



NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



2010

April/May/June

"Believe in yourself. Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy."
-Norman Vincent Peale

Volume 29,
Issue 3

Allan E. Davenport Department Commander

By the time you get this newspaper, my year as your Commander will be all but over.

I had a good year; we made some gains in our legislative program. Membership is weak and can't go on for many more years or New York's place in our national organization will have lost its clout.

I would like to thank all that work for us, especially Dennis Sullivan, Mike Webster and Mike Spellman.

Our office is in good working order; it's been a pleasure to go there, especially when Grace is there. Grace is the one-year-old daughter of our secretary, Cindy. Dale, Art, Cindy and Allan have made me welcome, and I can say that I will miss that. I hope the Department works well next year under our new Commander, Jack Veazy.

It's been an adventure. Thanks to all that gave their best for New York.



Commander-in-Chief Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr. Will Represent Our National Organization at this Year's Department Convention in June

Thomas Tradewell was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 20, 2009 at the VFW 110th National Convention held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Tradewell served in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968 and earned VFW eligibility while serving with B Company 26th Engineers 198th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) in South Vietnam as a demolition specialist. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.

Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his elec-

tion as Department Commander 1999-2000. He served as National Inspector General in 2001-2002. He also served as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005.

Tradewell earned an associate's degree in industrial safety.

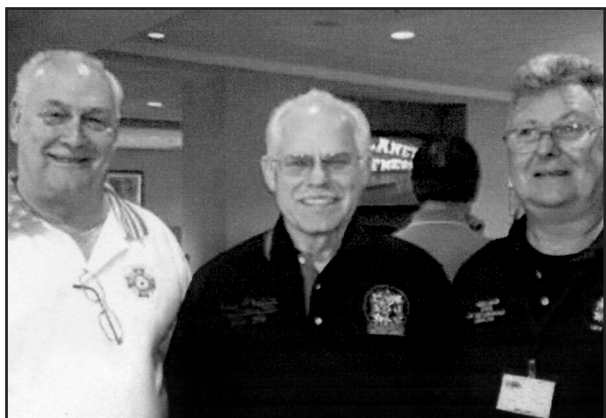
Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service.

He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Cootie, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Tradewell married Sharon in 1966 and they make their home in Sussex, Wisconsin.



Eastern State Conference



Dept. of NY Sr. Vice Commander Jack Veazy; VFW Commander-in-Chief Thomas Tradewell, Sr.; and Dept. of NY Jr. Vice Commander Harold "Mick" Leavor having some social time at Eastern States Conference in Nashua, NH on April 10, 2010.

Dan Meholczo Commander's Special Project Chairman

Parsons Child and Family Center is the Commander's choice for the VFW's opportunity to show our love and compassion towards children that are in desperate need of help. Here is the refuge for children that are in need of guidance and special care. It is also a stepping-stone for children who have had a hard time coping with society and its rules.

The staff at Parsons is all highly-trained in their field to give compassion to those that need it, and to be aware of and guide children that are in need of a stricter regimen of care.

The donations from our membership towards the Commander's Special Project have been very generous so far, but there are still a lot of Posts that have not taken the opportunity to send in a donation.

This newsletter article is my last chance to appeal to those who have not given to the Commander's Project;

to do so now would help raise the size of the check that the Commander will be presenting to Parsons Child and Family Center at the Convention in June.

The recognition of our donation at the Parsons facility will someday have the children asking, "Who is the VFW?" The answer to that is that the Veterans of Foreign Wars are the people who have gone off to war to fight for the freedom that we have today, and that we help to make sure that children are taken care of, and have a safe and loving home, in case they need one.

As chairman of the Commander's Special Project, I thank all of our comrades and sisters who have helped to make this endeavor a success. If you or your Post have not donated yet, make checks payable to "Commander's Special Project" and mail to: VFW Headquarters, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Thank you.

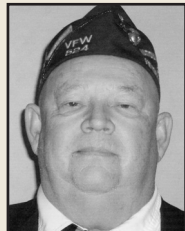
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John Brunato



Editor:



Doug Herbert

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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 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

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

Jack Veazy Sr. Vice Commander



This year is closing down fast; only two months before State Convention in Rochester. As Sr. Vice Commander, I have had great opportunities to travel in support of this great state of New York.

First, to the National Convention in Phoenix, Spring and Fall Conference, Eastern States Conference in New Hampshire and many

Department meetings. I have attended many Post banquets and have met some real oriented VFW members.

I have returned from Washington, D.C. for the Legislative Conference; I also attended the National VOD awards ceremony, where the National VOD winner read her entry, which was exceptional and left her audience in tears. I also attended the Sr. Vice Commander training, which was intensive and, there will be a few changes next year.

Department Membership is good, but still requires one more good push. Remember, the success does not just happen. We must continue to work toward our 100% goal. Just a reminder: you can use your Relief Fund to pay for the members that are unable to pay their dues.

As this is the last article as Sr. Vice Commander, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the Department Officers for a job well done this year.

Karl Rohde Department Quartermaster



We are nearing the conclusion of another term of the VFW. Soon we will all travel to Rochester for the State Convention. The best way to insure that this organization is run correctly and that the rank and file has a say in the operation of the VFW is to attend the State Convention. Hope to see many of you there.

