

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN



Official Publication
Dept. of New York,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

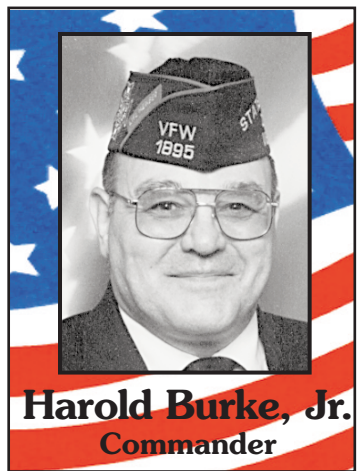


January/February 2004

Harold Burke, Jr., New York State Commander

Volume 24, Issue 1

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. Commander



Comrades,

The Legislative conference held in Albany during January 2004 signifies the start of the second half of our VFW year. I would like to thank our Legislative Chairman PSC Karl Rohde and Legislative Vice Chairman Clifford Lockwood for an outstanding job at this year's conference. Our National Representative was Past Commander-in-Chief Paul Spera who also presented on our behalf at the hearing. According to long-standing members of the Legislative Committee, this was the largest turnout of Legislators at both the hearing and reception we have had in a very long time. I believe that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee Members' hard work was reflected in the Legislators' attendance. Additionally, I would like to thank Karl, Cliff and the Legislative Committee for all of the research and work that they put into preparing our Legislative Goals this year. These goals were a direct reflection of the memberships'

requests. Now that our goals have been presented, we cannot walk away. We must follow up with those Legislators that were present and those who could not attend. This is an election year, and we may just get what we are asking for. We must continue to be heard.

My congratulations to the District and County Council Commanders who have attained their 90% in membership. At this writing (January 24, 2004), six District Commanders and 24 County Council Commanders have qualified for the Washington Trip. The Post Commanders' Washington Trip Contest deadline has been extended to February 14, 2004. We still have time to get all of the District and County Council Commanders to Washington. Please check the Department Web Site to see how many members you will need.

I ask each Commander and Quartermaster take a few moments to review the Membership Program Book for this year. Although no new requirements have been added, there are a couple of new opportunities to earn points toward the All State Awards. Three thousand five hundred (3,500) points can be added to your total by simply sending in reports. Check page 9 of the Program Book. Last year, many Posts missed out on the All State Award by a few points. This program was designed in response to your requests. The membership team and I do not

Commander See page 2



Legislative reception catches three of the big boys sharing in the business and fun. L to R: George P. Basher, Director of Veterans Affairs; Department Commander Harold Burke, Jr.; and Paul A. Spera, Past Commander-in-Chief.



Post #524 "One Great Picture" by Post Photographer, Denise Oakley.

Thank You

Dear Comrades:

There are no words that can describe the outpouring of concern, love and caring that was shown to me and my family during Neil's illness and subsequent death. Neil would have been humbled by what you have done, whether it was sending a card, a phone call, driving in a snowstorm for the funeral or just saying a prayer. Whatever you did, big or small, we love you for it and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Neil will certainly be missed by everyone who knew him. But, he would also want us to carry on the good work that he was so proud to do. While we mourn his passing, let us move forward to keep this the best veterans' organization in the world. Neil would want it that way.

With love,
Sharon Connolly

Have You Participated?

At the Spring Conference, there will be a parade of donations to the State Commander's Special Project, the "Father Albert G. Salmon, Voice of Democracy Scholarship Award". We would like to increase the Scholarship Award level to \$4,000. Donations can be made from Bell Jars or Bingo. If you are not attending the Spring Conference and would like to participate, please send your donations to State Headquarters in Albany, NY. A donation of any size is 500 points toward your All State Post Commander Award.

Anthony De Salvatore
Special Project Chairman

Photographer:
Vincent Siesta



State Editor:
William "Doc" Schmitz

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Inspector:
Robert Barnhart
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POLICY

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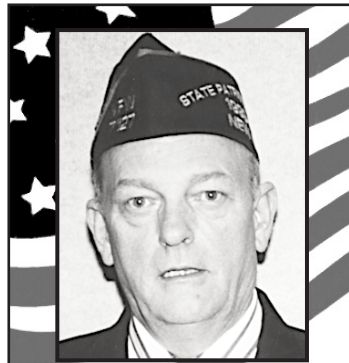
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Jim Vinsonhaler Senior Vice Commander



Jim Vinsonhaler
Sr. Vice Commander

It's hard to believe that the 2003-2004 year is more than half over. This has been a buy year, not only for myself, but also for all the officers in the Department. I would like to take just a few seconds to thank all the Posts, Councils and Districts that I have visited this year for all their courtesies and hospitality. I look forward to meeting with many more of you over the next few years.

For many years, the VFW has been actively lobbying for the payment of VA Compensation and receipt of military retirement pay. I am happy to say we have finally made some headway in this endeavor. Although we realize that we have not completely accom-

plished what we had fought for, we have been successful in opening the door; and I assure you, we will continue to fight for more. This is also available to retirees of the Guard and Reserve, but they must have a total of 7,200 points to be eligible. Forms must be filed for this benefit.

There are presently two laws affecting concurrent receipt payment. The first began last year and makes payments to retirees who receive at least 10% compensation as the result of a Purple Heart Award and for those who are 60% or more disabled as a result of combat or combat training instances. The second began January 1, 2004 and makes payments to those retirees that are 50% or more disabled as the result of combat or combat-related disabilities. This, again, is available to Guard and Reserve retirees; but the 7,200-point requirement is waived. These claims are tracked automatically by DoD, and no application is necessary.

