

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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

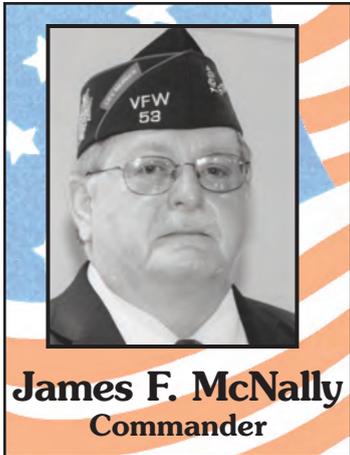


August/September 2005

"We honor our warriors because they are brave and because by seeing death on the battlefield they come to respect the greatness of life."

-Winnebago Elder

Volume 25, Issue 3



James F. McNally
Commander

Meet Your Officers

Commander James F. McNally: Jamestown, NY. From District 6 located in the western part of

James F. McNally Commander

the state, served in the U.S. Navy. He is a retired firefighter. He has been active in the VFW for 33 years. He and his wife, Retha, have three children and eight grandchildren.

I would like to thank all the delegates at the 86th Annual Convention for electing me to represent them as Department Commander. It was quite an honor to be installed by the National Commander John Furgess. The Department of NY is fortunate to have capable offi-

cers in Senior Vice Commander Don Doell, Junior Vice Commander Bob Barnhart and our new Quartermaster Hal Burke, along with a new Judge Advocate Henry Sanchez. We certainly thank retiring Quartermaster Jim Longendyke and Judge Advocate Phillip Schiffman for their many years of service to the VFW. Your new officers, committee chairpersons, and committee members are listed in the Department Directory mailed to each Post.

MCNALLY, continued on page 2



L-R: Department Commander James Vinsonhaler stands by as incoming Department Commander James McNally is sworn in at the Department Convention. Commander-in-Chief Furgess gives the oath.

Women Veterans Residential Program

A Beacon of Hope for Women Veterans



Purpose – To establish a safe, secure setting where female veterans are housed while receiving intensive treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Who Can Benefit?

Female veterans who need gender-specific programs relating to PTSD from combat or Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

Location – The residence is located in a quiet, secure setting on the VA grounds and will house six beds for female veterans. The residence will meet all required safety standards and will be hand-

icapped accessible. There will be security measures provided to protect the female veterans at all times while in residence.

Treatment Program

- Veterans will spend approximately 30 days in resident. The length of stay will be tailored to the individual veteran's needs.
- Participants will receive intensive treatment for PTSD (both combat-related and military Sexual Trauma).
- The PTSD program interventions will be consistent with the VA Clinical Practice Guidelines for PTSD and include a full array of treatment options.
- The staff assigned will have special training and expertise in the treatment of PTSD.
- All the staff assigned to the program will be women.

Admission

Admission will be by referral
WOMEN, continued on page 3



VFW Eagle Scout of the Year, Andrew Paluch, sponsored by Post #7795 Wales, NY – He attends Iroquois High School, Elma, NY. Commander James Vinsonhaler congratulates him at the State Convention.

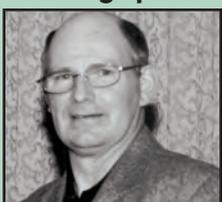


VFW Donation



The 7th District Veterans of Foreign Wars donated a check for \$600 to the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder rehabilitation program at the Batavia VA Medical Center. At far right, Lawrence T. Smith, Jr., Commander of the 7th District VFW, presents the check to Alex Szkowny, clinical social worker for the rehabilitation program. Others in the photo, back row, from left, are Zane Caskey of VFW Post 202 of Holley; Ed Mullen, member of VFW Cathie Wild VFW Post 9000 of Corfu; and Ann Mullen, member of Ladies Auxiliary 9000. Front row, from left, are Vida Martaus of the Ladies Auxiliary 202 and VA Voluntary Service representative; Doris E. Boyd, Western New York County Ladies Auxiliary President; and William Boyd of Post 202 and VA Voluntary Service representative for the 7th District.

Photographer:



William Juteau



State Editor:



William "Doc" Schmitz

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2005-2006 State Officers

Commander:
James McNally
Sr. Vice Commander:
Donald Doell
Jr. Vice Commander:
Robert Barnhart
Judge Advocate:
E. Henry Sanchez
Surgeon:
Robert Stinger
Quartermaster:
Harold Burke, Jr.
Adjutant:
Art Koch, III, PSC
Chaplain:
Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
State Chief of Staff:
Jack Haight
Inspector:
Al Davenport
Patriotic Instructor:
Edward Bassett

POLICY

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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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Robert Barnhart Junior Vice Commander

THANK YOU!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates of the 86th Department of New York Convention for electing me to the high office of Junior Vice Commander.

There will be many challenges ahead as we move into a new year. As always, membership will be our focus to keep us strong and make our programs work. It is important that we make every effort to approach our troops as they return home, advise them of what this organization has to offer, and encourage them to join the VFW.

I look forward to working

with Commander Jim McNally and Senior Vice Commander Don Doell, along with all our comrades in the Department of New York in this coming year.



Junior Vice Commander receives his well-earned hat from wife, Karen.

Harold "Hal" Burke Jr. PSC, Quartermaster

Comrades,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and electing me to the high office of State Quartermaster. I take the responsibilities of this office very seriously and promise that I will always work in the best interest of the Department of New York to maintain a strong financial stability.

Many changes have occurred in our annotation and accounting procedures since the State Convention. There have been several meetings with our Accounting Firm to enlist their help and assure that they are providing the services and overview required and demanded by the membership. Our Investment Firm has provided

insight and guidance on financial planning and suggestions for future investments. Our Accounting Firm will have a representative at the Mid-Winter Conference to report on our progress and provide service information. A full report on the activities to date will be made at the Fall Conference to the Council of Administration.

I appreciate your patience with the checks from the State Convention, as initially, there was some difficulty in mastering the old check writing system.

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

Sincerely,
**Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr., PSC
Quartermaster**



L-R: Commander James McNally discusses financial business with Harold Burke, Jr., PSC at OTI.

Message for All Bachelor Posts!!!

Have you thought about forming an Auxiliary in your Post?

There are many advantages when a Post votes to allow an Auxiliary to be formed. Besides the fact that numbers do count when fighting for veterans' entitlements, an Auxil-

iary can offer a helping hand to the Post in many ways.

If interested, please get in touch with me so the process can be started.

Irene Rohde
E-mail: lmallard3@yahoo.com
Phone: 1-845-225-9194

Donald Doell Senior Vice Commander

Dear Comrades,

Another VFW year begins with my thanks to all the comrades in the Department of New York for their continued support. I will endeavor to do my very best to represent all of us as Department Senior Vice Commander.

This year promises to be a busy one with many assignments on the boards already. I am looking forward to visiting as many regions of the state as I can and meet as many comrades and sisters as I can. Having just returned from the National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, I'd like to pass along some of the highlights:

The National VFW Memorial Service was an extremely moving experience with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir providing the ritual as well as other songs for those assembled.

On the convention floor, Commander-in-Chief George W. Bush reiterated that we must maintain our resolve in the war on terror.

Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was given the VFW Eisenhower Award at the convention banquet.

The Patriotic Rally highlighting Tony Orlando was very entertaining as usual.

