

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



2010
Oct./Nov./Dec.

"Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men."
-George S. Patton, Jr.

Volume 30,
Issue 1

Jack G. Veazy Department Commander



It's been a very busy summer and we are now entering into the holiday season. Even with the busyness of the holidays, we must be vigilant when it comes to our duties as officers and members of a great organization.

Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen entries are being scrutinized and judged by Districts now, but we must

not become complacent. Trustee and Community Activity Reports are always due, as well as membership; that is always a paramount concern. Retention is one weak point in our organization: we get them and forget them is not a strategy for success, to say the

least. Calling new members to remind them of meetings or events or even inviting them to join you in one of these activities could make all the difference.

The Department of New York has always taken veterans' needs to heart and we always have many various projects on the front burner. One project that is close to my heart is the N.E.A.D.S. Dog Project, and recently I became aware of one of our own recovering from war trauma that fills the bill perfectly. There are extensive articles about this special veteran on page 3 that will enlighten you on one woman's sacrifice and recovery. She needs our help right now...can we pull together to make her life just a little better?

Loyally,

Jack G. Veazy
Department Commander



Harold "Mick" Leavor Sr. Vice Commander

I hope that everyone has been working on Recruiting, Reinstating and Retaining members in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Again, we have to remember that membership is the backbone of this organization, and we all have to work together to accomplish this. Try and visit your National Guard and Reserve units, along with visiting Veteran Hospitals and military bases around your various areas, and Welcome Our Troops Home.

Post Commanders must remember to have their Trustee Reports done. The Trustees Report of Audit must be completed at the close of each quarter, one of which is coming up at the end of December 2010. There were many Posts that did not complete most of their Trustee Reports this past year and ended up not qualifying for membership awards. Also remember to order your Buddy Poppies early, along with completing your Community Activity Reports, Post Inspections and Annual Membership dues. They must be in before December 31, 2010.

It's that time of year again and I hope you and your families all have safe and happy holidays, along with a joyous New Year. Hope to see many of you in my travels around our Department.

Yours in Comradeship,
Mick



Commander Jack Veazy, Sr. Vice Harold "Mick" Leavor and Jr. Vice James Durkin stand in front of the newly acquired VFW Department Headquarters at 69 Sand Creek Road, Colonie, New York. The purchase was approved by the Department Council of Administration at the 2010 Fall Conference. The new Headquarters building is approximately a year old and was occupied by the architect that designed and built it. The building is constructed of 100% recycled materials and very energy efficient. We expect to be moved into the new building in late December 2010 or January 2011. There will be an announcement when the move has been completed.

James Durkin Jr. Vice Commander

The Fall Conference was a great success, many commented on its programs, energetic committee meetings and all around general good feelings about a great conference. Attendance was especially good; I was pleased to see so many comrades. The conferences are a chance to get together and share procedures, projects and operational practices, as well as be brought up-to-date news and information.

I had my first visit to our National Headquarters in Kansas City when I attended the Jr. Vice Commander Conference. I was privileged to meet most of the Department Jr. Vice and Headquarters Staff. The training added to my reservoir of knowledge, which will better prepare me for my duties as State Commander in 2012.

Membership is the cornerstone of our Department and the VFW. We are currently ranked 18th in the nation. The only way we will reach 100%+ will be through reinstatements and renewal of annual members. New members are also important, but the members who walked out the back door of our Posts the past few years can bring us back to 100%+. Start knocking on their doors now. Spring of 2011 is too late to start. Let's get behind our Commander and make this department a 100% Department.

I look forward to working with you during the next few months at your District and County Council meetings.

Serving for you,
James Durkin
State Jr. Vice Commander

Next Issue Will Be Online

By order of the Commander, the next issue of *Overseas Veteran* will be digital and only available online and there will be no paper issue. Currently, funds are exhausted for the newsletter making a paper distribution impossible. To compensate, the *Overseas Veteran* will be sent via e-mail to every veteran and association that has supplied an e-mail address to CIT.

Don't miss an issue; be sure to send an appropriate e-mail address to CITadmin@vfwny.com. We have received a great number of addresses, but still less than the regular mail addresses we used in mailing the paper copies. If you don't have e-mail, but have someone who you could have it sent to and they will print it for you, please forward that information to the Editor. Thank you.

Photographer:  **John Brunato**

Editor:  **Don Mackey**



INSIDE this NYSOV



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New York State Overseas Veteran

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**** ARTICLES:**

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, its members, member communities, awards and activities are welcome.

**** SUBMISSION & FORMAT:**

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. JPG/JPEG is the only picture format accepted and captions are appropriate. E-mail all articles and pictures as attachments with the sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the e-mail. Submissions from other sources must have complete credits such as publication name, address and dates published.

**** EDITORIAL POLICY:**

Inappropriate, demeaning, unduly critical articles and/or statements will not be published. Article length, inaccuracies, composition and other miscellaneous errors and/or mistakes may be edited.

Although every effort is made to maintain an honorable and accurate publication, the Department of New York and/or its staff, editor and other publication participants are not responsible for the content, views and/or positions of any article(s)/submissions.

**** ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO: CITadmin@VFWNY.com. They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.**

**** DEADLINE:**

Deadline: Articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month...July, October, January and April.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to CITadmin, P.O. Box 116, Carlisle, NY 12031.

**** GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT:**

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**** POSTMASTER:**

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

Dennis Sullivan State Inspector



Comrades, it's always nice to go to the VFW Conferences to see all my old friends and to meet new friends and to share different ideas about our organizations. I enjoyed Binghamton and look forward to the next Conference in Albany.

Inspections are coming in slowly. It is now November and a small percentage of the Posts have been inspected. We have to get out there and get the inspections completed as soon as possible. After all, it is a requirement for all Districts, County Councils and Posts to be inspected at least once a year.

To give you some helpful hints in receiving a good inspection, please fill in all the blanks. The problem areas I noticed are the following: on line 2c you must fill in the corporate name of your Post; on line 15a, the quarterly audit date; lines 16 through 17 complete balances, bond and bonding company; line 19, your 990 filing date; on line 24, be sure to complete if it applies to your Post and on line 28 fill in your EIN#. Please answer all questions along the right side. Most importantly, the Inspector must sign the bottom of the form before sending it to the Department of New York.

After completion of the Post Inspection Form, mail the entire form to: Department Headquarters, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

If you have not been inspected yet, please contact your County or District Commander to make an appointment to have your Post inspected.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by calling 631-736-7722 or e-mail at: dmsullivan9@optimum.net

6th Annual Mixed Bowling Tournament

Bowling Chairman Wilbur A. Gray announces the tournament will be hosted by the Lewis County Memorial Post 6912 and its Auxiliaries in Lowville, New York. All bowling events will be held at the Lewis Lanes in Lowville, New York. The Post Tournament Director is Lowaine Wooschlager and the Co-Director is Maryanne McLane.

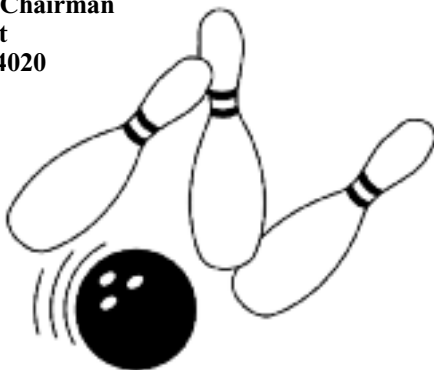
The tournament may consist of any combination of eligible Post, Ladies and/or Men's Auxiliaries. Bowlers must have a paid 2011 membership card to bowl and cards will be checked at bowling time.

Dates and times for doubles and singles will be on Saturdays, April 30 and May 7 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. All team events will be on Sundays, May 1 and May 8 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Each team must report to the lanes 45 minutes prior to their starting time for their lane assignments.

The Post will be hosting dinner and music on Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday morning. Menus and price lists will be provided in the registration packets distributed at registration.

For more information, call 315-376-3107.

Wilbur A. Gray
Department of New York
Veterans of Foreign Wars
State Bowling Chairman
150 Vine Street
Batavia, NY 14020



Letters of Complaint State Adjutant

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

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

If there is an internal Post problem, please present it at a Post meeting. If after doing so, there is no satisfaction, the County Council Commander should be contacted followed by the District Commander, if that step proves unsatisfactory.

It is impossible for the Department to handle the influx of letters received by this office if the correct procedures are not followed. If you have followed the outlined steps and are still not satisfied with the results, a signed letter should be sent to Department Headquarters so the matter can be addressed as soon as possible.

NOTE: Sending a letter of complaint directly to National Headquarters does not speed up the process – it actually slows it down. National forwards all complaints back to the Department for review and appropriate action, delaying the process even more. National observes the chain of command and expects all VFW entities to do the same.

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Canines for Combat Veterans

Commander Jack Veazy is taking this opportunity to use as his Commander's Special Project, the organization known as N.E.A.D.S. The objective of N.E.A.D.S. is to help our returning disabled veterans have the opportunity to be able to return to an active society with the help of an assistance dog.

The National Education for Assistance Dog Services is a nonprofit organization located in West Boylston, Massachusetts.

Certain dogs are chosen as puppies to be trained as N.E.A.D.S. dogs, with their initial trainer being an inmate at one of several prisons in the New England area. After their initial training, the dog is then sent to be trained within a family environment in a special home setting at the N.E.A.D.S. home.

These specially-trained dogs will then be placed with a veteran who uses special prosthetics. They help balance a person when they are walking, retrieve dropped items, open doors, push buttons, turn lights on and off and announce to the hearing-impaired of anything they need to be aware of.

They are also there to be the veteran's best friend when he or she needs someone special to be there for them on those bad days, when no one else seems to understand your traumatic emotions or your insecure feelings.

We, as veterans, must do our best to make sure that our disabled veterans are taken care of, and we can do so by helping fund this program, to make living better for our less fortunate comrades that need our help.

The VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary are uniting this year with the same Special Project – N.E.A.D.S. Together we can work united and make this the best project ever.

Whether you are a big Post or a small Post, please everyone work together and generously give all you can to give a decent life back to someone who gave more than they had to.

