative at the Albany VA. As a volunteer on the Adult Day Health Care floor, I host ice cream socials, provide musical entertainment, etc., and assist the staff in transporting veterans to their medical appointments. As a volunteer, I find ways to assist all the veterans using the facility.

There are many VA hospitals in New York State that are currently without VFW representation. I am hoping this year to see more involvement at our VA hospitals.

Please contact your local VA hospital to start the process of becoming a VA volunteer for the VFW.

Please advise me, as the State VAVS Chairman, if you become a VA volunteer.

I am hoping to travel to various VA facilities in NYS so I can see firsthand their volunteer programs and meet with our veterans.

As a side bar - being a volunteer can attract veterans to join the VFW - while giving you a sense of accomplishment in helping fellow veterans.

Thank You!

**Roland "Bud" Abare**  
VAVS Chairman



## VFW National Home for Children

*By Art Scheuneman*

I am pleased to announce that we had met the goal of recruiting 100 New VFW National Home Life Members. In fact the final total was 107. Congratulations and thank you for your support of the National Home.

Recruiting new VFW National Home Life Members is a never ending process. If you have not yet committed to becoming a National Home Life Member, now is the time to join, by doing so your entry fee helps continue the many programs that the National Home provides to our Veteran residents at the National Home. Life Membership to the National Home is a onetime application fee of \$50.00 dollars and includes a VFW National Home Life Membership Pin. I will have a limited number of the 2019 National Home Annual Pins for sale at the Fall Conference, the cost for these pins are just \$3.00.

A VFW National Home for Children application is attached for your convenience. When signing up for a membership in the National Home please put insert the following information as the Recruiter, Art Scheuneman Post 4823. Thank you.

Attention, all National Home Life Members: I am running for VFW National Home Trustee, representing District 2 which includes the Departments of Europe, New Jersey and our own G State Great Department of New York. Election ballots for VFW National Home Trustee Division 2 are to be mailed out beginning August 19th and must be received back at the National Home by September 24th 2019. Please look for this mailing and be sure to cast your vote.

At the National Convention held this past July in Orlando Florida I had the opportunity to speak with several of the staff from the National Home. One of the things on their "Wish List" are donations to the "Santa Shop 2019."

Some of the items on their list are the following:

- Electric hair straightener
- Electric blow dryers
- Men's toiletries/gift sets
- Inexpensive watches
- Wallets and billfolds
- Winter gloves (adult sizes only)
- Inexpensive jewelry-men & women
- Insulated lunch bags
- Small tool sets
- Family games-no Chutes & Ladders, or Candy Land-have plenty
- Small coolers
- Teen boy or girl body sprays, cologne
- Car emergency kits
- Travel coffee mugs
- Coffee cup sets
- Scented body washes and lotions
- Nail polish/makeup sets
- Teen boy shaving kits/gift sets
- Sports gym bags
- Craft/activity sets
- Sports balls-basketballs, footballs, softballs, kick balls and soccer balls
- Curling irons (all sizes)

—VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN, continued on page 9

—*VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN, continued from page 8*

- Christmas tree ornaments
- Dolls, small, large, white and African American
- Sport water bottles/cups
- Hot pads/dish towels
- All branches of military hoodies, t-shirts, hats for all ages
- Sports equipment-bat, ball, gloves, etc.
- Make up bags/totes
- Sport team coffee mugs, insulated bags, hats, mittens
- Sport team hoodies, t-shirts, hats (all ages)
- Belts (men and women)

Santa's Shop is a store where our children can shop for Christmas gifts and experience the joy of giving. We stock it with gifts appropriate for all ages; children may be shopping for moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, big brothers, little sisters, best friends and other special people. To help with Santa's Shop, donate new items appropriate for all ages, but especially for adults. Overflow of generous gifts to the Santa Shop will also be available to the children for birthdays, special events and an incentive closet. When mailing packages or making a delivery, please indicate your gift is for Santa's Shop. Gifts can be delivered to: VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 by Friday, December 7th. Please call 866-483-9642 with questions. Thank you!

## Department Service Officer's Updates

Comrades, Happy VFW New Year! As convention season closes down and we settle in to our new Commander's goals and focus areas, we can now take a moment to update you on recent VA developments. Commander Todaro has directed they be included in Post Service Officer OTI because they are important and effect many of our members. I will break them down as simply as possible for you. Please pay attention to the 'Take Away' points:

### Agent Orange and the Blue Water Navy (HR 299)

Congress passed the law extending presumptive service connection for currently listed Agent Orange conditions to Vietnam veterans who served within the 12nm range of the coast of Vietnam. This legislation also expands for children of Thailand veterans born with Spina Bifida. This news has **3 Take Away** points!

