



NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



2009

January/February/March

*“What you are, will show in what you do.”
– Thomas A. Edison*

Volume 28,
Issue 2

Jack Haight Department Commander



Shown above is Commander Haight during his visit with some of our troops at Fort Drum in upstate New York.

Our term is half over and it is time to start knocking on doors to get that last 10%+ of membership that has not paid their dues. In a few months, our membership team will be seeing who will get the prestigious, All-State white hats.

My special project is the Fisher House of Albany. When I went for my visitation in December, I was informed of a girl from Wayne County that at her thirteenth birthday party wanted items to be donated to the Fisher House. I was shown the list of what she presented to the Fisher House. Over \$600 cash and 90 pairs of socks are just two of the many items she collected. I will be giving her a certificate in February at her school. She lives about twenty miles north of me. Representatives from the House will be at our Legislative Conference with information about the House and we will be making a donation.

We are also accepting donations for the flagpole (including lights) at the former Naval/Air Force base at Sampson. This is a cemetery accepting veterans and families members of veterans from all over the nation. It is run by an association and is expected to be ready by Nov. 11, 2009. The Plaque on the flagpole will say that it is donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary. I have been informed that

the Auxiliary has almost collected their half. We have collected approximately one quarter of the needed money.

Also, we are collecting to bring several children from the National Home to our Department Convention. And don't forget the Service Officers Raffle and Gold Chevron Book. When making donations, please earmark what the money is donated for.

In the middle of January, I had an assignment in Ogdensburg. It was a celebration of their 75th anniversary. While there, I had the privilege of presenting a certificate to a ten-year-old that said his most favorite holiday was Veterans Day as it honors the Veterans. The article appeared in the local newspaper close to Veterans Day. I was in Ogdensburg for their Veterans Day ceremony. I read the article and sent a copy of the paper to our National Commander-in-Chief Glen Gardner. He sent a certificate that was also presented at the dinner. It is really great that the youth of America honor the Military thusly.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests are now complete at the Department level for this year. Congratulations to District 7 for the Patriot's Pen winner and District 6 for the VOD. To the Chairmen, Thank You.

Veterans Day

A 5th Grader's Most Favorite Holiday



L-R: Post Commander Lester DuVall, Jr. - Post 2936, Connor Bjork and State Commander Jack Haight.

Recently fifth grade students at Kennedy Elementary School near Ogdensburg were asked to do a special project on the holiday that meant the most to them. We all know there is a host of holidays to choose from, for example: the U.S. President's Day, Valentine's Day, Easter, 4th of July with all the fireworks, Thanksgiving with all the food and turkey, Christmas with Santa and all the presents; however, 10-year-old Connor Bjork chose Veterans Day for his project.

According to his essay, Bjork chose Veterans Day to write about because he says it's important to remember those men and women who "fought to honor and protect our country, during war and peace." Connor proudly displayed a well thought out poster he made to go along with his essay. The poster had pictures showing some of the war memorials in Washington and the Washington Monument.

Connor Bjork's essay follows:

"Veterans Day is a Federal Holiday. It is celebrated every year on November 11th. I think Veterans Day is important for many reasons. Veterans served and

fought to honor and protect our country, during war and peace.

"It is important to remember these men and women. Many died and many are still missing. Many returned home disabled."

"We can honor and remember the veterans in many ways. There are parades, memorials and many monuments. Families bring flowers, flags and other items to the cemetery in remembrance."

"The biggest reason I think Veterans Day is important, is because the veterans fought for our freedom."

When Commander Haight was visiting Ogdensburg last fall, he read the local newspaper article about Connor. He was impressed that a student this young would choose Veterans Day to be his favorite holiday. During a recent dinner at VFW Post 2936 in December, Connor Bjork and his family were invited guests. Commander Haight presented Connor Bjork with certificates of recognition not only from himself as State Commander but also a certificate of recognition from National Commander-in-Chief Glen Gardner.

Photographer:



John Brunato



Editor:



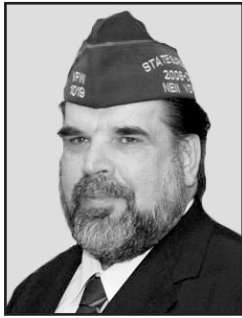
Arnie Anderson

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Allan E. Davenport Sr. Vice Commander



2009 is already here and I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday season. The year is nearly over for Commander Haight and we have so much more to do. Our membership needs a boost, so if you haven't paid as yet, do so today.

Many Posts have lost their charter because of not doing the simple task of sending in the Post election report. As I have said in the last few newspapers, make sure your Quartermaster, Adjutant and Commander get all the paperwork sent in and filed, but most importantly, send in your Post election report in by the end of April.

Stop by your Post once in awhile, even if you can't be an active member. We are always glad to sit and talk with our membership. Keep working for our organization.

Jack Veazy Jr. Vice Commander



Time is really going by at a fast pace, in fact about half of the year has gone by. We still have much work to be done, for example: Membership is the backbone of our organization. We have a Membership Team, but they need the help that all of us should be giving them.

A reminder, our Spring/Legislation Conference is coming up February 21-23 in Albany. Everyone that is able to attend should do so. You can personally meet your Assemblymen and actually discuss any issues that you may have.

In May, I will have the opportunity to visit the National Home for Children and attend the Fifth Annual Jr. Vice Commander Orientation. Being a Life Member of the National Home, I have never visited the campus. Perhaps I will be able to present everyone with some valuable information.

Edward Bassett Chief of Staff



Well comrades, here we are on the downhill side for this membership year. Hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season.

As in the last newspaper, I said my goal was to start at least one new Post. As of this date that has not happened. Things are not easy out there in the real world; things have to get better, they can't get any worse. There is still time to get a new Post started. Please feel free to contact me or one of the Deputy Chief of Staff and we will help you to get a Post started in your area.

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** POLICY

Overseas Veteran is published four times annually by the Department of New York in July/August/Sept., Oct./Nov./Dec., Jan./Feb./Mar. and April/May/June. One dollar of each member's annual dues, paid to a VFW Post in New York State is used for a year's subscription to the Overseas Veteran. Cost to non-members and widows of VFW members: \$10.00; payable in advance to the Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2527.