Mail all checks earmarked for Commander's Special Project to:

**State Headquarters
1044 Broadway
Albany, NY 12204**

Yours in Comradeship,

Dan Meholczo

Chairman, Commanders Special Project

97 Ridge Road

Wellsburg, NY 14894

607-733-3628

N.E.A.D.S. Dog Project



Pictured, L-R: National Surgeon Doc Schmitz, Project Chairman Dan Meholczo, Chris Maddeford and his dog, "AJ," John Rainey and his dog, Commander Jack Veazy and PCC George Lisicki.

As most members are aware, Department Commander Jack Veazy and Department President Sharlene Allen have both chosen the N.E.A.D.S. Project for their Special Project this year. Shortly after announcing their project, the Commander and President heard about a veteran in District 3 that was recovering from a terrible war trauma. They both agreed to donate the proceeds to the District 3 Veteran, Marissa Strock, from the Sheehy-Palmer Post 6776 in Albany.

Marissa was a 20-year-old woman assigned to an MP unit outside Baghdad and was seriously injured in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day 2005 when an IED was detonated beneath the vehicle she was in. Two of her comrades were killed and

Marissa Strock...A Wounded Warrior



The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been long and arduous, but body armor technology is better than in any prior conflict. Even with the enemy's widespread use of powerful improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), very few members of our armed forces have given two limbs in combat for our country during today's wars.

Marissa Strock, who sacrificed both legs while serving with a U.S. Army military police unit outside Baghdad, is one of the small numbers who made this enormous sacrifice for America. Marissa joined the Army in 2005, after one year of college, and began training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to become a military police officer (MP).

Her first duty assignment was Iraq, very shortly after joining her unit in Fort Louis, Washington, on April 2, 2006. Marissa began as a vehicle driver in her first platoon and then switching to another platoon after three months, she became a gunner, patrolling Baghdad in an up-armored Humvee. Her unit also worked with detainees and trained the Iraqi police. Marissa saw her share of action while serving in this second platoon. She experienced eight attacks with explosive weapons, including IEDs, RPGs and car bombs.

It was the eighth combat incident that sent Marissa home from Iraq. Marissa doesn't remember much from the day she was injured. Most of what this brave young MP knows she learned from others. Her unit had been tasked with a grim assignment: finding a mass grave. As the unit traveled a dangerous stretch of road, insurgents triggered an IED right under Marissa's vehicle. Three of the five people on board died leaving Marissa and the interpreter as the only survivors. Marissa remembers screaming, but little else.

A helicopter quickly evacuated Marissa to a military hospital in Baghdad. There, her left foot was amputated above the ankle, and she was placed in a medically-induced coma. She was moved to Land Stuhl Regional Army Medical Center in Germany to stabilize before being flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center just three days after the attack. As this proud soldier lay in a coma for more than three weeks, her mother was told she'd likely never walk or talk again. Her wounds were many...and severe. They included a traumatic brain injury, a broken collarbone and shoulder blade, a broken elbow and wrist, lacerated liver, bruised lungs and a leg broken in three places.

another was also seriously injured. See the accompanying article, "Marissa Strock... A Wounded Warrior" for more about a very brave survivor, patriot and hero.

Marissa is now a 25-year-old veteran who needs our help to rebuild her life to become more independent and self-reliant.

The N.E.A.D.S. Dog will cost \$20,000. They are specially raised and trained to assist and aid veterans in their quest to move beyond the trauma of war, back to a life of peace as much as possible after their ordeals. In addition to the \$20,000 cost of the dog, there is an additional requirement of \$9,500 to train Marissa with the dog. The goal is to not only get the dog, but to send both Marissa and her new

The outlook for her legs looked bleak. Her left leg had been taken in Iraq, but Marissa would have to make a hard decision about her remaining leg. Marissa's right leg was missing 21 centimeters of bone, and her ankle was so shattered it would have required a major bone graft and fusion of the ankle. The prospect for recovery was so poor, Marissa elected to have the lower part of her right leg amputated.

Marissa spent a year and a half at Walter Reed – four months as an inpatient, followed by 14 months in outpatient care. Physical and mental rehabilitation were difficult, and she still works on both. She finds her response time is a little slower these days, but she remains quick of wit, stating with mock regret that she might be a little too ready with a sarcastic comment "when needed." Marissa found a great prosthetics specialist who has really helped her "hit the ground running."

Dealing with the loss of the team with which she served in Iraq is taking more time than physical recovery – not at all uncommon among troops who lose fellow warriors in combat. Depending on one another in times of extreme danger, our troops build bonds that go beyond simple friendship. These are enduring, powerful connections you don't quickly forget.

Marissa's first contact with the Wounded Warrior Project came as she surfaced from her coma at Walter Reed to find a WWP backpack full of clothing, toiletries, comfort items, a calling card, and other "good stuff" in her hospital room. She's been involved with WWP ever since, participating in social outings and athletic events that build confidence and strength.

Most recently, Marissa began her journey back into higher education through the Wounded Warrior Project's TRACK program. She tried going back to college on her own; but, as is the case with many of today's warriors, traditional college programs weren't very well suited to her needs. TRACK is helping her adjust to college life in a new way as a veteran of combat returning to civilian life. At TRACK, Marissa is spending a year taking college classes while living, studying and working side by side with other wounded warriors. The program gives Marissa the feeling of being in a military unit, with the support and sense of cohesion she needs to build a new, independent life.