Please contact your Department Service Officers for information and assistance with these claims.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jim Vinsonhaler,
Sr. Vice Commander



Department Senior Vice Jim Vinsonhaler and Senior VFW Service Officer is recognized for his years of dedicated service. L to R: William "Doc" Schmitz, Editor; Paul A. Spera, Past Commander-in-Chief; Senior Vice Jim Vinsonhaler; Mike Leavor, Veterans Service Chairman; Edith Lombardi, Service Officer; Department Commander Harold Burke, Jr., and Thomas Todaro, Service Officer. Recognized by "Doc" for years of dedication.

Commander

want you to miss out on the available awards.

We are looking forward to our Spring Conference in Syracuse. At the Conference, we will be recognizing our State Service Officers for their dedicated work. At the dinner, we will hear from our state Voice of Democracy Winner and Patriot's Pen winner. This should be a great weekend. Hope to see you there.

I must say that all of the visitations this year have certainly been very interesting; and my wife, Carol, and I have had a lot of fun, really great meals, and shared some fine comradeship. It has been great to visit with so

many of the comrades and sisters from around the state. I would, once again, like to thank all of you for the hospitality and friendship we have shared. My wife, Carol, and I wish each of you and yours a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Continue your good work for our fellow veterans. **Courage, Service and Conviction** is the key to our success in 2003-2004.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me, 518-356-3913.

Sincerely,
Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr.,
Commander

Jim McNally Junior Vice Commander



Jim McNally
Jr. Vice Commander

As you receive this newspaper, three quarters of our year has passed; now is the time for all Commanders to take stock of how their programs are doing and make the necessary corrections for the final push to reach that All State Commander goal. I know that there is some wicked snow banks out there, but remember, under that snow there are eligible veterans who need our organization.

While attending my ships reunion, I noticed that the Congressional Medal of Honor Association was meeting in the same hotel. One evening, as some of my shipmates and I were relaxing, we noticed a group of six medal holders in the same lounge. After a while, they came over, introduced themselves, and thanked us for our service to our country. Those guys know the true meaning of camaraderie. We should all learn from them. Take the time to meet and thank all the Veterans in our town, old or new, for their service and ask them to join with our organization to help maintain veterans entitlements.

We have just returned from the NY Legislative Conference in Albany. Chairman Karl Rohde, Vice Chairman Clifford Lockwood, and the Legislative Committee put together a very good program. Commander Hal Burke ably presented the program to the assembled members of the Senate and Assembly Veterans Committee, with Past National Commander Paul Spera attending. On the smoking ban, the legislators that I visited stated that it would not be repealed any time soon. Any relief from this law must come through the waiver program.

Robert E. Barnhart Department Inspector

I'd like to thank all of the Deputy Inspectors of the Department for their diligence in completing the necessary Post and County Council inspections. At this time, we are approximately 50% complete and would like to have them all done by the Spring Conference in March. To save time, please send any future inspections directly to me at 41 Colonial Drive, Tillson, NY 12486. If you have any questions regarding the amount of bonding, please feel free to contact me at (845) 658-8720. Keep up the good work. I'll look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference.



Membership team - L to R: Jeff Addison, Allan Davenport, Commander Harold Burke, Jr., Elton Klein, P.D.C., Robert Barnhart, Robert Seagrave, P.D.C., and Harry Wuith, P.S.C.



Commander Harold Burke, Jr., presents his friend, Jim Longendyke, P.S.C. and Quartermaster, with a flick from the past. What a cowboy!

**Post Traumatic
Stress Disorder Program
VA Western New York
Healthcare System at Batavia**

Treatment Options

Everyone referred for treatment receives a clinical assessment of his/her PTSD. The types of treatment used depend upon your individual needs. The treatment program that is best for your needs may include individual psychotherapy, family therapy, group therapy, skills building, recreation, and medication management. Educational sessions provide training in areas such as relaxation, assertiveness, anger management issues in family and relationships, and how PTSD affects your body.

The program offers three levels of care. The residential program includes two tracks.

Track I Residential Program:

This program helps you and your providers better understand the severity of your PTSD and focuses on the stabilization of the symptoms. The stay in this program is usually one to 14 days. This program is individualized to serve the veteran's short-term PTSD treatment needs. This is achieved through a structured daily program of organized activities.

Track II (Cohort) Residential Program:

This track offers intensive treatment for PTSD. Eight to ten veterans are admitted on the same day. This program is 26 days long and includes a group graduation upon completion. This program offers daily structured activities including psychoeducation, individual sessions, and group psychotherapy.

Outpatient/PTSD Clinical Team (PCT)

Group therapy and individual therapy are the primary treatment options. A support group for wives and significant others is held weekly. The clinical nurse specialist and psychiatrist provide medication management as needed.

**Contact your local VA Facility or Veterans
Center for information and referral.**

**2004 VFW Spring Conference
Schedule**

The 2004 Spring Conference and Gold Chevron Ball will be held March 26-27, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, New York. Conference Schedule is as follows with approximate times.

Friday, March 26

Arrival from noon on – hotel registration

Saturday, March 27

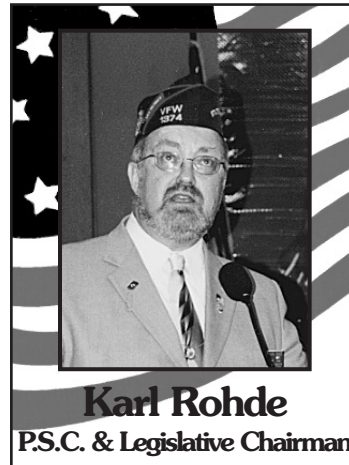
C of A Breakfast	7:30 AM
C of A Meeting	8:30 AM
Veterans Service Committee	10:00 AM
State Membership	10:00 AM
Nat'l Deputy Chiefs of Staff	10:00 AM
State Outreach Committee	10:00 AM
General Meeting	1:00 PM

Catholic Mass follows meeting

Cocktails & Cash Bar	6:00 PM
Banquet and Gall	7:00 PM

Meeting rooms will be posted in the Hotel

Karl Rohde
P.S.C. and Legislative Chairman



Karl Rohde
P.S.C. & Legislative Chairman
Karl Rohde, P.S.C. and Legislative Chairman, addresses the VFW members and Legislators with opening introductions and comments.