The By-Law to implement the Plan E Life Membership was narrowly defeated, so be on the lookout for an increase at

next year's convention.

A report on the National Home for Children had them in dire financial straits and in need of help from all the members of the VFW and the Auxiliary.

It was a jam-packed convention with many amendments to the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure being acted upon.

In the "something to think about department," the question in 'Soundoff' in the August 2005 *VFW Magazine* asked: Is the VFW doing enough at the national and local levels to attract younger members? The disturbing result is that 94% of the respondents said, NO. We are not doing enough to recruit and retain the younger eligible veterans.

Something to think about, as we go forward.

Loyally
**Don Doell, NYS Senior Vice
Commander**



Peggie is quite proud of her new Senior Vice Don Doell.

MCNALLY, continued from page 1

As I was being installed as Department Commander, I could not help but notice that the convention meeting hall was almost empty. This did not show the installing officer, National Commander John Furgess, what our Department is really capable of. Our Department has around 82,000 members; I know we can have a better showing than that. This problem has also presented itself at meetings in all levels of our Department and should be a cause of concern for our organization. To get our Department on the move, I would like to request three things of each Commander on all levels. (1) Ask all members attending your next meeting to invite one other member to the following meetings. (2) Request each of this year's officers and committee persons to sign up at least one new member this year. (3) Plan to have at least one more dollar in your funds at the end of this year. There are a plan for growth in our organization.

Last year, we had a very successful Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, Eagle Scout, and Teacher Recognition Award program; but our state had no entries in the Police,

Firefighter, Emergency Medical Tech, Citizen Volunteer, or Heroism Recognition awards. It is hard to believe that there are no persons in the state of New York that could be eligible for these awards. Please notify your Post Commander if you know of anybody who could be nominated and have him fill in the paperwork.

District Five has a real noteworthy program going strong. Instituted by Past district Commander Lloyd Creeley, the members of the Fifth and Fourth Districts have met homecoming service personnel from Fort Drum and a activated Reserve Unit in the Binghamton area and presented them with flags paid for by donations from members, corporations, and State Legislators. There are also active VFW programs to address the needs of active duty personnel and their families. (MAP, UNMET NEEDS). Contact your Post Commander or Department Chairpersons if you are interested or can assist in any way.

If we pull together this year, we can accomplish our organization's goals to assist our Veterans, our youth, and our communities.

Karl Rohde PSC & Legislative Chairman



Karl Rohde
PSC & Legislative Chairman

We are about to enter another legislative year. While most of our legislators in Albany and Washington are on a summer break, we still have issues that must be dealt with. The main issue that I am going to ask each of you who read this is the "Flag Amendment." While it may be true that this should be taken care of via local and state statutory means that avenue has been blocked. We have men in black robes that do not understand the Constitution nor do they understand the American people, despite all their education. As you know, the Supreme Court ruled that burning the American Flag is free speech. Members of the House of Representatives have passed the Flag Amendment several times, but it has died in the Senate. We must insure that this most recent passage in the House is not in vain. Contact our U.S. Senators and express your support of the Flag Amendment. If you doubt that we should support this measure, please read a part of

the VFW ceremonial initiation: "BEHOLD the Flag of the United States, the flag of our country, for which you have fought and risked so much, for which many of our comrades have bled and died. It is your duty to uphold it at all times, in all places, in conflicts of peace as well as of war, and its glorious folds and its traditions may not be sullied from within or from without."

We must protect our flag. Call or write our Senators: Senator Schumer 202-224-6542 and Senator Clinton 202-688-6262. Look up local mailing addresses and don't send the letters to Washington because there is still a delay due to 9/11 security concerns.

One other item that should be addressed is the new Legislative Priority Agenda. This document that we present to the legislators in Albany should be written by the members of the VFW not solely by the officers or by me or the Legislative committee. We need your input as to what legislative items you deem important enough to be included. Obviously, personal grips will not be included, some local issues may have to be eliminated from the agenda; and we will be unable to include all suggestions. However, without your comments and suggestions, we will have to write the agenda. Please contact me or your District Commanders or County Commanders or members of the State Legislative Committee with your suggestions. Thanks in advance and let's have a great legislative year with a program that represents the VFW.

Father – Daughter Team

At a recent Recognition Dinner to honor Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents in the Monroe County Council, a rare incident occurred. The Post Commander and President of Pennington-Moye Post #9251 in Rochester, New York, are a father and daughter team. The irony is that neither one knew that the other was running for office. Both are Past Commander and President. It came up in a relatively simple father-daughter conversation. The daughter state that she will be taking on the task as President, again; and the father said, guess what, me too. The Recognition Awards were presented to Commander Jesse Stevens and President Denise White. Presenting the awards are Monroe County Commander George Whitfield and County President Marita Fredette.



County Commander Whitfield, Post Commander Stevens, Post Auxiliary President White and County Auxiliary Fredette.

Vincent Siesta State Sr. Photographer

Dear Comrades:

This evening, I received a phone call from Harold Burke informing me that I was nominated by all Past State Commanders to receive a testimonial dinner for my duties as State Photographer for the past forty years. My reply to Harold Burke was that I did not think that this was necessary and that it is not me that should be honored. It should be given to all of the Past State commanders that appointed me. Harold Burke's reply was that all arrangements were made and that I could not refuse this great honor.

I have always thought that the appointment as State Photographer was a great honor, and I have always appreciated it as such. I have always thanked the State Commanders when I was informed of this appointment. I was given the opportunity to come in contact with hundreds of fine gentlemen and ladies throughout the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

I was given the opportunity to attend all of the Washington Voice of Democracy at its infancy, Eastern states Conferences,

the National Conventions, the assignment to photograph the World War II Veterans marching up Broadway, the assignment to cover the dedication of the Korean War Monument in Battery Park, NY, the dinner given for Miss America of 2000 and many photos in the New York area. Not that I was considered a great photographer; the subjects were great. I am only an amateur and enjoy taking photos.

How many of you can say that you were given a thank you kiss by Miss America 2000 for being given the opportunity to photograph Miss America and receiving two National Silver Medals of merit.

It is I that should thank you all for giving me the opportunity to witness all of the great assignments. The dinner should have been given to the Past State Commanders for giving me the opportunity to cover all the assignments.

I thank everyone that had anything to do for arranging the dinner and all for attending, the fine hospitality given me by State Commander Jim Vinsonhaler, the Past State Department

of New York Commanders, and the Past Department Ladies Auxiliary for their generous monetary gifts and cards. All of the cards and notes that I have received over the years by persons that received copies of pictures I was given the chance to witness. It is I that has over forty years of memories and reminder thank you cards hanging on the wall of my office to witness for over forty years.



Vincent Siesta
State Senior Photographer



On April 23, 2005, two Marines had returned from the war in Iraq. Lowerre VFW Post 3083 in Yonkers held a small ceremony to welcome Corporal Angle Serrano and Private Vlasaty Robert back home. Commander Phil Wise, along with Past Commanders Preston Banks, William Vance, and Joseph Manzo welcomed the two Marines to the Post and made them members. When the Marines flew into JFK airport, they were escorted from the airport by New York City Police to the Yonkers border where they were joined by Yonkers Police that escorted them to Lowerre Post. Refreshments were served after the ceremony. The two Marines return to Camp Pendleton in about a month's time.