Marissa has lived through so much, and more lies ahead. Even knowing what she knows now, she'd still join the Army and do it all over again. That's strength. That's patriotism. And when asked for advice for another wounded warrior, she says, "Find your support group, those people who are going to stand by you. Keep them close because you're going to need them."

Article Published by Edward Marc Chocolatier

<http://www.edwardmarc.com/>

Proud Supporter of Wounded Warrior Project



friend out-of-state to train together.

The Department of New York and District 3 are working together to make a difference for Marissa. In addition to Department endeavors, District 3 is raffling a Sako Stainless Steel Hunting Rifle for \$10.00 per ticket. For those interested, please contact Kim White at 518-275-7283 or Denise White at 518-330-8864, who are both from the VFW Post 1019 Auxiliary. Donations can be made payable to VFW District 3 Ladies Auxiliary and mailed to Kim White, 1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303.

Marissa has made an enormous sacrifice for our country, so please consider supporting this effort to help her through this life-changing situation.

So Close to Home

As a single mother with multiple jobs and two teenagers, I sometimes wonder why I accept so many challenges. I am currently Post 1019 Sr. Vice President, Albany CC Treasurer, Albany CC Poppy Chairman and District 3 President's Special Project co-chairman with my sister, Denise White.

My kitchen table has become the Command Center for District 3 President Ann Triffetti's Special Project. Her goal is to raise \$9,500 for a N.E.A.D.S. dog for a 25-year-old Iraq Veteran who was severely injured when an IED exploded beneath the vehicle she was in Thanksgiving Day of 2005. Marissa Strock lost both legs below the knee, suffered traumatic brain injury, a broken shoulder blade, collarbone, wrist and elbow, lacerated liver and bruised lungs. Two of her comrades were killed in the explosion. Marissa spent four months as an inpatient at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and another 14 months as an out-patient. How could I say NO??

But where will I find the time? My 15-year-old son, Jared, is very involved in sports and we all know how

time consuming that is. I share with him ideas on how to raise money and he's heard me worry aloud if I am up to this challenge.

On the Thursday before the Fall Conference, I was packing up my materials to promote the rifle raffle we are running and praying out loud that we sell enough tickets to make a dent in the fundraising effort. Jared came down and gave me \$110 in single bills that he had been saving for his new basketball sneakers and gave it to me for Marissa. He said, "I'll wear my sneakers from last year; I still have feet to put in them." (Please excuse his insensitivity - he's 15 and talking to his mom.) When I stopped crying with pride, I hugged him and took his money...then went and ordered the shoes!

So, next time you are wondering why you put in all of this time and what you are accomplishing, look around and see what you are teaching to whom. It may be closer to home than you think.

Kim White

Robert E. Barnhart
PSC, State Quartermaster

Comrades,

The final date for this year's 990 filing is November 15, 2010. We hope the information that has been provided in previous years has helped make this transition a little easier and user-friendly. For those Posts with gross receipts of less than \$25,000, you may file online at the following Web site address: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

I.R.S. Annual Tax Return Filing

An annual income tax return (Form 990) is required of each Post exempt from tax under Section 501(c) of the Code. Gross receipts include income from all sources, including membership dues, liquor hall rental or restaurant receipts, etc. Some of this may be "unrelated business income," in which case filing of Form 990-T may be required. This return must be filed on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the Department's accounting period (period ends June 30; due date is November 15, 2010). Requests for extension of time to file may be made by submitting Form 2758, Application for Extension of Time to File. **If a Post fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended due date, a penalty of \$10 for each day the return is late (not to exceed \$5,000) is imposed unless it can be shown that the failure to file was due to reasonable cause.**

Factors that Effect Tax-Exempt Status

Membership: The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership; that is active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

Incorporation: VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated Posts to be at-risk. Incorporating under the provisions of sections 708 of the National Bylaws as well as the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

Bonding: The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and District Commanders and inspecting officers is directed to Section 703, Manual of Procedure-Bonds. Each responsible officer of this organization shall be bonded *with an indemnity company as surety* in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he/she may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

The Post Commander is directed to sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections, and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

The Post Officers should obtain current copies of the podium edition of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the 2010 revised edition of the Congressional Charter and Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department, National Headquarters. The 2010 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 109th National Convention, which became effective on September 30, 2010.

Post Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure-Control of Units, requires that any activity, unit or club sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control

QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 5

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor

Thank you for your service. When I was in the Girl Scouts Color Guard, a hundred years ago, we were taught how to carry the U.S. flag and other flags.

We were shown a copy of the Army Drill manual and we never forgot how to honor our nation's flag with a correct carry.

Our Troop Leader's husband was a vet and he supplied the manual. All FLAGS are carried straight up and down. The pole should be one (1) inch from your nose.

You vets are supposed to teach our young, but it appears you do NOT put your heart and soul into the correct carry.

God bless our vets.