** **Editor** is looking for VFW oriented newsworthy articles from all levels of our VFW Organization which would be of interest to our members. Examples include: VFW sponsored functions, VFW individuals receiving or presenting awards, VFW community service projects, VFW youth activity awards, etc.

** **PLEASE email your short news articles in MS Word and attach a picture to the e-mail as a separate attachment (if available) in .jpg picture format.** The picture you send can be fully captioned with names and description of event, at the top of your MS Word article. **Please include with the article: The name and phone number of the person sending the news article, in case there are questions.**

** **Editor: reserves the right to edit any article for length or grammar and to reject any article which may be deemed not to meet current editorial needs.**

** **ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES SHOULD BE E-MAILED TO: ATAnderson@fairpoint.net** (the above e-mail address is for Overseas Veteran Newspaper information ONLY!) **E-mail subject line should have: Post number - or - Overseas Veteran Article**

** **Mail - Post, Council and District Newsletters to: NYS Overseas Veteran, Editor Arnie Anderson, 94 Rothvoss Road, Ancramdale, NY 12503. Phone: 518-329-7554**

** The firm and final article submission deadlines for the next newspaper will be posted in a highlighted box within this newspaper.

** **Graphic Design & Layout:** American Graphics & Design, Inc. - www.agad.com Jenny Deback, President; Cindy Chic, Graphic Designer

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

Harold "Mick" Leavor State Inspector



Comrades, January 2009 has arrived and the year is half gone. The County and District Inspectors are continuing to do a great job in reporting Inspections and they are coming in at a steady pace. There are still some Posts that are not bonded and have not filed the New 990 Forms. As mentioned previously, the National Bylaws, Article VII, Section 703 requires that each officer accountable for funds or property be bonded in the proper amount. The Commander of each Post, County Council and District is responsible for making sure that they have been bonded in the proper amount. These bonds may also be purchased through the Department at: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, New York 12204.

New IRS REQUIREMENT for 2008. Do Not Forget to file your 990 forms or extension form 2758 application for extension of time. You may call the IRS at 1-877-829-5500 or 1-800-829-3676 for forms and information.

For Posts with gross receipts of less than \$25,000, you can file online at the following Web site: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

Small tax-exempt organizations must now file new form 990-N, Electronic notice (e-postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ. You may click on to www.irs.gov and click the Charities and Non-Profits tab for more information. Remember: Filing deadline for 2008 was November 15, 2008.

You may have to consult a tax advisor the first year to see what form you might need. If a Post fails to file the return on or before the due date, or an extended due date, the penalty is \$10.00 for each day the return is late, with a maximum penalty of \$5,000.

Mail all inspection forms to: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, New York 12204. If you have any questions, you may call me at home at 1-716-676-2400.

Jim Fields sends his sincere thanks to all VFW and Auxiliary members who offered their condolences to him after the passing of his life partner Norma Hartkopt.

Michael Spellman Department Patriot's Pen Chairman

Below are the 2008-09 Patriot's Pen Contest winners for the Department of New York.

1st Place - Patrick Leo, sponsored by Post 26, Western County Council, District 7

2nd Place - Joshua Owczarczak, sponsored by Post 5861, Erie County Council, District 6

3rd Place - Alex Bednor, sponsored by Post 9483, Monroe County Council, District 8

NEW Secretary of the Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON (Jan. 21, 2009) - Retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki took the oath of office today as the Nation's seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs, assuming the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs following Tuesday's confirmation by the Senate.

"The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the Department of Veterans Affairs a 21st-century organization focused on the Nation's Veterans as its clients," Shinseki said.

Shinseki plans to develop a 2010 budget within his first 90 days that realizes the vision of President Obama to transform VA into an organization that is people-centric, results-driven and forward-looking.

Key issues on his agenda include smooth activation of an enhanced GI Bill education benefit that eligible veterans can begin using next fall, streamlining the disability claims system, leveraging information technology to accelerate and modernize services and opening VA's health care system to veterans previously unable to enroll in it, while facilitating access for returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Shinseki, a former Army Chief of Staff, takes the reins of a 284,000-employee organization delivering health care and financial benefits to millions of veterans and survivors under a \$98 billion budget authorized this year through networks of regional benefits offices and health care facilities from coast to coast.

Born in 1942 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Shinseki graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, in 1965. He served two combat tours and was wounded in action in Vietnam. He served with distinction in Europe, the Pacific and stateside, eventually becoming the Army's senior leader from June 1999 to June 2003. Retired from military service in August 2003, Shinseki's military decorations include three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

Shinseki succeeds Dr. James B. Peake as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Stanley B. Pennock,
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2893,
located in Solvay, New York
recently celebrated their 75th Anniversary!

Marine Master Sergeant Recognized



Pictured (L-R): President Joanne Warlikowski, Marcello Rotunda Chautauqua County Council Commander, Post Commander Raymond Warlikowski, Master Sergeant Torres and his father and mother, Domingo and Roxanne Torres.

Master Sergeant Torres returned home after a six-month deployment to Iraq. Members of the John T. Murry Post 1017 located in Dunkirk, presented Master Sergeant Torres with a letter of appreciation for his service to his country.

Karl Rohde Legislative Chairman

We are hoping to have a great Legislative Conference. Please make sure you make appointments to visit with your legislator in Albany. Included with this article is the Legislative Agenda we will be perusing this year. Please make sure you get the agenda to the right people in Albany. If you have a new elected Senator or Assemblyman, it is crucial that you make contact with them. Please push the VFW agenda. If you cannot attend, it is important that you familiarize yourself with the new agenda and speak to your elected Albany official. **The new legislative agenda is listed on page 4 of this newspaper. Please feel free to make a copy and present it to your local legislators.**

There is a major item that we will have to keep our eye on and try to sort out as the year progresses. In the *VFW Washington Weekly* from national, we read that the VA is expanding the number of Priority Group 8 veterans in the system. This is juxtaposed with the report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that calls for the reduction of Priority Group 7 and 8 within the VA. If you would like to read more about this, send your e-mail address to: NYVFW_legislative@yahoo.com and you will receive the *Whoville Legislative Register*. This is a great way to keep up on legislative issues, both New York State and national.

