

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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

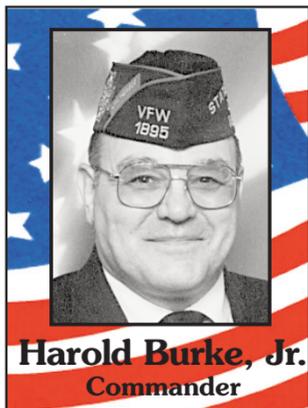



April/May 2004

Harold Burke, Jr., New York State Commander

Volume 24, Issue 2

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. Commander



extremely important that your Post, County Council and District complete the election report form and return it to Department Headquarters immediately following the election of officers. This will ensure the Post Quartermasters receive their dues kits and help the Office Staff in preparing and distributing the Department Directory for 2003-04.

As the War on Terrorism continues, it is important for the members of the VFW to support our Troops and their families. As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, it is our obligation to care for those who have borne the battle and those who are dependent upon them. Each time we open our Post meeting, we are reminded of this commitment. As our obligation eludes to, members of the VFW must continue to work for those veterans who have served and who are currently serving in our country's military. Each Post can render support to our men and women currently in the service by adopting a Unit, hosting a gathering or being a contact for service men and women's families. Each of these vents is important in themselves for both the service men and women and their families.

Comrades,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone for their expression of sympathy to my family during my Father's, Harold M. Burke, Sr., recent passing. Perhaps you sent a lovely care or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray if so we saw it there. Perhaps you made a donation of that we are aware. Perhaps you were not there at all, Just a thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you, so much, whatever your part.

At this writing (April 23, 2004), I congratulate those Posts, and County Council Commanders who have achieved 100% in membership. I am sure that by the time this is published that my congratulations to the District commanders that have made 100% in membership will be in order too.

Commanders and Quartermasters, please review this year's Department Membership book, so you do not miss any of the important qualifying requirements for All State Honors. Post Commanders, in addition to receiving points for All State Honors, it is

On behalf of my wife, Carol, and I, my sincere appreciation and gratitude for all of the hospitality and comradeship shown to us during our visitations this past year. We certainly enjoyed each and every visit.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,
Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr.,
Commander
Department of New York



Left to right: Joe Henzler; Bob Siple, Sr.; Rudy Schmidt, Post Commander; Hal Burke, State Commander; Bob Shave, Sch'dy SCh. CO. Co.
Reason: Commander presented Perpetual Charter to VFW Post 5016, Warnerville.



**Guest Speaker at
Department Convention
John W. Smart,
Commander-in-Chief
1999-2000
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States**



John W. Smart of Nashua, New Hampshire, was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief at the organization's 100th National Convention in Kansas City, MO, August 20, 1999.

Smart served in the United States Army from October 1970 to April 1973. In Vietnam, he was assigned to the 176th Assault Helicopter Company (Americal Division) at Chu Lai. His service in Vietnam was recognized with a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal with four stars and a Presidential Unit Citation.

While serving in Vietnam, he joined VFW Post 2181 in Exeter, N.H. Following his return from military service in 1973, he moved quickly through the chairs and earned recognition as an All-American Department Commander during the 1981-82 year. In 1983, he served as chairman of the National Youth Activities Committee, and from 1991-1993, as chairman of the National

Buddy Poppy committee. In 1995, he was appointed National Chief of Staff.

Smart, a retired Nashua firefighter of 21 years service, has served as Department Adjutant/Quartermaster since 1985. Presently, he is a Life Member of VFW Post 483 in Nashua, N.H. In addition to his VFW membership, he belongs to the Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion, Americal Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, Retired Firefighters Association and the Association of the U.S. Army. He has served as chairman of the Board of Managers of the New Hampshire Veterans Home since 1987 and has served as a state representative from Congressional District 28, Nashua, N.H. Smart is currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He and his wife, Mary, have two children, John Jr., and Cheryl and four grandchildren. They make their home in Woodbridge, VA.

Photographer:
**Vincent
Siesta**



State Editor:
**William
"Doc"
Schmitz**

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Assistant Editor: Ron Bush
Photographer: Vincent Siesta

2003-2004 State Officers OTI Instructors & Staff

Commander:
Harold M. Burke, Jr.
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James Vinsonhaler
Jr. Vice Commander:
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Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
Chief-of-Staff:
Donald Doel
Inspector:
Robert Barnhart
Patriotic Instructor:
James Sheets

POLICY

Published five times annually by the Department of New York. One dollar of each member's annual dues, paid to a VFW Post in New York State is used for a year's subscription to the Overseas Veteran. Cost to non-members - \$2.00; widows of VFW members - \$1.00, payable in advance to the Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2527.