Respectfully

Ruth Riker

Ladies Garden Club, est. 1946

**Editorial Research and Response (With heart and soul!)
US Army Drill manual, *FM 3-21.5(FM 22-5)i
FIELD MANUAL HEADQUARTERS, No. 3-21.5
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 7 July 2003**

(DRILL AND CEREMONIES, Page 178 of the manual)

At the rest the ferrule of the staff on the marching surface touching the outside of the right footgear opposite the ball of the right foot. Hold the staff in the right hand with the back of the hand facing outward and the fingers wrapped around the staff. Rest the staff against the hollow of the shoulder. At the rest the ferrule of the staff in the socket of the sling. The socket is below the waist and adjusted to ensure that the finials of all Colors are of equal height. *Grasp the staff with the right hand (even with the mouth) and incline it slightly to the front with the left hand securing the ferrule in the socket. The left hand may be positioned immediately below the right hand to more firmly secure the Colors on windy days.*

This position is assumed from the carry by slipping the right hand upward about 4 inches and then thrusting the arm forward *shoulder high and horizontal to the marching*

surface forming an approximate 45-degree angle.

(Keeping the flagpole straight up and down and one (1) inch from the nose is not found anywhere in the manual.)

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in response to your article "A Hero Leads the Field" in the last edition of this publication, pertaining to James Gabriel, Jr. (alias "Pineapple") and Wayne Marchand. It's very rare that any events or actions that occurred in The Republic of South Vietnam before the Gulf of Tonkin are mentioned in print or elsewhere. Consequently, I was very pleased to see the story about the tribute that was paid to Specialist Gabriel and also the mention of Sergeant Marchand, who died with him on that fateful day.

I was a young Airman, stationed at the DaNang Air Base, (Det.10, APO 143) from 1962-63, and knew both men casually. Being considered a remote location, because our only access at the time was by air, our outfit was granted double rations so we had a superior mess hall. Both men would eat at our mess whenever the opportunity arose. They were great guys and were liked by everyone.

It was a sad day when word reached us that they were KIA while on a training mission with ARVN Rangers who were also housed inside our base compound. I remember, only too well, being in the hanger when their body bags were brought in and loaded aboard the C-123 to start their first leg home.

Again, many thanks for remembering and honoring these two outstanding "Green Berets" and acknowledging a time in our proud military history that is so often overlooked.

Sincerely,

**Richard (Dick) Yolevich
1035 Parma Hilton Road
Hilton, NY 14468
Home: 585-392-3226
Cell: 585-329-4865**

**Help a Hero
Call Home**

Support VFW's



Reunion

**USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD7) Shipmates
(For all ships company and embarked Navy
and Marine Corps personnel)**

Held At:

**Marriott City Center Hotel, Newport News,
Virginia on June 1 through 5, 2011.**

Contact:

**Robert G. McNally
152 Frissell Street
Hampton, VA 23663
757-723-0317
yujack@megalink.net**

QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 4

of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that *all money, property or assets of any kind must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster*. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

I value the support I have received from the Department Line Officers, the Council of Administration, the Past State Commanders and Comrades of the Department of New York during my tenure as State Quartermaster. I pledge my continued service to the officers and members of the Department of New York. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as the Department Quartermaster.

Sincerely,
Bob
Robert E. Barnhart., PSC, State Quartermaster

Proctor-Hopson Post 1896

“VFW Military Family Support Center”
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR
SOLDIERS IN SERVICE

On behalf of our military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait, we are again asking for contributions to purchase Christmas trees, lights, ornaments and Menorahs that will be sent to our military personnel in harm's way at the above-mentioned locations. This is our seventh annual “TREES FOR TROOPS” drive; let us make it as successful as the previous ones.

The donation for each tree with the appropriate lights and decorations is \$25.00. You may fund as many trees as you would like and no donation is too small. Working together, we can make the holidays a little more enjoyable for those fighting far away from home.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS IN YOUR DONATIONS.

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
NOVEMBER 30, 2010.**

**Checks or money orders should be made payable to:
PROCTOR-HOPSON POST 1896, VFW
(Mark in the memo of your check: Trees for Troops)**

MAIL TO:

**Ben Thompson, PSC
119-26 204th Street
St. Albans, NY 11412**

For additional information, call: 718-527-6532
or e-mail Thompsonbl@state.gov

“Thank You for Caring”



Department of NY District Meetings for 2010-2011

- District 1** Joe Themann at jthemannjr1@hotmail.com
District 1 Quarterly Meetings at VFW Post 9592-Levittown-Island Trees Post, 55 Hickory Lane, Levittown NY 11756-3300; Post Phone is 1-516-579-4420
Meetings are held at 2 p.m., 1st Sunday of the Quarter
September 12, December 5, 2010, April 3, 2011
June 5, 2011 Convention
District Commander Joseph Themann, Jr. (631-654-0426)
Sr. Vice Commander Bernard Robinson (718-634-8812)
Jr. Vice Commander Robert Fullem (516-694-5539)
- District 2** Michael Burke at burkem_98@yahoo.com
- District 3** Wally Zincio at waldo812@live.com
October 3, 2010 District 3 Mtg. 1300hrs Cooperstown VFW Post 7128
December 5, 2010 District 3 Mtg. 1300hrs Albany VFW Post 1019
February 6, 2011 District 3 Mtg. 1300hrs Saratoga Springs, NY VFW Post 420
April 3, 2011 District 3 Mtg. 1300hrs Poestenskill, NY VFW Post 7466
May 13-15, 2011 District 3 Convention Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY
- District 4** John Lane at jlcobbie@aol.com
4th District, NY Meeting Report
November 6 Military Ball, Gouverneur Post 6338
November 7 Meeting 12 Noon, Gouverneur, Post 6338
March 6, 2011 Upton Post 8259 Stittville
May 14, 2011 Testimonial Dinner, Clinton Post 9591
May 15, 2011 4th District Convention, Clinton Post 9591
- District 5** Jean Garropy at lhollenbeck1@rochester.rr.com
These are the 5th District Meetings: 10/3/10, 4/4/11 at 11 a.m.
- District 6** Dave Czarnecki at dmcz2@yahoo.com
September 12, 2010 1:00 p.m. - Salamanca Post 5296
November 14, 2010 1:00 p.m. - Sheridan Post 6390
March 13, 2011 1:00 p.m. - Private Leonard, Jr. Post 6251
- District 7** James Little at firehallmike@aol.com
- District 8** James Vanderpool at jimmy_v_12@hotmail.com
Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 2 p.m.
District meeting and Ladies Auxiliary
Palmyra Memorial Post No. 6778 (315-597-4743)
4306 Route 31, Palmyra, NY 14522
*Canteen will be closed during District meeting