Several comrades have asked me about the new law that would allow veterans to salute when not in uniform. This is what I have found out in that regard. It is part of Public Law 110-417. This is from the law: "(Sec.595) Authorizes members and veterans present but not in uniform during the playing of the national anthem to render the military salute in the same manner as members in uniform."

Lloyd H. Creeley Special Project Chairman

First, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we enter the second half of Commander Jack's year, I would like to thank him for the appointment as his Special Project Chairman.

In the last two *Overseas Veterans*, I outlined a number of features about the Fisher House at the Samuel Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany. On the 9th floor of the Stratton Medical Center, the Fisher House hosts additional rooms for families who need to stay near their hospitalized veteran.

With the number of returning troops and older veterans in need of medical treatment, the Fisher House is needed more than ever. It is only through your generous donations that they are able to continue to offer all the services that they do.

I want to thank you for the generosity your VFW members and Post has shown. It shows just how much we appreciate and respect our fellow veterans, here in the Department of New York. Please remember our drive to raise the much needed funds for the Fisher House is not complete, so please, if you haven't made a donation to the Commander's Special Project yet, please send it in soon. If you have made a donation and you find that your Post has a few extra dollars laying around, we will take additional donations.

We will again be holding a parade of donations for the Fisher House, at the upcoming Legislative Conference. We hope everyone will consider a donation for the Fisher House. Remember Posts can use their Bell Jar Account to make a donation to this cause.

Commander Jack and I would like to thank you all for all your help in the past and for what you will do for the Fisher House at the Conference. See you in Albany.

Honor Flight

WWII members of Post 5350 in Quogue were honored with an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The veterans were met by Dennis Sullivan at Islip McArthur Airport. Dennis serves as the VFW Community Service Chairman for the Department of NY.

Post and Auxiliary members of Post 4927 in Centereach greeted them and provided them with snacks and shirts that identified them as Honor Flight participants. It was a memorable experience for them – one they will never forget.



Department of New York Color Guard



L-R: John Gister, Monnie Zepakowski, Larry Fox, Terry White and Allan Fox.

Visitation to Fisher House, Albany, NY



L-R: State Commander Jack Haight, Richard Kraus, Jr. and Vice Commander Jack Veazy.

During a visit to the Fisher House in Albany the group shown above was greeted warmly and given a grand tour of the house. The picture was taken in the living room and you can see a picture of Zackery and Elizabeth Fisher hung prominently over the fireplace.

When you walk in the front door of the Fisher House, it's almost the same as walking into your own home.

*I told my wife that a husband is like a fine wine;
he gets better with age.
The next day, she locked me in the cellar.*

2009 VA Disability Rates for Retirees and Their Families

For the complete table showing compensation categories, visit the VA Web Site.

Disability Rating	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Only	\$123	\$243	\$376	\$541	\$770	\$974	\$1,228	\$1,427	\$1,604	\$2,673
Veteran+Spouse			\$421	\$601	\$845	\$1,064	\$1,333	\$1,547	\$1,739	\$2,823
Vet+Spouse +1 Child			\$453	\$644	\$899	\$1,129	\$1,409	\$1,634	\$1,837	\$2,932
Each addtl child up to 18			\$22	\$30	\$37	\$45	\$52	\$60	\$67	\$75
*Each addtl child 18+			\$72	\$96	\$120	\$144	\$168	\$192	\$216	\$240

Jack Sanford

Department Patriotic Instructor

As the Patriotic Instructor of the Department, there hasn't really been anything new to write or inform you about from my perspective. So I figured that I would leave the state newspaper alone for more important things.

As most of you know, I hail from Brooklyn, New York, where almost anything can – and does – happen. Recently I saw a news report where a Hispanic church was having some sort of parade. In the parade, they were protesting something about America (which is no surprise) and one of the parade participants was carrying an American flag upside down. I found this rather disturbing, in as much as the police were there to ensure that there were no problems.

We are told by the Supreme Court that the desecration of the American flag (and that's exactly what it is) by any person or persons is protected under the Freedom of Speech.

We are told by our elected officials (almost all of which have never put on a uniform and served this country), that we should be proud to live in a country where we can express ourselves in such a manner (I don't think so).

A few weeks back, a man was arrested for burning a flag. I don't remember what flag it was, but the important thing was, it wasn't the American flag. He was charged with a Hate Crime. Now isn't that sad. If you burn any countries' flag in our country, it's a Hate Crime; but if you burn the American flag, it's the Freedom of Speech. I don't understand it.

Ironic as it may be, this may be the only way that we will be able to protect the flag. Under some Hate Crime Legislation. I'll keep you posted on how I make out.

What all these people fail to understand is, the American flag is the symbol of our identity and we should be proud of that identity, not ashamed of it as the rest of the world would have us be. We should hold our heads high to the rest of the world because, after all, they still come here for a better life.

We also have to get back into the schools and teach the children about respect to the American flag as a symbol of this great country. The American Flag represents all of its citizens, regardless of their differences, and that is where respect begins. Respect the flag for our country and for each other.

George Osborne

Department Membership Chairman

First, we want to congratulate the winners of the winter conference "Table of Honor." They were Francis Day of Post 44, Larry Bowman of Post 8438 and John Ambrose of Post 7414. I want to thank all the other members who were close.