WOMEN, continued from page 1

from VA counselors only. All VA counselors will be provided with a list of the admission criteria.

Donations

The VA is accepting donations from affiliated organizations such as the VVA, DAV, UAW, AMVETS, and VFW. There will be a list of items the VA is unable to provide from appropriated funds. The contact people for the project are Jean Dittman, LCSW and Diane Perna (as noted below). They can be reached at (716) 834-4270 or (716) 862-8865.

Monetary donations can be

sent to:
ATTN: Dr. Terri Julian
Batavia VAMC
222 Richmond Ave.
Batavia, NY 14020

Please indication on the check that the donation is to be used specifically for the Women Veterans Residential Program. These donations will be used to obtain kitchenware, books, and comfort items to help create a home-like environment for the women veterans All donations are tax deductible.

Please consider donating to this worthy program.

Additional information is available at the VA Western New York Healthcare System



Community Day Programs
2963 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14215
(716) 834-4270 or 862-8865
Jean Dittman/Diane Perna

York Memorial Post 634



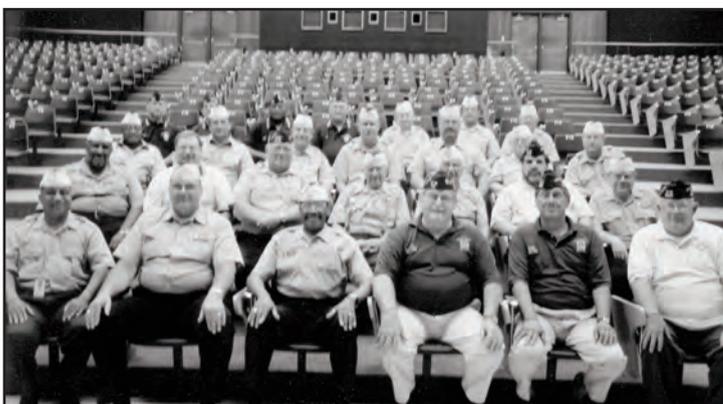
From left to right are 2nd Vice Bob Barrett, Adjutant Tom Tiede, L/Cpl Kyle Gilg, Assemblyman Dan Burling, Town Councilman Dave Sliker and 1st Vice Commander Stan Lubanski.

We wanted to share with the rest of the state Veterans, the experience we recently had here in New York. A young Marine, 19-year-old Kyle Gilg, who has been involved actively in the Falujah Campaign in Iraq, returned to the states for some R&R and reassignment. His grandfather, Richard Gilg, was a Charter Member of Post 634 and chaired the first meeting of our Post when it was formed. In cooperation with his parents, Patty and Gordon Gilg, our Post hosted a Welcome Home at York Town Hall.

We invited a few guests, namely Assemblyman Dan Burling, Town Council member Dave Sliker and Pastor Neil Froot of the York Presbyterian Church. After Pastor Froot delivered the opening prayer, Post Spokesman Tom Tiede introduced Assemblyman Burling, who spoke about some of his Marine experiences in Vietnam and then presented Kyle with a New York State Flag. After Councilman Sliker's remarks, Kyle was sworn in to our Post 634 by past Western County Council and 7th District Commander William Boyd.

Officers – Staff – Instructors
2005 OTI

James McNally, Commander
Melvin Garrett, PSC, Dean



- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ralph DeMarco, PSC | 12. Dan Dwyer, PDC |
| 2. Anthony Ferrarese, PSC | 13. Edward Bassett, PDC |
| 3. Arthur Koch III, PSC | 14. Joseph Bernstein, PDC |
| 4. Philip Schiffman, PSC | 15. Joseph Brooks, PDC |
| 5. Robert Seagrave, PSC | 16. James Sheets |
| 6. Bernard Thompson, PSC | 17. Henry Sanchez, PCC |
| 7. Karl Rhode, PSC | 18. William "Doc" Schmitz (CMT) |
| 8. Harold Burke, Jr., PSC | 19. Gerald Horstmann |
| 9. James Vinsonhaler, PSC | 20. James West, PC |
| 10. Donald Doell, Sr. Vice Commander | 21. Lloyd Creeley |
| 11. Robert Barnhart, Jr. Vice Commander | 22. William Juteau, Photographer |

Karl Rhode, PSC
Candidate for Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief

It is with great honor and gratitude that I thank the comrades at the State Convention in Buffalo for unanimously endorsing me to be New York's candidate for the high office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of this great organization. The nomination was made by Past State Commander Jack Simons with seconds by PSC Ben Thompson and PSC Jack Smith. Thanks, my friends, for standing up for me at the convention.

This will be a long, tough voyage to the National Convention in 2009 where the election will be held. There are two other

candidates running in the Eastern States Conference. It is my hope that New York will rise to the occasion. We have two comrades who have ran for this position in the last few years who would have made outstanding National Commanders. Those comrades were PSC Mel Garrett and PSC Art Koch. If the entire state had supported these candidates they would have won. We cannot expect to have a Commander-in-Chief if the entire state does not support that person. This includes both moral and economic support. Shortly, there will be information about the committee and suggestions

as to whom you can support in this effort.

New York deserves to have a Commander-in-Chief. The VFW deserves a person at the helm who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and pitch in to do the work. My comrades, throughout this great Department, recognize that I am willing to work. It is my hope that you have also recognized that I have always been one of the comrades nothing more and nothing less. We need a true comrade to lead this organization, and I promise to be that comrade.

Karl Rhode, PSC

Updates From Your Service Department
Senior DSO, Jim Vinsonhaler

Claims Review: As many of you may have heard by now, the VA has initiated the process of reviewing approximately 100,000 Service-Connected claims of veterans who are rated at 100% for PTSD or in receipt of Individual Unemployability (IU) for this disability. One phase of this review has already been initiated as a sampling in several regional offices; and of the 2,100 claims reviewed, VA claims there may be inaccuracies in 30% of them. The next phase will be total review of all these ratings and then will be followed by a review of all ratings based on 100% rating or IU for ANY disability.

We strongly urge all of you, if you are contacted by the VA in this regard to immediately contact your VFW Department Service Officer for assistance. It has been found in past reviews such as this that there is only one motive ... cut ... cut ... cut. Be assured the VFW has been on top of this from the beginning and is prepared to help in the event you are contacted.

Claims Commission: In addition to the above, the VA has also initiated a Commission to review not only the ratings for certain service-connected ratings but also to define exactly what is or is not considered to be service-connected. For example, this would include determining if a service member is injured in a car acci-

dent while home on leave or a night out, playing football or most any other injury that may not be combat or combat training related. Once again, the VFW is monitoring this review very closely and will keep you informed of all progress in this regard.

Former POWs: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has recently established liberalizing law to establish service connection for certain disabilities that a former POW may be suffering from, to include atherosclerotic heart disease and hypertensive heart disease. Please be aware that these disabilities as well as other presumptive conditions already part of the list have many associated secondary conditions, and this may be service-connected as

well. If you are a former POW that was interred for 20 or more days, I urge you to contact your Department Service Officer for advice in these matters.

A new Web-based service will help Medicare beneficiaries of limited income and resources gain access to the extra help available to them through the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. The service, which will also help them enroll in other health care and prescription assistance programs, was developed by the Administration on Aging (AoA) with the assistance of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the National Council on the Aging. For information go to <http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org/rx>.