By many accounts, the recent Legislative Conference went exceedingly well. At this time, I would like to thank the State Commander, Vice Chairman Cliff Lockwood, and the Legislative Committee along with the comrades and sisters who responded over the Internet for our Legislative Agenda. This is an agenda that was created by the membership. There are two brief points that I would like to make and then let the agenda stand as the main thrust of this article.

The first is item number six on the agenda. This has been suggested several times over the past few years to be included on the agenda. It was very well received. Paul Spera, Past Commander-in-Chief, made clear reference to it in his remarks to the Legislators on the Hill. Paul felt that this issue was the backbone for the appreciation and understanding of what it means to be part of this great country. Senator Ruben Diaz was thrilled that we had this as part of our agenda. He stated, in part, that it was so important to him that he would back even

though he was sure his fellow Legislators from New York City would not agree with him. Please get in touch with your Senator and Assemblyman and urge them to support these bills and get them out of the Education Committee. The very foundation of our nation is based on an understanding of what it means to be the people of a free nation and the sacrifices our veterans made while in uniform. Part of the mortar of that foundation is the Pledge of Allegiance.

Second, the true success of this Legislative conference and Legislative Agenda will be measured during the remainder of this term. We must be in contact with our elected officials throughout the year. Please contact them and push our agenda. They must hear from us. Naming roads after veterans and building monuments to our heroes is wonderful, but that is not veterans' legislation that will insure adequate health care or a proper place to bury our departed comrades. Push the agenda!

A brief commercial: There has been a great deal of positive feedback regarding the Legislative Updates that I have been e-mailing to comrades, sisters, and friends who give me their E-mail addresses. The Updates have been renamed, "The Whoville Legislative Register". If you would like to get this on your e-mail or a faxed copy, contact me at nyvfw_legislative@yahoo.com.

1) The major issue of concern for the members of our organization is the threat of VA hospital closings mandated by the CARES Commission. Three VA Hospitals in New York are slated for closure: Manhattan, Montrose and Canandaigua. We urge the New York State Senate

and the New York State Assembly to work with us to prevent these closings and to continue the level of medical care for the veterans who use these facilities.

2) Expansion of Health Care such as nursing home facilities, assisted living facilities and supportive housing in areas not now served, along with in-home care. This should be coupled with the creation of a New York State Long Term Health Care Commission to monitor all Federal and State Veterans' Home Care and Nursing services and facilities.

3) We advocate new legislation directed toward the Veterans Pension Buy-Back. The standards for all combat veterans should be the same. At this time, those standards favor the veterans from the earlier wars.

4) We ask the State of New York to provide funding for establishing, operating, and maintaining a veterans' cemetery at Sampson State Park, Seneca County.

5) In recent years, the staffing at New York State Veterans' Affairs offices has been reduced. In order to service a growing veterans' population due to the ongoing actions in the Middle East the staffing should be increased.

6) Under various forms, S1187 and A5860 have floundered in the Committees on Education over the last few years. We strongly urge that these bills become law. Under this law, the Commissioner of Education would be directed to prepare a course of study on the history of the American Flag that would encourage students and teachers to say the Pledge of Allegiance and relate doing so to the sacrifices of our nation's service members.

SPRING CONFERENCE DINNER TICKET ORDER FORM

State Officers, PSC, District, County Council Commanders, National Deputy Chief-of-Staff, State Chairman, Vice Chairman, District Membership Chairman, Committee Members of Veterans Service and State Service Officers.

Ticket Price of \$25.00 per person

Name: _____ # of tickets _____ check # _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Post/Aux. No. _____

District No. _____

Note: Ticket will be deducted from your voucher. Please give total number of tickets required to include the deducted in the above-designated space. Please make checks payable to the **Department of New York, VFW** and Mail to **VFW State Headquarters, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204**

TICKET DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2004

DINNER WILL CONSIST OF ROAST TURKEY AND TRIMMINGS



Wilbur A. Gray
State Bowling Chairman

The opening ceremony for the annual Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars Bowling Tournament, will be held at B'Ville Sports Bowl, on Saturday, April 17, 2004 at 8:15 a.m. at Baldwinsville, N.Y.

The Albert Glenn Richardson Post 153 and its Ladies

Wilbur A. Gray

State Bowling Chairman

Auxiliary, would like to welcome all bowlers and their guests to Baldwinsville, for a weekend of bowling and fun.

The Post will be serving dinner on Friday night for the bowlers that will arrive early. On Saturday, the Post will have transportation for you from your hotel to the Post for your dining and dancing pleasure and then, take you back to your hotel. On Sunday, The Post will be serving breakfast before your start your team events.

All doubles and singles will be bowled on Saturday, April 17th, 24th, and May 1st at 8:30 a.m., 12 noon, and at 3:30 p.m.

All team events will be bowled on Sunday, April 18th, 25th and May 2nd at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions about your dates and times, please contact Sam Bonaventura, your Tournament Director at (315) 678-1647.

For housing, you have a choice of the Micro-Tel Inn and Suites at (315) 635-9556 at \$35.00 per room per night, Holiday Inn at (315) 457-8700 at \$60.00 per room per night and Comfort Inn at (315) 453-0045 at \$69.00 per room per night.

Just a reminder, you must have a 2004 VFW membership card to be able to bowl.

Robert Stinger

State Surgeon



Robert Stinger
State Surgeon

Many years ago, the northern part of New York was hit with a severe ice storm that devastated the area. At the time, there was no disaster relief fund in place, so the VFW raised money and donated it to a veteran and family in need. All of the money was expended. Immediately after the tragedy of September 11th, a disaster relief fund was established once again. Money was donated not only from Posts and Auxiliaries through-

out New York State, but also from all over this great country of ours. We distributed over \$200,000 of this money equally to the survivors of veterans who lost loved ones in the September 11th attack.

