



NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



2009

Oct./Nov./Dec.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

And a special Merry Christmas to our troops that are serving in harms way.

Volume 29,
Issue 1

Allan E. Davenport Department Commander

It is hard to believe that three months of my one-year term is over. I have had some hard decisions to make, but did what needed to be done. National Convention and the Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming went well, as did most of the places I represented the veterans of our great state.

Our Fall Conference in Albany was in the early part of October and was very well attended, and most stayed for all the meeting. Our programs are well on their way, and I am sure that the chairman will report to you in the newspaper on their goals.

We are doing well on membership, and I want to thank all that have paid their dues thus far. If you haven't, please do so soon as we really need you to keep our numbers strong. Again, we are an organization that was formed to fight for the benefits we all earned while serving our country. If you have your benefits, thank the veterans before you, and now we must fight for the veterans after us.

I would like to thank Arnold Anderson, our past editor, for his service and job well done. As you can see we have a new editor, Doug Herbert, and I am sure he will do the job for you.

I want to thank all of you that sent cards for the passing of my sister. I didn't put it out there, as I wanted it to be more private to pay my respects to her husband and my good friend, Timothy J. Geren.

My sister was a wife, a mother and a sister of Life Members of the VFW. She is survived by her husband, Tim, a Vietnam veteran, her daughter, Kelly (a Korean Service Veteran) and two brothers: myself (a Vietnam veteran) and David Davenport (a Gulf War veteran and a Senior Chief in the U.S. Navy, serving 24 years). Linda C. Davenport-Geren, 65, lost her battle to cancer. She was a mother of three children, had 11 brothers and sisters and was a grandmother of seven.

Six of her brothers served their country, four in combat. So many wanted to know of my sister, so I saw it fitting to tell it in this format. Thanks again for your cards, your service to our country and this organization.

Please keep working for this organization, even if it is just paying your dues. I will do my utmost to work and serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



National Representative for Spring Conference

*Richard L. DeNoyer
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief*

Richard L. DeNoyer was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 20, 2009, at the VFW's 110th National Convention held in Phoenix, Arizona.

DeNoyer served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960-1982, including a tour in Vietnam, July 1966-July 1967, attached to AMMO Co., Force Logistics Support Group "A," 3rd Marine Division. His decorations include the Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Drill Instructor Ribbon.

DeNoyer joined the VFW in 1981 at Post 1012 in Medford, Massachusetts where he maintains his Life Membership. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander in 2000-2001. He also has served on numerous national committees, and as Chairman of the Eastern

States Conference.

After his military retirement, DeNoyer served as a national service officer for the American Veterans of World War II organization. In 1988, he began working for Paralyzed Veterans of America as a national service officer, senior benefit advocate and national field director, as well as supervising the Boston office and nine offices in the northeast.

DeNoyer is a member of The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Marine Corps Mustang Association, Retired Officers Association and Masons.

Rich and his wife, Theresa, make their home in Middleton, Massachusetts.



Jack Veazy Sr. Vice Commander

I had the pleasure to travel with other members of our Department to Phoenix, Arizona for the 110th National Convention. I attended the Eastern States Conference in Ocean City, Maryland. It was a great learning experience; I also learned what other Posts are doing for this great organization.

The time is slipping by, three months into this year already. By now all Posts should be working on their programs and have sent reports to Department. We should be helping our State Commander,

Allan Davenport, on his special project which is Parsons Child and Family Center. Hopefully each Post, County Council and District has donated generously.

Remember the backbone of this organization – MEMBERSHIP.

A reminder to District Commanders: Please send me the money for the Commander-in-Chief pins by the end of December.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Harold Leavor Jr. Vice Commander

Comrades, it's been a pleasure traveling around our great Department of New York meeting with many of you that have not had the opportunity to attend a conference. Try and plan ahead in the future to attend a spring conference, state Convention or the fall conference. We need to see more comrades getting involved, especially our female comrades and the younger members of our organization that have served in the Global War on Terrorism,

along with the many other conflicts and campaigns. We need to build our membership back to where it used to be in the Department, and I hope we can start this year with our Commander Allan Davenport. Let's all work together for the Department of New York.

By the time you receive this *Overseas* news article, the year will be almost half over. Remember your Post
— JR VICE, continued on page 2



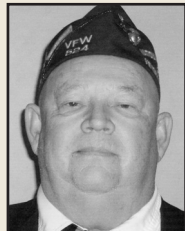
Photographer:



John Brunato



Editor:



Doug Herbert

**INSIDE
this
NYSOV**



Page 2: 2009-2010 Department Chairmen

Page 4: Bulletin Board

Page 5: POW-MIA Monument at Post 524-Corning

Page 6: Eagle Scout Award

Page 7: *The Wall That Heals*

New York State Overseas Veteran

USPS 507-710
ISSN# 0199 2724

The official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204. Periodicals Postage Paid at Albany NY, 12204-2527 and additional mailing offices. Phone: 1-518-463-7427

**** 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 e-mail 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: vfwnyeditor@aol.com** (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 Douglas M. Herbert, PO Box 138, Campbell, NY 14821-0138 607-527-6025

**** Graphic Design & Layout:** American Graphics & Design, Inc. 3380 S. 108th Street, Greenfield, WI 53227 Jenny Deback, President; Cindy Chic, Graphic Designer www.agad.com

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

William "Doc" Schmitz Department Surgeon



What is the surgeon's job? That's kind of easy. One of them is to assist members dealing with physical issues; let's take that a step further, mentally.