OTI has a wealth of knowledge in the Service Officer Department. L-R: State Veterans Service Chairman Anthony Ferrarese, PSC; Edith Lombard, Service Officer; James H. Vinsonhaler, PSC and Service Officer.

Dues Notices

Many of you received a dues' notice in June for 2005 showing last year's Quartermaster. These notices were printed and mailed in error; they should have been for 2006 and shown this year's Quartermaster's name.

Dues notices are printed to look like they come from the Department of New York. Actually, they are printed

and mailed from the National Headquarters in Kansas City. We had requested that the first dues notice for 2006 be mailed during July. When we discovered that National had mailed our first dues notice in June with the wrong year and wrong Quartermaster, we contacted them regarding the errors. We were assured that a corrected

dues notice would be sent and that a note would be included advising you of the errors. A corrected notice was sent in July, but no note was included.

If you paid your dues when you received the June notice, your dues payment will be applied to 2006.

Joseph Bernstein

Department Adjutant

To All,

For everyone's information, some of you may not be aware that Mary Harwood has left us. At present, we have hired a temp. Her name is Cecilia Clark (Cindy for short). She will be working Monday through Friday. Monday and Friday from 10:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from

9:00 A.M. till 1:00 P.M.

We have not got her set up with e-mail as yet; however, she will be answering the phone and doing the work that Mary used to do. I am sure that all of you, should you have reason to call the office, will welcome her to the Department of New York and please go easy on her.

Arthur Koch III, PSC



OTI class, center: Commander Billy Robertshaw, Hornel.



Wife, Retha, is very proud of her new Department Commander James McNally.



Standing: Junior Vice Commander Barnhart at OTI spending some time with Cindy and Skip Campbell.

OTI visited by Bob Crider, National Membership Director (center); Henry Sanchez, Department Judge Advocate (left) and Department Quartermaster Harold Burke, Jr., PSC (right).



Commander McNally (left) and Junior Vice Barnhart (right) awarding certificates of attendance to some young VFW members.



State Convention has many serious discussions. Paying very close attention is L-R: Commander Wayne Felsheim, Johnson City; Edward Bassett, Department Patriotic Instructor and Dan Meholczo, Judge Advocate, Post #529.



Lou Steinbrecher, VFW Memorial Post #5540 Commander had the honor of awarding a scholarship for JCB senior Ken Nagatzu to attend the Presidential Classroom in Washington, DC.

Removal of Post Quartermaster of Post

The following will constitute the Department Judge Advocate's opinion with respect to declaring vacant the office of Post Quartermaster of Post for his alleged failure to properly carry out the duties of his office.

An inspection of the Post, by the County Council Commander as set forth in his correspondence to you, lists a litany of various and sundry alleged acts of nonfeasance, misfeasance and malfeasance of the Quartermaster of Post, none of which appear to be of a grave nature.

The County Council Commander has recommended that the Post Quartermaster of Post be relieved of his duties and the office declared vacant, and relies on Section 220, the third paragraph thereunder for his authority to take such drastic action.

The pertinent language of Section 220 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure provides for declaring vacant the position of any elective officer is as follows:

A Post, at a regular meeting, if notice of intent to do so has been given at a prior regular

meeting, may by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present declare vacant the position of any elective officer ... who has failed to fulfill the duties of office specified in Section 218 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. No Post member may bring a motion before any Post meeting to vacate any elective Post office unless written notice of the proposed action has been given to the officer holding such office, the Post Adjutant and the Department Commander at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The notice shall be mailed to such officer by certified or registered mail addressed to such officer's last known address and shall clearly state the reasons for the proposed action. The post Adjutant shall give notice to the Post membership prior to the meeting that the matter of declaring the vacancy will be taken up. At the meeting, the officer shall be advised of the facts underlying the proposed action and afforded an opportunity to present evidence in his own behalf."

Our National By-Laws and

Manual of Procedure have no provision authorizing a County Council Commander to direct a Post Commander to declare vacant any elective Post office. This is best left to the Post Membership, or pursuant to following paragraph of section 220:

"The Department Commander may, with respect to any Post, within the Department, and with the concurrence of the District Commander, declare vacant the position of any Post officer who fails to fulfill the duties of his office as required by Section 218. Such action, and reasons therefore, shall be reduced to writing, in the form of a Special Order, and delivered personally or by certified United States mail at the removed officer's last known address."

Another alternative would be to use the procedure set forth in Article IV – discipline, of the National By-Law and Manual of Procedure.

**Philip C. Schiffman, PSC
Past Judge Advocate
Department of New York
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Buddy Poppy 86th Annual Department of New York Convention Report

I would like to thank Department of New York Commander James Vinsonhaler for appointing me for the second year as Department of New York Buddy Chairman. This has, once again, been a very enjoyable assignment.

With the Buddy Poppy Goal reduced to 700,000, this figure, again became unattainable. Not only did Department of New York not reach goal, but purchases were less than last year.

Last year's totals were 569,000 while the current year totaled 544,000. this was 25,000 less than last year.

National was short 561,000 with Department of New York reaching 96.94% of last year. We were fifth out of thirteen in the Eastern Conference, percentage wise. In Division Seven, which New York is associated, we also were fifth out of seven.

Thanks are extended to all

Posts, Counties and Districts who purchased Buddy Poppies throughout the year.

Next year, I hope Department of New York will be able to purchase 700,000 Buddy Poppies.

This concludes Department of New York Buddy Poppy Report for 86th Annual Department of New York Convention.

Yours in Comradeship,
Fred P. Schwally, Chairman

Membership Report

Now that the State Convention and OTI are over, we must start on membership.

It was great to see so many new faces.

We need membership to keep our organization strong. Everyone must try to recruit new and reinstate members to help achieve this very enormous job.

The Membership Team will

assist you if you need help of any kind. We also have a National Recruiter in New York. The Membership Team telephone numbers are in the State Directory.

You can go to your local Guard Unit or Base near your Post to sign up new members coming back from overseas.

Our goal is to reach 100% Membership by recruiting new

members, retaining continuous members and reinstating former members. Our worthwhile and achievable vision for our future must come from a driving force within our ranks as we strive to meet our goal.

Yours in Comradeship,
**Jack G. Veazy
Membership Chairman**

Life Membership

By now, I hope every Post has started a Life Membership Program. You probably have heard by now or were at the Convention, so you know that New York will oppose the Life Membership increase. Unfortunately that still is not a guarantee that the increase will not pass, as the last one did. We must prepare, and the only way to do that is to increase our Life Membership now while we have a chance.

You may also know that I advocate spending a little

money to help your Post obtain increased Life Membership. Obtain perhaps \$1,000 or \$1,500 from the Bell Jar funds, Bingo funds or any other available means. Right now, you can use Bell Jar or Bingo funds for almost anything. You just have to send a copy of the meeting minutes in with the next quarterly report. Next, send letters to all of your regular members offering to pay perhaps 40 or 50% of their Life Membership.

This does work because our

members want to save money. Last year, my Post added 43 Life Members this way; and already this year, we have 12. I believe in this approach so strongly that I will personally award \$100 to the Quartermaster who shows the largest increase in life Membership by June 30, 2006. Remember: Life Membership is good for everyone. The more you get, the less you have to get!