At this time, I am working on the budget for next year. While this is hardly an arduous task, it is demanding. I am required by Department Bylaws to submit a balanced budget. This budget will be the guideline for operation of the Department for the next term. The way each of you can help the Department is by insuring that you get as many members signed up as possible. Much of the money that we have to operate with during each term comes from dues. Please make sure everyone on your roster has paid his or her dues. It is still not too late to get new and reinstated members. Every dollar helps.

While the Department is required to have a budget, there is no such requirement at other levels of the VFW; however, it would be a worthwhile tool for Districts, Councils and Posts. A budget is a fiscal roadmap for the next year. You are not locked into the numbers on the budget, but it is a practical guideline for expenditures and a barometer for income. I urge all levels to try and put together some type of budget.

The conclusion of my article (below) is an e-mail from National. It may help to enhance the income of your Post, Council or District. It is from John Lowe, Deputy Director of the VFW Foundation:

The VFW (through our Emblem and Supply Department) has had a long-standing agreement with Unibic North America, the producer of ANZAC cookies. Moreover, Unibic has been a frequent vendor at the VFW National Convention. At the moment, the company produces three unique and beautiful, limited-edition VFW collector tins for its cookies. Each design honors the heroic combat service of

———— *QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 3*

Harold Leavor Jr. Vice Commander



Comrades,

I'd like to congratulate all the Posts and County Councils that made their 100% or more in membership. I also want to thank all the outgoing officers and chairmen.

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers for the upcoming year 2010-2011. Congratulations to Commander Allan for the fine year he had, along with all the endeavors that were successfully accomplished. Allan, thanks for the opportunity to work with you this year and good luck in the future.

All Posts, Counties and Districts should not forget to send their election reports as soon as possible. This is the Commander's responsibility. Do not take a chance on losing your Charter. Also, remember to register at least one delegate to the National Convention as this is a National Bylaw.

Hope to see you at the State Convention in Rochester. Stop by the hospitality room when you have a chance to say hello.

Return the Favor Campaign

Dear Comrades and Supporters:

A few days ago, I sent you a message informing you that the VFW Foundation was applying for a \$250,000 "Pepsi Refresh" grant to support VFW's "Return the Favor" campaign at the highest grant amount (\$250,000) in the next open period (April 1, 2010).

As I explained previously, we have launched this campaign so that we can continue providing the resources to support the unmet needs of our service members and their families and programs designed to boost the morale of active duty troops and their families.

Since 2004, the VFW and its Foundation has provided over \$3,400,000 in direct grants to military families for unmet needs such as rent, mortgage, utilities, vehicle repair, medical expenses and food/basic aid. In many instances, our intervention has stopped evictions and foreclosures on homes owned by troops and their families. We also hold numerous "welcome home" or "send-off" events for our troops, so that they know that America truly cares and is thankful for their service.

Here is how you can help:

Starting on April 1 (at 12:01 a.m.) you can go online to www.refresheverything.com and vote for VFW's "Return the Favor" project. Click on the "Food and Shelter" category, and then the "\$250,000" grant level. You will find VFW's "Return the Favor" idea, pictures and a YouTube Video about the VFW, its programs and a description of our proposal which begins with, "Return the Favor to troops and their families for urgent unmet needs."

Remember, the projects that receive the most votes will be awarded grants from the Pepsi Corporation. Please vote and vote often for our project. You can vote once every day for our project during the month of April. You can help the effort even more by telling your friends, family and colleagues about our proposal and encouraging them to cast a vote our way. Please send out an e-mail blast to family, friends, colleagues, post a message on Facebook, Tweet about it, or put up a flyer to encourage others to vote, as well.

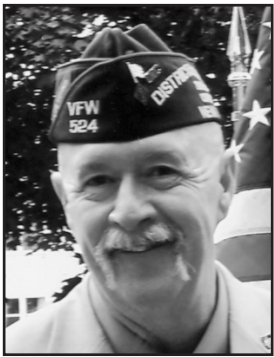
With your assistance, we'll be able to continue working on behalf of our military service members and their families.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr.
VFW Commander-in-Chief

William "Doc" Schmitz

Department Surgeon



A Change in Jobs is a Win for Vets

Our own Dr. Terri Julian, Director of the PTSD Clinics in Batavia, has elected to take a new position at the Buffalo VA.

Her 10 years of service to the clinic and the veteran community has not gone unnoticed. When she was recruited for the position at Batavia VA, the clinic shall we say, needed

some tweaking up. The team under her supervision and guidance went crazy with improvements. Applications for admission to the clinic skyrocketed. The men's clinic was doubled in size; and a new clinic for our female veterans was opened and is about to double in size.

Dr. Julian's direct supervisors, Mr. Feeley, the Director of the Buffalo VA and Harry Rybak, both have assured me that they will be filing the vacancy with a highly-qualified person, and that the clinic will be running at its usual high quality.

In Dr. J's new position, she will be able to impact an even larger portion of our veterans' community and not be just restricted to PTSD (an article on her new position will be in the next issue). Will she be missed at the clinic? That is a vast understatement. She was, and is, an inspiration to both veterans and the VA staff.

In my recent visit to the Buffalo VA, both the administration and staff are extremely happy to have her on board and are looking forward to working with her.

For all, it is a great loss to the clinic; but remember, she has established a great foundation for others to carry on. For those who receive their care at the Buffalo VA, STAND BY – she will not only take care of you – she will win your hearts!

With tears in my eyes, let's celebrate! We get to share our Dr. Terri Julian with more veterans and that's a happy thought! We will be with her in any, and all, of her endeavors!