The views expressed herein are those of the writers and, unless otherwise stated, do not reflect the positions of NYSOV or its staff.

All members and other interested parties are encouraged to submit articles, opinions, letters to the Editor, or any other copy of pictures for publication on subjects relevant to veterans' issues and concerns. *New York State Overseas Veteran* reserves the right to edit material for length or grammar and to reject any material that is deemed not to meet current editorial needs.

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POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, send form 3579 to: New York Overseas Veteran, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Jim Vinsonhaler Senior Vice Commander



**Jim Vinsonhaler
Sr. Vice Commander**

The year is quickly coming to an end with the State Convention less than two months away. Our job is nearly done, and I thank each of you for the effort you have shown. Keep in mind that the year is not completely over yet, and there is still an important job to be done. MEMBERSHIP. We all can still do much better.

With the many thousands of men and women now serving in

harm's way, it is our commitment to show our support for them and to bring them into our VFW family. I am sure there is at least one deployed service person from nearly every community in this Department, and it should be our responsibility to find them, make an effort to help them and their families and show our gratitude for what they are doing.

The Department of New York has taken many strides this past year to enhance our programs and services; and, certainly, we hope these are the right things to do. It is time to look to the future and no longer say, "But we never did it that way before". We look forward to seeing each of you at the Convention in Rochester.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jim Vinsonhaler,
Sr. Vice Commander



James Vinsonhaler, who said it doesn't pay to run for Department Commander – (Left to right: Connie Williams, Claims Consultant VFW Buffalo Regional Office; Sr. Vice Commander James Vinsonhaler, VFW Service Officer, Syracuse; Nicole Cicio, Claims Consultant, VFW New York Regional Office; and Donna Hoak, Claims Consultant, VFW Albany Office.



**Karl Rohde
P.S.C. & Legislative Chairman**

There are several items that I would like to mention regarding legislative issues. The best tool that we have at our disposal regarding legislation is our voices, either through the written word or by means of a phone call.

This article will be in the *Whoville Legislative Register* and the *Overseas Veteran*. When

you read this, do your fellow veterans a favor, call your State Assemblyman or State Senator or your Congressman and introduce yourself. Tell them or their staff that you are a VFW member or a Ladies Auxiliary member and that you are concerned with veterans' issues. Tell them that if they need help making decisions on bills that will effect veterans that they can call you, and you will help them make the correct decision. Don't wait for me or someone else to provide you with a bill number, let our elected officials know that there are people that they can go to regarding these bills.

The *Whoville Legislative Register* has been a great success. If there is anyone out there who would like to get it via e-mail, send your e-mail

Jim McNally Junior Vice Commander



**Jim McNally
Jr. Vice Commander**

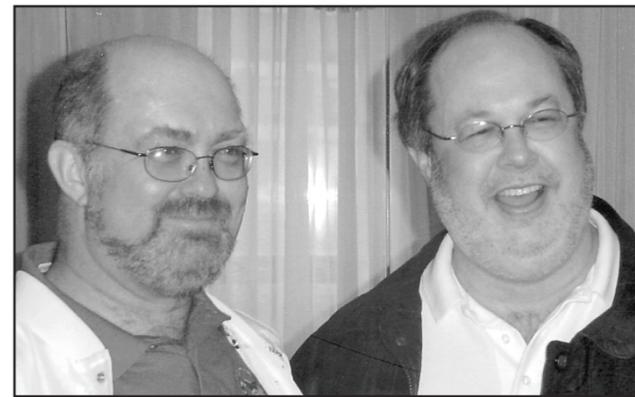
Spring elections are here, time to choose our leaders for next year. Please consider your new officers' abilities. Remember, they will represent your Post on the Community, Council, District and Department levels. These positions should not be taken lightly. There is a lot of work and

responsibility that comes with an office, be it Post Commander or a committee chairmanship. Strive to choose persons that can get the job done and will work for our organization.

Our organization's main objectives of Veterans service, Community service, Legislative service and Youth development can only be accomplished by keeping the VFW strong and growing. Now is the time for each member to pledge to sign up a new member, so our organization can keep up with its good works. Our membership is made up of ordinary men and women who have accomplished extraordinary things. Let's continue our service by maintaining the Veterans' tradition of Duty, Honor and Country.



Inspector Robert Barnhart and Junior Vice Commander Jim McNally discuss Veterans' issues with James Jewell, State Service Officer, who works in our Albany area.