Sunday March 13, 2011 at 2 p.m.
District meeting and Ladies Auxiliary
Arthur G. Depew Memorial Post No. 6200 (607-869-9820)
7068 Route 414 and 96, Ovid, NY 14521
*Canteen will be closed during District meeting

Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 2 p.m.
District Convention and Ladies Auxiliary
Country Party House (585-381-9630)
321 East Linden Avenue, East Rochester, NY 14445
*Annual District Recognition dinner at 5:30 p.m. (reservations required)

But for Tomorrow – We Are Ready!!

Today all is well and contentment prevails, but tomorrow is bearing down and there is so little time to prepare. Are we ready...or more than that...are we willing to step into tomorrow?

In 1913, the VFW led the way by setting the standard for veterans groups throughout the world. In almost 100 years, innovation, transition, evolution, determination and motivation has maintained our foothold and ruled the day, securing our position as the veteran's best and obvious choice. Alas, that history is paled by today's new veterans' and their glaring demands for a new day, a modern approach, vision and innovation.

It's almost intrusive, an attack on "the way it's always been," and an assault on our history. Who are these young vets that want to impose their ideology on us, force change, dishonor the past with some new-fangled ideas? But for one thing, they aren't asking or demanding; they just don't do anything, except move on leaving us to wonder why.

Funny how history repeats itself! About 40 or so years ago, we were in the same position. The irony is not lost on the technology, but rather it's the attitudes that are similar, the mistreatment and mistrust, the failure to accept

youth, change and tomorrow. The tools have evolved, but mindsets have not and therein lays the problem...us.

'But for tomorrow we are ready' – at first glance an odd title to be sure, but true if we examine our feelings and thoughts about tomorrow. To be content today enables tomorrow to pass us by, for tomorrow demands transition, vision and evolution but most of all the courage to act, the courage to grow, the courage to step aside, embrace the future, or better yet...step into that future.

'But for tomorrow' instills so much fear and trepidation. Lack of understanding, knowledge and resources instills fear and uncertainty, inhibits our ability to forge ahead and insure our place in history.

In Vietnam, some sat in foxholes writing letters home by moonlight and waiting days or weeks for a reply. Today, in another foxhole (or behind a sand dune) in Iraq or Afghanistan a veteran types e-mails to loved ones or something even more outrageous, texts or uses instant messaging and videos with the comfort and joy of instant replies.

Today's veteran looks on as we flounder, but hesitates for only a moment...and then they are gone. They move into tomorrow, new ideas, new vision, progress, innovation and

acceptance, while we expect them to embrace yesterday's pencils, paper and air mail.

The age-old argument is that "We don't care about the old vets. By making all these so-called changes, we are shutting out the old-timers that forged the way, set the standard, made history and made sure the VFW survived." That statement evades the issue and ignores the mission of the VFW. If all we do is support the "old vets" (of which many of us are a part), the VFW will fade into extinction, right along with us as we pass from this earth. What about their history...the history those young upstarts are forging...isn't that part of our glorious nation's survival, existence, history and honor, as well? Is their sacrifice any less than ours? History marches on...what will ours be?

The reality is harsh for sure, but alas...it is upon us. Tomorrow is no longer approaching, it is passing us by. We have a tremendous opportunity to set a new standard, set the pace and step into the future with today's heroes.

This we must do or ? ? ? ? ?

**Coordinated by Commander Jack Veazy,
Sr. Vice Harold "Mick" Leavor, Jr. Vice James Durkin**

Department of NY, VFW – Legislative Report

The committee decided on what we thought were six realistic, obtainable and measurable goals for the Department. This will allow us to track and measure these goals, as they progress through the legislative process from introduction as a bill to becoming an actual law.

On behalf of Department Commander Jack Veazy and Legislative Committee Chairman Jim McNally, PSC, I present you the Department of New York VFW and National VFW Legislative Goals for 2010-2011.