**George H. Osborne
Life Membership Chairman**

Graduates of the Officer Training Institute 2005 July 29-31, 2005

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ahern, Dan | Donovan, Edward J. | Kevilly, Raymond | Rys, Steven K. |
| Antonicelli, Peter M. | Drabek, Norman W. | Klahs, Danny L. | Sabloski, Daniel |
| Austin, James W. | Dunbar, Floyd W. | Klahs, John | Sakonyi, Ronald |
| Balik, Francis M. | Durkin, James A. | Koch, Art | Salzmann, Peter J. |
| Baird, Mike | Dwyer, Dan | Kolock, Steven J. | Sanchez, Henry |
| Barnhart, Robert | Dyer, Paul E. | Krankus, John F. | Sanford, John O. |
| Bassett, Edward | Edmonds, Dale | Kraus, Richard | Schiffman, Philip C. |
| Bell, Jr. Frank A. | Ellis, Charles H. | Kristofer, Kinnear | Schmidt, Rudolph J. |
| Bergmann, Edward C. | Epps, Steven D. | Kuhn, Gerard A. | Schmitz, William |
| Bernstein, Joseph | Fahrher, Geoff | Kwiatkowski, Walter P. | Schultheis, Raymond F. |
| Bex, Ellis E. | Farrell, Raymond | LaManna, Anthony | Schumacher, Raymond |
| Biddle, Dana R. | Felsheim, Wayne C. | Lashiew, Harry | Scurr, Dale E. |
| Board, Stanley N. | Ferrarese, Anthony | Lewis, Larry W. | Seagrave, Robert |
| Boice, Russell T. | Fields, James E. | Lloyd, Rick J. | Shaw, James P. |
| Bonnier, Ernest E. | Flieger, Charles | Lombardi, Edith | Sheets, James |
| Broadhead, George R. | Foley, Edward F. | Lombardi, Luigi | Shelton, Donald S. |
| Brooks, Joseph | Fox, Allan L. | Lynch, Robert A. | Shirley, Richard F. |
| Bryant, Eugene | Frederes, Nick D. | Lynch, Robert C. | Shoemaker, Mark E. |
| Bump, Richard | Freiberger, Edward G. | Mackey, Donald E. | Sitek, Edward M. |
| Burgy, Paul D. | Gales, Jr., Richard G. | Makely, Donald J. | Skolen, John V. |
| Burke, Harold | Gallagher, John | Markowski, Ronald G. | Skowronski, Michael A. |
| Byron, Hervey J. | Galloway, Jr., William | Martinez, Nicholas | Slate, Richard H. |
| Call, Francis A. | Garrett, Melvin | McKinney, Carlton L. | Slater, Charles |
| Camillo, Charles A. | Gasparini, Louis R. | McNally, James | Smith, Albert J. |
| Campbell, Wayne L. | Gelineau, Raymond | Meholczo, Alexander | Smith, Donald |
| Carroll, Charlie | Germain, Emory F. | Miller, Charles | Smith, Philip A. |
| Carver, Jr., Jed | Gillis, Thomas R. | Milles, Jan F. | Smith III, Robert |
| Cascarano, Michael | Gister, John | Mooney III, Francis G. | Snyder, Herb |
| Case, Guy C. | Goeman, Randall L. | Moore, Gerald | Sochor, Richard |
| Chapman, Andrew H. | Goldman, Hyman I. | Morano, Thomas T. | Stinger, Robert |
| Chironno, Michael J. | Gross, Richard M. | Morgan, Ronald D. | Sudakow, Joseph |
| Clark, Jack | Grosskopf, David J. | Motola, Thomas N. | Sullivan, Dennis A. |
| Clarkson, Howard L. | Hackford, Michael G. | Mullen, David J. | Themann, Jr., Joseph |
| Cole, Jim F. | Haight, Jack | Munn, Scott C. | Thompson, Bernard |
| Collett, Vernon C. | Hale, Joseph A. | Nefleberg, Stephen | Torrence, James A. |
| Coonradt, William | Halstead, John W. | Nelson, Frederick J. | Trask, Richard |
| Cordy, Paul S. | Hanley, Arthur L. | Nicolazzo, Frank | Trautwein, James F. |
| Coyle, Kevin R. | Hanley, John J. | Nightingale, Charles | Tubia, Timothy |
| Crandall, Jr., Arthur J. | Hansen, Ray | Norton, Sr., William | Tulucci, Patrick N. |
| Creeley, Lloyd | Hedin, Edward | O'Marra, James F. | Turner, Firth |
| Crider, Robert | Herbert, Douglas M. | Osborne, George H. | Vanderpool, James A. |
| Cronkwhite, Phil J. | Holthouse, Paul K. | Padden, Thomas M. | VanHoesen, Malcom R. |
| Cross, Lawrence J. | Horstman, Jerry | Palmer, Ronald | VanNostrand, Russell E. |
| Cummings, Larry R. | Hough, James R. | Pecsi, Bruce A. | Veazy, Jack G. |
| Czarnecki, Dave | Howey, Jack B. | Perkowski, William | Vinsonhaler, James |
| Czyz, James | Humphrey, George R. | Queally, Terence D. | Watson, Sr., Joseph W. |
| Daminski, Robert W. | Hunter, Kenneth J. | Rausch, Ken C. | Webster, Michael W. |
| Daus, Allan J. | Janniere, Anthony | Reid, Isaiah | West, James A. |
| Davenport, Allan | Jasek, Henry | Revoir, Paul E. | Whitbeck, Ross |
| Dawson, Stephanie | Jensen, Jens T. | Ringgenberg, Verl A. | Whitney, Brian |
| Dawson, Susan M. | Johnson, Ken M. | Roberts, Gerald F. | Wilber, Kenneth H. |
| Delaura, Dominick M. | Juteau, William | Robertshaw, Billy | Williams, Bruce A. |
| DeMarco, Ralph | Kaczor, Walter L. | Robinson, Bernard | Woltman, Richard T. |
| Demond, Thomas A. | Karhan, Leo F. | Roche, Lucion P. | Wright, Willis D. |
| Dennis, Sr., Carl W. | Karpovich, Peter E. | Rohde, Karl | Zapf, Steven D. |
| DeVoe, Jr., Arthur L. | Kell, Daniel L. | Roll, Marlene | Zeni, Joseph A. |
| DiBenedetto, Emilio J. | Kerr, Edward J. | Rowe, Martin L. | Zingo, Robert |
| Dickerson, John W. | Kester, Franklin W. | Ruckdeschel, Sr., Donald A. | Zurenda, August P. |



Department President Christine Merriweather and Commander James McNally on the lighter side.



Past Post Commander Vernon Webster, US Army Retired, was honored by William Coon Post 2674, VFW, USA, at their installation dinner on May 25. Webster was presented with a plaque in appreciation for his 20 years of service as Adjutant (Secretary) of the post. In addition to Adjutant and Commander, he has also served as Bell Jar Chairman since 1990 and has also served as Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Chairman and as interim Quartermaster. Webster is a Korean War veteran and was also an instructor in the Combat Engineering Units at the US Army Reserve Units in Horseheads and Ithaca.



OTI 2005



L-R: Commander-in-Chief Furgess assists in the award to Commander Jan Derbish, with Commander James Vinsonhaler presenting the award.