There were no administrative costs attached to this fund.

Disaster can and will strike again. We need to be prepared. Let's not wait until then to raise the money. Let's do it now! Let's be prepared to help our comrades that need us!

Please use this convenient form to send your donation to Department Headquarters. Every dollar you give will benefit this great cause. We sincerely appreciate your help and hope you'll donate.

Please send your donation to: VFW State Headquarters, Dept. of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204 and earmark your check "disaster relief fund".



Kevin Jones
Asst. Director Programs

Kevin Jones

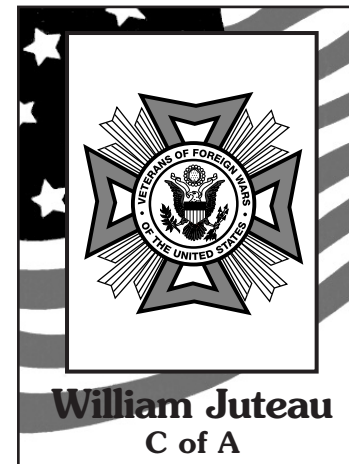
Asst. Director, VFW Programs

We have been receiving several calls recently from several Posts nationwide wanting to register for the Department Liberty Tree program. This year's program, as the materials suggest, was intended for Departments only. The Post

program was the "Liberty Trees For America" honoring Korean War veterans with a deadline of September 1, 2003 for registering. Please communicate this to your Posts. If you have any questions, please feel free to call. Sorry for the confusion.

William Juteau

District 4 - C of A



William Juteau
C of A

together and celebrate their blessings. It was hard for a lot of families this year with so many of our servicemen away due to so many conflicts overseas as a result of 911. Many Posts in the District were busy sending phone cards, cards and care packages to troops on the front guarding the gates of freedom.

In between all this activity, the age-old problem of membership confronts us all. At this time, the 4th District only has five Posts that are over 100%; 29 Posts that need 20 members or less to meet that goal of 100%; and 21 Posts that need less than 45 members. Regrettably, we still have a couple of Posts that need quite a few more; but I assure you that the District will do everything it can to make our Department Commander reach that goal as "All American Commander".

On a sad note, we are at a loss with the passing of our dear comrade, Neil Connolly. A loss not only to us, but also his family and the whole VFW community. He was an individual that will be hard to replace.

The second period of our tour of duty as members of the Council of Administration is complete.

We, the members of District 4 VFW, have been occupied this period with the compliance of mandated programs from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. At our last meeting, there was some concern on the matter of deadlines from Program Chairmen by some members of the Council. We at District 4 are proud to say, we made the original agreement, not only with Voice of Democracy Program, but also the Patriot's Pen Program and the Teacher of the Year, as well.

Included in this period are two national holidays, which many families try to spend

Holiday Inn
SYRACUSE/LIVERPOOL

Assn: VFW State of New York
Group Code: VFW
Date: March 26 & 27, 2004

Rates: One Person: \$ 94
Two People: \$ 94
Three People: \$ 94
Four People: \$ 94

Check In: 4:00pm Check Out: 12:00pm

Please indicate desired accommodations. Above rates are net/non-commissionable and subject to applicable taxes.

We are pleased to honor the following credit cards: American Express, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, Discover, Enroute, Mastercard and VISA.

Group Rates are available until: 03/10/04

Reservations must be accompanied by a one night's deposit or valid credit card number and signature.

Non-guaranteed reservations held only until 6:00pm on day of arrival.

Arrival Date: _____
Departure Date: _____
Name: _____
Roommate: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____ Phone: (____) _____
No. of people: Adults _____ Children _____
Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____ Any _____
Room preference is based upon availability.

Credit Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Deposit Enclosed: _____
Signature: _____

Mail To: Holiday Inn
441 Electronics Parkway
Liverpool, NY 13088

EAST & WEST - NYS Thruway, Exit No. 37 directly across the street from the toll booth.

NORTH & SOUTH - Interstate 81, Exit No. 25, 7th North Street. Turn right off exit onto 7th North Street. Follow road one mile to the end.

ATTENTION TAX EXEMPT GUESTS

In order to qualify for tax exempt status the following procedures must be followed:

ORGANIZATIONS: Must present ST 119 Exempt Organization Certificate. The organization must be the direct payer of the invoice, i.e., check bearing the organization's name. Government Claim Forms and School Purchase Orders are also accepted.

NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYEES: Must present AC 946 Tax Exempt Certificate. Payment may be in the form of cash or personal credit card. Form AC 276, State of NY Lodging requests are also accepted.

US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: Must present ST 129. Payment may be in the form of cash or personal credit card.

VETERANS' ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES: Must present ST 119.5 along with the Veterans Post form ST 119. Payment may be in the form of cash or personal credit card.

The Holiday Inn Syracuse does not provide any of above forms.

For reservations call: **(315) 457-1122**
or
800-HOLIDAY

Convention Chairman • Frank Nicolazzo

On behalf of all in Monroe County Council, VFW, and its Ladies Auxiliary, I extend a warm and hearty invitation to the delegates and members to our fair city of Rochester, which will be hosting the 85th Convention.