On Another Note

Taking the bite out of heart troubles: It has been widely researched and found that there is a connection between bad oral hygiene and heart trouble. So grab your floss, toothbrush, water pik, toothpaste...and call your dentist for a check up. Keep smiling!

Melvin Garrett

Department Judge Advocate

Many of my previous articles spoke of the need to be fully aware of the provisions of the "Congressional Charter" of the VFW in order to function effectively during your term of office. If you have utilized these recommendations, then your year will end successfully. If not, and you are re-elected, then you still have a chance for success in the 2010-2011 year.

The Department of New York VFW will host an OTI school on July 30-31, 2010 at the Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York. Once again, this will be an opportunity for you to get basic knowledge of our organization from qualified instructors, whom have taught for many years. Also, you will see some new faces providing valuable information to you as a member of the VFW.

Please take advantage of this offer. It is time well spent for the cost of \$125.00 per person in an air-conditioned facility. We look forward to seeing you in July. Details of the OTI is forthcoming.

Doug Herbert

OV Editor

The following are winners in the Publication Contest; 1st Place winners were sent to National:

1st Place Winners:

Districts:

District 2: The Sentinel; Arthur Hanley, Editor

Posts:

Small category:

Post 600-Canastota, *The Bulletin*; William H. Yorton, Editor

Medium category:

Post 7172-Staten Island, *North Shore VFW News*; Frank Russo, Editor

Large category:

Post 8647-Chautauqua, *Lake Chautauqua Memorial*; Debra Cenni, Editor

The Department newspaper was also sent.

Queens County Council won 1st Place for council newsletters and we had two 2nd Place winners for Post Newsletters: Small category – Post 2064-Maybrook and Large category – Post 6169-Queensbury.

Fred P. Schwally

Department Buddy Poppy Chairman

With the weather finally breaking from this harsh winter, which our entire country has experienced, it is time to consider hardships of others and how we can assist in making their lives a little less stressful.

The Buddy Poppy Program is designed to help everyone connected with the Buddy Poppy project.

Disabled Veterans are able to actually construct these flowers, making them useful in society rather than rely solely on others for their survival.

Distribution of Buddy Poppies by your Post provides income for your Post Welfare Fund, which is designed to help members and their families who are in distress.

Your County and District are recipients of a small monetary gain based on the number of Buddy Poppies purchased by the Post within their jurisdiction.

With such positive items looming on acquisition of Buddy Poppies, why does the number of Buddy Poppies continue to decline?

At the end of February, 282,500 Buddy Poppies have been purchased within the Department of New York jurisdiction, which is 417,500 away from our goal of 700,000.

In order to be eligible for white hat status, a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies must be purchased through the Department of New York Headquarters.

Memorial Day is rapidly approaching. If planning to distribute Buddy Poppies, remember the actual shipping time is six weeks, with the cost at \$130.00 for 1,000 Buddy Poppies. Applications for Buddy Poppies may be attained through the Department of New York Headquarters.

With your help, we will be able to reach our 700,000 goal by Department of New York Convention. Let us work together to reach our goal.

This concludes the Department of New York 2010 Spring Conference Buddy Poppy Report.

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Dennis Sullivan

Citizenship Education Community Service Chairman

It's that time of year again, where I am compiling all my reports received to calculate what all the Posts are doing in the communities. The deadline is nearing, so if you have not sent in your report, please do so now. The last six month reporting must be in Department's hands by May 15th in order for me to get it

to National Headquarters by their due date of May 31st.

It looks like we will be having a good year, but it is too soon to give you my final numbers. My final report will be given to you at the New York State Convention in Rochester.

I would like to thank all the Posts that sent their community reports in on time. Remember for next year, as you run your programs, document all the time and hours you donate to our veterans and communities. Get the credit you deserve for all that you do.

If anyone has questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dmsullivan9@optimum.net



Jim McNally

Legislative Committee Chairman

Our new legislative program of personal visitations with our state legislators seems to be the way to go for informing them of our Veterans concerns. Our committee was favorably received by most legislators and their staff. With a little adjustment, I believe this committee could be one that can make a real difference and have a positive impact on veterans' issues in our state.

One concern voiced at our last committee meeting was the lack of information on veterans' issues available to our membership. I would recommend two Web sites for data. (1) For NYS veterans' issues, go to www.veterans.ny.gov and sign up for their newsletter. (2) For national issues, go to www.vfw.org and sign up for the legislative e-mail. These sites are very informative and deal with the latest information on veterans and VFW concerns. My review and recommendations on our legislative program will be submitted to Department for review.

For myself and our committee, it has been an honor to serve the VFW this year.

QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 2

U.S. troops (two tins based on a WWII theme and one on Vietnam). The VFW name is prominently displayed on the fronts of the tins. Plans call for the introduction of new tin images each year to ensure that customers keep coming back for more. I am excited to announce that Unibic would like to sponsor an ANZAC cookie sale contest that will last from May 15-July 15, 2010.

For an initial investment of \$144 (includes shipping), a VFW Post will receive 18 assorted tins, plus a free cardboard display stand. Posts could then sell the tins at whatever price is desired (\$10, \$15 or even \$20) and keep the profit. Additional tins can be conveniently reordered by the dozen, and you can reorder as often as needed. Sales tracking sheets will be included in each order mailed. VFW Posts then return these to Unibic by August 1, 2010 with the top national individual seller receiving \$500, the winning VFW Post gets \$1,000 and the VFW Department with the most sales will receive \$5,000.