Legislative Chairman, P.S.C. Karl Rohde, poses with wrestler "Doctor Death" at Washington Legislative Conference.

address to me at VFWlegislative@yahoo.com. Please include your complete name. Also there are some that are being received garbled. I have no idea why that is happening. Please let me know if you are getting garbled messages,

please tell me. I will retransmit a newsletter to you. There are about 200 comrades, sisters, and friends who receive the *Register*.

Last note – at the upcoming State Convention in Rochester, there will be choir practice.

Fred P. Schwally Buddy Poppy Chairman



Fred P. Schwally
Buddy Poppy Chairman

Buddy Poppy 2004 Spring Conference Report

With Memorial Day less than sixty days away, Buddy Poppy orders should have been submitted to Department of New York. However, orders will be

processed through Memorial Day with anticipation that this Memorial Day will produce record number Buddy Poppy sales.

Orders are increasing on a daily basis. One month has observed an increase of 73,500, which is significant. Department of New York, V.F.W. currently stands at 469,500, which is only 46.95% of goal.

Time is short with a goal of one million Buddy Poppies attainable with your assistance.

Allow your Buddy Poppy Chairman to announce at Department of New York Convention in Rochester that one million Buddy Poppies have been attained. Order Buddy Poppies now through Department of New York, V.F.W. Only your assistance can make this happen.

Post Life Membership Awards

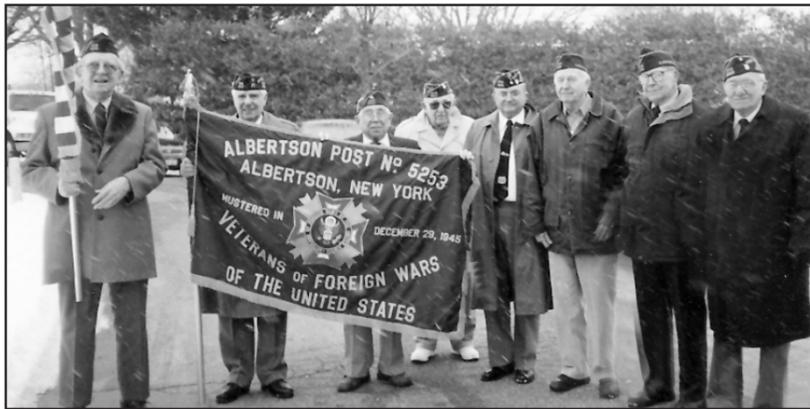
Division	Post	Commander
1	372 Great Neck Nassau CC	James E. Burton, Jr.
2	7336 Glen Dale Queens CC	Donald T. McBride
3	770 Catskill Rip Van Winkle CC	Leroy Post, Jr.
4	375 Yonkers Westchester CC	Joseph A. Porcelli
5	569 Fulton Oswego CC	George E. Sprague
6	1371 Owego S. Tier CC	Gary O. Phelps
7	524 Corning S. Tier CC	Doubles M. Herbert
8	6251 Cheektowaga Erie CC	David J. Przepiora

A \$250.00 drawing for all Posts at 100% –
#9314 Past Old Forge won.



Left to right: Commander Harold Burke recognizes George E. Sprague for Life Membership, as well as Allan Davenport and Jeff Addison, Membership Team.

Albertson Post #5253 V.F.W. at the grave site of a departed member.



Albertson Post #5253 VFW at a gravesite of a departed member: Left to right: Harry Wurth, Tony Catalano, Joe Pometti, Vincent Coviello, PPC Frank Maltese, Ray Ellis, Bob Shelley, and PPC Charley Reass.



Presentation of \$100 checks and a Certificate of Accomplishment to Devon Rupert and Nicholas Iacuzza on their attaining the rank of Eagle Scout by the Commander and Adjutant of Post 202, Holley, N.Y. Nicholas is only 14-years old, which is quite an accomplishment for one so young.

Submitted by Ralph L. Smith, Adjutant

Operation Ramp Up

Operation Ramp Up was formed last year by, at the time, V.F.W. County Commander and Hicksville Elks Exalted Ruler Jack Stein and The Carpenters Union #7 President William Weitzman, for the purpose of providing handicapped ramps for wheelchair-bound veterans. The Levittown V.F.W., along with The B.P.O.E. Hicksville Lodge #1931, are in full support of this project. Pictured is the Bellmore V.F.W. Post, which will be one of the recipients of a ramp. Present at the groundbreaking were members of the Bellmore and Levittown Post. Local government officials have been very helpful in their guidance in promoting our program. In attendance is The Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray, T.O.H. Tax Collector Don Clavin, Councilwoman Angie Cullen and T.O.H. Town Attorney Mark Bonia. The Hicksville Lodge and Post 9592 are very proud to be a part of this project. Spreading the good word of Elksdom and V.F.W. pride has been one of our main goals this year, especially when helping veterans is a part of it. Presently, we are working on seven projects.