Yes, sir, there is nothing physical that isn't related directly or indirectly to your mind. So, here we go. Medical people know for a fact that attitude influences our functioning, it affects all aspects of us as people. If one has a negative attitude, we heal and recover slower. We all love the VFW; our patient is in pain, suffering and in some respects, has died a bit; and that effects all of us. we're kind of bummed out. I remember our patient (VFW) when she felt better, and so did we. Well, I guess we better do something about it, and it's my job to give you my diagnosis - it's attitude!!!!

Rx. Increase membership, knock off bickering and work together, despite our normal disagreements (it's normal to disagree). Prognosis of the patient depends on all of us, doing what is right for our organization. I, for one, have hope and faith we will all do the right thing - breathe life back into our VFW.

With all of that, I wish us all good health; and thanks in advance for working together.

Art Koch Department Adjutant

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 handle 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 complaint 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.

JR VICE, continued from page 1

Inspections, Community Activities, Poppies...and let's not forget our Service Officers across our state that are always working hard for our veterans benefits and welfare. I encourage all Posts to take an ad in the Gold Chevron booklet, supporting our Service Officers and Claim Consultants for the great job that they do.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, along with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that you enjoy the best in health.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

2009-2010 Department Chairmen

Bowling	Wilber Gray	585-343-8867
Boy Scouts	Verl Ringgenberg	845-887-3025
Buddy Poppy	Fred Schwally	718-383-0602
Community Service	Dennis Sullivan	631-736-7722
Bauer Fund & Emergency Relief	William "Doc" Schmitz	607-962-7398
Hospital	Willie Burks	516-483-0437
Inspections	James Durkin	585-455-5047
Legislative	James McNally	716-484-9224
Life Membership	James McGrath	607-547-8707
Membership	Don Doell	607-382-0737
National Home	Robert Walton	585-344-0867
National Military Service	Ron Sakonyi	316-623-7523
New Posts	Michael Pascal	631-758-9498
PAC	Frank Giles	716-287-2148
POW-MIA	Robert Spicer	516-781-0126
Publicity	Doug Herbert	607-527-6002
Special Project	Dan Meholczo	607-733-3628
Veterans Service	Jim Vinsonhaler	315-730-0451
VAWS	Stephen Neftleberg	718-646-4920
Voice of Democracy	Mike Webster	315-562-3699
Youth Activities/ Patriot's Pen	Mike Spellman	315-736-2456

507-710
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
1. Publication Title: NEW YORK OVERSEAS VETERAN
2. Publication Number: 0199-2724
3. Filing Date: SEPT 18, 2009
4. Issue Frequency: JAN/FEB/MAR APR/MAY/JUN
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$1.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+®): DEPT OF NEW YORK VFW 1044 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY 12204
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): DEPT OF NEW YORK VFW 1044 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY 12204
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
Editor (Name and complete mailing address): DEPT OF NEW YORK, 1044 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY, 12204
607-527-6025
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): DOUGLAS M. HERBERT, PO BOX 138, CAMPBELL NY 14821-0138
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
Complete Mailing Address: 1044 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY 12204
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box None
Full Name: _____
Complete Mailing Address: _____
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 3 (Instructions Page 3)) PSN 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: NEW YORK OVERSEAS VETERAN
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: SEPTEMBER 28, 2009
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation
Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run) 68,274 67,589
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies) 68,159 67,474
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies) 0 0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS® 0 0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®) 0 0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)) 68,159 67,474
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541 0 0
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541 0 0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail) 0 0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means) 60 60
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)) 60 60
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e) 68,219 67,534
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3)) 55 55
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g) 68,274 67,589
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100) 99% 99%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the OCT/NOV/DEC issue of this publication. Publication not required.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Signature: Douglas M. Herbert Date: SEPT 18, 2009
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

Wilbur A. Gray State Bowling Chairman

The 5th annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Mixed Bowling Tournament will be hosted by the Auburn Post 1975 and its Auxiliaries.

This tournament may consist of any combination of eligible Posts, Ladies and Mens Auxiliaries. You must have a paid 2010 membership card to bowl, and your cards will be checked at the time you bowl.

The Post tournament director is Mel Spurling and Co-Director Martha Baird.

All bowling events will be held at the Polish Falcon Lanes at 75 Pulaski Street in Auburn.

Dates and times for doubles and singles will be on Saturdays, April 24th and May 1st at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. All team events will be on Sundays, April 25th and May 2nd at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Each team must report to the lanes 45 minutes prior to their time to bowl for their assigned lanes.

The Post will be hosting dinners and music on Saturday evening. On Sunday, the Post will be serving breakfast buffet from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Menus and price lists will be provided in your registration packets at the tournament.