Winners will be announced at the 2010 VFW National Convention in Indianapolis. If you or your Post are interested in this opportunity or have any questions about the contest, please contact Angela McLeod at VFW National Headquarters. She can be reached at 816-968-2739 or e-mail her at amcleod@vfw.org

Ron Sakonyi
National Military Service Programs Report

Total NMS donations were \$1,926,806.14 for this fiscal year. VFW Posts donated \$388,476.52, Auxiliaries donated \$274,608.53 and other individuals and institutions donated \$1,263,721.09. February and March NMS donations from Department of NY were \$4,099 and \$6,671, respectively. This fiscal year Department of NY has donated \$34,519.35 toward NMS programs. At our annual spring conference, \$215 was raised in a raffle for NMS programs.

Operation Uplink

NMS provided 2,355 telephone cards over February and March to veterans and active duty personnel. During the Valentine's Day Free Call Day event, New York military service personnel made 2,969 calls home. On the 14 March Free Call Day event, New York military personnel made 2,607 calls home. The free call dates scheduled thus far for 2010 are: May 9th, May 30th, June 20th, July 4th and August 22nd. Please communicate these dates to any of our service members who you have contact with.

Unmet Needs

During the months of February and March, the Unmet Needs Program assisted 112 families with financial aid amounting to \$153,285 nationwide. During the same period, 170,407 military members and their families were supported through National Military Service Programs.

Military Assistance Program (MAP)

Under the Military Assistance Programs, 30 events were conducted from February and March consisting of 36,964 attendees and involving 25 Departments at various times. No activity was noted for the Department of NY during this period. 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 68 casualties during these past two months. Twenty-five requests for the Memorial Commendation were forwarded. We had presented four of these Memorial Commendations.

They were: Cpt. Daniel Whitten from Iowa whose burial was at West Point; U.S. Army Specialist Alan N. Dikcis from Niagara Falls; U.S. Army PFC Jason Kropat from White Lake; and U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Frank World from the Buffalo area.

My thanks to District 2 Commander Art Hanley, Commander David Dolson of Post 54, Sullivan County Council Commander Keith Rumsey and Dave Zarnecki for his coordination, Erie County Council Commander Lance Becker, and especially Ray Peterson, for efforts related to the presentation of the Memorial Commendation to the family of Sergeant Frank World.

Steve Van Buskirk
Director of Programs

March 29, 2010

An Open Letter to All Who Work the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Programs

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have just completed another successful year of our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship programs. I am writing to express my gratitude for all your hard work and commitment to America's youth and these vital programs. I know that many of you have served for several decades. You have my admiration for your dedication. Your service has brought immeasurable honor to our organizations and the veterans we all serve.

I am also very pleased that, in the past two to three years, I have begun to hear from new chairmen eager to grow the program at their Post, District and Department. Please know that I and my staff are as close as your telephone to help you in any way we can. My number is 816-968-1116 and my e-mail is svanbuskirk@vfw.org

Most of you who know me, know my feelings about our scholarship programs. For those who don't, please allow me to share a bit of that philosophy.

**Department of New York
2009-2010
Voice of Democracy
Winners**

The Voice of Democracy **1st Place winner is Laney R. Feraldi-Ackerman** from Arcade, New York. She is 17 years old and a senior at Pioneer Central School, Yorkshire, New York. She was sponsored by the Hendershot-Maness VFW Post 374-Arcade in District 7.

This year's **2nd Place position goes to Gabrielle M. A. Bennett** from Franklinville, New York sponsored by Franklinville Post 9487-Franklinville in District 6.

The **3rd Place winner is Zachary Zane Price** from Brewerton, New York, sponsored by Trach-Auringer Post 7325-Constantia in District 5.

The runners-up are:

Benjamin P. Palmer, Queensbury, NY (sponsored by Adirondack Post 2475-Glens Falls, District 3).

Zackery Mark Leader, Gouverneur, NY (sponsored by Silas Wainwright Post 6338-Gouverneur, District 4).

John R. Farren, South Setauket, NY (East Setauket Post 3054, East Setauket, District 1)

Congratulations to all of you.

Michael W. Webster

Lisa Raplee

State Youth Dev. Recog. & Scholarship Chairman

Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairman

It is wonderful that we provide more than \$3 million in scholarships and incentives each year. However, the real value of these programs is the contact we have with today's young people.

The values inherent in the service and sacrifice of America's veterans and their families must be encouraged in future generations. As wartime veterans and those who waited for them, you understand the values of teamwork, commitment, love of country, selflessness and sacrifice. These are the same values that made our nation great and have sustained her through her most difficult days. If this nation is to continue to survive, these values must be passed on. Our scholarship programs are one way this occurs.

I read, in essay after essay, how a young student meets a veteran and learns about how they feel about their service and their country. The resulting essay reflects a deep respect for veterans and a greater love of our nation and its history. This is a result that cannot be purchased and, if it could, we could not afford to buy it. This is the value of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.

Again, thank you for all your hard work, miles driven and money spent from your own pocket to make the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship Programs successful. Bless you for your dedication and commitment. You served proudly and continue to serve honorably. Nothing finer can be said of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Van Buskirk

Director of Programs

Special Note: In past years, we have mailed scholarship information to approximately 70,000 teachers. This year, due to the generosity of The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, we just completed a mailing to over 370,000 teachers. Candidly, I hope that our Posts will be able to handle what could be a substantial increase in the number of teachers and students wishing to participate in our programs. Please encourage your Posts to be ready to respond to these requests.