- VA is working on the new eligible "Ship List" as well as their internal procedures concerning how to process the enormous "wave" of claims that will ensue. Their policy will go in to effect on **1 January 2020**.
- If you have been denied for a claimed Agent Orange condition due to being a Blue Water veteran **AND** you would now qualify for an approved rating; your effective date will be preserved from your initial claim.
- VA is advising Blue Water veterans to apply **NOW**. As always, check with your VFW Service Officer before filing a claim with VA!

### The Appeals Modernization Act

The Appeals Modernization Act went in to effect on 19 February 2019. In my opinion, this recent improvement and restructuring of the appeals process is VERY favorable to veterans. There are now 3 "lanes" from which you can appeal:

Higher Level Review: You have NO new evidence to submit. You

and/or your Service Officer believe VA made a legal or procedural error in their decision. You and/or your Service Officer are afforded the opportunity of a review by a Higher Level of rater. This can also include an informal conference. (That's the part I love!)

Supplemental Claim: You have NEW and RELEVANT evidence for VA to consider. You can add that evidence for VA to review and get another shot at claim approval.

Board of Veteran's Appeals: The traditional Board Appeal with the options of Legal Review, Board Teleconference, or in person meeting with a Veteran's Law Judge.

### **Take Away Points:**

AMA has made the process of appealing MUCH faster; there are many more options for Veterans and VSOs to get the Veteran's point across to VA.

You can switch back and forth between Higher Level and Supplemental while still preserving your effective date. Example: You submitted a Supplemental and it was denied. You can ask for a Higher Level without going to the BVA. THEN, you can still go to BVA if dissatisfied.

Your VSO has a wonderful opportunity to argue your case directly with a Rater who can make a fast and just decision almost on the spot.

These are two of the most important updates that have occurred in the past year with VA. In the next article, we will address the VA MISSION ACT, which has a positive impact on your VA Healthcare. We are seeing great improvements to Healthcare in the field. Additionally, we will address the NCA, or National Cemetery Agency and some of the great services they provide to surviving loved ones.

**Final Takeaway:** Please remember that your Department Service Officers work for you, the membership, and all veterans! Do not hesitate to call us with questions and concerns. Please do not try to navigate the claims process alone as we can help to optimize your chances of success! We love our jobs and we sincerely thank you for the privilege of assisting our Nation's Finest!

Yours in Comradeship,

**JB**

## Membership Report

### To All Commanders -

The membership year is well underway and I hope you are all finding venues/events to have a table to promote the VFW. As we head into the Fall many communities will be holding events that are appropriate and beneficial to have VFW representation to seek out new members. This being said, let us not forget our current membership - we need to retain them as members.

Also, now is the time to contact those members who have let their membership lapse; please reach out to these members and find a way to bring them back into the VFW.

Your Membership Team is available to assist you in any way needed. Last year was a banner year for VFW membership! **LET'S DO IT AGAIN!** By working together we can have another banner membership year!

### To All District Commanders -

Please keep me apprised of your activities regarding membership recruitment so we can coordinate our efforts. I am available to assist you.

Thank you from the Membership Team,

**Roland "Bud" Abare**

## Community Service Report



Comrades,

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has great fact sheets with the details of our outstanding work that we do worldwide and these fact sheets are beneficial in many different ways. But, in this fast-paced world, folks often want an abbreviated version of facts. So, when they ask me, "What does the VFW do?" I tell them we help Veterans, the Military and our Communities.

And I am prepared to back that up with specifics that are factual and convincing to gain the approval and confidence in our highly rated not for profit. But in order to do this we all must record the work that we do, and this task is easy in so far as Community Service. We do so much for example, helping the homeless, students, veterans in need, food pantries, parades, the list is endless. And all we have to do is record the event(s), and we only have to do this twice during our VFW year. Any member of your Post may submit the Community Service Report to the Department, although I do suggest that you advise your Post Commander and you may submit more than one report during the reporting period. Proper and accurate reporting is essential for several reasons not the least of which is our status as a not for profit. The first reporting period is May to October and due in November. And if your Post likes to be honored as an "All State" Post the Community Service Reports done in timely fashion are a requirement. Thank you all for your continuing service to our Nation, our Communities and the VFW.