For more information, you may call 315-253-2143.

Dennis Sullivan Citizenship Education Community Service Chairman



It's that time of year where I am compiling all my reports received to calculate what all the Post are doing in the communities. The deadline is nearing, so if you have not sent in your report yet, please do so now. The first six months reporting must be in Department's hands by November 15th in order for me to get it to National Headquarters by their due

date of December 1st. Besides putting your Post number on the Community Service form, please also put the District number you belong to.

We are all with the VFW for the same reason. It is because we believe in the VFW and what it stands for. We prove this by all the programs we run. We are out in the community every day promoting the VFW, so it is very important to document all the hours and money you donate helping our neighbors and fellow veterans. Take the credit you deserve for all that you do.

Remember, Community Service reporting helps to keep our exempt status.

If you are looking to receive a white hat, filing a Community Service report is one of the requirements.

We also need to encourage our schools to nominate teachers who volunteer their time and effort, those who promote Americanism and Citizenship. The categories are grades K to 5th, 6th to 8th and 9th to 12th. It's important to honor our teachers who have worked hard to teach our children the sacrifices of our men and women serving in the armed services. The completed application, along with required documents, are due to me by December 15th. Forms needed are:

- 1) Original entry form and essay of 350 words or less, signed by the person who has nominated the teacher. All words must be counted – including one-letter words.
- 2) Official Post Teacher Entry Form with signatures at Post and District level.
- 3) One page resumé (no more than two sides).
- 4) Up to five pages (both sides) of additional documentation.
- 5) Good quality head and shoulders photograph (no poor quality or computer pictures).

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.

James F. McNally Legislative Committee Chairman

The legislative committee met at the fall conference and chose the following legislative goals for our Department this year.

- 1) **Veterans Home Redemption and Relief Act.** Waive penalties and fees on foreclosures while on active duty. Allow for redemption of property foreclosed when owner was deployed overseas.
- 2) **Funding for VFW Service Officers.** Awarding of grant money to assist the funding of our Service Offices.
- 3) **Cold War Veteran Property Tax Exemption Equalization.** Will allow Cold War Veterans to receive the same exemptions as the regular veterans, and also include the Mitchell-Lama Apt. Co-op owners.
- 4) **Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Opportunity Act.** To include all veteran-owned

small businesses.

- 5) **Veterans Retirement Buy Back Bill.** To include all veterans who receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- 6) **Support the Creation of a Veterans Village at the Montrose Veterans Nursing Home.**
- 7) **To support Veterans Courts** that assist veterans who have not committed nonviolent crimes to deal with their issues.

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary legislative committee chairpersons in the District and County are encouraged to visit their legislators on a local level and let them know the VFW is concerned about veterans' issues. The Department Committee will be making personal visits to the State Veterans Committee members in Albany when they are back in session from January to June. We must let them know we care.

Ron Sakonyi National Military Service Report

Total NMS donations this past fiscal year were \$2,428,034.57. Of this, New York State Department of NY donated \$64,181.17. This breaks out to \$21,685 for Posts, \$10,628.22 for Auxiliaries and \$31,857.95 from individual and other institutions. June, July, August and September NMS donations from Department of NY were \$4,306, \$7,040.83, \$1,807 and \$6,184.96, respectively.

Our donations balance was \$50,338.58. If unused for MAP or Unmet Needs, these remaining donations are used by National to assist other states. It behooves us to take advantage of the Unmet Needs Program or MAP program.

Operation Uplink

NMS provided 700 telephone cards over this past fiscal year to veterans and active duty personnel costing \$3,800.

There were 382,919 telephone connections made during the months of June, July, August and September. Of these, 369,809 connections were made during the free call days of June 21, July 4, August 16 and September 29 amounting to 3.3 million minutes of talk time. Over 96% of our service members are making use of the Internet cafés to call home. On the free call dates listed above, NY service members made 13,418 calls home. Total calls for this year were 56,430.

Unmet Needs

Unmet Needs has surpassed the \$3 million mark in funds disbursed to service members and their families. These funds have helped thousands of military families overcome a financial hardship due to military service. Thank you to everyone that has donated to Unmet Needs to help keep this wonderful program running strong.

During the months of June, July, August and September the Unmet Needs Program provided support to 142 families amounting to \$216,631 nationwide. During this past fiscal year, three families in New York were provided financial assistance in the amount of \$3,482.30. Thus far this fiscal year, we provided assistance to one family in the amount of \$2,500. From June through September, 372,335 military members and their families were supported through National Military Service Programs.

Military Assistance Program (MAP)

Under the Military Assistance Program, 85 events were conducted from June through September consisting of 99,200 attendees and involving 59 Departments. Two MAP grants were provided this fiscal year amounting to \$6,569.29. We held one event in August sponsored by a Post in District 1. William M. Gouse, Jr., Post 3211 of Hicksville, held an annual family day outing and picnic for the 800th MP Brigade. For their effort, a grant of \$569.29 was provided by the MAP Office for this activity. I thank Post Commander William Walden for his Post support to the 800th MP Brigade.