Department Patriot's Pen Participation Report Summary

Participation Totals:

60 Posts	34 Auxiliaries
2,207 Students	180 Post Winners Advanced
Districts/Auxs: 8/8	County Councils/Auxs: 1/1

All Districts that advanced a winner to the Department level:
District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Actual Amount of money awarded to participating students:

Posts	\$13,931.50
Districts	\$2,058.55
County Councils	\$250.00

All Additional Expenses associated with Patriot's Pen Program:

Posts	\$7,360.00
Districts	\$855.47
County Councils	0
Department	\$200.00
Other	0

Department Awards:

1st Place	\$500.00
2nd Place	\$300.00
3rd Place	\$200.00
Other	\$500.00

Total Savings Bonds:	\$17,740.05
Total Additional Expenses:	\$8,415.47
GRAND TOTAL:	\$26,155.52

Patriot's Pen Winners

The following are the winners of the Patriot's Pen contest for 2009-2010 at the Department level and how they finished. If you have any questions, please call me at 315-736-2456.

Michael Spellman – Department Patriot's Pen Chairman

1st Place, \$500 – Brianna Cart
2600 Rt. 17C, Owego, NY 13827
Owego Post 1371 – District 5
Southern Tier Co. Council

4th Place, \$100 – Juhi Kapoor
86 Carolina Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550
Jamaica Post 1896 – District 1
Queens Co. Council

4th Place, \$100 – Justin Hoy
15 Old French Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
Lima Post 26 – District 7
Western Co. Council

2nd Place, \$300 – Kristyn DeNicola
176 Rt. 416, Campbell Hall, NY 10916
Maybrook Post 2064 – District 2
Orange Co. Council

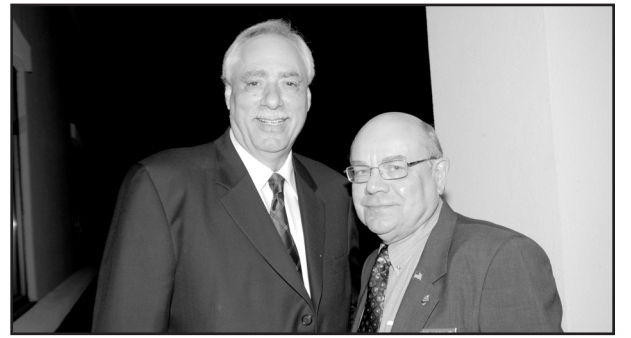
4th Place, \$100 – Courtney Altenburger
16 Muirfield Lane, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Clifton Park Post 1498 – District 3
Hudson Mohawk Co. Council

4th Place, \$100 – Tabitha Truelson
112 Cloverland Drive
Rochester, NY 14610
Penfield Post 820 – District 8
Monroe Co. Council

3rd Place, \$200 – Tyler Cline
777 Carpenter Hill Road, Cuba, NY 14727
Cuba Post 2721 – District 6
Cattaraugus-Allegany Co. Council

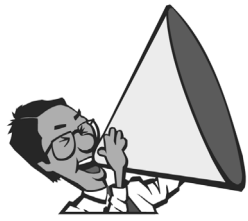
4th Place, \$100 – Nichole Ward
104 Jones Road, Gouverneur, NY 13642
Gouverneur Post 6338 – District 4
St. Lawrence Co. Council

Spring Conference – Liverpool, NY



Eastern States Conference – Nashua, NH





Bulletin Board

Resignation

Just a quick note to let everyone know that I submitted my resignation to the Governor informing him that effective June 15, 2010 I would be leaving state service. I made this decision in order to fulfill commitments made to family and pursue a challenging opportunity in the private sector.

I want to say thank you to each and every one of you. My time as Director has been very rewarding, both personally and professionally.

I wish each of you the very best. It's satisfying to know that there are such noble people taking care of our veterans and their families.

Colonel James D. McDonough, Jr. (Ret.)
Director, NY State Division of Veterans Affairs

VA Updates Online Application for Health Benefits

Washington (May 5, 2010) – Veterans will find it easier and faster to apply for their health care benefits now that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its online Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits."

"VA is committed to tapping into the best that technology has to offer to ensure Veterans receive the benefits they have earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We continue to look for new ways to improve access to care and benefits."

This revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits. This new version also allows Veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records.

The most significant enhancement allows Veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over. Previously, Veterans had to complete the form in a single session.

This updated online form, along with the revised VA Form 10-10EZ, reduces the collection of information from Veterans by eliminating some questions.

In addition, there are minor changes to simplify the wording of questions and provide clarity in the instructions. Further enhancements to the online application are expected to be delivered in increments throughout 2010.