85th Annual State Convention Department of New York, V.F.W.

Corporation Officers: Frank Nicolazzo 54 Lyncrest Drive Rochester, New York 14616	Sponsored by Monroe County Council Rochester, New York June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2004	Corporation Members Richard Gross Anthony Ferrarese Hyman Goldman Lelia Miner
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Secretary & Auxiliary Chairperson Helen Weeks	Treasurer James Cuddihee
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Dear Comrades and Sisters:

The City of Rochester and the Monroe County Council of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will host the 85th Annual State Convention of the Department of New York June 23-27, 2004.

The headquarters hotel for the VFW Auxiliary will be the Clarion Riverside and the Crown Plaza will house the VFW. **Directions for getting to the hotels are below.**

Joint Opening – Will be at the War Memorial on Thursday, June 24th, 2004. Presentation of VFW and Auxiliary Colors and Memorial Service will be at 1:00 P.M.

Auxiliary Opening Meeting – Thursday, June 24, 2004, 8:30 AM at the Clarion Riverside

VFW Opening Meeting – Friday, June 25, 2004, 8 AM at the Crown Plaza

Housing – All housing will be made through Hy Goldman for the VFW and Helen Weeks for the Auxiliary. **Please note that cut off date is May 23, 2004.** After that date rooms will be on availability basis only.

Program Ad Book & Booster Sheets – Richard Gross, Chairman. Advertising contract and layout sheet enclosed. Check must accompany copy and contract payable to the **85th State Convention Corporation. Ad deadline May 23, 2004.**

Advanced Registration – George Whitfield is Chairman for the VFW and Jeannetta Hermans for the Ladies Auxiliary. Advance Registration fee \$4.00, at Convention \$5.00. form enclosed for registration.

Commander and President's Banquet – Paul and Nina LeFrois, Chairmen. Thursday, June 24, 2004, at the Crown Plaza at 7 P.M. Roast Pork Loin with Rosemary and Shallot Demi Glaze or Breast of Chicken with Harvarti Sauce for \$30.00 per person. Form enclosed for reservations. Deadline is June 18, 2004.

President's Luncheon – Nina LeFrois, Chairman. Friday, June 24, 2004 at the Clarion Riverside. Form enclosed for reservations. Deadline is June 19, 2004.

Commander and President's Reception – 6-8 PM Patchen and Briggs Post Home, 54 S. Union Street, Rochester.

Thruway Direction to Hotels

From the West: Thruway I-90 to Exit 37 (Leroy-Rochester) I-490 East to downtown Rochester. For Crown Plaza – take Exit 13-Plymouth Ave. Take a right on Plymouth Ave. to Church St. – turn left on Church St. to State St. turn right. Crown Plaza will be immediately on your left.

For the Clarion Riverside Hotel – Stay on Inner loop to St. Paul St. – right on St. Paul to Main St. – right on Main and right into hotel.

From the East: Thruway I-90 to Exit 45 (Rochester) I-490 West and exit on Clinton Ave. – turn left on Broad St. to Exchange St. Cross Main St. to State St. to Crown Plaza on your right. For the Clarion Hotel – Turn right on Main St. to the hotel on your left.

COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

Information needs to be to Wayne (Skip) Campbell (address below) by March 30th in order to go ahead with the competition.

Name of Post _____

Post Number _____

County Council _____

District No. _____

Prizes: 1st Place \$75.00
2nd Place \$50.00
3rd Place \$25.00

The Competition will be held immediately following the Joint opening at the War Memorial on Thursday, June 24, 2004.

Wayne (Skip) Campbell
36 Inslee Street
Waterloo, New York 13165

A Reminder from the Credentials Committee

Dear Comrade:

In order to avoid the misconception or misunderstanding concerning voting eligibility, I strongly urge you to revisit –

Sec. 213 – Arrearages and Sec. 520 – Voting in your ritual and By-Laws manual.

Please familiarize yourself and be aware that when registering for the Convention and you pick up you packet, YOU MUST ALSO REGISTER, AT NO ADDITIONAL COST, AS A DELEGATE IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.