L-R: Commander-in-Chief Furgess; Eugene Bryant, District #2 Commander; Commander James Vinsonhaler; Melvin Garrett, National Representative and Sr. Vice Commander James McNally accepting donations for the National Home for Children.



Junior Girls Unit 569 and Ladies Auxiliary recently attended the Welcome Home Ceremony at Fort Drum, Watertown, to welcome home the soldiers who have been stationed in Iraq for over a year. Pictured: Junior Girls President Paige LoCastro, Unit 569; Major Bartell and Oswego City President Sandy Sakony.

The Department Budget

Comrades,

The following are the actions taken by the Council of Administration at the June 2005 budget meeting at the State Convention immediately following the election of state officers. These decisions were based on the current assessment of the Departments financial situation. The members of the C of A are working in the best interest of the Department to attain financial stability. The following items were voted on and passed by the members of the C of A.

1. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Department of New York VFW occupies office space in the Headquarters building at no cost. The members of the Budget Committee voted to assess rent in the amount of \$300 per month/\$3,600 per year.
2. The members of the Budget Committee recommend the use of e-mail to get

information out in a timelier manner.

3. The members of the Budget Committee recommend increased use and advertising of the Department Web site to provide meeting information and forms.
4. The members of the Budget Committee voted mileage and per-diem rates to be adjusted as follows: Travel on official VFW business as approved, mileage to be paid at a rate of 25¢ per mile. Daily per-diem rate of \$50 per day. Elected line officers on approved travel will receive mileage reimbursement at a rate of 25¢ per mile and will receive room reimbursement when visitations are approved and if the host Post, County Council or District does not provide lodging. For conferences, mileage shall be paid at the rate of

25¢ per mile. Per-diem at the rate of \$50 per day only if the recipient stays in the Headquarters hotel.

5. The members of the Budget Committee voted a line item in the amount of \$2,500 be established to assist the Sr. Vice Commander with his reception at the State Convention at which he or she is elected as State Commander.
6. The members of the Budget Committee voted the Youth Essay and VOD first place winner shall each receive a \$500 recognition award.
7. The members of the Budget Committee voted that the Albany Service Officers' position not be filled. The Claims Consultant can operate the office with intervention from the Syracuse and NYC Offices. It is recommended that a work study be engaged to assist the claims consultant. At the

8. The members of the Budget committee voted that the Buffalo Service Officers' position not be filled at this time. The Claims Consultant can operate the office with intervention from the Syracuse Office. In the interim, it is recommended that a part time clerical person be hired not to exceed 20 hours per week at the rate of \$9.00 per hour to assist. If the financial situation of the Department of New York VFW improves, then continuing to maintain this office is an alternative.
9. The members of the Budget

Committee voted to eliminate the bookkeeper's position due to automation.

10. The members of the Budget Committee voted the delegates attending the Eastern States Conference in Germany be given \$500 to help with expenses.
11. The members of the Budget Committee voted that effective July 1, 2005, all employees shall pay the insurance co-pay.
12. The members of the Budget Committee voted that the special fund for a candidate for National Commander-in-Chief be eliminated at this time, as there is no funding in this line item due to the current financial circumstances of the Department. If the financial situation of the Department of New York VFW improves, then an evaluation to maintain this fund should be conducted.

Raffle Winners

We, of District No. 1, would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who showed their support to our recent raffle in support of Sr. Vice Commander Don Doell. We also wish to congratulate the winners of the recent raffle.

- 1st Prize – \$1,250.00 to A.J. Clemins
- 2nd Prize – \$300.00 to D. Stevenson
- 3rd Prize – \$100.00 to Willie Miller
- 4th Prize – \$100.00 to Joyce Kiernan
- 5th Prize – \$50.00 to Bob Fullam
- 6th Prize – \$50.00 to Rosemary Bell
- 7th Prize – \$50.00 to Austin Lobbe
- 8th Prize – \$50.00 to John Cahill
- 9th Prize – \$50.00 to Maureen Gallina

*On behalf of Don and his Committee, again,
thank you all for your support.*

Community Service Reports

To: All Post, County and District Commanders: The first six-month Community Service Report for May 1st, 2005–October 31st, 2005, is due by November 1, 2005. **All reports must first be sent to Department of New York Headquarters, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204 – Attn. Joe Bernstein**

The following are Post Deadlines:

Voice of Democracy: November 1, 2005. the theme for 2005-2006 is "How I Demonstrate My Freedom?"

Patriot's Pen: November 1, 2005. the theme for 2005-2006 is "Who Are Today's Patriots?"

National Teacher Awards: November 1, 2005

National Scholarship Programs: December 31, 2005

All forms available on the VFW Web site, www.vfw.org under... "programs" or "citizenship education" and by calling VFW Programs at 816-968-1117.

**Harold "Mick" Leavor
Chairman
Community Service**

Statue of Liberty Birthday Celebration Friday – October 28, 2005

Plans have started once again for the annual trip to New York City for Miss Liberty's birthday. The ceremony will begin at 1:30 P.M. Be sure to bring your colors and wear a buddy poppy!

The cost will be \$52.00 per person. This DOES NOT include the ferry fee. The ferry fees are \$11.50 for ages 13-61, \$9.50 for ages 62 and older, \$4.50 for ages 4-12 and free for three and under.

The coach schedules are:

Coach 1: 4:30 A.M. Hornell, pick up at Wegman's
5:00 A.M. Corning at VFW Post #524 (park by the small garage)
6:30 A.M. Endicott, pick up at the K-Mart off Rt. 17

Coach 2: 5:00 A.M. Mattydale, pick up at VFW Post #3146 on LeMoyne Ave.

Coolers are allowed on the coach. There will be 50/50s, raffles – hopefully, and Bus Bingo. The monies earned will go into the District 5 Membership Fund for the incentive program giveaways at the District Convention in June. Please bring a bag breakfast/lunch with you. There are food stands on Liberty Island for your convenience. We will meet back at Battery Park at 4:30 P.M. to go to dinner at the Six Brothers Diner; be sure to bring money for your dinner.

Payment is due by Sept. 20th with **no refunds** after Sept. 25th. If you can't pay the fee in full, we can make a payment arrangements. Just remember, the first to pay gets the seat. When you reserve your seat please include the **Coach number and pick up area** so I know which coach you will be traveling on and where to pick you up; it's also needed for the driver's roster.

Please make check payable to Jackie Herbert, earmark it Statue Trip and send with the form below to: Jackie Herbert, Trip Coordinator, PO Box 138, Campbell, NY 14821-0138.

For more Info: **Phone:** 607-527-8470, **E-mail:** JackieHerbertVFW@aol.com

Let's spread the word and get full buses, we need 47 people per bus to make the trip a go.

Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ seats @ \$52.00 per seat on Coach # _____, pick up area _____ for _____

The Statue of Liberty's Birthday Celebration.