**William M. Hughes Jr.**  
**Community Service Chair**  
**Department of New York**

## VFW Teachers' Awards Program

The VFW launched the National Citizenship education teacher award in 1999 to recognize classroom teachers for promoting citizenship education. Three teachers, one each from grade levels (grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12) are selected from New York State to be sent to National Headquarters. Teachers from each level are selected at the national level to receive the VFW Teacher of the Year Award. The winners will receive an all expense paid trip to the National Convention to receive their awards.

Visit <http://vfw.org/Community/Teacher-of-the-Year/> or the Department of New York website [WWW.VFWNY.com](http://WWW.VFWNY.com) for the forms and information. The levels are K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Try to submit a teacher for all three levels.

Make sure you include all the paperwork. Also be sure the Smart/Maher advancement form as an attachment is included because no application will be considered at the state level without it. The nomination form must also be filled out completely with the instructions for enclosures must be followed. As state chairman, I will not chase down information from posts or districts.

Every post is encouraged to support this program. The following are the deadlines:

- Post level: The judging should be done by October 31st . 2019 Forward to your district immediately the winner or winners in your post to the district chairman.

- District level: The district level judging should take place and winner(s) should be sent to me directly. See address below, My deadline is December 31st 2019. I will not accept any applications that arrive at my address after December 31st 2019.
- State level: Judging will be done to select a winner on the three levels. These will be K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. I will then send the winners to VFW National Headquarters by January 20th 2020. With 9 districts, ideally, I should receive 27 teacher of the year applications. Please place the completed application in a file folder for me with your district number and district chairman, phone number, and email on the folder.

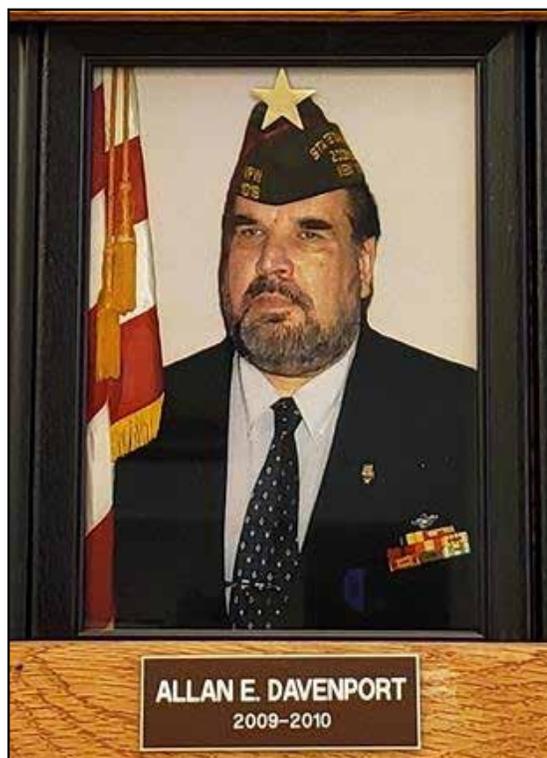
I am trying to drum up more support and participation for this worthwhile program.

To reward the winners, make sure you give out appropriate plaques of recognition at your events.

District Chairpersons will send me their winners to the following address: Carl Fosco, 130 John Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839 or email at [carlfosco1947@gmail.com](mailto:carlfosco1947@gmail.com).

## One of Our Own Has Passed

Allan E. Davenport was born on December 29, 1945, and passed away on August 24, 2019. Allan was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York and held many positions in his posts, County Council, District and State. His goal after joining the VFW was to become a VFW State Commander and he proudly served that High Office in 2009-2010. As per Allan's wishes, funeral services will be private.



**REST IN PEACE**

## 2019-2020 District 3 Officer Training Institute (OTI)

On September 28, 2019 District 3 will hold its annual Officer training Seminar for Post Commanders, Quartermasters and Trustees. The training will take place at Post 8692 in Colonie, NY and will start at 8 AM.

As a Commander, Quartermaster or Trustee at your post; this training will be essential and informative to help you succeed in your positions. This training will communicate important information regarding your responsibilities as officers of the VFW of the United States. This training will also assure that your post is in compliance with our National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. We will review all VFW National and Department Programs and we will discuss how you as a team can achieve All-State and All-American status.