October 12th marked the ninth anniversary of the attack on the *USS Cole*, where 17 American sailors lost their lives. Annually, the VFW places a spray of

roses at the gravesites of 13 of the 17 heroes. The VFW National Headquarters has also adopted the *USS Cole* through the Adopt-a-Unit program. We ask that all VFW members remember these brave men and women.

The new MAP Grant Application FAQ's are now available to download at www.vfwdepartmentresources.org. The FAQ's can be downloaded as a stand-alone document and it is also included in the MAP Grant application. This FAQ provides answers to many questions regarding the MAP Grant procedures.

Memorial Commendations

Nationwide, we had 200 casualties during the period July through September with 53 requests for the Memorial Commendation. In our Department alone, we had seven of these requests. July 2009 was considered the deadliest month (53) to date in Afghanistan.

Memorial Commendations were presented to seven families of U.S. service members killed in action in Afghanistan during the period July through September. They were U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jeremy S. Lasher of Oneida, Lance Corporal James D. Argentine of Farmingdale, Lance Corporal Leopold of Floral Park, Lance Corporal John Malone of Yonkers, and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nekl B. Allen of Rochester, PFC Jeremiah Monroe of Brant Lake and Specialist Kevin O. Hill of Brooklyn. My thanks to District 4 Commander, Paul Burgy, Post 516 Commander Joseph DiStefano, Queens County Council Commander Marvin Jeffcoat, Monroe County Council Commander Richard Kraus, Post 375 Commander Joe Porcelli and John Sanford, District 1 Quartermaster for their assistance in presenting the Memorial Commendation to these families.

My condolence is given to the families and friends for their loss. God bless them and all their families for the ultimate sacrifice during the current conflicts.

Free Call Dates

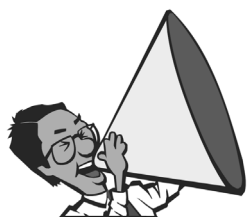
The free call dates for the remainder of the year are: October 18th, November 26th and December 25th. Please communicate these dates to any of our service members whom you have contact with.

From the NMS Office

My e-mail is resakonyi@yahoo.com if you need to contact me or have questions on any of the National Military Service Programs.

We enjoyed seeing all of you at the National Convention in Phoenix and making it a great success for our Department. Thank you to all who donated at this year's workshop. We received \$69,020.00 at the check presentation. The contributions will help us continue our unwavering support of the service members and their families. We would like to give special thanks to our NMS Chairmen for doing such a great job their first year.

Reminder: Please check out www.vfwdepartmentresources.org for pricing of all T-shirts to include colored and pocket T-shirts. Buying T-shirts makes a donation to VFW NMS and fulfills part of the All-American program.



Bulletin Board

Officers Training 2010

Applications for the 2010 OTI will be mailed out the first part of December 2009. Additionally, the application form will be available on the Department Web site. All completed applications and fees are to be returned to Department Headquarters no later than February 14, 2010.

From the Editor

I want to thank Commander Davenport for this appointment. I will do my best to print your articles and keep you informed on the issues important to us as a membership.

Something new for the newspaper is going to be a Life Member "TAPS" listing. Please send me the names of your deceased Life Members with their Post number. No addresses, dates, etc. – just the name and Post number.

The next issue is for Jan., Feb. and March of 2010. Deadline for articles is February 10, 2010. Submit articles to me at the address or e-mail below:

Doug Herbert, Overseas Veteran Editor

P.O. Box 138

Campbell, NY 14821-0138

Office phone: 607-527-6025

Office e-mail: vfwnyeditor@aol.com

If you submitted an article and it wasn't in this issue, please resubmit it to me at the address above. Thank you.

Help Needed

I need your help locating the next of kin for SSG Luis Gonzalez, 27, from South Ozone Park, who was killed on October 27, 2009 in Afghanistan while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Whenever a New Yorker is KIA, the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars tasks the local County Commander with presenting the next of kin with a citation from the State Commander. I have been assigned to perform this solemn duty; however, I am not aware of the arrangement for the internment of SSG Gonzalez's remains.

Please forward any information you may have with respect to funeral services or his next of kin or forward them my information, so that I may honor his sacrifice.

Marvin R. Jeffcoat
50-55 45th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
Home: 718-472-4532
Work: 347-841-4335

**2nd Annual New York
VFW and Auxiliaries Luncheon
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
12 Noon
at
Golden Corral
6855 Gall Boulevard
Zephyrhills, FL**

VFW or Auxiliary members and guests
are welcome to attend.

For more information and reservations:
Martha Ferens at 813-780-9890
or mufassa84@aol.com

Robert Walton National Home Chairman

I visited the National Home on October 1st and 2nd. I met with Todd Marriott, Facilities Director. He told me that House One had the new carpet installed and was painted from top to bottom, and is currently empty and waiting for a new family.

I visited with Misty and Rob, house parents in House Two. I toured the house, all looked excellent. Misty and Rob have been house parents for 20 years. They have had several children over the years.