Payment enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

Name(s): _____

2004-05 State Membership Awards

County Council All State Awards

Robert Fullam (Captain)	Nassau County Council	2670
Steven Yuhasz	Old Tryon County Council	2721
Richard Curry	Sullivan County Council	2736

Post All State Awards

Post	Commander	Quartermaster	
53	Daniel Kell	Nicholas Frederes	3211
120	George Popowitz	Joseph Beganskas	3275
161	David Tasker	David Gibbs	3350
170	Joseph Angelo	Louis Fusaro	4823
325	Pasquale Argenzio	Thomas Muscarella	4927
361	Donnie Steveson	Jessie Bell	5016
375	Joseph Porcelli	Robert Wasiczko	5086
395	Richard Woltman	Domenick Ercolano	5090
439	Eugene McLeer	Frank Hoffman	5253
487	Anthony Moore	Herman Riese	5260
502	Samuel Sheffler	Carl Dennis, Sr.	5350
516	Robert Fullam	Frank Bondietti	5798
524	William Schmitz	Gerald McDonald	5913
551	Frank Genco	Kevin Ryan	5942
686	George Clarke	Robert Barnhart	6196
692	Carl Lindahl	Joseph Deserto	6249
745	Leo Karhan	Charles Ellis	6396
770	Leroy Post, Jr.	Edward Caggiano	6398
898	Gerald Mendrysa	Daniel Fijas	6433
962	Edward Madson	Jack Pollard	7227
1019	John Selmer	Allan Davenport	7229
1161	Don Ruckdeschel	Steve Fanizzi	7276
1310	Paul Zydor	Kenneth Combs	7277
1314	Walter Doty, Jr.	Randolph Staats	7336
1369	Howard Clarkson	John Skolen	7414
1371	George Carrigan	Jack Howey	7466
1384	William Green	Edward Grant	7545
1418	Stanley Lapier	Willard Martin, Jr.	7763
1419	David Chambers	Gerald Olejniczak	7765
1498	Thomas Pollock	Arthur DeVoe	7795
1653	Arthur Brannigan	Donald Pardy	7955
1688	Thomas Lappin	Peter Kivatisky	7967
1708	Benjamin Kilvert	James Bruno	8158
1790	Gregory Feist	Edwardo Torres	8444
1896	Edward Minton	Bernard Thompson	8534
1955	Paul Curtiss	Gregory Scammell	8645
1975	Joe Barwinczok	Edward Foley	8647
2077	Ralph VanAlstyne	Larry Cross	8690
2161	Roger Becker	Willard McConnell	8691
2303	Arthur Crandall, Jr.	Donald Uveges	8692
2320	Floyd Taylor	David Dirk	8959
2332	Wayne Felsheim	Richard Slate	9132
2475	Harold Murray	Carl Fosco	9217

Dale Mosher	Philip Smith	9314
Joel Vanik	James Rose	9588
Sal Peligrino	Leo Catalfomo	9592
Harold Boughner	Peter Barber	9594
Leon LeBlanc	Michael Davies	10957
William Walden	Conrade Steers	
Larry Dingman	Charles Smith	
Joseph McCarthy	Robert Jacoby	
Daniel Murtha	Joseph Daniel	
Andrew Chapman	Sam Perrotti	
Rudolph Schmidt	Robert Siple, Sr.	
John Jordan	James McCutcheon	
John Esposito	Timothy Kuhn	
Joseph Lax	Harry Wurth	
Howard Jordan	Larry Snyder	
Arma Andon	George Payne	
Joseph Catalano	Robert Jakubczak	
William Goebel	George Hemroth	
Joseph Varrone	James Waters	
Robert Gilman	Thomas Durkee	
Robert Ward	Joseph Cognitore	
Eugene Bryant	Melvin Garrett	
Terrence Mahar	Hugh Stuart	
Wayne Campbell	Robert Bennett	
H. Richard Dingman	Paul Freeman	
Edward Low	Otto Metzger	
Verl Ringgenberg	Gerald Murphy	
Albert Milite	Francis VonDuerring	
Donald McBride	Thomas Mazza	
Fredrick Gerstner	James Durkin	
Robert Lynch	Allan Daus	
Ron Grosskopf	Norman Hameister	
Richard Begandy	Stephen Piller	
William Moore	James Brennan	
Edmund Bogucki	Nelson Drosendahl	
Cornelius Rogers	Arnold Anderson	
William Suska	Clarence Boub	
William Randall	David Stein	
David Dickson	William Ridgeway	
Albert Johnston	David Lizotte	
Ken Rain	William Mertes	
Janet Derbish	Wayne Dunbar	
Dale Edmonds	Russell VanNostrand	
Dominick DeLaura	Harold Williams	
Robert LaDuke	Robert Klingerman	
Roscoe Simmons	Edwin Lamon, Jr.	
Guy Gioeli	Gene Polak	
Sylvester Bell	Frank Finn	
Thomas Roberts	Daniel McMahon	
Fred Amore, Jr.	Joseph Scordo	

James Tille	9314
William Bott	9588
Frederick Wedin	9592
Don Tanner	9594
Charles Nedoroscik	10957

Post Commander's State Convention Award

Division	Commander	Post
2	Donald McBride	7336
3	Harold Murray	2475
4	Thomas Roberts	9249
5	John Selmer	1019
6	Joseph Lax	5253
8	William Schmitz	524

Post Big 10 100% Membership Award

53	375	524	1019	1371
1419	1975	5253	6196	8647

Post Divisional Awards

Division	Post	Location	Commander
1	2161	Middleburgh	Roger Becker
2	7336	Glendale	Donald McBride
3	1384	Long Beach	William Green
4	7765	Red Hook	William Moore
5	1019	Albany	John Selmer
6	5253	Albertson	Joseph Lax
8	524	Corning	William Schmitz

Post Commander Table of Honor Award*

Division	Post	Location	Percentage	Commander
1	2161	Middleburgh	141.82	Roger Becker
2	4658	Greece	113.11	George Cowley
3	546	Brooklyn	119.25	Joseph Bellavigna
4	5798	Angola	100.87	Joseph Catalano
5	375	Yonkers	100.45	Joseph Porcelli
8	524	Corning	100.22	William Schmitz

Post Life Membership Awards*

Division	Post	Location	Commander
1	5513	Pottersville	Ronald Robert
2	7336	Glendale	Donald McBride
3	516	Farmingdale	Robert Fullam
4	420	Saratoga Springs	William Main
5	375	Yonkers	Joseph Porcelli
6	5253	Albertson	Joseph Lax
7	1469	Huntington Station	Thomas Ronayne
8	524	Corning	William Schmitz

*Awards presented at the Spring Conference

Bowling Chairman

This year's tournament was held at Sunset Bowl in Geneva. Your host was Waterloo Post 6433. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Post Commander, Skip Campbell, and the Post Tournament Director Bill English for a job well done.

This year we had 23 team events, 40 doubles events, 78 single events, and 67 all events. Next year's tournament will be a mixed tournament.

Respectfully submitted.

Wilbur A. Gray

1st Place Team Handicapped

Post 517 Hamburg

1st Place Doubles Handicapped

Post 6433 Waterloo

Gary Nielsen

William Dilly

1st Place Singles Handicapped

Post 5005 Perry

Joel Dennis

1st Place All Events Handicapped

Jeff Norton

1st Place Scratch

Post 9591 Clinton

1st Place Scratch

Post 9591 Clinton

Raymond Cyr

Ron Scholefield

1st Place Scratch

Post 9591 Clinton

Ron Scholefield

1st Place Scratch

Terry Daniels



Shown above are this year's PATCHES, DECALS and PINS. For the first time, all of the above will be presented at our Department Convention in Buffalo. There has been an addition to the design. The addition is color. Items marked one and two are in yellow. Those of you who will not be attending the convention can obtain your PINS, DECALS and PATCHES. Your order form is below. Please make all check payable to the Department of New York and mail to:

Vinnie Esposito
3758 Sarah Dr.
Wantagh, New York 11793

PATCHES: \$24.00 per dozen	\$ _____	Amt. \$ _____
DECALS:	_____	Sold Out
PINS: \$25.00 per dozen	\$ _____	Amt. \$ _____
	Postage	\$3.00
	Total	\$ _____

Mail to:
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Veterans Burial Benefits

Burial Benefits are an important part of the range of services provided by the VA to Veterans and their families. Before you need them, you and your family need to know the basics about these benefits.

