

# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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

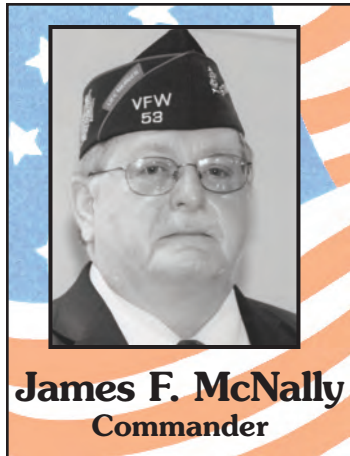


January/February 2006

*"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 4



## James F. McNally Commander

Our year is now half over, and I would like to give you a state of the Department report. The community activities and youth programs are doing well. My special project, Operation Uplink, thanks to Chairman Mike Pascal and the Suffolk County comrades, will enable me to present a check for \$6,000 at the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, in March. It still troubles me that nobody is submitting the names of any firefighters, law enforcement officers or emergency medical personnel for awards. I know there are persons who deserve recognition in our state for their achievements.

The budget enacted this year, thanks to the measures taken at our convention, is working; and we now have accurate figures to assist the next year's Budget Committee. Our present income is meeting our needs. We have not had to borrow from our savings.

Our membership has been ahead of last year until January. We are starting to dip slightly. We need to maintain our earlier pace. I believe that we

*COMMANDER, continued on page 3*



*Commander McNally receives a Legislative Certificate of Recognition from the state of New York, (left) Senator Catharine Young and (right) Bill Parment.*



*NYS Veterans Affairs District Program and Development, Michelle LaRock (USMC veteran) gets gilled by the boys at the Legislative Conference, (L-R): Inspector Allan Davenport, Patriotic Instructor Ed Basset, Michelle LaRock, Surgeon Jack Haight and National C of A member James Longendyke.*

## Letters of Complaint

Over the past few years, we have received many letters of complaints regarding various Posts.

While we are sure that most of your letters are sincere and valid, there is a chain of command that must be followed before your letters of concern should reach Department Headquarters.

If you have an internal Post problem, please present the problem at your Post meeting. If after doing so, you find that you are not happy with the results, you should then contact your County Council Commander, and then if you still have not achieved satisfactory results, you may contact your District Commander.

It is impossible for the Department to han-

dle the influx of letters that are received in this office. If you have followed all of the above steps, and your complaints are still unresolved; at that point, you may send a signed letter to Department Headquarters, and we will assist you in any way that we can.

**Note: Sending your letters of complaints to National does not speed up the inquiry. It delays it since they just forward it back to Department for review. Again, there is a chain of command in place that needs to be followed for the good of all parties concerned.**

Art Koch III, PSC – State Adjutant

## MEMBERSHIP • MEMBERSHIP • MEMBERSHIP • MEMBERSHIP

This is a membership incentive for Spring Conference April 28-30, 2006. On Friday, April 21, the ten top Posts with the most new and reinstated members will be placed in a container, and one winner will be drawn for \$500.00. To qualify, the actual numbers must be in Department Headquarters on April 21, 2006.

One Post from each District that is 100% in membership by Spring Conference will receive \$250.00. Each District will have a designated container for all Posts in that District. The winning Posts will be drawn at Spring Conference.

Members whose dues are not paid by 1-1-06 are no

longer members in good standing. For membership, you are losing out on members who have not paid their dues in a few years. They already qualify, so try to reinstate them.

For veterans who are 15% or 25% exempt, we have a membership team to help you find them on your local tax rolls.

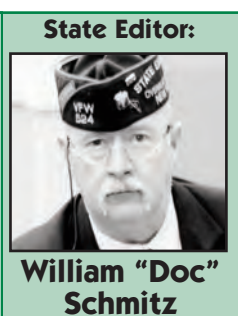
Without members, we, as an organization, do not have the clout with our state and federal governments. Remember, we have to fight for our rights and entitlements as veterans. Most of our government reps were never in the military. We need to take the word to them.

Your membership team is only a phone call away, and we will come to you: State Chairman Jack Veazy – (315) 339-3813; Vice Chairman Eugene Bryant – (914) 632-7032; Vice Chairman E. James Fields – (315) 676-5879; and Vice Chairman Dave Czarnecki – (585) 547-2336.

Get membership the old fashioned way, go out and knock on doors.

See you are Spring Conference in April.

Jack G. Veazy  
State Membership Chairman



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## New York State Overseas Veteran

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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:**  
Jack Haight  
**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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## Donald Doell Senior Vice Commander

Kudos are in order for Legislative Chairman Karl Rohde, Vice Chairman Cliff Lockwood and their committee for a job well done. The Mid-Winter Legislative Conference went very well. Commander Jim McNally and Council of Administration member Jim Longendyke gave excellent testimony before the New York State Committee for Veterans Affairs.

Following the presentation of our agenda, many of the comrades, and sisters of the Auxiliary visited the offices of their respective legislators. After speaking with our legislators, I feel the most important lesson



learned is this: That we must be more persistent in order to achieve our goals. We cannot go to Albany or Washington, DC, once a year and expect results. We must actively pursue our agenda with e-mails, phone calls, and letters to our elected officials. I guess the old adage applies here: "the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

*A check was presented to Commander McNally for \$2,900.00 from Post #1469 Huntington Station, assisting in the project was A.O.H. L-R: Senior Vice Commander Donald Doell; Michael Pascal, State Special Projects Chairman; Commander James McNally; S.C.C. Commander and Post #1469 Commander Thomas Ronayne; the S.C.C. kicked in \$500.00.*

The VFW Department of New York is a reflection of its Posts. We face the same challenges as its Posts – declining membership and increased costs. There is, however, some positive news. Membership numbers are slightly ahead of last year at this time. There was more involvement with the citizenship and education programs and fundraising dollars are up for the Disaster Relief Fund and for Operation Uplink. The not so positive news is that we are faced with some difficulties in the area of Veterans Service. Our single most important program is where we are hurting the most. We need all our comrades and sisters to rally around our Veterans Service program.

The Gold Chevron Ball is to be held at the Spring Conference (April 28-30, 2006) in Binghamton. It would go a long way to see a packed house for Veterans Service.