They were inquiring about getting new landscaping for House Two. The cost of this is estimated at \$2,250.00. This would include bushes, flowers, mulch and edging.

At present, there are 85 children and 27 adults

residing at the National Home.

I did not get my usual letter sent out with the fall mailing, but I will be sending a letter to all the Districts. I would appreciate if the Districts would send a copy of the letter to the county councils and, in turn, have them filter down to the Posts. I will be sending a letter in for the spring mailing.

I attended Harold "Squeakey" Carlson's golf tournament on July 25, 2009 in Geneva. A donation for the National from the Golf and the American War Dads is \$4,200.00.

There is presently \$26,000.00 in the New York National Home account.

Douglas M. Herbert Publicity Chairman

Comrades,

Our image needs to change and one of the best ways to accomplish this is through publicity. Inform the community of all the good your Post does through public service announcements or articles in the newspapers, on the radio or TV.

There are five steps to publicity: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and WHY. If you follow these steps, you cannot fail to notify the public or your members of your good deeds and upcoming events.

We have a Department newsletter – use it to let members know what events are coming up at your Post. If you have a District or council newsletter, put an article in it. If there is a radio or TV station in your area, use it. Get the word out that the VFW is community-minded.

Publicity is another way of advertising. Most public service announcements in the newspapers are free.

Contact your local media people to see what type of services they offer nonprofit organizations. If you start a good working relationship with the local media, you will be amazed at what kind of space you will get in their newspaper.

Publicity is also information. How does your community know what you are doing if you don't inform them of your donations and functions?

We are more than a watering hole – inform the public of our programs – make them aware that we give annual scholarships to students; let them know we support the Boy Scouts. These are a few things the public should know about our organization.

Remember – Publicity is knowledge; and with knowledge you get recognition. Help get the VFW the recognition it deserves by publicizing the good deeds of your Post.

Dan Meholczo Special Project Chairman

Parsons Child and Family Center – founded in 1829 in Albany, New York was started as an Orphans Home, to help save homeless and unwanted children from living on the streets, give them a place to live and protection from the horrors that an uncaring society can produce. The care back then was primitive, but still very meaningful by loving and caring people who did their best to make life better for those destitute and troubled children.

Today children still have the same problems, broken homes, loss of parents, mental health problems and just getting a raw deal from the world, but Parsons Child and Family Center is still here doing their best to make a child's life better, safer and productive. They are given a chance to have a stable environment where nobody can hurt them, and are surrounded by Parsons' staff that give them the guidance and nurturing they haven't had.

The children of Parsons House were recently offered the opportunity to test their skills for our Patriot's Pen and VOD, and the enthusiasm was overwhelming. It was so well-received that one teenage boy who was a problem student, refused to do his schoolwork and had an anti-school attitude, thought

that the VOD essay was a good thing, and turned in a paper that was extremely accomplishing for him, because it was the first time he had shown an interest in anything, and did so with a great willingness. The staff at Parsons was amazed at the outgoing ability that the boy showed for his essay on, "Does America Still Have Heroes?"

This is a first-hand example to that old question, "Have I done anything to help somebody lately?" You have been given an example of how your contribution does well for at least one child that you know of, and that there are many more children that need our help. So please, if you, your Post, Council or District has not donated to the Commander's Special Project, do so now because this is your chance to give to a VFW undertaking that helps children in our area, and remember: "A needy child is everyone's child."

Send donations to: Department of NY VFW, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204. Earmark your check for "Commander's Special Project."

I thank all comrades for your support. You can contact me at: 97 Ridge Road, Wellsburg, NY 14894 or phone 607-733-3628.



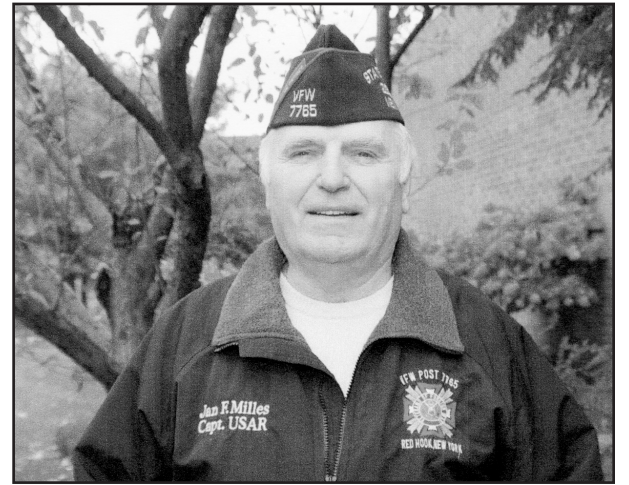
Attending the dedication of the Massapequa Park Veterans and Gold Star Mothers Monument on Sunday, November 8, 2009 are (L-R): Past Commanders Lou Pisano, Richard Magee, Frank Johnson; Commander Richard Begandy; and Past Commanders Al Arcery, Stephen Piller and John Ronga from Sgt. Peter F. Collieran, Jr. VFW Post 7763 in Massapequa Park, New York.



Steve Nefleberg received his accreditation as a Claims Service Officer. He is a member of Post 107-Brooklyn.