Veterans may complete or download the 10-10EZ form at the VA health eligibility Web site at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez>. Veterans may also contact VA at 1-877-222-8387 (VETS) or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at www.va.gov/healtheligibility

Military Discounts Update 02

All these businesses offer military discounts; all you have to do is ask:

Restaurants

Arby's • A&W • Back Yard Burgers • Burger King • Captain D's • Chick-Fil-A • Cotton Patch • Denny's • Dunkin' Donuts • Farmers Boy • IHOP (20 percent discount with military identification) • Java Café • KFC • Long John Silver • Pancho's Mexican Buffet • Pizza Hut • Quizno's • Sizzler • Sonic • Taco Bell • Whataburger

Services

AT&T • California Cryobank • Geico • Jiffy Lube • Meineke • Sears Portrait Studio

Travel and Leisure

Blockbuster • Movie theaters • Ripley's attractions and museums • Professional Sports teams

Products

Apple Computers • AutoZone • Barnhill's • Bass Pro Shop • Bath and Body Works • Big 10 Tires • The Buckle • Champs Sports • Copeland's Sports • Dell • The Discovery Channel Store • Dress Barn • The Finish Line • Foot Action • Footlocker • Gadzooks • GNC • Goody's • Great Party • Happy Harry's • Home Depot • Hot Topic • Jockey • Lerner • Lowe's • Michael's • NAPA Auto Parts • New York & Company • Pac Sun • Payless Shoes • Play It Again Sports • Pure Beauty • Sally Beauty Supply • Spencer's Gifts • Suncoast • Timberland Outlets • Wilson's Leather

Cell Phone Service Discount

All Federal employees are able to get a 15% discount on their personal cell phones by calling their carrier and mentioning the "Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 – Discount to Federal Employees, Past and Present." You will need to know the military member's supervisor's name, phone number and full address, so that his/her military status can be verified. Use the following contact numbers: Cingular: 800-319-6393 • Sprint: 877-812-1223 • T-Mobile: 866-646-4688 • Nextel: 800-639-6111 • Verizon: 800-865-1825.

[Source: VA Frederick Service Office Maryland VSO msg.
 26 Apr 2010 ++]

From the Editor

In the last newsletter, I had a picture from Post 6196-Queensbury, submitted by Barry W. Cronkite, Quartermaster. The name of the veteran receiving the donation was not listed in the article. I want to apologize to him. His name is Forrest E. Robinson.

I've enjoyed these last eight months working on the newsletter. Thank you, Commander Allan, for the opportunity to serve you and the comrades of the great state of New York, as editor and publicity chairman.

I want to thank Art Koch for all his help and Doc Schmitz for his advice when I started. We have a great photographer in John Brunato; thanks for your help and great pictures. I also want to thank our publishing

company, American Graphics & Design; it was a pleasure to work with all of you. Lastly, to my wife, Jackie, what can I say? You are the best secretary anyone could have; thank you for all you have done for me and for the veterans.

To the new editor: I have copies of the Post, Council and District newsletters that were sent to me and I will pass them on to you – you will need these for the Publication Contest at the end of the year. If I receive any articles, I will also pass them along.

The Posts, Councils and Districts do excellent work – get your projects and events in the newspaper. What better way to publicize all you do for our communities and organization?

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a comprehensive study of women veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War to explore the effects of their military service upon their mental and physical health. VA realizes that women veterans require specialized programs, and this study will help VA provide high-quality care for women veterans of the Vietnam era.

The study, which begins in November and lasts more than four years, will contact approximately 10,000 women in a mailed survey, telephone interview and a review of their medical records.

As women Vietnam Veterans approach their mid-60s, it is important to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later. The study will assess the prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical health conditions for women Vietnam veterans, and explore the relationship between PTSD and other conditions.

VA will study women Vietnam veterans who may have had direct exposure to traumatic events, and for the first time, study those who served in facilities near Vietnam and in the United States. These women may have had similar, but less direct exposures. Both women veterans who receive their health care from VA and those who receive health care from other providers, will be contacted to determine the prevalence of a variety of health conditions.

About 250,000 women veterans served in the military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in Southeast Asia and those who served in the United States are potential study participants.

The study represents to date, the most comprehensive examination of women veterans, and will be used to shape future research on women veterans in future wars. Such an understanding will lay the groundwork for planning and providing appropriate services for women veterans, as well as for the aging veteran population today.

The study, to be managed by VA's Cooperative Studies

Program, is projected to cost \$5.6 million. For more information on the study, you may go to the following Web site: <https://www.csp.research.va.gov/csp579.cfm>. For information on how to participate in the study, please call 1-888-831-3325.

Joan A. Furey, RN, MA
Jr. Vice Commander
Post 433, Sayville, NY

To the *NYS Overseas Veteran* Editor:

I needed to give this feedback and a perspective on my wife's unexpected passing in early March. We'd only been together seven years, so she was still learning the value of the military family and community.

First, I knew my DD 214 was stored in one of our barns. The funeral director, to whom I was certain I had provided a copy, could not locate it. I made a call to my VFW Post 420. Not only did Assistant Quartermaster George J. Eckert find a DD 214, but he personally carried it to the funeral home. Unbeknownst to our family, he also came during the visiting hours. His outstanding and continued dedicated performance verified the ability to have my wife's ashes interred in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery. His actions provided me and our family great relief.

Second, I was at the groundbreaking and dedication and have attended a few veteran's services at the Solomon site. I was always struck with the serenity and sanctity. However, in this trying time, I never expected to feel the perfectness of our moment and the comfort. The experience refilled my strength and courage.

Third, as the Irish humor arises, I have been able to tell all my military colleagues my exact, final, home of record. It doesn't get any better to be a veteran. Thank you for letting me serve.

David M. Cummings
COL, Retired, U.S. Army
Post 420, Saratoga Springs

VFW Change of Address Form

(Please Print)

Member Number: _____

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Mail to: **Veterans of Foreign Wars**
Data Entry
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

District 3 Miss VFW Winner

The Old Tryon Miss VFW competition was held on March 13 at VFW Post 3275 in Fort Plain.