Burial in a National Cemetery is available to veterans, their spouses and dependent children, with minimal qualifications. At no cost to the family, a National Cemetery burial includes the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, a grave liner, a headstone or marker and perpetual care as part of a National Shrine.

A burial flag is available to the veteran's family and Presidential Memorial Certificates may be requested. Some veterans may be eligible for cash burial allowance.

If a veteran is buried in a private cemetery, anywhere in the world, VA provides a headstone or marker. For more information, contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000, any veteran service organization, or your local funeral home.

- Bath National Cemetery: (607) 664-4853
- Calverton National Cemetery: (516) 727-5410
- Long Island National Cemetery: (631) 454-4949
- Gerald B. H. Solomon National Cemetery: (518) 581-9128
- Woodlawn National Cemetery: (607) 732-5411

POST TO POST

POST #1419 – HAMBURG – Starting up a Men's Auxiliary, gun raffle a huge success. You're getting a A-4 Skyhawk?

POST #9483 – WEBSTER – Commander Ralph Dimmick recognizes several members of the Post for their valiant efforts to help the Post – Marty Cocca, Don Davies, Laddie Bertch, and lots of first names that could be anyone.

POST #6196 – QUEENSBURG – Hosted the 3rd District Conference. Commander Robert Gilman going for another term. Trustees Dominic Cocuzzi, Joseph Gordon and Hollis Wood have the most important jobs in the Post.

POST #375 – YONKERS – Bill Bready, A. Hearty, and Jim O'Meara receive a special thanks for all the hard work from Commander Joe Porcelli. Happy Birthday to Victor Eschbach (91) and Louis Palladino (90).

POST #8787 – WHITESTONE – Commander Ernest C. Malvicini does it again, Carl Pergola Fundraising Chairman.

POST #5253 – ALBERTSON – Commander Joseph Lax spearheading a fundraiser to cover 350 graves of deceased members to decorate their graves. Nice touch, "Doc". New member Richard H. Coyle; Vincent DeMartino, Chaplain, wonderful report.

POST #5540 – PHOENIX – Commander Lewis Steinbrecher, commander for another year; Martha Ferens, Auxiliary President.

POST #7462 – PIERMONT – Lots of memorial observances. Andy Bederka, Ralph DeLorenzo, Phil DiPinto, Jack Donnelly, Phil Flotard, Tom Fotanato, Ken Melia, and Ed Peterson, Poppy program.

POST #1498 – HALFMOON – Editor Fredrick R. Miller; Art DeVoe is leading the charge on the pavilion work. There is a guy named John that is quite active at the Post! Would like a picture of John doing what he does (with a last name), "Doc."

POST #4927 – CENTEREACH – Commander Andy Chapman was installed with a party after. What is a memorial fence?

POST #2883 – NEWARK – Working on a formal smoking area; weekend lunch specials.

POST #1371 – OWEGO – Donald W. Rice new Life Member. Now he's recognized Quartermaster Jack Howey, "Doc". Bingo needs some help, contact Linda Barrett. Food Fair a great success.

POST #2913 – PATCHOGUE – Harry Bowie gets a 50-year pin. Chaplain Mike Amodio had a daughter who graduated from Boston and missed the installation.

POST #478 – BINGHAMTON – Legacy Night run by Don Miller and Rich Wilson. Al Klein going back as Post Quartermaster.

POST #2475 – GLENS FALLS – Arlene Connell incoming Auxiliary President; Commander Harold Murray has multiple functions in May; Carl Fosco Color Guard Captain.

POST #6394 – SYOSSET – Birthdays – Frank Castellacci, John Christiano, Carl Divito, and Richard Karpe. Victor Odwazna was omitted last month.

POST #7172 – NORTH SHORE – Dan Ingellis, Gus Grecsek, Bob Lane, Jim Davis, George Congo, Ernie Russo, Ernie Russo, Jr., John Johnson, John Nappi, and Andy Baldass are all received a special thanks from the Commander.

POST #1666 – YONKERS – Happy Birthday, Joe Lombardo, John Roche, Elliott Pulais, Mike Ennis and John Dwyer.

POST #5298 – SPRING FIELD GARDENS – Building Committee Luncheon was a great success. Leroy A. Barnes is incoming Commander.

POST #420 – SARATOGA SPRINGS – Gene Ratigliano is taking over as Editor. Very impressive first edition! "Doc."

POST #2332 – JOHNSON CITY – Commander Wayne Felsheim and Quartermaster Richard Slate doing the job one more year. They do a great job, "Doc."

POST #2736 – EAST MEADOW – Otto Jensen, new Commander and was responsible for the 100% in membership last year. Past Commander Carmine Cella, 30-year pin.

POST #348 – SALT CITY – Ginny Maholick, great job on the opinion page. I agree with you, "Doc."

POST #7545 – TONAWANDA – 4 Jun 05 – Post Commander Joseph Yeaw recognizes Buffalo Special Police volunteers with a VFW Law Enforcement recognition certificate. Recognized were Chief Ernest LaPlante, Assistant Chief Dennis Brennan (both Vietnam vets), and Chief David Reed. The Buffalo Special Police is a group of volunteer peace officers making the city of Buffalo, NY, a safer place to live by acting as the eyes and ears of the City of Buffalo Police Department.

POST #8692 – ALBANY – New member Edward Downes and Men's Auxiliary March Hathaway. Commander Bob LaDuke is getting new siding up, and Pete Weier installed the new TV.

POST #951 – LIVERPOOL – After every meeting, there is food; the meetings are at 12 Noon. Increased parking spaces when the fence goes down.

POST #516 – FARMINGDALE – Robert Fullam, Commander how many years? Service Officer Bob Bucaria, great job. This is a very excellent newsletter. "Doc."

"DOC" HAS A QUESTION? Let me know if you think you have held the position of Post Commander the longest, not consecutive but quantitative.

POST #416 – WILLIAMSVILLE – Dinner cruise, Post picnic, etc., very busy schedule. Commander Sal Schillac: Color Guard Captain Carl Janish and team are very busy.

POST #307 – ROCHESTER – Over 100 steaks served at the steak roast. Tony Torrelli, Quartermaster, is urging members to get out and recruit new members.

POST #7279 – LINDENHURST – PPC George Natale thanks members for all the help and support. Incoming Commander Edward Mattina gearing up for a big year. Happy Birthday to Henry Arias, Charles Strobel and James Paolini.

POST #2813 – WOODSIDE – Members of the Post led by Commander Clausman and Auxiliary led by President Hust on Memorial Day joined the 306th Engineer Battalion performed their services.

POST #2476 – RIVERHEAD – Local elementary school thanks the Post for their Pledge of Allegiance program, David Enos, Principal.