I am sure that State Gold Chevron Journal Chairman Ed Bassett (Post 524) would be happy to hear from individuals as well as Posts to place an ad in the journal. Thank you in advance for your support and thank you for what you do every day for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## Harold "Hal" Burke Jr. PSC, Quartermaster

Comrades,

Belated holiday greetings. I hope that you are all well and looking forward to an early spring. This article will be focusing on the Department's finances; so if you are not interested or think it may be boring reading, **STOP READING NOW.**

At the Fall and Legislative Conferences, the State Commander, Line Officers and District Commanders were provided with the first and second quarter's Summary of the Department Accounts, Financial statements and related documents, respectively. As I promised when I was elected, a full disclosure of the financial status has been



provided to date to our Department leaders with the expectation that they will promulgate this information at the District Meeting to the District Line Officers and through the Council to the Post and finally to every member of the Department that was interested.

*Delegates to the Eastern States Conference, L to R: Jr. Vice Robert Barnhart, Sr. Vice Donald Doell, Commander James McNally, Quartermaster Harold Burke, Jr. and Karl Rohde, PSC and Legislative Chairman.*

## Robert Barnhart Junior Vice Commander

Dear Comrades:

Here's hoping your holidays were healthy and happy ones. It's hard to believe we're already halfway through this term.

In January our Legislative Conference was a successful one, but we need to remember to continue having dialogues with our legislators throughout the whole year to support Veterans' issues; in particular, for our fellow Veterans who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Another important issue that affects many of us is our Veteran's Exemption on property taxes. Since many towns have gone to 100% assessed valuation, the veteran's exemptions do not work out to be the proper percentage of the new assessed valuation. You need to address a change for this issue first with your town government and secondly with your county legislators to have this percentage equalized. Many towns are starting to recognize this difference and are trying to rectify this by increasing the base rate for the exemption. So, start by contacting your town assessor or Supervisor to compare your percentage with the new evaluation.

Regarding membership, the Department is in very good shape at this point in the year; however, we need to continue to bring in the continuous and reinstated members. It is also very important that we sign up new veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. It is important for you to convey what benefits the VFW has to offer them.

As members, it is important for you to know that our revenue to operate our State Headquarters comes purely from membership dues, which has been declining severely over many years to the point of grave concern. Please know that this team of officers has been diligently reviewing the budget, policy and procedures and have made several budget modifications to streamline expenses. Some ways we have trimmed the budget were by lowering medical and liability insurance costs as well as changing our supply company and consolidating orders.

It is necessary for us to continue to be creative and look for more cost-effect savings, and we are up for that challenge. The best we've ever done so far is \$18,000. I have researched what other State Departments do for this cause, and we are significantly below what they bring in. You'll be very surprised to know that the average amount raised by other State Departments for their Service Officers is around \$100,000 per year. As you can see, we are shamefully insufficient in this area. Armed with knowledge, let's make this a significantly better year. We can do this with everyone's help – sell all the tickets you've received and push the ad journals to businesses you regularly deal with.



*Discussing VFW legislative goals at the Albany Conference, (L to R): Judge Advocate Enrique "Henry" Sanchez, Inspector Allan Davenport, and Jr. Vice Commander Robert Barnhart.*

I look forward to seeing you at the anticipated very successful Gold Chevron Ball for our Services Officers, April 29th-30th.

A lot of changes have occurred since I was elected to the office of Quartermaster in June 2005. The Department's finances in their entirety are now being tracked in one system, which is quick Books Pro. This program tracks the various accounts of the Department to include all deposits, transfers, withdrawals and offers an Accountant's Audit record/trail feature. Additionally, this program offers a variety of reports, graphs and trending tools (after we have a few year's of information input) that will help with our short and long term strategic financial planning. This undertaking and process change in its entirety will not occur quickly. The basics are complete, and now we are finishing the many details that must be worked through. What can be said at this juncture is, the decisions made by the Council of Administration in June 2005 appear to have been correct; and the Department is financially stable and in control of its finances. To date, February 2006, there have not been any withdrawals from our line of credit nor have we had to take funds from our investments to subsidize our income. At this point in time, the income from mem-

bership income is sufficient to cover our operating expenses.

At this point in time, the income from mem-

*QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 3*

## Karl Rohde PSC & Legislative Chairman



**Karl Rohde**  
PSC & Legislative Chairman

The Legislative Conference was a success. We had six Senators and Assembly members meet with us on the Hill. Commander McNally made a wonderful presentation of our legislative agenda. Our National Council of Administration member, Jim Longendyke, also spoke to those assembled. PSC Longendyke put our agenda into perspective by reminding all that this process has been going on for many years, and the elected officials should pay heed to the needs of our nation's veterans. I should note that the room that we used on the Hill was almost packed. We had more than 20

guests attend the evening reception, and each of them made a few remarks to the comrades and sisters gathered there. Each of the elected officials who attended either of the functions has received a thank you letter from me on behalf of the entire VFW.

There were other issues that were mentioned that did not appear on the agenda that we have to look at. The first was that we should be looking for an increase in the punishment for those who would desecrate a veterans' monument. As you may or may not know, this past Memorial Day, the veterans' monument in my County, Putnam, was desecrated.

The next item was given to me by John Stanford of District #1. Please look up A5087 in the Assembly. It would allow "certain members of the public retirement systems to retire without a reduction of benefits due to early retirement."

The next problem was brought to me by State Jr. Vice Commander Barnhart, and it is about the veteran's exemptions on real property tax. The state has been requiring municipalities to reassess to full market value. The exemption is based on \$120,000 even though state law permits the figure of \$180,000. Each of us must see if our town has adjusted their figures. Coupled with this, Jr. Vice Commander Barnhart has also pointed out that the state should rethink how it determines who is a combat veteran. Many veterans fall through the proverbial crack with the current rules.

Last item, I have been invited to take part in a round table conference with the Armed Forces Legislative Caucus on March 29, 2006. Assemblyman and Co-Chair Jeff Brown called me with the invitation. The object of the conference will be focused on the "role that veterans can play in the new environment of threats that face our nation and how to ensure that veterans recently coming off active duty can be properly recognized for their service to our country." Please forward input to me regarding these items.

### COMMANDER, continued from page 1

can halt the declining figures of the last few years if we apply ourselves. If each member would try to sign up at least one new member or reinstate a former one, our organization would be kept strong to serve our veterans.

On the legislative front, Chairman Karl Rohde put together a fine program, which I was able to present to our State Legislators in a packed hearing room. Over 20 members of the legislature attended our reception that evening. One of the areas where there is some concern is our Service Officers. As of this writing, one Service Officer and one Claims Consultant have given us their notice. Our organization has an obligation to maintain this valuable service to our veterans in their need. Some of the problem is raising funds to support the program. We raise funds by selling ads in our Gold Chevron Ball Yearbook. Post, Councils, and Districts buy them; but they should also sell ads to their local suppliers to assist in this service to our veterans. Another problem is that we are not encouraging our members to utilize the Service Officers enough. They are there to serve you not only for medical claims but also for home loans, educational benefits, correction of service records plus many other entitlements. To address this issue, I have appointed a committee to set long term goals to enhance our Service Officers program.

### QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 2

bership dues and the effort of our fundraisers are providing the funding to cover our disbursements. The challenge before us is with 90% of the annual membership dues collected, will we be able to sustain the current financial performance through June 30, 2006. Based on the historical information available, the answer is not clear because the information is incomplete or not clear. By the April Conference, we should be able to provide a more substantial evaluation and performance indication.

**The Department Needs Your Help!** The Department is currently preparing for the Spring Conference where we will recognize among others, our Department Service Officers, Claim Consultants and Administrative Assistants. The Commander continues to receive pleas to fill the open Service Officers positions in Buffalo, Albany and now New York City. Given the current budgetary restrictions, we are financially stretched to the limit; and funding for Buffalo and Albany is currently unavailable. Now is the time for each member of the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars to step up to the plate and help the Commander fill these offices. **HOW?** By now, each Department Officer, Past State Commander, District Commander, County Council Commander and Post Commander have

Our year is going well but needs our assistance to finish the job for our organization. The District and Council Commanders are leading the way; let's support them and the VFW. I would like to close by quoting part of a statement made by a Past Commander of the Department of Oregon Leon H. Bennet. "Teamwork and cooperation are two factors that are so vital to the future growth of our organization." In the VFW, we sometimes suffer from a weakness that is common to all organizations like ours – confused members who create internal friction, destroy our unity, sap our strength, and make our struggle to progress, doubly difficult. We are all volunteer workers in a fraternal patriotic organization whose aims we admire. If we are going to work together; however, we must respect each other. Men who enjoy other's respect and confidence can literally move mountains when they make the effort. I appeal to all Veterans of Foreign Wars officers and members to join with me in a campaign to promote the spirit of loyalty – not only to God and our country but also to the VFW. Let's exercise this loyalty by respecting the integrity of the men whom we elect to office and supporting those who have been duly appointed to perform the specific tasks in support of the basic aims of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. United, we will go forward.

received Service Officer Raffle Tickets and Journal Ad forms. With your help, we have a real opportunity to realize \$100,000 to \$150,000 as Departments like Ohio, Indiana and Michigan do each and every year to support their Service Officer programs. If each comrade that has received his tickets sells or buys them, we can realize approximately \$15,000. Coupled with each comrade selling three full-page ads or \$240 in various ads, the Department could realize another \$135,000. That would be a total of \$150,000. These funds are to be used for our Service Officers exclusively. This type of yearly effort would provide the funding to fill the vacancies and raise salaries to a level that would help us retain our Service Officers. Please think about this and do something to help. If you do not support this effort, we will fail in achieving our goal. Let's make this the year, the year the Department of New York moves its Service Officer Program forward.

I appreciate your patience and support during these past months, as we have worked on gaining control of the Department's finances. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

## Thank you for your support!

Bob Barnhart, our Department Jr. Vice Commander, would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all those who supported him by purchasing "Big Bee Raffle" tickets for his Advancement. The drawing was held on October 22, 2005, at Post 8645 in New Paltz. The following are the winners of the raffle.

### \$25.00 winners:

#### Name – City – Ticket Seller

1. J. Steiger – Shokan, NY – Jim Wilson
2. T. W. Bossidy – Palmetto, FL – T. W. Bossidy
3. F. H. Turner – Holland Patent, NY – Firth Turner
4. Richard Sisilli – New Paltz, NY – Bob Barnhart
5. Carl F. Lundell – New Paltz, NY – Rita Pink
6. Ladies Aux. #4658 – Rochester, NY – Kathy Pospula
7. Bud Halligan – Tillson, NY – Bob Barnhart
8. Tim Bennet – Garden City SQ, NY – Tom Bennet
9. Gene Winter – Kingston, NY – Jim Longendyke
10. Ed Drucker – Rosendale, NY – Mike Drucker
11. Joanne Avery – High Falls, NY – Lou Mastro
12. Kevin Fox – Roxbury, NY – Dutch Madson
13. Ralph McCumber – Ruby, NY – Bob Barnhart
14. Carol Burke – Schenectady, NY – Hal Burke
15. Hal Burke, Jr. – Schenectady, NY – Hal Burke
16. Carol Burke – Schenectady, NY – Hal Burke
17. Joe McDonald – Yulan, NY – Joe McDonald

18. Mary Longendyke – Kingston, NY – Jim Longendyke
19. Dargan (Post 5034) – Saugerties, NY – Clarence Gardner
20. Doug Howell – West Hurley, NY – Bob Barnhart
21. Post 8814 – Goshen, NY – James Charette
22. Gert Fannetti – East Syracuse, NY – Bud Bex
23. Village Grill (Glenn) – New Paltz, NY – Mike Drucker
24. Joan Chwalisz – Hicksville, NY – Bob Barnhart
25. Herb Hamilton – Olivebridge, NY – Herb Hamilton

### \$50.00 winner:

1. Jack Longendyke – Kingston, NY – Jim Longendyke

### \$75.00 winner:

1. Joe Hassett – High Falls, NY – Ken Hassett

### \$100.00 winner:

1. Leland Eaton – Kingston, NY – Bob Barnhart

### \$200.00 winner:

1. Hal Burke – Schenectady, NY – Hal Burke

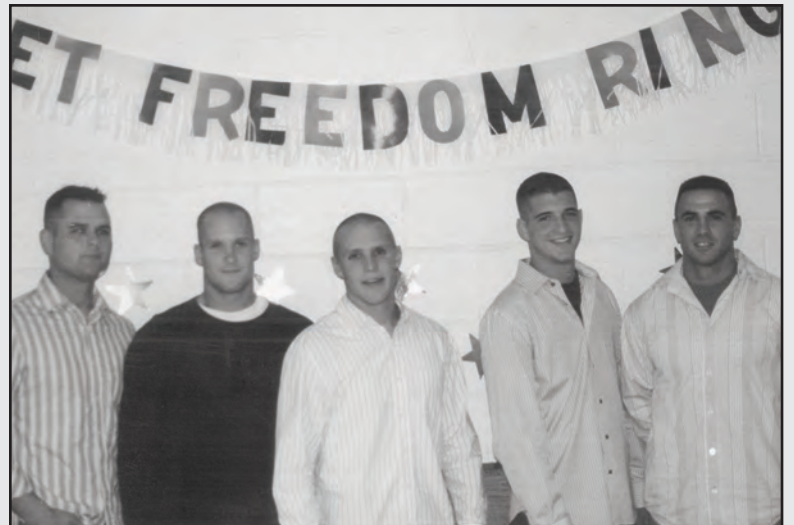
### \$300.00 winner:

1. Post 6534 – Highland, NY – Bob Barnhart

### \$1,000.00 winner:

1. Justin Longo – Kingston, NY – Donna Terwilliger

## Local servicemen welcomed home in Hamburg



Five local residents from the Hamburg area were treated to a festive "welcome home" party late last month at Hamburg VFW Post No. 1419. Family members and friends welcomed the quintet at a celebration that featured plenty of food and drink. All five men are recent graduates of area high schools and have been friends with each other for a number of years. Pictured from left are Jason Florea, John Monaco, Will Maher, Chris Manns and James Thompson. Photo courtesy Daniel Meyer/The Sun.

## Women's Wing Opens

Bath VA's Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Program (DRRTP), now includes a designated women's wing for Women Veterans. The new wing includes a lounge, sewing and hobby room, and fourteen rooms with private baths.

An increase in women serving in the military and a corresponding increase in women veterans seeking care, as well as the need for privacy for our wonderful female veterans that have served our country in uniform obviated the need for such a facility.

This new area provides our women veterans with the privacy, dignity, and respect that they so richly deserve.



*Pictured from left to right are; Shirley Pikula – Associate Director Patient Nursing Services, Angela Gipson – Veteran; Freida Wheeler – Behavioral Health Co-Careline Manager; Laurie Busch – Veteran; Cheryl Knowles-Women's Veterans Coordinator, William F. Feeley – VISN 2 Director; Dr. Alan A. Fantuzzo – Acting Medical Director at the Bath VAMC.*

## Four members of VFW Post 7417 in Wolcott, NY



*You see the three are Grandfather, Father and Son. The Father (Dave West, CW4) was in Iraq for two deployments and his son (Ben West, E4 Crew Chief) was in Iraq once. But both Father and Son were in Iraq together for one year, both assigned to the same Aviation Regiment. L to R: Dave West–Son, Mick West–Father, Nickolas Budinock (Commander) and Ben West-Grandson.*

## VFW donation to help the homeless veterans



*Commander Joseph W. Varrone, along with members of the Plainview VFW Post #5942 and members of the 2005 Poppy Committee donated \$3,500 in cash and supplies to help the homeless veterans at the Salvation Army Veterans Residence at Northport, NY (SAVRN). Left to right: Rocco Figalora; Frank Minneci; Ed Astegher; Francis Scott; Victor Zodda; Ed Seaman; Pat Youngstrom, Assistant Director NCVSA; Joseph Varrone, Commander Post #5942; Deborah Rodriguez, Director SAVRN; Tom Denien; Pete McCann; Gina Varrone; Artie Anderson; Jim Waters; Ray Brennan; Joe Glovack; Pat Astegher; Tim McDermott; and Phil Hoehn.*

## Post #3230 donates a check for \$10,000

*L-R: Ernest Macasact, Post #3230; Joseph P. Gandolf, Commander; Melvin Garrett, PSC and National Home Chairman; Department Commander James McNally; Stephen Nefleberg, District Commander; George R. Broadhead; Joseph Ruggiero, Quartermaster; Nicholos Martinez, Commander B.K.C.C.*



## Post 7763

*For the eighth year in a row, VFW Post 7763, Massapequa Park, New York, fed 200 patients at the Northport Veterans Hospital on Super Bowl Sunday. Heroes, sandwiches, salads and sodas were provided. Pictured left to right, Vanessa Smith of the VA, Commander Richard Begandy, Past Commanders Stephen Piller, Robert Duffy and members John Bruder, Roy Solvang and Ed Feltman.*

## Lowerre VFW Post 3083

Lowerre Post honored returning Iraqi veterans with a Welcome Home Party on November 5, 2005. The two Marine veterans were Cpl. Christopher Torres and Ssgt. William Smith, who both served in Iraq. Among the guests at the reception were Mayor Phillip Amicone of Yonkers, as well as Vice Mayor William Regan of Yonkers. Also in attendance were State Senator Nick Spano and State Assemblyman Louis Mosiello. Mr. Mosiello gave the veterans Certificates of Merit from the state for their service to the country. Unfortunately, Ssgt. Smith was ordered by his Sgt. Major to Albany that day to attend the Marine Corp Ball that night. His mother, Mrs. Smith acted as his proxy for the ceremony.



*Cpl. Torres with Lowerre Post members cutting the cake.*



## Post 2913

*Jayne-Lattin Post 2913 is continuing its program of sending items to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mrs. Imbesi is shown turning the donations over to Maj. (Ret.) Hal O'Neill and George Egan, Post Organizers of Care Packages for Troops. Hal and George's committee package and mail an average of 25 packages a week.*

## Post 361

On December 1st, 2005, VFW Post #361 and the Community of Wyandanch had the distinct honor to host a welcome home ceremony for our hometown Purple Heart recipient Army Sergeant Anthony Joyner. Sgt. Joyner was injured in a roadside bombing in August 2005, during his tour of duty in Afghanistan.



*Left to right: Comrades Jessie Bell, Quartermaster; Bill Mazon; Jim Cole, Jr. Vice; Sgt. Anthony Joyner; Donnie Stevenson, Commander; Norman J. Sellers, Adjutant; and Richard Bryant.*

## Post #524, Corning



*His wife, Bev, has been after him since he retired three years ago to get rid of a pine tree that was shading and littering their pool in the backyard. This year, he finally got to it. He left it 20 feet tall and hired Tom Zimmer, a local chain-saw artist from Montour Falls to carve the tree. The results are amazing. The tree was carved into an Eagle, a Mama Bear, two bear cubs and a Raccoon. A win-win situation at the Morton home.*



## Post 7326

On each Memorial Day, The American Legion Post 514 of Winthrop, New York, and the VFW Post #7326 of Brasher Falls-No. Lawrence, New York, join together and visit cemeteries of the tri-town area of Lawrence, Brasher, and Stockholm.



Shown here are American Legion Treasurer Vicky Champney, American Legion Commander Jim Stickney and Dick Kirkey, Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post #7326 at the end of Memorial Day services in Winthrop, NY.