State Legislative Goals

- (1) **Veterans' Home Redemption and Relief Act.** Waive penalties, interest payments and fees on foreclosures while on active duty. Allow for redemption of property foreclosed when owner was deployed overseas, and foreclosure was due to financial hardship caused by such deployment.
- (2) **Acquire Funding for VFW Service Officers.** Awarding of grant money to assist funding of our Veterans Service Officers. These officers assist the veterans of our state from two offices funded entirely by the department of NY, VFW.
- (3) **Cold War Veteran Property Tax Exemption Equalization.** Allow Cold War veterans and those who reside in Co-Op Apartments to receive the same exemption as others now covered.
- (4) **Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business Opportunity Act.** Bill was passed by Senate and Assembly, but vetoed by the Governor. To include all veteran owned small business.
- (5) **Veterans' Retirement Buy Back Bill.** Allow the newest veterans and veterans who received expeditionary medals to buy back service time on government pensions.
- (6) **Support Veterans courts to assist veterans who have committed nonviolent crimes to avoid prison**

by assisting them to deal with underlying issues.

Federal Legislative Goals

VA HEALTH CARE

Establish a sufficient, predictable and timely VA budget. Ensure the unique health care challenges of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are met.

Hire specialized health care providers for women veterans.

VA BENEFITS & COMPENSATION

Ensure Congress provides resources to enable the VA to reduce backlog.

Adjust the VA's Schedule for Rating Disability to ensure veterans are adequately compensated.

Call on the VA to determine which disabilities affect veterans' quality of life.

SEAMLESS TRANSITION

Encourage seamless transition for vets transferring from DoD to VA.

Improve veterans' transition services and benefits.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

Ensure that active-duty, National Guard and Reserve troops receive increased pay, affordable health care and adequate housing and work facilities for themselves and their families.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

Solidify USERRA and reverse legal decisions that tend to favor employers.

Urge Congress to require all federal programs adhere to veterans' employment and small business laws.

Urge the Department of Labor to be more thorough and timely in its USERRA investigations.

DEFENSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Support troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism.

Halt development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and material.

Secure U.S. borders, shorelines and all ports of entry to the U.S.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Seek to improve quality of life for troops, reservists and their families.

Provide a military base-pay raise to restore comparability with private sector wages.

Oppose any TRICARE fee increases.

POW/MIA

Achieve the fullest possible accounting of all U.S. military personnel from all wars.

Ensure the U.S. government keeps the POW/MIA issue elevated as a national priority.

Urge the President and Congress to fully fund the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Comrades, you will notice that the Department Goals are numbered. This is so that we can report all contact with politicians, the media and other civics on the Legislative Interview Form by goal number. This will allow us to track our goals and monitor their progress, so that we can concentrate our limited resources where they are most needed. Department Legislative Committee Members will receive a packet containing these forms. We ask that they be reproduced and shared with all members at the District, County and Post level. Finally, Comrades, we look forward to serving the Department's legislative needs and welcome your input as to how best to do so! I thank you all and Commander Jack and Chairman Jim for the opportunity to serve our great Department.

Sincerely,

Marvin R. Jeffcoat
SFC, USA (RET)
Vice Chairman, NY VFW Legislative Committee

Department of New York 2010-2011

Service Officer Raffle



Donations: \$5.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$25.00
Over \$1,700 in prizes have been donated.
Here are some of the prizes listed below:

- 1st \$500 In Memory of District 4 Past State Commanders: Herbert C. Brian, 1953-54; Dan S. Brady, 1956-57; Thomas J. Fallon, 1959-60; Ross R. Henry, 1979-80; Jack Smith, 1992-93.
—donated by State Commander Jack and Theresa Veazy
- 2nd \$100 In Memory of Frank Leavor —donated by Sr. Vice Commander Harold and Christine Leavor
- 3rd \$100 "Fallen Marines" —donated by Jr. Vice Commander Jim and Barbara Durkin
- 4th \$100 In Memory of Warren Barnhart
—donated by PSC/State Quartermaster Robert and Karen Barnhart
- 5th \$100 In Memory of Art Koch, Jr. —donated by PSC/State Adjutant Art and Brenda Koch
- 6th \$100 In Memory of Robert G. Choquette, KIA, Vietnam
—donated by National Surgeon General William "Doc" Schmitz
- 7th \$100 In Memory of Harold M. Burke, Sr. —donated by PSC/PSQM Harold and Carol Burke
- 8th \$100 In Memory of Stephen H. Haight —donated by PSC Jack Haight
- 9th \$100 In Memory of Lyle Yonge, MIA, Korea —donated by Cindy and Skip Campbell
- 10th \$100 In Memory of James Reape —donated by Sr. Vice President LA Jane Reape
- 11th \$100 In Memory of Neil "Cuddles" Connolly —donated by The Connolly Family
- 12th \$100 In Memory of SFC Gary Ferron —donated by John Burnato
- 13th \$100 Past Post Commander George Clarke —donated by VFW Post 686

Drawing will be at the Spring Conference following dinner on Saturday evening, March 19, 2011.

No. of Tickets: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

No. of Tickets: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____

Please indicate the number of tickets you wish to purchase and send a \$5.00 donation per ticket or a \$25.00 donation for 6 tickets. The office staff will fill out the tickets and enter them into the drawing for you.

Make your check payable to: The Department of New York
Send to: 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204

Flag Facts
Fiction or Opinion

A recent letter from a concerned reader brought to my attention that we sometimes need reminders of things we often take for granted or maybe forget.