So far, we only have one winner of the State Commanders Special Watch but we have five others who are close. For the \$100 drawing at the Convention we have six in the running so far, but many others are also close. For the State Commanders Pin and Tie Bar we have the following winners so far: John F. Aures, William Baker, Dave Czarnecki, David E. Dox, Jim Durkin, Paul E. Dyer, Jim Fields, Alan Fox, William H. Goebel, Lawrence H. Goins, Victor Gomez, Frank J. Hrynio, Daniel Kell, Patrick M. Kenney, Elton Klein, Joe Konczynski, Robert A. LaDuke, Jerry L. Lenox, Jr., Richard A. Lozo, Alan W. Moore, Andrew P. Pacos, John R. Rae, Bing C. Reaves, Sr., John F. Ronga, Albert J. Smith, Michael Spellman, Robert Stairs, Jr., Dennis M. Sullivan, Bernard L. Thompson, Firth Turner, Joel D. Vanik, Thomas J. Warren and Michael W. Webster. Many others could win at the Convention. Remember, read the membership book for awards you can win. We would like to see everyone a winner this year.

We are already ahead of the total new and reinstated for all of last year. The bad part is that of the total, 604 were not assigned or signed up by anyone. Many more members could have been winners. Thanks for the great job you are doing and let us keep it going for our Commander and for our Department. Remember, reinstatement is where to look.

Ron Sakonyi

MAP Chairman

I thank all the Posts that participated in the Heroes at Home Program with the 46 Sears stores throughout our state.

This program which started in late October and ran through December helped military service members, veterans and their families make necessary repairs to their homes. Through the Heroes at Home Wish Registry, military families registered for items that they needed this past holiday. Your contributions were welcomed, and I again thank you for the holiday spirit you've shown.

The New Year started with VFW Post 1545, along with other veteran organizations, sponsoring a Wounded Warriors Weekend Program at Windham Mountain Adaptive Sports, held from 9 January to 11 January 2009. The program brought permanently injured soldiers, Marines and sailors to Windham Mountain to learn how to ski and snowboard. These U.S. Servicemen and Women, from both Walter Reed and Brook Army Medical Centers, were injured during their recent tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. The "Wounded Warriors" and their family members were provided these opportunities free of charge, including transportation, lodging, adaptive equipment and individualized instruction in over a dozen different winter and summer sports. The program offered Wounded Warriors the chance to rebuild their lives through sport.

In cooperation with Christopher Mattiace, who is the Post Quartermaster and Committee Chairman of VFW Post 1545, a MAP Grant Application was submitted by Jan Milles, Post member of VFW Post 7765 and approved by National for a grant of \$6,000. Additionally, other VFW Posts made donations towards this event which was fun filled and a well-attended program.

For FY 2008 – FY 2009 NMS donations for Department of NY were \$26,810.65. There were 650 telephone cards issued. Total calls for NY were 21,454 which accounted for 264,534 minutes for the year.

Several Posts/Auxiliaries were involved in forwarding care packages, along with telephone cards and the free call dates during the holiday season, to service members and units. Notably, they were Lockport Post/Auxiliary 2535 (25 International telephone cards), Dansville VFW Post/Auxiliary (2 International Cards), Phoenix VFW Post/Auxiliary (50 International Cards) for the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, and Mayville Post/Auxiliary 8647 who forwarded 20 Domestic Cards to stateside service members/units and 13 International Cards to service members/units deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The MAP office of the National VFW has available upon request framed Memorial Commendations for the family for the service members from our Department. If you would like to request a Memorial Commendation, please contact the MAP office with the name, rank and branch of service and the shipping information, including telephone number.

In the past year, we've had our share of casualties as a result of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. We should so honor these families with this presentation.

God Bless the men and women who serve our nation in the cause of freedom and God Bless America.

Allan Fox

Department Voice of Democracy Chairman

Below are the 2008-09 Voice of Democracy Contest winners for the Department of New York.

1st Place – Molly Woodfield, sponsored by Post 53, Chautauqua County Council, District 6.

2nd Place – Amelia Vangellow, sponsored by Post 8495, Monroe County Council, District 8.

3rd Place – Christina Rombola, sponsored by Post 6194, Suffolk County Council, District 1.

Post 2913 in Patchogue, NY held its first annual UVO Christmas party and it was a great success with approximately 115 veterans and friends attending. *They will be hosting a Valentine Social on Friday, February 13th.

Past Commander-in-Chief George Lisicki



L-R: Dept. of New York Jr. Vice Commander Jack Veazy, Sr. Vice Commander Allan Davenport and Past Commander-in-Chief George Lisicki.

2008-2009

Legislative Agenda Department of New York VFW

Cold War Veterans Recognition

Currently under New York State law, veterans who served during the period of the Cold War are not eligible for certain entitlements due to the lack of a recognized campaign ribbon or other award. This is especially true of veterans who served on the Korean Peninsula since the end of the Korean War. The departments concerned with veteran entitlements should review and correct these oversights so as to bring equity to all veterans.

Military Quality of Life

With the ongoing hostilities that our country is involved in, we are concerned with quality of life issues for New Yorkers who are stationed outside of this state and service members who are stationed in the Empire State from other states. We urge our elected officials to ease the problems inherent with long deployments and separation from loved ones. To accomplish this goal many "red tape" issues should be mitigated.

Health Care of Members of the National Guard

Health concerns of the members of the New York National Guard and the New York Air National Guard is a major concern. We encourage New York State to ensure higher and safer standards for preventive medical practices and health screenings administered to all members of the National Guard and Air National Guard. The standards that currently exist need to be reviewed and upgraded and we further encourage the federal military to adopt higher standards as well.

Veteran Owned Business Preference

Many veterans returned from serving this great country and formed businesses. They served this country and our state with great honor. This should be taken into consideration when state and local governments are accepting bids. We support some type of mechanism that would grant a veteran-owned business a preference in the bidding process for state and local contracts.

Property Tax Exemption

Each year we return to this issue. While there has been progress, there is more that can be done. We believe that the exemptions should be based on the true value of the veteran's home, not an arbitrarily set figure or a portion of the value. The exemption should be determined like the "Star Program," in that the return to the veteran would be on par with the veteran's service to country.

The Flag Amendment

There has been little talk of this measure to protect the flag that we fought for and bled for. The protection of the American Flag is at the very foundation of what we believe in. We must protect the American Flag at all costs. We also encourage flag and patriotic instruction in all schools and keeping God in the Pledge.