Post 672-Brewster was awarded All-American Post. Pictured, L-R: Past Commander-in-Chief George J. Lisicki; Harry Sherblom, Commander of Post 672 and Allen Davenport, State Commander.



Jan Miles of Post 7765-Red Hook is the state's only Membership Recruiter.

POW-MIA Monument at Post 524-Corning



The new monument was dedicated to Doug and Jackie Herbert on Veterans Day 2009, 10 years after the original monument was dedicated. The original monument was designed and built by the Herberts in 1999.

Guardian House

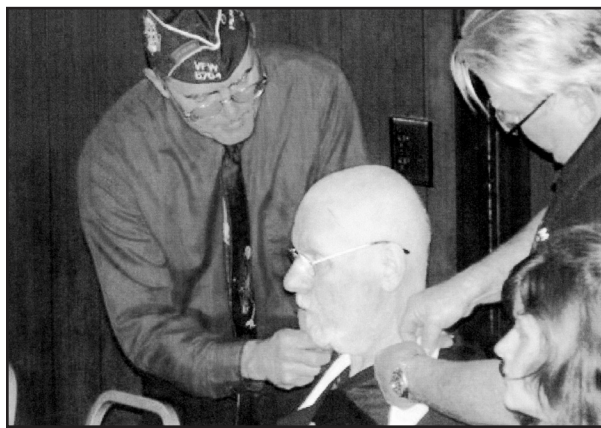
VFW Post 358 supports the Guardian House, a safe haven for homeless female veterans. The Guardian House will be the first fully operating facility of its kind in New York State. The house will be located in Ballston Spa, New York.

Post Commander Bob Starks and Post Auxiliary President Kathy Desfosse talked with the First Lady of New York State, Michelle Paterson, about the project. Kathy has led the Ladies Auxiliary on many fundraising projects for the Guardian House. They have held Pampered Chef sales, Guardian T-shirt and pin sales to raise money for the project. The Ladies Auxiliary also donated \$250 to the project.

On November 11, Veterans Day, our Post Commander Bob Starks, presented A.C. (Budd) Mazurek, Executive Director, SCRPC Board of Directors, with a check from the Post for \$15,000 for the Guardian House.

Joseph D. Brooks
Past Post Commander
Past District 3 Commander

Veterans Day Dinner at Post 6764



Past County Commander Durrance and Post Commander McIntosh presented branch of service and American Flag lapel pins to two guests from Absolut Care who were able to attend. Seven other servicemen who could not attend were presented their pins during a previous visit to the facility.

Southern Tier Donation



Pictured, L-R: David West, Bath VA Medical Director; Lynn Dinehart, Director of Volunteer Services for Bath VA; and George Osborne of the Southern Tier Counties Council. George presented a \$300 check to Volunteer Services from the VFW Southern Tier Counties Council.

District 8 Allan L. Fox

The instructors for the District 8 OTI were: Past State Commander James McNally for Officers; Past State Commander Anthony Ferrarese for Service Officers; and State Inspector James Durki for Quartermaster. The class was held at VFW Pot 2670 on October 24, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A total of 44 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from District 8 attended. The following attended the Service Officer Course:

- Francis Day, Post 44
- Thomas Flanigan, Post 307
- Richard Wisley, Post 412
- Jack Haight, Post 2883
- Kevin Woodbury, Post 5465
- Richard Gough, Post 8495
- Dick Grube, Post 8495
- Ron Swartwood, Post 8726
- George Brown, Post 64533

District 8 held a Membership Drive/Buddy Poppy Drive at Eastview Mall on November 6-8, 2009. Helpers for the weekend were Past State Commander and State Membership Chairman Donald Doell, State Inspector James Durkin, District 8 Commander Richard Kraus, Wayne County Council Commander Richard Trask, Finger Lakes County Council Quartermaster Frank Mooney, Past State Commander Anthony Ferrarese, State Sgt.-at-Arms Wayne "Skip" Campbell and his wife, Cindy, Past State President. Additionally, Specialist Kelly Fox of the New York National Guard helped out on Friday. Unfortunately, she is not eligible for the VFW – yet.

During the weekend, they filed applications for five new members and collected almost \$800 for the District Relief Fund. Some of this money will be used to purchase trees for the Trees for Troops program and the Commander's Special Project.

Contact Your Elected Officials

Submitted by Marvin R. Jeffcoat, SFC, USA (Ret.)

Last year while I was visiting the New York State Legislature in Albany, Senator Addabbo promised me he would do his best to advocate for veterans. I was extremely pleased to read his letter in the November 4, 2009 edition of the *Queens Courier* describing the passage of the "Cold War Veterans Exemption Bill," which he sponsored. Senator Addabbo kept his promise and I intend to keep mine. I strongly urge all veterans to support and encourage elected officials who draft, sponsor and vote for pro veteran and patriotic legislation that secures our economic prosperity, political success and military security, regardless of party affiliation.