## Post 8495



Perinton VFW Post 8495's new flag disposal drop box is shown with, from left to right, Artist Karen Cerny, Project Chairman Dick Van Grol, Immediate Past Commander Mike Lucci, Perinton Overseas Veterans Vice President Chuck Guino and Honor Guard President Frank Balik.

## DHL helps VFW donations reach Katrina victims

More than 44,000 pounds of relief supplies collected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post in Hornell, NY, reached Hurricane Katrina victims in mid-October, thanks to the donation of DHL delivery services and coordination by the team at JFK.

"Ever since the Operation Louisville Slugger program, the VFW here has called on DHL for assistance with various charitable works," says Neal Moran, Director of Gateway Services at JFK. "We've established a great relationship with the VFW, and we try to help however we can." In Operation Louisville Slugger, DHL shipped



Neal Moran, DHL Director of Gateway Services at JFK, is flanked by (left) Robert Ruffin, Jr., and Steven Epps, Post Commander, both of VFW #1896.

donated sporting goods collected at numerous VFW Posts to Louisville, KY. Donations were then sent to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

DHL hauled the load of bottled water, clothing, toys and more from JFK to a VFW Post in Franklin, LA, from where they were distributed. The collection effort in New York was organized by Ms. Billie Robertshaw, Post Commander of VFW #2250, and Ben Thompson, Past State Commander, VFW.

## DAV announces redesigned VFW 'custom' license plate

Raymond P. Martinez, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, announced the availability of the redesigned Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) custom license plate for members statewide.

Commissioner Martinez said, "Just in time for Veterans Day, this new, more colorful plate replaces the current black and red design with the VFW's updated and distinguished logo. While we have been honoring members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization with their own plate since 1994, we're confident the attractive new design will be far more popular."

## Post 6478

Post 6478 invited the Army Reserve 340th Military Police to our Post for a membership drive. We supplied Ziti, Chicken, Meat Balls and Sausage, plus a few pitchers of beer. We signed up one Life Member with about six more willing to join. All in all, we had a great time. Larry Schachner, Commander.



## Tri-State Naval Ship

Ladies Auxiliary 7241, District 2 – Orange County – Port Jervis

The Ladies Auxiliary held a ceremony to remember our POW/MIAs. They planted a small garden in the Post yard. Left to right: Americanism Chairman – Eileen Comfort, Past President – Connie Prynkiewicz, President – Charlene Flieger and Executive Officer of Post – Charles Flieger.

## Post 6251



Pvt. Leonard Post, Jr., Post 6251, represented by Commander Roger Heymanowski and Sr. Vice Commander Joe Cavanaugh, received a "Certificate of Special Recognition" for participating in a National VFW Phone Card Program named "Operation Uplink." Pvt. Leonard Post, Jr., donated \$1,000.00 towards the purchase of 150 phone cards for the men and women of 3rd/25th Marine Corp, a Buffalo Reserve Unit on active duty in Iraq. "Operation Uplink" is just one of many community programs Pvt. Leonard Post, Jr., Post 6251 participates in.

## E.C.C. Pearl Harbor, Dec. 4th, at Porter Ave., Buffalo



Vincent Gandolf, age 10, and Charlie Camille, age 80, playing Taps. Butch Clarkson, Post #1369, holding the music.

## Post #325, Garden City



Commander Pat Argenzio has been commander since 1982, and his wife has been Ladies Auxiliary President since 1987. Nice job, "Doc."

## Post #6478, Bellerose



Post members involved in packages for veterans – back, L-R: Jim McDonald, Commander Schachner, Charles McGarvey, and Angelo Cordero; front, L-R: Sr. Vice Joe Mastriano and Charles Garrison.

## Post #5005, Geneseo



Veterans Day celebration, 21-gun salute with lots of kids. Nice job, "Doc."

## Veterans of Foreign Wars & Ladies and Men's Auxiliary State Bowling Tournament

(607) 789-2750

Geneva Post 2670, 88 North Street, Geneva, NY 14456

January 1, 2006

This year the Geneva Post 2670 and its Ladies Auxiliary are proud to host the **1st Annual Mixed Doubles Handicapped Bowling Tournament**. We wish to invite all Post and Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries to participate. The dates this year are April 22nd and 23rd, April 29th and 30th, and May 6th and May 7th. All events will be bowled at Sunset Bowling Lanes, Border City Road, Geneva, NY 14456.

As this is the **First Mixed Doubles Tournament**, there are some changes. Teams will consist of four persons, two men and two women and doubles will consist of one man and one woman. This is also a **handicapped tournament**.

Dinners on Friday and Saturday night, plus breakfast on Sunday are scheduled as well as entertainment for your enjoyment while visiting us. There are legal pull-tabs available at the Post Canteen for those wishing to indulge.

We have contacted housing with the following hotels in the Waterloo and Geneva area. A block of rooms is reserved at each hotel. The registration deadline for your rooms at the VFW special rate is March 22, 2006. After that, rooms will be released back to the hotel; and you will have to pay the normal rate. Remember to bring your tax-exempt form with you, as it will be required.

We have kept the rates as low as possible so to invite your participation. **Closing date for both the as-book and registration for the tournament is March 23, 2006.** For the best time, or if you have more than one team participating and wish to bowl the same day, mail your application and entry fees

### Bowling Tournament

It has come to the attention of Chairman Gray and myself that there are some problems with the Mixed Format, therefore a waiver of mixed format will be granted for this year. If a Post cannot field a mixed team then all men or all women teams will be permitted. However, this is to be used only if a mixed team cannot be put together. Teams will still be made up in accordance with application that was mailed – two persons for doubles and four persons for team. Again, the all men/all women team is to be used only if a mixed team cannot be put together.

**Allan Fox**  
Tournament Director  
VFW Post 2670  
Geneva, NY

in as early as possible. We will make every effort to honor all requests; however, we are restricted in our times and must keep to the schedule. Make sure you include the Captain's phone number to enable us to contact you if any problems should arise in scheduling. **We will not be responsible for providing a sub if you do not have a full team!**

Doubles and Singles will be bowled on Saturday and team Sunday. This is an USBC moral sanctioned tournament.

**Wilbur Gray**  
State Bowling Chairman  
(585) 343-8867

## Agent Orange Update

### Exposure along the DMZ in Korea:

Herbicide agents were used along the southern boundary of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between April 1968 and July 1969. The Department of Defense (DoD) has identified specific units that were assigned or rotated to areas along the DMZ where herbicides were used. **Concede** herbicide exposure for veterans who allege service along the DMZ in Korea and were assigned to one of the units shown below between April 1968 and July 1969.