Trees for Troops



Past State Commander Ben Thompson (2nd left) making a presentation at Dee's Nursery. Also pictured, left to right are: Margie Ginn, President of Aux. 1896; Dennis Sullivan, Department of NY Community Service Officer; Jim Adelis, American Citizens for Soldiers in Service; Cain Moodie, DHL Gateway Director (JFK); and Cathy O'Reilly, DHL (JFK).

Veterans of Foreign Wars teams up with Express Delivery Company and the New York Community for Annual Trees for Troops Program and Send-Off.

For the fifth straight year, through their VFW Military Family Support Center Proctor-Hopson Post 1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and its Ladies Auxiliary in Jamaica, New York teamed up with Dee's Nursery, American Citizen for Soldiers in Service, DHL (JFK Gateway), and the NY and NJ Port Authority Police Department for their annual Trees for Troops program. Through this partnership, 500 live trees, thousands of holiday decorations and "Santa Sacks" filled with holiday cards written by school children and scout groups showing support to U.S. troops will be delivered to our deployed troops in the Middle East. The special holiday shipment lifted off December 8th from John F. Kennedy International Airport. It received a special send-off celebration at Dee's Nursery of Oceanside and DHL's gateway facility at JFK. The New York shipment will be followed by a second shipment of 250 additional trees and holiday decorations originating from Riverside, California.

With the support of VFW Posts, Auxiliaries and members across New York State, along with other veteran's organizations, families, schools, senior citizen groups, scouting units and corporations from across the country, a total of \$13,500.00 in donations was presented by Past State Commander Ben Thompson of Post 1896 on behalf of the VFW. Transportation of the trees and supplies to the Middle East was provided by DHL, the global market leader of the international express and logistics industry.

The send-off commenced at 10:00 a.m. with a ceremony at Dee's Nursery in Oceanside, New York. From Dee's, the shipment went by motorcade to DHL's gateway facility at John F. Kennedy International Airport, where it was loaded onto the aircraft. After a brief ceremony, the aircraft departed for Bahrain, where the holiday shipment will be separated and distributed to military units throughout Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members were honored to have Mrs. Dawn Esposito, a Gold Star Mother who lost her son in Afghanistan and Marvin Scott of WPIX (CW11) News spend the day with them.

Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program



In the top picture, members of Post 7955 and its Ladies Auxiliary kick off their Christmas Adopt-A-Family program at their December Christmas party with a visit from Santa, Mrs. Clause and an Elf. Santa had contacted the Post Commander and encouraged the VFW and Auxiliary members to bring their children and grandchildren. Santa provided some treats for all the children. During the party, the winners of the Adopt-A-Family raffle were drawn and the prizes, which were donated by local businesses, were awarded.

Commander Anderson said that the Adopt-A-Family program is in its 16th year and was originally set up to help less fortunate veterans and their families during Christmas. He said with the generous donations from community businesses and residents, combined with the prizes donated for our annual raffle, other less fortunate families in the community are "adopted": however, veterans remain the priority. Anderson said that Santa, Mrs. Clause and an Elf visit each of the families in the Adopt-A-Family program on Christmas Eve to deliver the Christmas presents for the children and food items for the family.

In the picture below, representatives of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office present Post Commander Anderson and the Ladies Auxiliary Secretary Helen Anderson with their donations for the Adopt-A-Family program. Their donation was raised between members of the Columbia County Corrections Guards, Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association, Sheriff Harrison and his department officers.



Commander Haight's Christmas Party



Commander Haight held the Commander's Christmas Party on December 12th. The department officers for the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary shared this wonderful occasion.

Boy Scout Troop 157



Boy Scout Troop 157 contacted VFW Post 2736 and expressed their wishes to do something for our military troops in Iraq. They settled on collecting items useful to the troops and after the collections were completed, they had enough to fill seven large boxes.

Post Commander Otto Jensen (standing on the right side of the picture with the cane) was quoted as saying, "These young men did a great job and God bless America and our Scouts."

The seven boxes of supplies collected by the scouts were added to the boxes prepared by Post 2736 and sent to Iraq.

VFW Post 7291 and Auxiliary Visits Stratton VA Medical Center



L-R: Karen Covey (volunteer manager) Donna Finn, Ron Thomas, Mary Pacheco and Miguel Pacheco.

Member of VFW Post 7291 and Auxiliary visited the Samuel Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany and presented a Flag and 60 patriotic gift bags and some books to be distributed to the patients.

TREES for Troops – Thank You Clips:

Please give our warmest thanks to all of the groups that supported us with the tree, lights and ornaments. Words cannot say how much it means to our Warriors. I passed them out to each of my Battalions, and I did not have one left over. **(Hill, Weltia CSM MNC-I USA 304 CA)**

Thank you very much for the thoughtfulness and dedication you have shown for us, the tree has been an immense boost to morale! It is an excellent feeling being here and knowing that the VFW, our comrades in arms, are there at home taking care of us and our families. D Co 1-67 AR Company would like to thank all of you. **(Sturm, Thomas CPT MIL USA FORSCOM)**

We have received three trees and lights from your organization. The tree's are posted at Patrol Base Doria, Rashad Valley, Iraq. I want to say thank you on behalf of all of the Soldiers in B Company 1/67 CAB. You all have made the holidays a little bit more like home. **(ISG Callahan, Kevin R.)**

Thank you so much. We did receive the tree and ornaments. As a matter of fact, WPIX recorded our tree-lighting ceremony and it was with the gifts sent by you and your organization. Thank you so much for your support. **(Plata, Tony B CPT NG FORSCOM)**

Takin' Care of Business



L-R: Commander Jack Haight and Adjutant Art Koch are seen here reviewing some papers in the Commander's office at Department Headquarters.

Travel Reimbursement Increase

Service-disabled and low-income veterans who are reimbursed for travel expenses while receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities will see an increase in their payments beginning January 9.

A recently passed law allows VA to cut the amount it must withhold from their mileage reimbursement. The deductible amount will be \$3 for each one-way trip and \$6 for each round trip – with a calendar cap of \$18, or six one-way trips or three round trips, whichever comes first. The previous deductible was \$7.77 for a one-way trip, and \$15.54 for a round trip, with a calendar cap of \$46.62.