Tracy Nellis was the 3rd Place winner, Miss Alyssa Introne the 1st Runner-up and Miss Cassie White took the crown for 2010.

The initial tally had another candidate in 1st Place, but unfortunately, she had to be disqualified because she would not be available to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the title.

Miss White was informed last week of her elevation to Miss VFW and she was elated. As one of the judges, I can attest to her excellent speech and she will be a great Miss VFW.

The prizes for Miss VFW are \$100.00 from the Council, two checks for \$25.00 each, and a \$25.00 gift certificate from Peebles Store. She receives her sash, crown and a necklace from the local jewelry store, which says "Miss VFW" on one side and the year on the other side.

The runner-up receives \$50.00, as well as gifts from the Auxiliaries. The winner was presented with a bouquet of roses and the runner-up with a bouquet of carnations and poppies.

The Quartermaster from VFW Post 942 stated the Post gave each contestant \$25.00.

All three are entered in the District Miss VFW program on May 14, 2010.



Pictured, L-R: District 3 Commander Don Mackey, Miss VFW Cassie White and District 3 LA President Darlene Stanton.

Post 557

Post 557 is located near the Village of Bemus Point, New York on a high bluff overlooking Lake Chautauqua in the county of Chautauqua, western New York state. We are composed of veterans from all our country's wars in the last 70 years. We have a small Post, close-knit and very family-oriented. We make a strong effort to participate in county VFW affairs, local charity efforts and especially, the sports needs of our young people.

Many hours of effort have gone into our snug little club, including our new cook shack that provides shelter for steak fries, rib roasts and other culinary efforts during inclement weather (which we do have occasionally in winter).

If you have occasion to visit the area on vacation or business, stop in and see us. We welcome our VFW buddies.

Harold Almquist
Post 557



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 entranceways with a handicapped accessible ramp, establishing ADA compliant restrooms, completely upgrading our electrical requirements, adding a new air heating system and replacing all the plumbing fixtures.

Unfortunately, the recent snowstorm of February 23-26, 2010 has caused a major interruption to our project. Both of the front porch roofs have collapsed, due to the weight of the snow. This area had been recently refurbished with new decks, railings and a handicap-accessible ramp. Another crippling blow was being informed that our insurance does not cover this type of damage.

Once again, we are asking for assistance from the community and our membership. Contributions to the Post Building Fund may be sent to VFW Post 1545, P.O. Box 598, Windham, NY 12496. All supporters will receive appropriate recognition and are greatly appreciated.

As always, our sincere thanks and appreciation goes to all of our most generous and loyal supporters.

Chris Mattiace
Commander

Post 1653



Pictured, L-R: Commander Arthur Brannigan presents a check for \$5,000 to Karen Covey of the Albany VA Hospital. Lee Brown, Quartermaster and Cecil McClure, Adjutant, look on.

Falvey-Fringi Post 1653 of Granville, New York made donations of \$5,000 to Albany VA and \$5,000 to White River Junction VA in Vermont. "As we have members from New York and Vermont, we always donate to both VA hospitals."

On January 13, 2010 Cecil McClure and Quartermaster Lee Brown presented a check for \$5,000 to Betty Acheson of the White River VA Hospital in Vermont.

We have a 93-year-old WWII vet who drives in for our meetings from Keene, New Hampshire, which is about 2 hours away. He is our Chaplain and does a great job for us at funerals, parades, etc.

Lee Brown
Quartermaster

Suffolk Council Testimonial Dinner



Together Again, the Three Amigos: Denny Sullivan, SCC Commander; PSC Don Doell; and Mike Pascal, Department Chief of Staff.

Post 1666

We celebrated our annual Pearl Harbor Mass on December 6. Again, Monsignor Shelley was the celebrant. The Mass was well attended with members of other Posts present.

We had a successful November accepting donations for Buddy Poppies during Veterans Day month. We are looking forward to May (Memorial Day month) when again we will be offering Buddy Poppies.

Ed Feeley
Sr. Vice Commander and Poppy Chairman
Post 1666-Yonkers

Post 2246

Rome VFW Color Guard Honored to Participate in Canada Ceremony

The Color Guard of the Rome VFW Post performed a flag presentation ceremony at the grand finale of the Stratford Summer Music Festival, Aug. 16 in Stratford, Ontario, Canada. The festival finale was entitled, "A Legacy of Hope – A Salute to America" and included a tribute to President Barack Obama.

A spokesman said the group was warmly received and honored to be invited.

The Post received the invitation to participate following a meeting of congressmen and national VFW officials. The Rome Post Color Guard is also the New York State Color Guard, and was suggested for the invitation.

Color Guard members are Capt. Dan Rooney, director; Jim Conners, Pete Dangelo, Bob Hughes, Ed Marsh, Dave Morgan, Dave Brown, Jack Veazy, Larry Delahunt, Frank Mumford, Butch Swartz, Jim Widelski, John Corcoran and Paul Evans.

The Rome/New York State Color Guard has a long history of service to the City of Rome and the state. The group has performed patriotic ceremonies for many Rome organizations such as the Elks Club, Steczko Post, American Ukrainian Club, Polish Home, Stanwix Veteran and Men's Club, the School for the Deaf and numerous others. The group has traveled all over the state in the official capacity of State Color Guard and has also assisted other VFW groups throughout the state.