Your awareness of these qualifications for voting privilege during registration will be an enormous help to us all. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Frank Nicolazzo
Chairman, Credentials Committee

Section. 520 – Voting

Each member of the Department Convention as those persons are defined in **Section 503**, except delegates elected by the Posts, present at a meeting of the Convention shall be entitled to one vote, and an individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in the Department Convention shall have no more than one vote. The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a meeting of the Department Convention shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled. The Post Commander, or the Senior or Junior Vice Commander functioning in his place as a member of the Convention may, at his option, choose to vote as a delegate rather than as a Post Commander. Should there be a division among delegates representing the post, each delegate present shall cast his pro rata share of the total delegate voting strength of the Post. A roll call may be required and entered upon the record of the Department Convention at the call of any three officers or delegates representing three different Posts.

Sec. 213 – Arrearages

Any Post in arrears for National, Department, County Council or District dues, poppy money, supply money, or other financial obligations, or failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, or failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit or Post Election Report shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings, District, Department and National Conventions.. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

NOTICE CREDENTIALS

In an effort to eliminate some of the time consuming problems and misunderstandings that occur each year, with delegates and credentials at the State Convention, the Convention Committee is asking that this notice be reviewed at all Post, County and District meetings so that those attending the convention will know what is required and expected of them if they are called upon, to vote. Following are some of the basic rules regarding delegates and responsibilities of Post Commanders.

1. Post Commanders: Please instruct your members that there are **two** registration tables at the convention. One, the most popular, is registration for the convention. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH REGISTERING DELEGATES FOR VOTING PURPOSES. You would be surprised at how many long-time members do not know the difference. It is the Commander's job to explain the difference between registering for the convention and registering delegates.

2. Post Commanders: You will receive all of your Posts credentials from the State Adjutant. He will mail one for you and one for each delegate that your Post is entitled to according to the Post's membership count as the end of June. Your credential will be a different color than the others. EVERY CREDENTIAL MUST BE SIGNED BY THE POST COMMANDER, ADJUTANT AND DELEGATE. We would recommend that the signing be done prior to the convention. We also recommend that they be distributed prior to the convention. At the convention, you will turn you CREDENTIALS in at the CREDENTIALS REGISTRATION TABLE, the committee will file them and at that time you are registered as a delegate to the convention.

3. Post Commanders: Please explain that there is NO CHARGE FOR REGISTERING DELEGATES, but there is a small fee for registering for the **convention** if you desire to register.

4. If you do not receive your credentials, from the State Adjutant, prior to the convention, contact the Department and have them sent if there is enough time. This situation is rare. If you do not receive them prior to the convention, they are available at the Credentials Registration Table; BUT if you get them at the convention, they still must be signed by the Post Commander and the Adjutant as well as the delegate.

5. ONE PERSON ONE VOTE: Regardless of how many chairs a person may hold you only get one vote. If you area Commander at any level and wish to vote other than that Commander's vote, you may; but you only get ONE vote. In some cases, a Commander may wish to vote his Post's strength, rather than a District Commander vote for example, and he may do so; BUT he must notify the Credentials Committee when registering, and they will act accordingly.

WHERE IS EVERYONE GOING?

To the VFW State Convention held Jun 22-27, 2004 in Rochester, New York
 Register In Advance to Win A Drawing of \$100 first prize or \$50 second prize

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION
 \$\$ – SAVE A BUCK – \$\$**

Avoid waiting in line. Present the card which will be mailed to you and pick up your badge and Convention packet at the Registration Table.

VFW Chairman
 George Whitefield
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 200 West Avenue
 Rochester, New York 14611

Auxiliary Chairman
 Jeannetta Hermans
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 200 West Avenue
 Rochester, New York 14611

Mail this form with a check or money order in the amount of \$4.00 for each name listed. **Please Type or Print to assure the proper spelling of your name and address.** Tear off and mail to the Advance Registration Chairperson listed above. Make checks payable to:
85th Annual Convention Corporation. Cut off date will be June 18th, 2004.

Name (and Title if any)	Post #	Aux. #	Address

THIS IS ALSO OPEN TO FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE VFW

**VFW STATE CONVENTION 2004
 Golf Tournament
 Rochester, New York
 Genesee Valley Park Golf Course**

The tournament will take place on June 23, 2004.
 Teams of four may consist of all men, all women, or mixed (VRW membership not required).
 The cost will be \$55.00 per person (18 holes with cart).
 Refreshments and food will be served at the turn; and after the tournament, a buffet dinner will be held at the VFW Post 307.
 We will have trophies and prizes.
 Transportation will be provided to and from the VFW Post 307.
 All entries must be in by May 23, 2004.
 Please make checks payable to (Convention Corporation) and return with the entry form below.