"I'm pleased that we can help veterans living far from VA facilities to access the medical and counseling help they deserve, especially in the current economic climate," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Together with the increased mileage rate approved last month, we can further reduce the financial hardship some veterans undergo to use our superior health care."

In November, Peake announced VA's second increase in the mileage reimbursement rate during 2008, from 28.5 cents to 41.5 cents a mile.

Service-disabled and low-income veterans are eligible to be reimbursed by VA for the travel costs of receiving health care or counseling at VA facilities. Veterans traveling for Compensation and Pension examinations, also qualify for mileage reimbursement. VA can waive deductibles if they cause financial hardship.

Post 1545

The U.S. Army Freedom Team saluted the Sgt. James F. Carty, D.S.C., **VFW Post 1545**, Windham, NY with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The citation reads: "For outstanding contributions to the United States Army. The Army greatly appreciates your support of soldiers fighting the Global War on Terrorism and is proud to recognize your personal sacrifices in preserving the freedom and security of our nation."

William "Doc" Schmitz

Department Surgeon

The health of our nation is currently suffering and correspondingly the health of our people is too. We need to take the leadership role as we did when we served our country.

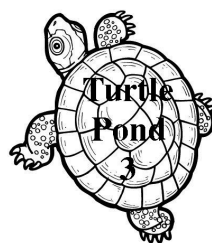
Are you registered at the VA? Are your friends and acquaintances? Many veterans offer excuses as to why they don't register. For example: I have good insurance, others need it more than me, my health is fine. With people losing their jobs, prices on the rise, some have been forced to cut costs, like their insurance. If you register at the VA, you add money to the VA budget. All you have to do is use the system once a year to keep it active. Even if you don't qualify for care now, you can apply again at a later if your income level changes. Please encourage and help other veterans to register.

Support fundraisers to help other organizations. Put on reasonably priced dinners at your posts and open it up to the public. Let your members know if they need help, you're there. Helping others is good for your body, mind and soul. It's our country, and it is our responsibility as the greatest combat VSO to help.

The Dept. has a relief fund, the same as your Post. We are in need of some donations. Please consider making a donation.

On a lighter note, I have received the endorsement of the Dept. of N.J. VFW for my run for the high office of National Surgeon General. Good Health To You And Yours.

*"A wise man speaks,
because he has
something to say.
A fool speaks,
because he has
to say something."
- Lao T'se*



Melvin Garrett

State Judge Advocate

Believe it or not, each issue provides many things to talk about. For starters, we see Posts existing on the edge because they do not have Post Bylaws which are approved by National Headquarters. Many are not aware that the property deeds are not in the name of the Post. The old adage that the deed should be in another name other than the post is dangerous. "Remember" the VFW is not in the real estate business. If you do not protect your assets (property), you can legally lose everything.

The Post officers, and especially the Trustees, should be aware of how the Post is structured. A review of this should be done every three to five years. Post security is very, very important. Example: Alarms, video cameras (in vulnerable areas) safes, locks and good strong doors.

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to think about the first half of the year. It is time to evaluate the leadership since July 1, 2008. In approximately four months, you will be making a decision to nominate and elect new or incumbent leaders. "Choose Them Wisely." The future success of the Post depends on it.

Finally, carefully check the eligibility of new applicants and also get to know who you are signing up in your Post. Being sure today prevents embarrassment in the future.

Dennis Sullivan

*Citizenship Education and
Community Service Chairman*

As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we not only honor those who have served and defended their country, but we also get involved in the community and provide community service. This is what we are all about, giving back to the community, showing them that we are still there for them.

After compiling the reports covering May 1 to October 31, 2008, the totals are as follows:

All eight districts participated; 204 out of 569 Posts participated. Total money spent was \$440,775. Total hours was 81,776.

I am now receiving second half reports covering November 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. If you want to receive credit, please get your reports to me on time. If you are looking to receive a white hat, filing a Community Service report is one of the requirements.

It has been a gratifying tradition for the VFW to be associated with community service in many different organizations. My main concern is our constructive community service, including the volunteering to benefit education and citizenship.

Each year we honor teachers who have worked with our children in their classrooms and taught them the importance of Americanism and Citizenship. They volunteer their time and effort and deserve to be recognized.

We had five Districts that participated with 11 Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries. They nominated 10 teachers from 12 schools. In my opinion, each teacher is a winner but only one can be chosen in each category. This year's teacher's award winners are:

Category K-5: Phillip Immohr, District 2, Brewster Post 672, Brewster, NY.

Category 6-8: Bonnie Ellis, District 7, Frederick Totten Post 5005, Geneseo, NY.

Category 9-12: Richard Acritelli, District 1, Fischer Hewins Post 6249, Rocky Point, NY.

Our children are our future and their teachers are such an important influence over them. Each Post should start in June to encourage schools to nominate their teachers for next year's Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year.

If anyone has questions on how the program works or what paperwork must be completed, please do not hesitate to contact me at dmsullivan9@optimum.net. Remember, without the proper forms and completed paperwork, the teacher can be disqualified.

Definition of a Veteran

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check and made it payable to "The United States of America for an amount of up to and including my life!"

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

-Author Unknown

Harold "Hal" Burke

Quartermaster

I hope that you had an enjoyable Holiday Season and that your New Year will be filled with health and prosperity.

By now all of the Post, County Council and Districts should have filed their 990 for 2007. The 990 filing date for the year 2007 was November 15, 2008. For those Posts with gross receipts of less than \$25,000 you may file on ine at the following Web site address: <http://epostcard.form990.org>

Continuous Members are reminded that their annual membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars expired December 31, 2008. Commanders and Quartermasters are encouraged to make every effort to renew the membership of continuous members.

We are planning a seminar by New York State Racing and Wagering at the Legislative Conference on Saturday, February 21, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at our Legislative Conference. This seminar is an open forum for VFW, Ladies and Men Auxiliary members. Please plan on attending.