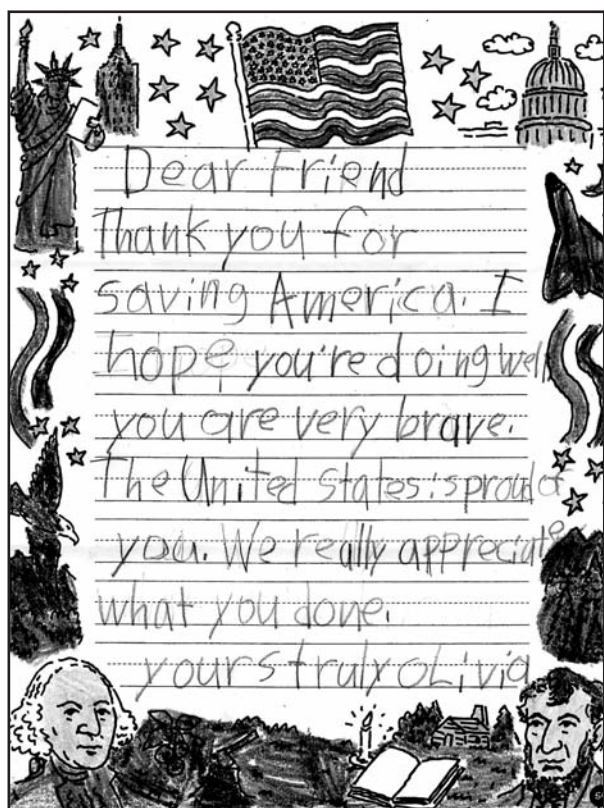
For those who have not visited our city in recent years, you will find your hotel the Crown Plaza on State Street for the VFW and the Clarion (the old four point Sheraton, right up the street) for the Auxiliary. They will offer easy access to the New Frontier Baseball Field, (same old team but new field); two blocks from Rochester's famous Laser Light and Sound Show at High Falls; two blocks from over 20 restaurants and the Dinapore Ribs Café; plenty of pizza outlets and fine gourmet dining if you choose.

You are only 10 minutes from Rochester Municipal Airport and five minutes from AMTRAK. We are only minutes away and are proud of the new and refurbished War Memorial, where the joint opening is to take place. May I strongly suggest taking a few moments to visit the new and state-of-the-art WW II Memorial located in the building. We are also very proud of the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials here in the city if anyone wants to visit them.

These, Comrades, are just highlights in what we hope will make your stay a pleasant one. We will make every effort and extend every courtesy to assure your stay in our city will be one to remember. Hope to see you all in Rochester this June.

Yours in Comradeship,
Frank Nicolazzo
Convention Chairman

Post 125 Plattsburgh



Enclosed is a sample of some material that we receive from one of our local teachers. I think you may be able to use some of it in a future edition of the *Overseas Veteran* newspaper. We need more teachers like Mrs. Hall.

Jack Post
Commander

See more examples
of children's letters
on page 6



Fred P. Schwally
Buddy Poppy Chairman

Although the V.F.W. Buddy Poppy Campaign is extremely well regulated and highly respected as an established program, many Posts throughout the Department of New York are not acquiring poppies

Fred P. Schwally

Buddy Poppy Chairman

in a timely manner. Buddy Poppy Program serves a very useful purpose in assisting Disabled War Veterans and their families with their special problems. Assisting Post Relief Fund should be the major drive in every Post participating in this very valuable program.

Unfortunately, our annual one million Poppies goal currently has fallen drastically below anticipated goal with only 179,500 Buddy Poppies ordered within Department of New York to date.

This conference represents

the midway point of 2004 Buddy Poppy Campaign with purchases lagging drastically below expectations.

Memorial Day will be the next major ordering date for poppies with a six week shipping lag period. Posts should start ordering Memorial Day Poppies while assisting Department of New York in attaining their one million Buddy Poppy goal.

Plan to order your Buddy Poppies soon and remember all orders must be processed through Department of New York V.F.W.

Voice of Democracy Department Winners

Position	Name	District	C.C.	Post
1	Krystyna Baumgartner	1	Suffolk	9486
2	Matthew Warren	6	Chataqua	53
3	Rachel Bailey	8	Wayne	6778

Patriot's Pen \$19,903.04 goes to the kids

The following names are the winners of this year's Patriot's Pen contest at the Department level. The amount of money they won will be next to their position.

Thanks, and if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 315-736-2456.