Senator Addabbo is a member of the Senate Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee, which is currently working on legislation to allow veter-

ans to discuss their military experience in public schools, provide a real property tax exemption for veterans, exempt veterans from school tax, provide Cold War recognition certificates, educate veterans about small business ownership, and ensure they have access to coordinated and specialized services from multiple state and local agencies.

Please contact your elected officials and let them know it is your desire that they support Senator Addabbo and his colleagues on the Senate Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee when they craft legislation that is pro-veteran and beneficial to our collective well being. In order to ensure the survival of our great and God Blessed Republic, we must sound off loud and clear when our public servants get it right, and when they get it wrong. Joe, you got this one right. Please continue to advocate for veterans.

**Greater Mahopac Post 5491
Softball Team 2009-2010**

*Submitted by Charles Monte,
Commander*

We take a lickin' and keep on tickin' every Wednesday during Softball Season. Our team competes with our local community Highway, Police and Fire Departments, along with teams from FDNY companies.

Win, lose or draw – after each game, food is prepared and served by the Ladies of Auxiliary 5491 and the fun continues back at the Post.

Pictured, L-R: Coach Ken Carroll; Post Adjutant Todd Haviland; Tim "Neph"; Ken Mikus; Mike Cascarano; Rev. Steve Delduco; Anthony Delduco, Post Quartermaster; John Sindet; Jon Jon; Jim Caffrey; Brandon, Post Surgeon; Dave Carrido; Ray Callinan, Post Chaplain and Charlie Monte, Post Commander.



Post 2813

Submitted by Marvin R. Jeffcoat

The John V. Daniels, Jr. VFW Post No. 2813 will hold its annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen awards ceremony in the auditorium of St. Sebastian's School in Woodside, Friday, December 18, 2009 at 8 a.m. St. Sebastian's school is located at 39-76 58th Street, Woodside, NY 11377.

The contestants listed will receive Certificates of Merit. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place contestants will receive prize money and Patriot's Pen contestants will receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place medals, as well. All entries will be forwarded to District No. 1, Department of New York, VFW Voice of Democracy Chairman James Hasselman and Patriot's Pen Chairman James Blount, Jr., PCC for judging and possible advancement to the state level.

This year's contestants are:

**John V. Daniels, Jr. VFW Post 2813
2009-2010 Voice of Democracy
Essay Contest Winners**

1st Place – Thomas Wayden,
North Babylon High School, \$100

2nd Place – Rachel D. Lichtman,
Townsend Harris High School, \$50

3rd Place – Patrick K. Nolan,
High School for Math, Science and Engineering, \$50

**John V. Daniels, Jr. VFW Post 2813
2009-2010 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners**

1st Place – Marsima Hot, St. Sebastian's School, \$100

2nd Place – Victoria E. Ryan, St. Sebastian's School, \$50

3rd Place – Anjelica C. Nicolas, St. Sebastian's School, \$50

4th Place – Rob Jason A. Enate, St. Sebastian's School

4th Place – Daniel An, St. Sebastian's School

5th Place – Branden Warders, St. Sebastian's School

6th Place – Bharna Keipoor, IS 125 Q

7th Place – Eric Alerte, St. Raphael School

8th Place – Anmol Sharedalal, St. Raphael School

2010 Gold Chevron Ball Journal • Boosters Sheet

(Name to be listed in the back of the Journal)

Cost: \$1.00 per listing District # _____

(Booster Sales do not count toward awards)

Booster Name (Please Print)	Seller Name (Please Print)	Post
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Eagle Scout Award



Mitchell Stull was presented with the Eagle Scout Award in November 2009. He is a former Department Winner of the Patriot's Pen contest. Mitchell is 13 years old and is in the 8th grade. Pictured with him is his brother, Justin, who is in the Army and currently serving in Afghanistan.

An 'Angel of Bataan' Dies at 95

Submitted by Joan Furey

An Owensboro, Kentucky native, and one of the "Angels of Bataan" died November 13.

Mary Josephine Oberst, 95, had been living at the Nazareth Home of Louisville.

She was one of the more than 60 Army and Navy nurses dubbed "Angels of Bataan" when they were prisoners of war for 33 months in the Philippines during WWII. As of September 2007, she was one of only two remaining living "Angels."

Dear Friends, let us take a moment to remember her, her fellow POW nurses – now all gone. I always cringe when the media talks about women soldiers today who are serving for the first time in combat. They are truly the first to be issued weapons, but of course, not the first to be submitted to the terrors of combat or be in a combat zone.

If you want to learn more, read "We Band of Angels, the Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese," by Elizabeth M. Norman. It's an extraordinary story about extraordinary women.

Peace to Mary Josephine Oberst.

Commander Joe White and Mr. Hunter



Submitted by Joan Furey,
Jr. Vice Commander Post 433,
Sayville, New York

Sayville resident, Joe Hunter, served in the United States Army during WWII and the Korean War, but was never awarded the medals he earned for his service. That oversight was corrected on November 14, 2009 when Sayville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 433 held a long overdue ceremony in his honor and presented him with them.