With personal financial situations changing, some of you may be interested in the following offer from VFW Reverse Mortgage Services. The VFW has developed a new plan with Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation so our members can get reverse mortgages on their homes. This plan will allow our members to get the extra cash they need, and can enable them to eliminate their mortgage payments. Members who are 62 years old or older may take advantage of these reverse mortgages. There are no income qualifications, and our members will retain the title to their homes. For more information, you may call Financial Freedom at 1-888-258-0797 or www.vfwhomeandloan.com

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as the Department Quartermaster. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am at headquarters on Tuesdays and Fridays and can be reached at 518-463-7427 or any time by e-mail at qmnnyvfw@msn.com

Moment of Discussion...



L-R: Patriotic Instructor Jack Sanford and Sr. Vice Commander Allan Davenport.

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

—Bill Cosby

VA Assisting Veterans with Health Care Costs

WASHINGTON – For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

"With the downturn in the economy, VA recognizes that many veterans will feel the effects," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned."

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship, if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other

financial setback. Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

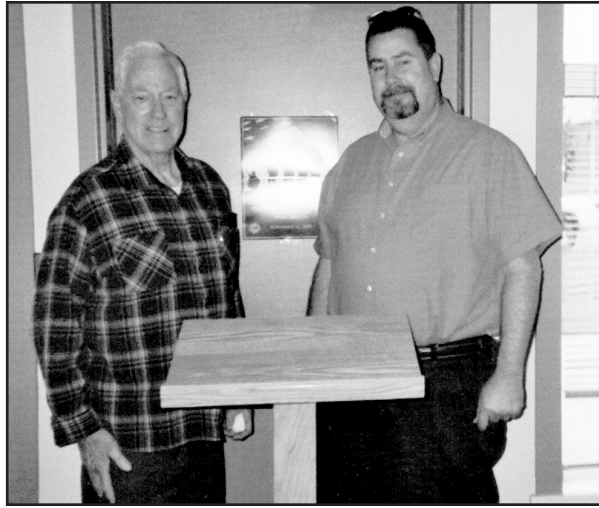
Also eligible for no cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year "clock" begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at www.va.gov/healtheligibility

Speaker Podium

Below stands the "Speaker Podium" which was presented to the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. The podium was made by William (Buck) Bounds who is a Life Member of Post 7291.

Miguel Pacheco, Jr. (left) presented the podium to Dan Cassidy (right), the administrator at the cemetery.



Levittown/Island Trees Post 9592 Dedicate Memorial on Veterans Day



After over five years of perseverance, a monument to area veterans is unveiled during their Veterans Day Ceremony at Levittown Veterans Memorial Park, in Levittown, New York.

Among those who attended the dedication was Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray; Dennis Dunne, County Legislature; Gary Hudes, Town Councilman; Joe Saladino, Assemblyman and several hundred town residents, the local press and veteran organization members.

Also in attendance were members of the Fuentes Family, whose son was killed recently in Iraq, and Post member Ed Karopczyc paying special tribute to his son Stephen, a Medal of Honor recipient from Vietnam 1967.

PCC Jack Stein said, "The pride we feel for these soldier's and their families will be long remembered and their names will be permanently etched, not only in our hearts, but also in Levittown's Veterans Memorial Park."

Oakwood Heights Post 9587

Commander Scribani thanks all who attended the Veterans Day Services. The Post held a Christmas Party for the children on December 14th and Santa stopped by with some toys.

Woman Takes Command of 369th "Harlem Hell Fighters"



Councilmembers Inez Dickens (L) and Melinda Katz (R) present Colonel Stephanie Dawson (C) with a proclamation for her leadership of the "Harlem Hellfighters."

Col. Stephanie Dawson, the first female brigade commander in New York Army National Guard history, took command of the 369th Sustainment Brigade on October 1, 2008. The Change of Command Ceremony for the unit known as the "Harlem Hellfighters" (because of the unit's daring conduct in World War I) took place on November 16, 2008.

Col. Stephanie Dawson, who is a Life Member of Proctor-Hopson Post 1896 Veterans of Foreign Wars in Jamaica, New York, is the first female officer in New York National Guard history to command a brigade level unit. Her last assignment was deputy commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade. Prior to that she served as commander of the 27th Rear Operations Center and deployed that unit to Iraq in

2003/2004. In an interesting twist of fate, as executive officer for the 369th Corps Support Battalion during the unit's 9-11 activation, she helped spearhead battalion relief, security, supply, transportation and other logistics support missions for initial Ground Zero operations, where she was a civilian employee for the Port Authority, before the collapse of the WTC complex.

Col. Dawson is a 2007 graduate of the Army War College, as well as the Army's Command and General Staff College and the Combined Arms and Services School. Her awards include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

The commander of the "Harlem Hellfighters" was recognized by the New York City council on Tuesday December 9, 2008. Council members Melinda Katz and Inez Dickens presented Dawson with a proclamation. "I'm so proud that you serve in command of the 369th Harlem Hellfighters," said Dickens, "For it to be served by a woman of color, a strong woman of color, is a huge step; for not only our city, but our country."

"At the end of the day, my commitment to my unit is that they will train as they will serve and that they will

be strong – Army strong" said Dawson.

In civilian life, she is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and works for the Chief Operating Officer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey where she is Assistant Director of Operations. Dawson is also a Life Member of the 369th Historical Society.

The 369th "Harlem Hellfighters" is a National Guard unit with a prestigious past. The 369th traces its heritage back to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard, an all African-American unit organized in 1916. In 1917, the regiment was sent to France and renumbered as the 369th Infantry, but because American Army officers maintained segregated combat formations, the Soldiers were initially used for supply duties. The French Army, though, was more than happy to have these Soldiers fight for them and in May 1918, the 369th went into the trenches. In tough fighting in France, the unit won a regimental Croix de Guerre from the French Army, and 200 individual Croix de Guerre were awarded. The unit also sustained 1,500 casualties and won itself the nickname "Harlem Hellfighters" and the respect of the German opponents and French allies. The 369th saw more frontline service than any other American unit in World War I. In World War II, the unit served as the 369th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment, and in the Gulf War of 1991, it served as the 369th Transportation Battalion.