Please complete the below OTI Registration form for each member attending this training session and return the completed forms to my attention by September 19, 2019. Please include the appropriate registration fee which can be paid through post funds. Registration will begin at 8 AM. Coffee and donuts will be provided and lunch will be served at the noon break.

Should you have any questions; please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-810-3109 or via email at marcf1545@gmail.com.

Cordially,

**Marc Farmilette**

**Sr. Vice Commander – District 3 NY**

**District 3, Department Of New York -  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
OFFICERS TRAINING INSTITUTE (OTI)**

September 28, 2019 At Colonie Post # 8692

Please Print and fill out completely names of attendees:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone# (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-

Cmdr. ( ) QMaster. ( ) Trustee ( )

Enrollment Fee \$35.00 Per Attendee

Make Checks Payable to District 3 VFW

Mail To: Marc Farmilette, 258 Mill Street, Windham, NY12496

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**District 3, Department Of New York -  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
OFFICERS TRAINING INSTITUTE (OTI)**

September 28, 2019 At Colonie Post # 8692

Please Print and fill out completely names of attendees:

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

Phone# (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-

Cmdr. ( ) QMaster. ( ) Trustee ( )

Enrollment Fee \$35.00 Per Attendee

Make Checks Payable to District 3 VFW

Mail To: Marc Farmilette, 258 Mill Street, Windham, NY12496

## District 3 OTI Schedule - September 28, 2019

8:00 AM	Check in (Coffee and Donuts)
8:30 AM	Commanders Welcome – Bob Mitchell Pledge of Allegiance & introductions of Past Commanders present.
8:40 AM	Service Officer – John Bartow – Department Service Officer
9:40 AM	Membership – Mike Hoag, PDC
10:10 AM	Programs – Bob Mitchell – Commander District 3
10:30 AM	15 Minute Break
10:45 AM	Inspections – James MacArthur – PDC
11:15 AM	Quartermaster/Trustee – Jim Haas, PDC
12:15 PM	Q&A
12:30 PM	Lunch and Depart



## District 6 Briefing

**Harris H. Bartz, District 6 Commander**

My compliments to the Department of New York VFW OTI Team. The instruction was well planned and executed. The Instructors took the time to answer all questions from the participants.

District 6 has been busy since the National Convention with many activities: The Buffalo Stand Down had several VFW and Auxiliary Posts participating in this Recruiting effort. The Erie County Fair Hospitality Tent was a success again on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. State Commander Todaro and State Auxiliary President Debra Casella were the guests of Erie County and led the VFW and Auxiliary District and Erie County members in Mass formation for the Veterans Day Parade. The set up for this event was “labor intensive” but was well worth the effort.

District 6 OTI is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2019 at Camp Pioneer. The OTI is open to all VFW Districts.

State Commander Todaro’s Homecoming is the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 at VFW Post 6472 in Silver Creek, NY. I hope you will attend.

**Harris H. Bartz, Commander  
District #6, Department of New York**

***Bring Our Troops  
Home Safely!***

## District 9 Briefing

**Patrick Rourk, District 9 Commander**

### The Hard Sell

What do you counter with, when you have asked a person you learned is a veteran and not a member of the Veterans of the Foreign Wars of the U.S., and they say, "I don't need the VFW, I don't need to file a claim"? After expressing astonishment (in a nice way, you understand) I start with the things that the VFW does in a more public way. I speak about the various contests we run. "Do you have children in school?" is a standard question I ask. Then I spread the word about Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy and the possible scholarships that can be obtained through those media. I also note the Auxiliary's Veterans Art Contest and the prizes to be won there.

Not a winner yet? Well then, I speak to some of the many things the VFW sponsors like the National Emergency Fund, Disaster relief program, the thousands and thousands of free phone cards we continually provide. Maybe you were the recipient of . Were you deployed to Southwest Asia? Then you probably received one of our cards. Hummm this is a hard sell!

Then I speak to some of the publicly known organizations and events. Such as, we sponsor Red Cross Blood drives all the time. Ever been operated on? Quite possibly you or someone in your family received blood or plasma from a VFW Blood Drive. Play little league baseball, biddy basketball, youth hockey, Saturday tennis, and a whole host of other sports? Most VFW Posts sponsor at least one team. How about Boy or Girl scouts, 4-H and any other myriad of youth programs. And for adults, we sponsor motorcycle clubs, have dart tournaments, sponsor bowling teams, softball teams and even Wii bowling tournaments. Yes there are a few card games for those who want that type entertainment and pull tabs and even a shuffleboard game or two. I'm telling you we provide just about everything you could want.