Post #686
District #2

4th Place – \$100.00

Jimmy Qi
34010 NYS Route 126
Champion, NY 13619
Post #7227
District #4

1st Place – \$500.00

Caleb Irwin
2339 Westside Drive
Rochester, NY 14624
Post #16
District #8

4th Place – \$100.00

Claire Kozik
4446 South Onodaga
Nedrow, NY 13120
Post #1955
District #5

2nd Place – \$300.00

Caroline Coyle
80 Bobolink Lane
Levittown, NY 11756
Post #9592
District #1

4th Place – \$100.00

Alyssa Raimondo
435 Willard St.
Jamestown, NY 14701
Post #53
District #6

3rd Place – \$200.00

Erienne Rieth
1296 Acquetuck Rd.
Ravena, NY 12143
Post #9594
District #3

4th Place – \$100.00

Eric Meyer
17 South St.
Geneseo, NY 14454
Post #5005
District #7

4th Place – \$100.00

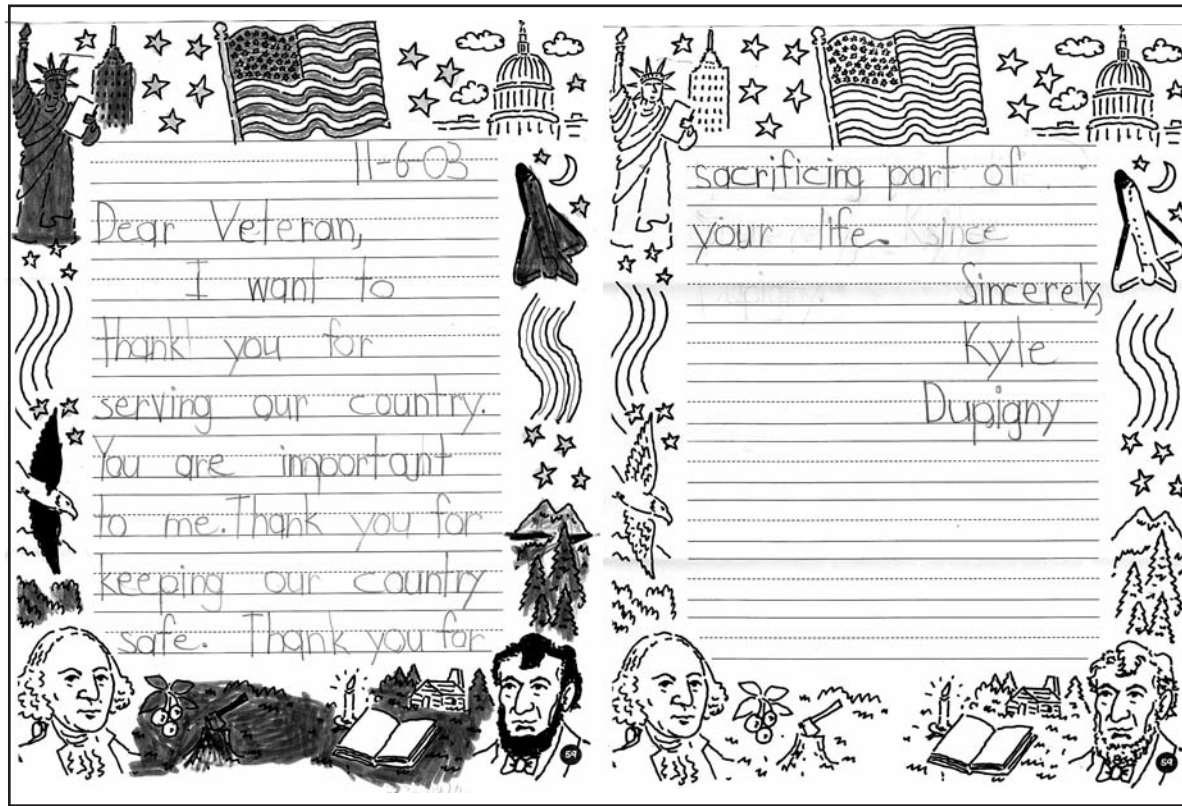
Catharina Christiana
147 Cherry Hill Rd.
Accord, NY 12404

Michael Spellman
Patriot's Pen
Chairman

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**
OF THE UNITED STATES
1044 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY 12204

CLOSING DATE FOR ADS - 27 FEBRUARY 2004

FULL PAGE \$80.00 7 7/8 x 4 3/4		<small>ORGANIZATION ADS ADVERTISING CONTRACT BLANK 2004 STATE V.F.W. VETERANS SERVICE FUND</small>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">PLEASE ATTACH AD TO THIS FORM</p>		
QUARTER PAGE \$50.00 2 5/16 x 3 7/8	EIGHTH PAGE \$30.00 2 5/16 x 1 7/8	<small>CHAIRPERSON EDWARD C. BASSETT</small>
<small>BUSINESS CARD \$20.00 PLEASE ATTACH CARD HERE</small>		<small>CO-CHAIRPERSON THERESE KLIEN</small>
<small>CONTRACT</small>		<small>MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DEPT. OF NEW YORK, V.F.W.</small>
<small>PLEASE INSERT OUR ADVERTISEMENT, AS INDICATED ABOVE, IN THE YEARBOOK OF THE STATE V.F.W. VETERANS SERVICE FUND FOR WHICH WE ENCLOSE A CHECK. IN THE SUM OF \$</small>		<small>MAIL TO: EDWARD C. BASSETT 3877 DYKE ROAD CORNING, NY 14830-9439</small>
<small>DATE</small>		<small>DISTRICT NO. _____ POST NUMBER _____ OFFICER'S SIGNATURE _____</small>



Ron Bush, Jr., on patrol in Iraq. He is a Life Member in Waterloo and the son of Ron Bush, P.D.C. (Nice gun! – Doc)



Post #2813 Sunnyside – B.A.V.R.A.C. Chairman Ron Casey (left) receives a check from Post Commander Ray Murray. L to R: George Custance, Quartermaster; Regis Quirin, Adjutant; Tom White, Chaplain, and Tony Lombardo, Sr. Vice.




Post #1466 Beckmantown – Commander Robert J. Turdoff taping up boxes of sweets for our overseas troops; Auxiliary assisted in the project.

You Can't Argue with Numbers!

Number of Claims Handled by VFW Service Officers in 2002:	125,208!
Number of Calls Fielded by the Tactical Assessment Center since 1997:	60,000!
Number of Dollars Recovered for America's Veterans in 2002:	\$817,206,073!

Help Us Continue to Say "Yes" to Veterans and Their Families! Your Support of the 2004 Veterans Service Annual Campaign Helps Us:

- Ensure veterans receive their hard-won entitlements.
- Work for quality, timely and accessible health care.
- Help veterans and their families in crisis through the VFW HelpLine, 1-800-VFW-1899.



Honor the Dead by Helping the Living
Remember, your gift to the 2004 Veterans Service Annual Campaign supports your Department's Veterans Service Program!



LEFT: Post #536 Flushing – Christmas Party for Kids. The Post donated over \$1,000 to local charities. Submitted by Carl J. Winter, Jr. Vice



L to R: Robert Stinger, Surgeon; Christmas Tree; Jack Smith, P.D.C.; and Jim Sheets, MAP Chair – They're all wondering where their presents are.

POST to POST

Art Koch, III, P.S.C. and State Adjutant – The questions is which state? Has he been stolen by the Department of Illinois?



Department Membership Chairman Al Klein, P.S.C., placing a donation in a collection for POW/MIA pins. (\$721.00 was raised).

Post #2246 Rome – Commander Harold Burke, Jr., presents a token of the Department's appreciation of being the State Color Guard; accepting the award is Harry Livingston, Captain.