Mail to:

**Ron Schrlau • 54 South Union Street • Rochester, New York 14607 • Phone: (585) 454-7734
 MORE INFORMATION AND STARTING TIMES TO FOLLOW WHEN WE GET CLOSER TO THE DATE**

Entry Form (Please Print)

Team Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Players Names:

- 1. Team Captain: _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Attention: Program Chairman

CONTRACT

Please insert our _____ page advertisement as indicated in the 85th Annual Convention Corp. Dept. of New York, V.F.W. program book, for which we agree to pay the sum of \$ _____

Make check or money order to the 85th Annual Convention Corp. and mail to:

Program Chairman

Richard M. Gross • 65 Ledgewood Circle • Rochester, NY 14616

Pictures included on full-page ads only. Glossy prints to be furnished.

 Name of District, Council, Post or Individual

By _____
 Name of Officer Signing

Date _____

Contract and check or money order must be received
 not later than: **May 23, 2004**

**85th Annual
 Convention Corp.
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Program Layout Sheet**

Sponsored by
 Monroe County Council V.F.W. and Auxiliary
June 23rd-June 26th, 2004

<p>One Quarter Page \$30.00</p>	<p>One Eighth Page \$20.00</p>
<p>One Half Page \$50.00</p>	
<p>One FULL PAGE \$85.00</p>	

Housing Form

**Veterans of Foreign Wars • 85th Annual Convention
Rochester, New York • June 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2004**

Please use this form for your hotel registration only.

PLEASE PRINT

Participating Hotels and Rates – Handicapped Rooms Available

Crown Plaza 70 State St. VFW Headquarters	\$92.00 Single	\$92.00 Double Cots=\$12.00	\$92.00 Triple	\$92.00 Quadruple
Clarion Riverside 120 East Main St. (Auxiliary Headquarters)	\$85.00	\$85.00 Cots=\$10.00	\$85.00	\$85.00

Please note: Rates are subject to local sales and occupancy tax. Please send in sales tax exemption forms with reservation or bring with you at check-in time. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

CUT OFF DATE IS MAY 23, 2004. Availability basis only after date.

All requests for suites and hospitality rooms must be directed to:

VFW – Hy Goldman or Ladies Auxiliary – Helen Weeks.

Name (list all people) Street Address City/State/Zip Code

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

CHECK ROOM TYPE

Single Double Triple Quadruple Smoking Non-Smoking

HOTEL CHOICE: Crown Plaza Clarion Riverside

One night's deposit is required, either check or credit card. No telephone reservations will be accepted.

Account # _____

Name as on Card _____

Signature _____

Mail this completed housing form to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars • 200 West Ave. • Rochester, NY 14611
ATTN: Hy Goldman or Helen Weeks

We look forward to seeing you in **ROCHESTER**

Commander and President's Dinner

Dinner will be held Thursday evening, June 24, 2004 at 7 PM, at the Crown Plaza. The menu will be Roast Pork Loin with Rosemary and Shallot Demi Glaze or Breast of Chicken with Harvarti Sauce. Tickets are \$30.00. Reservations may be made by sending remittance payable to: **85th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION CORPORATION**, and filling out the reservation form below. Anyone wishing to reserve a table for 10, may do so by listing all names and sending remittance to cover tickets ordered. Tickets can be picked up at the convention. The deadline for reservations is **June 18, 2004.**

Mail all ticket requests to: Paul and Nina Le Frois
1085 Webster-Fairport Road • Webster, New York 14580

Please denote which hotel you want to pick up your tickets at

Name	Address	Post #	Co.Co.

No. of Tickets Ordered: _____ Amount of Payment Enclosed: _____

Pick-up Tickets At: Clarion _____ Crown Plaza _____

President's Luncheon

The President's Luncheon will be held at the Clarion Riverside Hotel on Friday, June 25, 2004 at Noon. Tickets will be \$15.00 per person. Choice of Chicken Caesar Salad or Tuna Salad on Croissant with a Side Salad. Tickets can be picked up at the Convention. The deadline for reservations is **June 18, 2004.**

Make Remittance Payable to: 2004 VFW Auxiliary State Convention
Mail to: VFW County Office, 200 West Avenue • Rochester, NY 14611
Attn: Luncheon Chairman

Name	Aux #	Co.Co.	District	Menu Choice

No. of Tickets Ordered: _____ Amount of Payment Enclosed: _____

The awards to the winners of the VOD and Patriot's Pen Essay contest for Erie County were made at a VFW Membership rally on Feb. 21 at Hamburg Township Post 1419.