Still not there, huh? What about joining just to help out your fellow veterans and families and the nursing home veteran residents and the community Christmas and Thanksgiving and other holiday programs. Who do you think gives the speeches during memorial day, 4th of July and Veterans days? Where do people go to get their meal after the ceremonies noted above. Who provides the honor guards and burial details for our fellow veterans? Who sponsors those burials for the alone single veterans?

I had hoped you would one of those comrades that help do all those things! And yes, we would help you file a VA Claim if you need it as well – just speak to our service officer.

Glad to have you aboard!

## Things You May Not Know...

- We did it!! We, the Department of NY made 100% for the past year 2018-19!! It hasn't been done since 1992, but YOU did it!! Congratulations for your success!
- Department Commander, Tom Todaro's slogan: **"Together We Can Make A Difference"**
- National Commander-in-Chief, William "Doc" Schmitz' slogan: **"Dare To Care"**

## Things You May Not Know...

(continued)

- 2019-20 Post Membership Goals are:
  1. Increase the number of NEW Members by 20%.
  2. Increase LIFE Members by 5%.
  3. Increase RE-INSTATED Members by 10%
- There are ONLY 6 Minimum Requirements for All-State:
  1. 100% Membership plus 2 New or Re-instated members.
  2. Two (2) Community Activity Reports.
  3. Be Inspected before 4/30/2020.
  4. Post Quartermaster trained at an OTI.
  5. First 3 quarters of Trustee's Reports in before 5/1/2020.
  6. A minimum of 8,000 points. There is a list of 25 different things you can do to gain your points.
- To make All-American Post Leadership you need:
  1. Membership greater than 100%.
  2. Finish in the top 25 Posts in your division that meet all the following criteria:
    - A) Minimum of one entry for Voice of Democracy advanced to District judging or \$75 to National. (see National Membership Program for details).
    - B) Minimum of one entry for Patriot's Pen advanced to District judging or \$75 to National. (see National Membership Program for details).
    - C) Submit on entry for all three categories (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) for National Citizenship Education Teachers Award advanced to District judging or \$75 to National. (see National Membership Program for details).
    - D) Must purchase Buddy Poppies.
    - E) Hold a fundraiser with proceeds of \$100 or more going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services.
    - F) Appoint and train at OTI a Post Service Officer.

Legislative Goals & VFW Fact Sheet are the two most successful recruiting tools (see National On-Line Membership (OMS) Recruiting & Retention). These are all things we should be doing any way, so making All-State should be very attainable!!

***We made 100% last year, Let's Do It Again!!***

Your membership Team is here to help. Contact **Bud Abare, Membership Chair**, at (518)785-5457 or rabare633@gmail.com.

## Saratoga War Horse Donation



***Past State Commander Gene Ratigliano presents his Commander's Special Project donation of \$22,252.79 to Saratoga War Horse. Pictured with Past Commander Ratigliano are the graduates of a recent class at the Re-Run Farm in East Greenbush, NY.***

### Flag Information

In February 2008, Congress approved and the President signed the 2008 Defense Authorization Bill which included (S.1877) an amendment to title 4, USC, to allow veterans to salute the flag during the raising and lowering of the flag and during the passing of the colors.

Congress is aware that they had overlooked the National Anthem and have added an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (S.3002, section 1081) to amend title 36, USC, to allow veterans to salute during the National Anthem. Below is the wording in the bill.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

*“(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;*

*“(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and*

*“(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; and’.*

### Post 5350

On August 2nd, the 106th Rescue Wing held a mentoring seminar at VFW Post 5350 in Westhampton Beach. The 106th Rescue Wing has been adopted by VFW Post 5350. Thirty noncommissioned officers attended the workshop and were honored to have 106th Wing Commander Colonel Michael Bank and the Commander of the NY Air National Guard Commander Major General Timothy LaBarge address the class.

**William M. Hughes Jr.**  
**Commander**  
**“All American” VFW Post 5350**  
**631 653 9898**



*Mentoring Class with Leadership and Commander Hughes.*



*Left to right, Colonel Michael Bank, Commander William Hughes, Major General Timothy LaBarge.*

### American Vet Dogs

*By Chairman Dennis Sullivan*

I have the pleasure this year of being appointed the Chairman of Commander Todaro Special Project: America’s Vet Dogs.