Chaplain Ron Bergman read a citation recognizing his service, and Jr. Vice Commander Joan Furey pinned the WWII Victory Medal, the Korean War Service Medal, the National Defense Medal and the United Nations Service Medal on his chest; Commander Joe White then presented Mr. Hunter with a commendation from Congressman Steve Israel, acknowledging his courage and sacrifice in support of his country. Commander White also presented him, on behalf of Congressman Israel, an American flag that had flown atop the United States Capitol Building.

The members of Post 433 were honored to have the opportunity to correct the oversight that delayed Joe Hunter receiving the recognition his service and sacrifice deserved, and are proud to have him as a Life Member of our Post.

Post 1545

Sgt. James F. Carty, D.S.C., VFW Post 1545 in Windham is in the process of Phase 2 of its building project.

Current efforts include rebuilding the front entrance with a handicapped-accessible ramp, establishing ADA compliant restrooms, completely upgrading our electrical requirements, adding a new forced hot air heating system and replacing all the plumbing fixtures.

See the work in progress at www.WindhamVFW.org

Perinton Memorial Post 8495 Hosts *The Wall That Heals*

The Wall That Heals, the half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. was enshrined at Perinton Memorial Post 8495 on Freedom Hill in Fairport, New York from August 20th through August 23rd.

The Wall was escorted to the Post by nearly 300 motorcycles from various veterans' organizations and members of the law enforcement community. It was greeted by Honor Guards in many of the communities along the route of travel. The Wall was accompanied by a traveling museum displaying memorabilia left at The Wall in Washington.

"*The Wall That Heals* transcends the Vietnam War to help our great nation renew its relationship with veterans of all wars," said Jan C. Scruggs, founder and President, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. "It helps veterans from all of America's conflicts find healing and a powerful connection through their common military experiences."

The formal opening ceremony was held on Thursday, August 20th. Color Guards from VVA Chapter 20, The American Legion, Niagara Falls Air Force Base, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, Masonic War Veterans, Patchen Briggs Post 307 VFW, in addition to the Post 8495 Honor Guard, rendered honors. Musical accompaniments were provided by the Fairport Fire Department Band, Ms. Aviella Winder and piper Adam Tianello. Reverend Keith Harrington delivered the invocation and benediction. Guests were welcomed by Jim Smith, Perinton Town Supervisor. The keynote addresses were delivered by Jan Scruggs, founder and President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund and Major General John Batiste, U.S. Army (Ret.). A military flyover of a C-130 aircraft was arranged by Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

After the opening ceremony, *The Wall That Heals* was open to the public 24 hours a day to allow veterans and their loved ones time to visit and reflect. Post 8495 volunteers were available at all times to help visitors. In addition, counselors from The Veterans Outreach Center were on hand to offer help and encouragement to those who needed to talk. Many moving personal tributes were left at The Wall. Estimates place the number of visitors

that viewed the display at nearly 5,000.

The formal closing ceremonies were held on August 23rd. The various Color Guards returned for their final tributes to the fallen listed on the monument. Additional musical performances were offered by the Bethlehem Lutheran Choir. Pastor Steve Hartman of the First Bible Baptist Church of Penfield offered the invocation and final benediction. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Jon G. Hunter, Fairport Superintendent of Schools and Colonel Hector Alvarado, Deputy Chief of Staff, 98th Division. Dick Grube, Sr. Vice Commander of Post 8495, read the names of local casualties listed on The Wall. The final tribute was rendered by Chapter 20 VVA, accompanied by a solo bagpipe.

Post 8495 offered this as a gift to the community. It is our hope that our community has a new appreciation for the sacrifices of all veterans, especially those that pay the ultimate price for our freedom. We must never forget!



Sr. Vice Commander Dick Grube introduces Jan Scruggs to Post 8495 member Rod Bales. Rod's brother's name, Richard L. Bales, is etched on panel 37W, Row 37 of *The Wall*.

Eagle Scout Project

Submitted by Fred Kratz, Post Quartermaster



For their Eagle Scout project, twin brothers Matthew and Thomas Beebe of Scout Troop 235 in Maybrook, NY painted the American flag on the side of Dusenberry-Flannery VFW Post 2064's building in Maybrook. Presenting certificates of appreciation to the brothers are Post 2064 Commander Jim DeMilo (L) and Post Adjutant Richard Holman (R). In center is the boys' grandfather, Guy Carbone.



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The flower of remembrance
They Gave, Will You?

Honor the Dead by Helping the Living





Department of New York
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
1044 Broadway
Albany, NY 12204



Full Page Ad \$90
7-7/8" x 4-3/4"

Please attach your ad
to this form.

Half Page Ad \$60
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Quarter Page Ad \$50
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Eighth Page Ad \$30
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Boosters are \$1

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Tony Ferraioli

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Closing Date for Ads is February 19, 2010

Contract Date: _____

Please insert our advertisement, as indicated above, in the 2010 Yearbook of the State VFW Veterans Service Fund, for which we enclose a check in the sum of \$_____.

Every Post whose members sell at least five Business Ads outside the Post will be entered in a \$100 Award Drawing!!! Any County Council who has at least five Posts Qualify, or any District who has at least two County Councils qualify, will be entered in a separate \$100 Award Drawing!!!