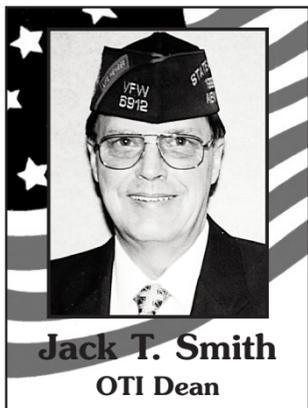
**Winner of Erie County Competition
Voice of Democracy 2003-04**
Pictured left to right: Ray Nowak, Past Department NY Service Officer (presenter); Elizabeth Schumer, winner of Erie County Competition; and Clarence Buob, VOD Program Chairman, Erie County Council – Miss Elizabeth Schumer is an 11th grade student attending Immaculata Academy in Hamburg, NY. She was sponsored by Hamburg Township Post 1419.



Winner of Patriot's Pen Essay Competition 2003-04
Pictured left to right: Ray Nowak, Past Department NY Service Officer (presenter); David Kehr, Winner of Erie County Competition; and Clarence, Buob Patriot's Pen Program Chairman, Erie County Council. David Kehr is a 12-year-old student attending St. Joseph's School in Collins, NY. David was sponsored by the James Cruden Post 5007 in Gowanda, NY



Post "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriot's Pen" award ceremony held at the Post on March 2nd, 2004 – Winning students from Howitt Middle School, 7th and 8th graders In Farmingdale who competed in the "Patriot's Pen" essay contest's theme of "My Dream For America" – Front row left to right: Ryan A. Contarino, Joseph N. Bronsnan, both tied for first place; 2nd place–Rianna M. Rosen, 3rd place–Codi L. Reiser, 4th place–Nicholas J. Orlando, Honorable Mention–Andrew R. Knudsen; Middle row, left to right: Commander Bob Fullam, Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, more Honorable Mention–Jake J. Rachielle, Commander's Granddaughter Meghan Fullam, Matthew K. Labriola, Jean V. Aitala, Framingdale Village Mayor Joseph Trudden and VOD Chairman Joseph DiStefano; Back row, left to right: Principal of Weldon E. Howitt Middle School Luis Pena, Councilwoman Rosemarie Walker, Councilwoman Mary McCaffery, Town Clerk Steve Labriola, Attorney Greg Carman and representing State Senator Charles Fushcillo is Chris Schneider.



OTI School

Dear Commander,
 At a meeting held at the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany, the OTI Committee approved the dates of the 2004 OTI course. August 6-8, 2004, are the scheduled dates for the school, and as in past years, will be held at the State University, Binghamton, NY. All meals and sleeping quarters will be in the Hinman complex. The cost for this year's instruction is **\$70.00 per student**, and the cost can be taken from your Bell Jar Account.

Enclosed you will find an application for the school and feel free to reproduce the form as needed. Please only one form **per student** should be submitted.

Yours in comradeship,
 Jack T. Smith, PSC • OTI Dean

**Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Officers Training Institute & Flying Squadron Presentation
 August 6-8, 2004
 At Suny Binghamton Campus**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 23, 2004

Please Note: Applications received after deadline date, applicants must supply their own linen

Please print and fill out below completely

Name: _____
 (First) (MI) (Last) (Title – if applicable)

Home Address: _____
 (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Home Phone: () _____

Post No: _____

(Select One Course Only)
**OFFICERS TRAINING
 QUARTERMASTER
 SERVICE OFFICER**

Post No.

Blood Type

**Flying Squadron meeting will be held for ALL
 students on Friday evening at 7:30 pm**

WILL YOU BE STAYING ON CAMPUS? YES NO
 ARE HANDICAPPED FACILITIES NEEDED? YES NO
 (Circle Yes or No)

**PLEASE INDICATE IF
 FEMALE MEMBER**
 YES

**ENROLLMENT FEE \$70.00 PER STUDENT
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DEPT. OF NEW YORK VFW AND MAIL TO:
 Jack T. Smith, PSC • 900 Rock City Falls Rd. Lot 101 • Ballston, Spa, NY 12020**

PLEASE NOTE:
 Application fee is waived for District, County Commanders, District Member Chairmen and National Deputy Chiefs of Staff
 Check this box if one of the above

NOTICE: All members, including staff attending the Officers Training and Flying Squadron, must fill out this form and return to Jack Smith, PSC

Re-Opening of V.A. Medical Outreach clinic



State Commander Hal Burke with WWII Veteran Mark Kishton at the re-opening of V.A. Medical Outreach Clinic, Schenectady, NY, on February 27, 2004, The V.A. moved from one location to another in the area. They had a big program of dignitaries, politicians, veterans, etc. This photo has quite a STORY. This veteran was in the European Theatre, four Battle Stars, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, France Croix De Guerre/with palm, CIB, member 3rd Infantry Division.