The organization’s mission is to help Veterans with PTSD. Some veterans have a hard time fitting back into society and coping with problems. These dogs give the Veterans confidence and a reason to live. This program is a very worthy and needed cause to help our Veterans.

I visited the site in Smithtown, New York. There 10 acre site was very impressive. This Smithtown site is the home of former President Bush Vet Dog, Sully. Since Sully’s appearance at President Bush’s funeral, the organization has been inundated with applications for a Vet Dog. In a three month period they received 900 applications.

It is very expensive and long process to train a service dog and I am asking for your help with a donation for this wonderful program. Your donations should be sent to Department of NY Headquarters, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205 In memo area: America’s Vet Dogs.

Let’s have a successful year and make Commander Todaro proud!



*Andrew Rubenstein-Director of Marketing - Dennis - John Miller President & CEO.*



*Jaime Mc Grade - Philanthropy Officer.*



*President Bush Dog Sully*

## 2019-2020 New York VFW Scout Report

### 2018-2019 Scout of the Year Awards



#### First Place Winner - Elizabeth Bock

This year's first-place winner, Elizabeth Bock, was sponsored by VFW Post 3208 in Sierra Madre, California.

She was selected for her activism with local youth and government programs, dedication to serving others and her work advocating for women's issues and gender equality.

As the first-place recipient, Elizabeth will receive a \$5,000 college scholarship.



#### Second Place Winner - Owen Sumter

2nd Place Winner Owen Sumter, sponsored by VFW Post 9675 in Bellevue, Nebraska, was selected as the second-place winner. He was chosen for his notable community service work, his work supporting the homeless community through food and dental hygiene drives, and for his history of work within the Boy Scouts.

Owen will receive a \$3,000 college scholarship.



#### Third Place Winner - Megan Rogers

Sponsored by VFW Post 8466 in Wake Forest, N.C., Megan Rogers was selected as the third-place winner.

She was selected for her work combating the gender disparity in science-related fields, dedication to serving and improving

her local community, and her positive leadership skills.

Megan will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

### New York State's VFW Scout of the Year

On Saturday, June 8th at the annual New York State Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention held in Albany, New York, Eagle Scout Ryan Cannon was selected as New York State's VFW Scout of the Year.

He was selected from over 400 VFW Posts in New York State, only after District #1 VFW (which encompasses Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties) selected him as their finalist.

Ryan organized and led a work force of 60 volunteers, mostly fellow scouts, for six days during winter break totaling almost six hundred



service hours in renovating the American Legion Hall in Millburn, New Jersey. Earlier this year, Ryan's efforts with fellow Eagle Scout Jamie Serruto were featured in Boys Life, where the duo were successful in renaming a major

street adjacent to the Short Hills Mall, to "Fineran Way" after their Troop's deceased Scoutmaster of 36 years. And just as recent as this past month, Ryan served as the Millburn Township Memorial Day Coordinator and master of ceremony reviving the annual Memorial



Day Parade. In total, he rallied over 30 organizations and had over 1,000 marchers in attendance.

Ryan is always known as that helpful young man who has delivered snacks/refreshments, and who has physically assisted veterans during the Wounded Warriors and now the Hope for the Warriors aquatic weekends for the last five years. He is the young man that would often be seen on the main road in his Scout uniform assisting the VFW with their Poppy Drive, selling t-shirts in front of the Breezy stores for the yearly warrior weekend, participating in the welcoming parade and raising Old Glory at the annual Christ Community Church Memorial Day ceremony.

At the age of 10, the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the Cannon family and our community resonated heavily on Ryan. So after the trifecta of hurricanes - Harvey, Irma and Maria - lashed their devastation in 2017, Ryan single handedly raised seven thousand dollars of relief funds for the hurricane victims in Houston, Florida Keys and Puerto Rico.

"Ryan is now one of the final nominees from the 50 States, the District of Columbia & the Virgin Islands, seeking recognition as the VFW National Scout of the Year with a chance to receive a \$5,000 college scholarship."

The VFW Scout of the Year program provides members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country with the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to \$5,000. All Boy or Girl Scouts, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award are eligible for selection. If you know of anyone who meets the criteria, please have them contact the Jayne-Lattin VFW Post 2913 by contacting the Scout representative Jeff Molitor GySgt/USMC (ret) at [VFWScoutingNewYork@gmail.com](mailto:VFWScoutingNewYork@gmail.com).

### Scout of the Year Program



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