The group has been chosen nine times as the state VFW Color Guard. No other Color Guard in the state has ever held the honor more than once, according to Rooney. The group is made up of primarily Vietnam Veterans, but also includes Korea and Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.



VFW Post Color Guard. Members of the Rome Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Color Guard include, kneeling from left: Dan Rooney, Butch Swartz, Jim Widelski and Pete Dangelo. Standing from left: Dave Brown, Jack Veazy, New York State Senior Vice Commander; Ed Marsh and Larry Delahunt. (Photo submitted)

TAPS

February 2010 – May 2010



Post 53-Jamestown
George Smith,
Past State Commander

Post 433-Sayville
Joseph Hunter
Robert J. Trippertree, Sr.

Post 524-Corning
Ned J. Fay

Post 1434-Baldwin
Doy Utsler

Post 2246-Rome
Dave Brown

Mekl B. Allen
James Argentine
Daniel L. Cox
Luis Manuel Gonzalez
Eric A. Jones
Daniel J. Rivera
Amy C. Tirador
Frank World

KIA
Brushaun Anderson
Keith Bishop
Alan Dikcis
Dennis Hansen
Jeremiah Monroe
Aaron Smith
Abraham Wheeler III

POST NEWS, continued from page 7

Post 4785-Brooklyn

The Rankin Healey VFW Post of Bay Ridge conducted a Saint Patrick's/Saint Joseph's celebration on Saturday, March 27, 2010. The event was free to military personnel and their families. The event was attended by veterans (and their families) from every major U.S. conflict from WWII to Afghanistan/Iraq.

Distinguished guests included Colonel Stephen Smith, Fort

Hamilton Garrison Commander; Command Sergeant Major Sylvia Laughlin, Fort Hamilton Post CSM; and NYS Senator Martin Golden. They all came together to honor the sacrifices made by those who have served and continue to serve.

It is important to remember those who cannot be with their families because they are defending freedom around the world. We must also never forget those that made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of justice.

The party was enjoyed by all. There was food, music and much cheer. Please feel free to contact me, the Post Commander, at 718-836-1063 or e-mail me at rankinhealylvfw@aol.com for additional information.

Angel Rios
Rankin Healey Memorial Association

Post 6764

Westfield Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6764 has sponsored a Little Team again this year. Post 6764 and the Ladies Auxiliary donated a total of \$240.00 to the Youth Wrestling team for footwear and \$200.00 to the Golden Hawks for team support.



Pictured, L-R: Sr. Vice Commander Jim McIntosh presents a check from Ladies Auxiliary to Mr. Catalano of the Golden Hawks and Mr. Babcock receives a check for the wrestling team from Commander Robert McIntosh of Post 6764.

Post 8692



Pictured is a Memorial Project successfully completed by Post 8692 in Colonie, New York, which is in Albany County. Photo was submitted by Commander James Haas.

Join us for the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor "Tribute Ride"

The 98-mile ride is open to the public. Bikes, cars, trucks, military vehicles and helicopters are welcome.

Ride will begin:

Marvin Park, Owego, NY (Main Street)
(Register to ride between 8:00-9:45 a.m. on day of ride) Police escorted ride

Ride ends:

In the village of Fair Haven, NY

Itinerary:

Route 38 to The American Legion, Groton, NY
(Departs at 1:00 p.m. – Food/Gas available)

Groton, Home of Medal of Honor Recipient: 2LT Terrence Graves, USMC

Route 38 to VFW/AMVETS Post Montezuma, NY

Montezuma, Home of Medal of Honor Recipient: SP4 Robert F. Stryker, U.S. Army

Route 38 from Montezuma to Fair Haven, NY

Sponsored by:

Vietnam Veterans of America – Chapters 377, 480 and 704

Chapter 17: The Blue Knights Motorcycle Club and The Patriot Guard

For information, contact:

Harvey Baker, Vietnam Veterans of America, 607-898-3507

Dan Baker, The Patriot Guard, 607-229-8153

Bill Chandler, The Blue Knights, 607-222-6357

Barry Langerlan, The Blue Knights, 315-496-2921

Post 4927

Local Veterans and Their Families Get a "Free Ride"

Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington was proud to join with local veterans, businesses and elected officials on March 13 to give away six recycled vehicles to six local military families in need. It is all part of the Recycled Rides Program, a nationwide community awareness project where members of the National Auto Body Council (NABC) work to repair and restore vehicles in order to give them away to deserving military families who are in need of a reliable vehicle.

The giveaway took place at the Centereach VFW, Post 4927. Recipients were identified by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Suffolk County Commander, Dennis Sullivan.

Some of the sponsors who volunteered to recycle the vehicles were 112 Automotive in Patchogue, Riverhead Collision in Riverhead and J&J Auto Body in Ronkonkoma. Vehicles were donated by Allstate, GEICO, Progressive and Travelers Insurance companies.

"It's about time we give the men and women who have fought to protect our freedoms, and their families who have sacrificed so much, the free ride they deserve," said Leg. Eddington, speaking to a crowded room. "And we all know, by the way, how much this ride is not really free and how much our veterans have really had to pay for it. We're all grateful," he added.



Ed Kizenberger – Executive Director of Long Island Auto Body Repairman's Association, Joe Amodei – owner of Patchogue's 112 Automotive Center, Legislator Jack Eddington, Mark Lesko – Brookhaven Town Supervisor, Dennis Sullivan – Suffolk County Commander and Senator Brian X. Foley for the Recycled Rides Program to give away restored vehicles to six needy and deserving local military families.