### Combat Brigades of the 2nd Infantry Division:

1st battalion, 38th Infantry; 2nd battalion, 38th Infantry; 1st battalion, 23rd Infantry; 2nd battalion, 23rd Infantry; 3rd battalion, 23rd Infantry; 2nd battalion, 31st Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 32nd Infantry; 1st battalion, 9th Infantry; 2nd battalion,

9th Infantry; 1st battalion, 72nd Infantry; 2nd battalion, 72nd Infantry.

**Division Reaction Force:** 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, Counter Agent Company.

**3rd Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division:** 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 17th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 73rd Armor; 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry; 2nd Battalion, 31st Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 32nd Infantry.

United Nations Commander Security Battalion – Joint Security Area (UNCSB –JSA)

**Note:** If a veteran was assigned to a unit other than one listed above and alleges service along the DMZ between April 1968 and July 1969, contact the Center for Unit Records Research (CURR) for verification of the location of the veteran's unit.

## Loyalty Day

It is really not surprising that Loyalty Day has faded from the public's memory, considering my son's history book has a mere paragraph on the ten-year Vietnam War.

Loyalty Day is only three and one-half months away; so, I strongly encourage you to start now planning what type of activity your Post, County Council and District can get involved with to re-acquaint your communities with Loyalty Day if you are not doing so already.

- You might have a parade.
- If you are going to your schools with flag education and etiquette programs, you can ask the children if any of them know what Loyalty Day is about.
- If you have any youth groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Scouts or Sports Teams meeting at your Post, perhaps you can speak to them about the significance of Loyalty Day.

If the understanding of what Loyalty Day is about is being forgotten, the way to bring it back is through education and that begins with the youth of America. The VFW supply catalogue has posters, brochures and certificates on page 66 that will aid you in conducting your programs. Please let me know if you do anything unique in your community to commemorate Loyalty Day.

Thank you,  
**Robert Spicer**  
January 2006

## Buddy Poppy 2006 Mid-Winter Conference Report

As of January 3, 2006, our Buddy Poppy purchases for Department of New York as only reached 173,000. This is 32,500 less purchased this year than last year at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Over the last three years, goals have been lowered to assist Department of New York in reaching an attainable goal. However, to date, this has produced less for 2006 than 2005. In 2005, we stood at 205,500 at the Mid-Winter Conference. With so many means of distribution of Buddy Poppies, the final totals seem unrealistic. Unfortunately, the only unrealistic goal is achieving 650,000 purchases of Buddy Poppies for 2006 Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars Year. We must reverse this trend.

Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled veterans of the United States Armed Forces. All donations received are used exclusively for our Post's Welfare Fund. Your Post is required to acquire at least 500 Buddy Poppies in order to be eligible for a white hat. Purchasing Buddy Poppies at \$130.00 for 1,000 should be considered an investment rather than an expense.

Distribution of Buddy Poppies could be made available by individual distribution at specific locations, mailing to all members requesting a donation, or a Special Buddy Poppy Display Board, which includes a Distribution Box, which National is now offering. All Posts should be considering ordering Buddy Poppy in the near future.

Remember, all Buddy Poppies ordered must be processed through Department of New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Only with your assistance, could Buddy Poppies sales be able to reach 650,000.

This concludes Buddy Poppy 2006 Mid-Winter Conference Report.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Fred P. Schwally, Chairperson**  
Department of New York  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Post 2736 – East Meadow



Memorial Day Parade 2005.

## Post 7765 – Red Hook



Post #7765, Red Hook, Firing Squad honoring past Judge James J. Battisti, Jr., Firing line: Robert Becker, Curt Brown, Robert Frisenda, Dennis McGuire, Jan F. Milles, Larry Schlemmer, James Shaw and Allan Thayer.

## Post 634 – York



Post #634, York, display an Iraqi Freedom Flag, which was donated by M/Sgt. Tracy Semell in gratitude for the comfort care packages sent to the troops. L-R: Sr. Vice Commander Steve Gates, M/Sgt. Semell, Jr. Vice Carmen Gallo, Chaplain Joe Vogel, Commander Paul Klock, Adjutant Tom Tiede and Butch Semell.

## Department Patriot's Pen Participation Report Summary Department of New York

**Participation totals:** 52 Posts, 23 Auxiliaries, 3,053 Students, 150 Post Winners Advanced, eight Districts/eight Auxiliaries and one County Council.

**Actual Amount of Money Awarded to Participating Students:** Posts – \$9,799.37; Districts – \$1,421.65; County Councils – \$150.00; Department Awards: 1st Place – \$500.00; 2nd Place – \$300.00; 3rd Place – \$200.00; Other – \$500.00; Total Savings Bonds: \$12,871.02

**Additional Expenses Associated with Patriot's Pen Program:** Posts – \$2,101.15; Districts – \$723.35; County Councils – 0; Department – \$200.00; Other – 0; Total Additional Expenses: \$3,024.50. Add Total Savings Bonds and Total Additional Expenses for Grand Total: \$15,895.52

**Michael Spellman  
Department Chairman  
Patriot's Pen Contest**

## 2005-2006 Patriot's Pen Contest Winners – Department Level

- 1st Place** – \$500.00 – Megan McCune  
Post #1688, Willston Park  
Nassau Co. Council  
District #1
- 2nd Place** – \$300.00 – Megan Coyle  
Post #1498, Clifton Park  
Hudson Mohawk Co. Council  
District #3
- 3rd Place** – \$200.00 – Jenna Snow  
Post #7276, Long Eddy  
Sullivan Co. Council  
District #2
- 4th Place** – \$100.00 – Hanna Powell  
Post #1400, Watertown  
Mohawk-Adirondack Co. Council  
District #4
- 4th Place** – \$100.00 – Erik Bierbrauer  
Post #569, Fulton

- Oswego Co. Council  
District #5
- 4th Place** – \$100.00 – Sarah Neville  
Post #9249, Grand Island  
Erie Co. Council  
District #6
- 4th Place** – \$100.00 – Kelsey Lagana  
Post #5005, Geneseo  
Western Co. Council  
District #7
- 4th Place** – \$100.00 – Philoman Geertson  
Post #8726, Naples  
Finger Lakes Co. Council  
District #8

**Michael Spellman  
Department Chairman  
Patriot's Pen Contest**

## POW/MIA Program Date

April 2nd–April 8th, 2006

Dear Sisters and Commanders,

The Department of New York has selected the date of APRIL 2nd to APRIL 8th, 2006, to REMEMBER OUR POW/MIAs.