Legislative Conference – George E. Sprague, O.C.C. Commander and James Fields, District 5 Commander discuss politics.



Stand Strong for America's Veterans and Troops!

INTRODUCING THE *Patriots Corps!*

Today, American troops are risking – and sacrificing – their lives to defend freedom around the world. At the same time, the government's commitment to veterans is in serious jeopardy! Our veterans and troops need a strong voice to stand up in their defense.

The *Patriots Corps* is an exclusive group of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' strongest supporters – advocates willing to "take the field" and fight the injustices against our nation's defenders.

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Find Out More!

Visit: www.vfw.org/patriotscorps
Call: 1-866-PTCORPS (782-6777)
E-mail: patriotscorps@vfw.org
Mail: VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111

POST #901 – ELMIRA – Post expansion – 36-car paved parking lot, outdoor lights, new heating and cooling system, plus they now have a Men's Auxiliary. Submitted by Bill Brown.

POST #7763 – MASSAPEQUA PARK – Senior Vice Commander Richard Begandy received a \$250.00 donation from the local Women's Club. The donation went for Operation Uplink, thank you, Donna Pullan and Dee Esterow.

POST #557 – BEMUS POINT – Commander Jim Widrig and Editor Mel Schmidt had Christmas cards in the newspaper. Really nice, though. Had a great talk with the new editor, your Post is lucky to have such a fine man.

POST #348 – SALT CITY – Clips coupons and Campbell's Soup labels and sends them to the National Home. Bob and Ginny Maholick helping members apply for their service awards.

POST #8691 – WASHINGTONVILLE – Free Sunday Dinner! Chef Harry is back! Harry Who? Hi, Commander Dawson – "Doc"

POST #9217 – LIBERTY – Veterans Day celebration over 100 attended. The Police Department was awarded a plaque for improving and maintaining the quality of life in this town. Kitchen crew, Carol Simons, Ruth Koberlein, Shirley Berrett, Helen Webbe, Gene Winters, and Margaret Goetz. Commander Bill appreciates you.

POST #1666 YONKERS – Offering a WWII tour bus. Commander Russ Von Glahn and President Mickey Von Glahn (related?)

POST #8160 – BROOKLYN – Commander Sanford, what do you do with all the snow in the city? "Doc". Working on a Men's Auxiliary – how about a photo?

POST #2332 – JOHNSON CITY – Robert Scheffer Men's Auxiliary President working on membership. Tom Borkowski Quartermaster will help. Nice photo, Sharon Goodman, Auxiliary President.

POST #? – WEBSTER – Commander Ralph Dimmick is honored at the Post Commander's dinner. Very nice newsletter but no Post number on it.

POST #478 – BINGHAMTON – Therese Klein is still the Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary. There's one hard-working girl. Not the treasury work, keeping Mr. Klein in line. With love, "Doc"

POST #9587 – STATEN ISLAND – Commander Santo A. Scribani – Blood Drive, Anniversary Party, Atlantic City Trip, two Christmas Parties.

POST #2736 – EAST MEADOW – commander Thackle Baumgardner – their newsletter addresses the need for V.F.W. involvement in the community to support traffic control. Al Covino working on scholarship awards.

POST #6196 – QUEENSBURG – Commander Joseph Gordon expressed his appreciation t the Post for sending him to the National Convention. Nice! More Posts should do that. (Take it out of Bell Jar).

POST #516 – FARMINGDALE – Commander Fullam – do you have the original photo of Gold Star Mothers National President?

POST #2813 – LONG ISLAND CITY – Bill Katsaras and Regina McCarthy hosted a Salute to Veterans party. Sen. Serphin Maltese arranged for a \$5,000 grant for a Memorial Stone.

POST #1371 – OWEGO – Men's Auxiliary up and running, Bob Kishpaugh, Agnes Brown, Yvonne Zimmer, all feeling better.

POST #5491 – MAHOPAC – Commander Anthony Del Duco has been on active duty with the Air Force Reserves. Pat Mahoney covered in his absence. Congratulations for serving our country and people on two fronts, "Doc"

POST #7763 – MASSAPEQUA – Richard Magee, Poppy Chair, addressed Cub Scout Wolf Pack #696. Commander Louis Pisano and Sr. Vice Richard Begandy hosted the talk on the Flag and patriotism.

POST #5253 – ALBERTSON – What a beautiful Post photo. December issue, Post members spoke at Mrs. Hanratty's classes in the Washington Street School. Tony Catalano, Andy Criscuoli, Bill Beilman, and Frank Maltese.

POST #6394 – SYOSSET – has a new roof; Gus Scatari and Bob McCullough get a big thanks from Commander Joseph Cifelli.

POST #2476 – RIVERHEAD – Commander Gene McSherry has a VFW wish list for the Children's National Home in their paper. The Ladies Auxiliary is setting it up. Jackie McKay, President, and your Commander, great idea, my hat goes off to you! "Doc"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lists of who won, elected to what office is not necessarily newsworthy. What you and your members do is. First names are a dime a dozen, give the person's last name, too. Photos are always needed. Call me if you have a question, 1-607-962-2126. I would like to help you get your info in the paper. "Doc"

POST #420 – SARATOGA SPRINGS – Commander Tom Alberts has to deal with some of his members going south for the winter. George Royer, PPC, Council and District member is moving to Arizona. Our loss – their gain.

POST #9249 – GRAND ISLAND – Commander Mike Catini dedicated a pavilion to former POWs Lt. Col Torgeir Fadum (Ret.) and PFC Walter (Lefty) Kendzierski. It's called Lefty's Place, other names will be added later. Now why doesn't "Doc" have a photo of that?

POST #375 – YONKERS – Commander Joe Porcelli – wishes Happy Birthday to Wilfredo Vega and Robert Bianco. That's my Birthday, too, "Doc".