On a cold, chilly fall day, a group of about 75 people gathered on Route 12 in Remsen, NY, to say goodbye to the 108th Infantry as they headed for Fort Drum, Watertown, NY, for training before being deployed to Iraq. Represented were: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Remsen Fire Company, Marine Corp League, Remsen VFW and Auxiliary. They are now overseas and we wish them all the best.

**Post Commander's Table of Honor Award
 at Spring Conference**

Division	Post	Commander
1	8052 Bronx	John Neville
2	9132 Nishkayuna	Kenneth Weisl
3	502 Ilion	Sam Sheffler
4	1019 Albany	Roland Abare
5	8647 Mayville	Janet Derbish
6	5253 Albertson	Norbert Campbell
7	524 Corning	Douglas Herbert
8	6251 Cheektowaga	David Przepiora



**Fred P. Schwally
 Buddy Poppy Chairman**

I have been appointed Historian for the Department Commander, and I need your assistance. I'd like to make a pictorial memory book of events beginning with his installation. When Dept. Commander Hal makes his official visit to your District, Post, or Council, please send me Press Release page from newspaper when the article is published and pictures of

the event. When photographs are available, please number them lightly on the back of picture. When possible, identify persons with title from left to right. Use a separate sheet of paper with photo numbers and place, date; people's names and even. Please send photos of any functions he attends in your area. Send me program books or front cover with page of program listing and any other important information such as a copy of an invitation.

If your District, County Council or Post publish a newsletter, please send me copies; so I can put it in Commander Hal's Memory Book.

I would appreciate your cooperation. I would like to present your Department Commander with a pleasant MEMORY Book of his year as your Commander.

Thank you in advance.

Post Event _____
 Place _____
 Date _____



The Department of New York was well represented at the Washington Legislative Conference.



Kenmore Post #2472, hosts New York State Awards Ceremony. Commander Harris H. Batz (right) accepts his award from Assemblyman Schimming.



March 18th, 2004 – Bill McGarr, the Director of Warren County Veterans Service Agency, is presenting the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and New York State Conspicuous Service Star to John Ives for his service to his country and state during his tour of Vietnam. John was also wounded in September of 1969, and it was never documented. Thanks to two corpsmen who wrote letters about treating John (one of whom was Doc Schmitz), Bill was able to contact the Marine Corps; and finally, after 34 years, John received his Purple Heart Medal.



Department Commander Harold Burke addresses the membership meeting at the Spring Conference. Left: Sr. Vice Commander James Vinsonhaler; Right: P.S.C. Al Kline.



Hospital Chairman Susan Dawson gives her report to the general membership at the Spring Conference.



Commander Harold Burke – darn good photo!

Membership Meeting at Spring Conference – right to left: Tom Matola, Vincent Russo, and Tony Ibelli.



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDM - ENDURING FREEDOM



ENDURING AND IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS - VA CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS ASSISTANCE IF YOU HAVE SERVED IN A RECENT THEATER OF COMBAT OPERATIONS. If you are a recently discharged veteran with service in a theater of combat operations, VA can provide you free medical care for two years from your discharge from active duty for conditions possibly related to your service, regardless of your income status.

Bath VA Medical Center • Veterans Service Center • (607) 664-4899

“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan,”
—President Abraham Lincoln

BELOW: Post 6328 Plants a Memorial treeService Officer Gibault and his Committee planting the memorial evergreen tree – (Left to right): Carl Tironi, Jr. (Commander’s son); Larry Komoroske, one of the oldest active members; Service Officer Gibault; and Adjutant Syd Thomas, World War II combat veterans.



BELOW: Washington, D.C., Legislative Conference, not always business – Left: Department Quartermaster Jim Longendyke, right: Department Commander Harold Burke, put the squeeze on Wrestler “Killer Kowalski”. We all had a great time in D.C.



Major Kathleen Malone, Iraq Veteran was inducted in Richmond County Post 248 VFW. She served in Panama, Korea, Desert Storm and Iraq. At present, she is in the Reserves. Left to right: Quartermaster Phil Moretti, Adjutant Owen Tepper, Chaplain Carmine Fallacara and Major Kathleen Malone.