ADDITION: When making up your RECORD BOOK, please include the names of your program Chairperson and Co-Chairperson.

Below is POW/MIA Pin and Patches order form. Please note, decals and patches have been sold out. Donations are now in order. Make all checks payable to the Dept. of New York and mail to:

Vinnie Esposito  
3758 Sarah Drive  
Wantagh, NY 11793



Shown above are this year's PATCHES, DECALS and PINS. For the first time, all 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 checks payable to the Department of New York and mail to:

Vinnie Esposito  
3758 Sarah Drive  
Wantagh, NY 11793

PATCHES: \$24.00 per dozen .....	\$	SOLD OUT	AMT. \$	_____
DECALS: \$24.00 per dozen.....	\$	SOLD OUT	AMT. \$	_____
PINS: \$25.00 per dozen.....	\$		AMT. \$	_____
		POSTAGE		\$3.00
		TOTAL		_____

MAIL TO:

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Life Membership

Comrades! We can't begin to congratulate you enough on the tremendous job you are doing in Life Membership. By the time you read this, you will have transmitted over 1,500 Life Members for this year. That has got to be a record. Now for the bad news!

National has chosen to try again to almost double Life Member costs. They have, however, dropped the escalation clause. This is of little help. Last year, we narrowly defeated the proposal. National has made a strong case of need, due to inflation. However, you, the members, must again decide what New York's stand will be. In the meantime for your Posts and for our State Commander, please continue your Life Membership drives and programs. Remember: "The more you get, the less you have to get."

**George H. Osborne  
Life Membership Chairman  
Thomas Bennet  
Vice Chairman**

### Proposed Life Member Fee Increase

We have received notice that National will be proposing a new life member fee increase. It is their intention to have the new fees voted on at the next National Convention in August 06 and have the increase take effect on 1 January 2007. Following are the current and proposed rates:

Age	Current Plan D	Proposed Plan E
Through 30	\$245	\$425
31-30	\$235	\$410
41-50	\$215	\$375
51-60	\$195	\$335
61-70	\$165	\$290
71-80	\$125	\$225
81 and over	\$85	\$170

The payout under Plan D is currently \$5.50 to Department and Post. Under Plan E, the payout would be \$9.00 to Department and Post.

In addition to the current increase, National is proposing to automatically increase the fees and payout every three years by the amount of the Social Security Formula COLA index. For example, if between 1 January 2006 and 1 January 2009, the COLA increased by 6% then the fees and payout would increase by 6%.

**The Life per capita tax would increase from \$5.50 to \$9.00. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that if they can't afford the \$5.50 per capita at present; they certainly can't afford \$9.00 at the new rates.**

## Post 4787



Post #4787, Whitestone, sponsors Troop #177 – Loretta Weiss, center, and Benjamin Singer, Quartermaster.

## Post 7545



Post #7545, Tonawanda, celebrated its 50th Anniversary by honoring their Post Charter members, L-R: William "Buck" Hemmerling, Archie Smith, Jr., Howard Emerson, Hugh "Sonny" Morrow, James Amato and Herman Sparks.

## POST TO POST

**POST #5253 – ALBERTSON** – Happy Birthday to: George Aloy, William Beilman, Raymond Ellis, John Henson, John Mooshian, and Arthur Thompson.

**POST #7172 – NORTH SHORE** – 60th Anniversary Dance, journal ads to support it. New member, Charles LoGuidice; Italian night, “Doc” Dougherty’s hot dogs are addictive. It’s good to have a “Doc.”

**POST #375 – YONKERS** – New bathrooms, new tile to the floor, kitchen, bar. Commander Joe Porcelli, Sr. Vice Bob Lebzelter – turkey sandwiches, Post Christmas party, New Year’s party. You’re a busy man, nice job. “Doc.”

**POST #516 – FARMINGDALE** – hosting a “Bronze Star” medal to WWII Vet Frank Cihlar. Federal Flag code listed in the newspaper, very informative. PPC Bob Fullam looks like he passed out in the photo giving blood. Nice Post Surgeon Report on decreasing fats by Nick Iervolino.

**POST #4927 – CENTEREACH** – Sauerbraten Dinner put on by Pete, Kim, Nancy, Mary, Bill, Carol and Ray. Their last names were withheld for liability purposes. Joking, of course, “Doc.”

**POST #1498 – HALFMOON** – Commander Tom Gillis, making sure that those who rate grave markers, get them; Gold Star Mothers included. This area is sometimes neglected. Good job, Commander, “Doc.”

**POST #2883 – NEWARK** – Veterans Day Ceremonies, Kids’ Christmas Party, Prime Rib Dinner, luncheons being done – Commander Dick Kraus and Sr. Vice Harold Carlson.

**POST #8647 – MAYVILLE** – Don Skellic, Commander, \$2,500.00 donated to the hurricane victims by the Post. Edna Brown, Kitchen Chairman, doing a great job. Wings and Things, Wednesday night – Ron Smith, Bar Manager.

**POST #478 – BINGHAMTON** – Commander Rick Lamoreaux is very proud of all the activities going on at the Post.

**POST #6196 – QUEENSBURY** – Veterans’ Assistance Night and Job Fair Expo, great article by Commander Robert Gilman.

**POST #420 – SARATOGA SPRINGS** – Commander Brackett has many activities as well as donations to various worthy causes.

**POST #19955 – LA FAYETTE** – Quartermaster Rod Creig and Commander Jim Pitts are putting a hard push on Life Membership.

**POST #7279 – LINDENHURST** – John Massoni is really appreciated by Commander Edward Mattina. Jr. Vice Ed Walz is moving up to Sr. Vice. Happy Birthday, Clint Carrano and Charles Kiefer.

**POST #4787 – WHITESTONE** – Andy Sich is main-

taining the Web site, www.post4787vfw.org. Sr. Vice Louis Coluccio ran two parties in one for the Holidays.

**POST #557 – BEMUS POINT** – Commander Don Anderson had a Chili Cook Off for Veterans Day. A very impressive menu for the Friday night dinners.

**POST #2782 – NORWICH** – donated \$1,000.00 to help the victims of Katrina. Submitted by Ronald Palmer, Quartermaster.

**POST #9249 – GRAND ISLAND** – Harold Lansberry received his Purple Heart at age 62, presented by Commander Dan McMahon. Quartermaster Richard Lozo pushing Life Membership.