The 369th Sustainment Brigade is one of nine such support units in the Army National Guard. A Sustainment Brigade provides command and control for combat service and combat service support units which enable the Army's combat teams to fight by providing fuel, ammunition, medical supplies, repair parts, and medical and other services. A Sustainment Brigade can support from one to 10 brigade combat teams depending on the number of service and support units it controls.

http://en.epochtimes.com/n2/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8390&pop=1&page=0

NEED YOUR HELP!!

Joan Chwalisz - Trustee
VFW National Home
for Children

We are planning on bringing a few children from the VFW National Home for Children to our New York State Convention in Buffalo in June 2009.

I need everyone's help to accomplish this. If each Post and Auxiliary could manage to make a \$10.00 donation or whatever donation you can, we could cover all the expenses and perhaps present a check for them to take back to the home.

I do not usually beg, but I feel so strongly about this that I am appealing to each and every one of you for your support.

Please make checks payable to New York State VFW and earmark your donation in the memo section: **National Home Children to Convention.** Send your donation to the Department Headquarters, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Thank you for all that you do for our children and the National Home. We are honoring our Veterans by helping to make things easier for their children.

Post 8647

VFW Post 8647 and its Men's and Ladies Auxiliaries raised \$750.00 for the VFW National Home for Children during a craft/vendor/bake sale.

"The man who smiles when things go wrong has thought of someone to blame it on."

— Robert Bloch

Legislative Conference/ Spring Conference

February 21-23, 2009

Marriott Hotel
189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205

Tentative Meeting Schedule

Saturday, February 21, 2009

2:00-4:00 p.m. NYS Racing and Wagering Seminar

Sunday, February 22, 2009

7:30 a.m. C of A Breakfast
8:30 a.m. C of A Meeting
10:00 a.m. Legislative Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. Membership Meeting
10:00 a.m. National Deputy Meeting
10:00 a.m. Veterans Service Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m. Gold Chevron Ad Book Committee Meeting
1:00 p.m. General Session
7:00 p.m. **Gold Chevron Ball (deadline for dinner tickets February 13, 2009)**

Monday, February 23, 2009

9:00 a.m. Board Buses for Meeting on Capitol Hill
2:00 p.m. **On Site Committee Meeting (it is extremely important that as a veteran organization, we need to fill the room to capacity at the Legislative Office Building on Monday morning, February 23rd, to show support for our 2009 VFW Legislative Program.)**



POPPY MOBILE



VFW Post 1161 located in Newburg, NY purchased this GMC SUV, which will serve the Post in a variety of ways.

Once it was purchased, Post Quartermaster Steve Fanizzi got a brainstorm idea to use the car even when it wasn't physically being used. He named the car "POPPY MOBILE" and uses it when the Post does Buddy Poppy drives. The car is also used during membership recruitment and during community activities. The car is available to the Post members for emergency trips to the VA Hospital or other necessary visits.

The best part is, even when the car is parked, people look at it closely and it has become a silent recruiter for the Post.

New Members Appointed to Committee on Women Veterans

WASHINGTON (Dec. 23, 2008) – Four new members have been appointed to the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), an expert panel that advises VA on issues and programs affecting women veterans.

"I am pleased to welcome the newest members of this committee to the important job of serving America's women veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Members of this committee work tirelessly on behalf of women veterans to improve outreach, ensure access to VA benefits and recommend ways in which VA can better meet their needs."

Established in 1983, the advisory committee makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes. The committee members are appointed to one, two, or three-year terms. The new committee members are:

- Davy Coke of Poway, CA, a retired Navy second class petty officer who served in Vietnam. He currently is a trainer and mentor for new service members in the aerospace field.
- Yanira Gomez of Germantown, MD, a former Army medical

specialist who served in Iraq. She is currently serving as national outreach officer for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

- Gloria Maser of Alexandria, VA, a colonel in the Army Reserves. She is a former deputy chief of staff for health affairs with the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Iraq. She currently works for a strategy and technology organization.

- Barbara Ward of Sacramento, CA, a former staff nurse in the Air Force. She currently serves as the deputy secretary for women and minority veterans affairs in the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Women veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the veteran population. There are approximately 1.8 million women veterans. They constitute nearly 8 percent of the total veteran population and about 5 percent of all veterans who use VA health care. VA estimates that by 2020, women veterans will make up 10 percent of the veteran population.

VA has women veterans program managers at VA medical centers and women veterans coordinators at VA regional offices to assist women veterans with health and benefits issues.

VA Compensation and Pension Checks – Direct Deposit

Every month, 730,000 veterans or survivors look for their compensation, pension checks or educational assistance payments in their mailboxes. Nearly all receive them, but theft and mail delays cause problems for some veterans, which can be prevented by direct deposits.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is urging those veterans and family members now receiving paper checks to join nearly 3.1 million others whose VA payments are safely deposited electronically.

"VA is teaming up with the Treasury Department in a new campaign to protect government beneficiaries against the theft of funds and of their identities," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

"Veterans earned – and rely on – the financial support we send

them every month. I urge them to help VA ensure they get those funds reliably and safely by signing up for direct deposit." Peake cited several easy ways to sign up for direct deposit – calling VA toll-free at 800-333-1795 or enrolling online at www.GoDirect.org

Veterans and family members who receive VA payments also can sign up by contacting a VA regional benefits office or their financial institution. Information about direct deposits will be included in VA's monthly compensation and pension envelopes throughout 2009.

The VA Secretary urged veterans to remember that direct deposits relieve worry about mail delivery being delayed by severe weather or natural disasters. The deposits also eliminate trips to banks or credit unions to deposit checks, while providing immediate access to money at the same time each month.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Article Deadline for Next Issue:
APRIL 15, 2009

PLEASE don't wait until the deadline to send your article. I will be setting up the paper as I receive the information from officers, chairmen and Posts.

DEDICATED TO SERVING OUR
UNITED STATES MILITARY
AND OUR VETERANS!

IN GOD WE TRUST!
GOD BLESS AMERICA!