POST #307 – ROCHESTER – Sr. Vice Dan Collins addresses the need for members to re-engage and work on Post projects. Very well done! This "Doc" wants a picture of the results of your efforts.

POST #5298 JAMAICA – Commander Leroy A. Barnes setting up an entertainment committee, PPCs Bob Walker and T. J. Tharpe will work with Auxiliary Madam President Jenkins.

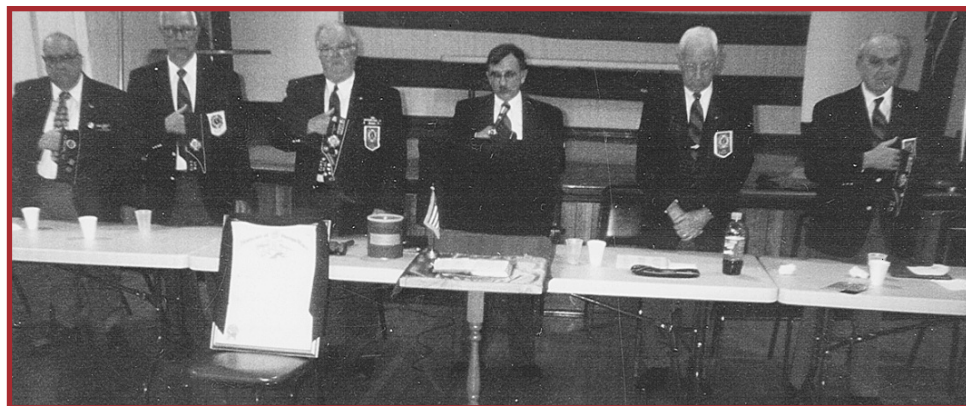
POST #8647 – MAYVILLE – Commander Jan Derbish works with Bar Manager Vicki Cole to increase attendance in the canteen area.

POST #7466 POESTEN KILL – Commander Robert A. Lynch has a great photo for the worn Flag disposal mailbox.

POST #2475 – GLENS FALLS – Editor Patti Slavin, nice editorial on Sears. Their Post Charter was 1932. I think this is the first time I've gotten your publication. Its' pretty good, "Doc".



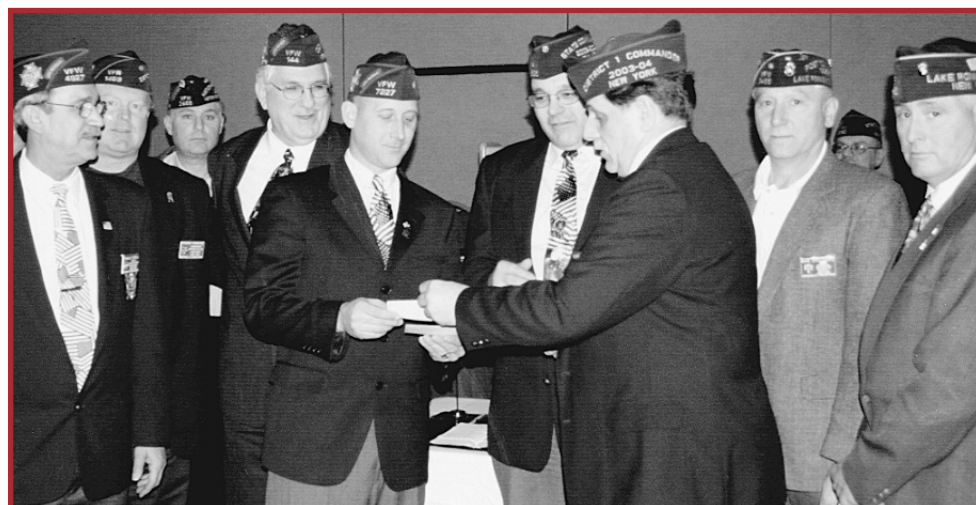
Post #2232 Johnson City – 10° weather doesn't stop them from a Chicken BBQ, Post and both Auxiliaries working together – L to R: Lynn Snedecker, Men's Auxiliary Trustee; Ron Jones, Post Trustee; Don Wandell, Jr. Vice; Wayne Felsheim, Commander; and Steve Patrick, 1st and 50th Commander.



Early Bird Dinner at Harry E. Cosby Post, Buffalo – 102 in attendance – L to R: Robert Manzella, Commander of local American Legion; Frank C. Schulz, Sr. Vice; Clayton J. Burden, Jr. Vice; Harris H. Bartz, Commander; Walter R. Jansen, Adjutant; and Dominic A. Lorigo, Quartermaster.



Albany Legislative Conference – a real full house!



Center left – Jim Sheets accepts donations for Operation Uplink from District 1 Commander Michael Pascal – \$500.00 – Post 9486, \$100.00 from George Pascal and S.C.C. – \$1,000.00. WOW!

POW/MIA pins presented to the Department's new Service Officers – L to R: Vincent Esposito, POW/MIA Chairman; Commander Harold Burke, Jr.; Edith Lombardi, N.Y. Office Service Officer (212-807-3164), and Thomas Todaro, Buffalo Service Officer (716-551-5218).



Council of Administration Meeting – preparation begins before the meeting itself. Art Koch, III, in background doing a review; (left) Edward Sitek, 6th District Commander; and James Fields, 5th District Commander, compare notes.



FROM THE PAST – Marine Corps Ball VFW-Mineville – L to R: Karen Menser, William "Doc" Schmitz, and Patty Ives. Karen felt bad my wife was sick, so she gave me her flowers for her. Patty is the wife of John, one of the Marines in Vietnam who had the pleasure of getting me back alive. Thanks to all. Love, "Doc".

Past Department of New York Commanders in attendance at the Legislative Conference in Albany.



Paul Spera, Past National Commander-in-Chief, draws for \$250.00 drawing in Post at 100% membership, assisted by Commander Harold Burke, Jr.; winner was East Aurora.