**POST #600 – CANASTOTA** – Commander William Yorton is making plans for a new pavilion and a new Ladies Auxiliary.

**POST #416 – AMHERST** – Lou Diakos is Public Relations Chairman. Post gave \$1,000.00 to hurricane relief.

**POST #463 – DEPEW** – They think the Chaplain is the oldest in the country, age 95, Bernie Foose.

**POST #2736 – EAST MEADOW** – PC Howard Ficken got his 10-Year Pin.

**POST #5491 – MAHOPAC** – Richie Ferrell retiring after 10 years as Quartermaster. Ken Carroll will ride his bike in a fundraiser for cancer.

**POST #951 – LIVERPOOL** – Open house to public, Al Sihm acquired a ping-pong table and display case. Two computers in the office, might add a DVD/VCR and TV.

**POST #26 – LIMA** – Awarded a Purple Heart and POW Medal to Vincent P. Tollis by Commander Michael Hayes.

**POST #1955 – LA FAYETTE** – Commander Jim Pitts has revised the House Committee to oversee the two bars. Pancake breakfast, monthly dinners, and major recruitment efforts going on.

**POST #8692 – ALBANY** – \$5.00 Breakfasts. New members: Irvin Ahrens and Patrick Pettit. Robert LaDuke, Commander.

**POST #348 – SALT CITY** – Laurie Smith and Phyllis Vryhof get a big thanks for all the summer help. Norm Samson and John Malinowski also get a congratulations!

**POST #2332 – JOHNSON CITY** – Commander Wayne Felsheim, Quartermaster Richard Slate and Chaplain Robert Hunt all working hard at membership and Post functions.

**POST #7545 – TONAWANDA** – The Post joined forces with the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion at an annual picnic. They honored the returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. The returning soldiers all received Flags.

**POST #982 – REMSEN** – New members: Chris Taylor, Steve Hitchcock, Daryl and Debbie Bitely, and Al Walker.

**POST #6338 – GOUVENEAR** – Commander Mike Webster has been hard at work enhancing the financial stability of the Post. Memorial Plaques, Michael Webster and Karl Beck working hard at that.

**POST #2476 – RIVERHEAD** – Commander Gene McSherry thanks Steve Centore and Ron Boyd for their helping hands in Post business.

**POST #5298 – SPRING FIELD GARDENS** – Commander Leroy Barnes, Sr. Vice T. J. Tharpe, Jr. Vice William Smith are working hard on bingo, Vets Day, holiday parties, and memberships.

**POST #1019 – ALBANY** – Commander John Selmer has arranged for the 70th Birthday of the Post party; working on membership.

**POST #170 – POUGHKEEPSIE** – Commander Michael Burke announces a new pavilion will be built and named after Comrade Mark A. Paganelli who has passed away.

**POST #7763 – MASSAPEQUA** – Commander Richard Begandy is actively working on obtaining a VCR, CD Player, to be shipped to Iraq, along with the 100 baseball hats that were donated.

**POST #123 – RIDGEWOOD** – Post received a very large grant for needed repairs, thanks to Senator Maltese’s office. Submitted by Quartermaster Fred Schwally.

**POST #7462 PIERMONT** – Commander George Lynch visited the final stages of “G.I. Joe” statue it will receive a bronze coating. Look forward to the photo, “Doc.”

**POST #1371 – OWEGO** – The Post has taken a major move on recruitment and Life Membership. For three months, they will be paying 75% of a person’s Life Membership. Info provided by Quartermaster Jack Honey.

**5th DISTRICT NEWSLETTER** – “Scoops From the Home Front,” Editor Lewis Steinbrecher, really nice job, Lew, “Doc.”

**POST #7172 – NORTH SHORE** – The Post honored a fallen soldier, PFC Nils F. Thompson, who died in Iraq. Visits being started to Walter Reed Army Hospital to visit the wounded troops. Commander Danny Ingellis.

**POST #8691 – WASHINGTONVILLE** – 150 boxes sent to the troops. Commander Dominick M. DeLaura.

**POST #6394 – SYOSSET** – Commander Robert Thompson has a very active “Cooties.” Happy Birthday, Angelo Solimino, Louis SaFina, Joseph Reichert, John Marra, and Stephen Competiello.

**POST #1374 – CARMEL** – Sr. Vice Ken Dwyer taking on the job of the Post newsletter. Post donated monies to the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

## Post 672

On Sunday, March 5, 2006, VFW Post 672 Commander Arthur Hanley and Post 672 Ladies Auxiliary President Josephine Anderek presented certificates and checks to the winners of the Post’s 2005-2006 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen contests. The presentation, which was made at the conclusion of the LA monthly meeting, was followed by a light lunch.

For the first time in the history of Post 672’s participation in these contests, this year’s winners are sister and brother; and the winner of the VOD is a repeat winner from last year. Kerry Casey, a sophomore

at North Salem High School, received a certificate and a check for \$500 for her winning entry in the VOD. Brian Casey, a sixth grader in North Salem Middle School, also received a certificate along with a check for \$100 for his winning entry in Patriot’s Pen.

Dennis and Dorren Casey of Brewster, NY, are the proud parents of these outstanding students.

**Arthur Hanley  
Commander  
VFW Post 672 Brewster**



*(L-R) Post 672 Youth Scholarship Chairman, Post Sr. Vice Commander Harry Sherblom; dad, Dennis Casey (partially hidden); VOD winner, Kerry Casey; mom, Dorren Casey (partially hidden); Patriot’s Pen winner, Brian Casey; Post 672 Ladies Auxiliary President Josephine Anderek; and VFW Post 672 Commander Arthur Hanley*

## Conference Schedule

**Dates – Conference – Location  
2006**

- 19-24 Apr. – Easter State Conference – Garmisch, Germany
- 28-30 Apr. – Spring Conference – Binghamton
- 21-24 June – State Convention – Binghamton
- 26-31 Aug. – National Convention – Reno, NV
- 27-29 Oct. – Fall Conference – Syracuse
- 17-19 Nov. – Eastern States Conference – Warwick, RI

**2007**

- 24-26 Feb. – Spring/Legislative Conference – Albany
- 4-7 Mar. – National Community SVC/Legislative Conference – Washington, DC
- June – State Convention – Binghamton
- 18-23 Aug. – National Convention – Kansas City, MO

**2008**

- 2-5 Mar. – National Community SVC/Legislative Conference – Washington, DC
- 16-21 Aug. – National Convention – Orlando, FL
- June – State Convention – Binghamton

**2009**

- 15-20 Aug. – National Convention – Phoenix, AZ

*For forms and information, contact the Department, (518) 463-7427, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204*