With that in mind, a review of some basics now and again would be helpful. How often have we thought the American flag has to fly a certain way or be placed in a particular position? How many arguments have we had about flag protocol, procedure or the law concerning "Old Glory?" In referring to "Flag Facts – Fiction or Opinion," we can make sure we are doing it right with a few facts.

Order of Precedence for Flag Display

According to the Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, the prescribed precedence of military flags is determined by service birthdays. The appropriate order is given below:

- Army Birthday 14 June 1775
- Marine Corps Birthday 10 November 1775
- Navy Birthday 13 October 1775;
Abolished Feb 1781;
Reinstated 7 Sep 1781
- Air Force Birthday 18 September 1947
- *Coast Guard Birthday 4 August 1790

- Army National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Marine Corps Reserve
- Naval Reserve
- Air National Guard
- Air Force Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve

*According to the Institute of Heraldry, and in keeping with the order in which troops are listed in Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, during peacetime the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security. During wartime, if the Coast Guard comes under the control of the Department of Defense, then the Coast Guard flag would come before the Air Force flag in order of precedence.

Keep in mind that "The Flag Code" so often cited is a series of recommendations designed for the use of individuals or organizations that may not be required to conform to regulations from departments of the US Government. For example: each military branch has its

FLAG, continued on page 7

FLAG, continued from page 6

own code of flag etiquette that may have additional requirements or cover aspects not anticipated in The U.S. Flag Code. The latter code is a guide for civilians who wish to properly honor our beloved flag. It carries no penalties or enforcement procedures. As such, it's described not as a law, but as a guide for behavior. It does not attempt to anticipate every possible flag display situation. Rather, it provides a guide against which situations not contained within it may be measured.

In a report titled "The United States Flag: Federal Law Relating to Display and Associated Questions" published by the Library of Congress Congressional Research Service, John R. Luckey, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division, writes:

"Thus, The Flag Code does not prescribe any penalties for non-compliance nor does it include enforcement provisions; rather the Code functions simply as a guide to be voluntarily followed by civilians and civilian groups."

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as The Flag Code. Some general guidelines from The Flag Code answer many of the most common questions:

- The flag should be lighted at all times, either by sunlight or by an appropriate light source.
- The flag should be flown in fair weather, unless the flag is designed for inclement weather use.
- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.

- The flag should never have any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure or drawing of any kind placed on it or attached to it.
- The flag should never be used for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.
- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag represents a living country and is itself con-

sidered a LIVING THING. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.

- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

In a Parade

A Color Guard leads off the parade with the American flag and maybe other symbolic flags. The American flag should be *centered in front of the others or carried to their right*. During a parade there might be several participants with our flag, so it's appropriate to salute only the first one as it passes by. At that moment, everyone should show respect by standing at attention with their right hand over their hearts. Those in uniform give their appropriate formal salute.

Clark Rogers is the director of educational programs with the National Flag Foundation and says if you're carrying the flag, it should be out in front of you. "The flag is carried essentially straight up and down or at roughly a 30-degree angle going up," Rogers says. "The thing about carrying a flag is it's always carried upright, never dipped under any conditions whatsoever." Dipping the flag is a sign of disrespect.

If it's displayed on a vehicle, it should not be draped over the hood, top or sides. "It's on the right front fender of the vehicle, so it's always to its own right – that's the law," Rogers says. "If it's on a window or the rear of the car, it would be on the opposite side, on the left of the car."

Floats have different rules of flag display. "An American flag should never be on a float, unless it's on a pole so that it can fly freely," Rogers says. "It's a sign of freedom. The flag code says the flag should never be draped over anything."

Read a more comprehensive set of flag etiquette rules for display of the American Flag by going to the link: <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette-display.shtml>

Always remember: (US Flag Code)

"No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America." Section 8

"The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing." Section 8j

VA Health Care and Benefits Provided for Many Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (August 30, 2010) – Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to access quality health care and qualify for disability compensation under a final regulation that will be published on August 31, 2010 in the *Federal Register* by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The new rule expands the list of health problems VA will presume to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures to add two new conditions and expand one existing category of conditions.

"Last October, based on the requirements of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 and the Institute of Medicine's 2008 Update on Agent Orange, I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to award presumptions of service connection for these three additional diseases," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "It was the right decision, and the President and I are proud to finally provide this group of Veterans the care and benefits they have long deserved."

The final regulation follows Shinseki's determination to expand the list of conditions for which service connection for Vietnam Veterans is presumed. VA is adding Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease and expanding chronic lymphocytic leukemia to include all chronic B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their medical problems and their military service. By helping Veterans overcome evidentiary requirements that might otherwise present significant challenges, this "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process and ensure that Veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

The Secretary's decision to add these presumptives is based on the latest evidence provided in a 2008 independent study by the Institute of Medicine concerning health problems caused by herbicides like Agent Orange.

Veterans who served in Vietnam anytime during the

period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

More than 150,000 Veterans are expected to submit Agent Orange claims in the next 12 to 18 months, many of whom are potentially eligible for retroactive disability payments based on past claims. Additionally, VA will review approximately 90,000 previously denied claims by Vietnam Veterans for service connection for these conditions. All those awarded service-connection who are not currently eligible for enrollment into the VA healthcare system will become eligible.

This historic regulation is subject to provisions of the Congressional Review Act that require a 60-day Congressional review period before implementation. After the review period, VA can begin paying benefits for new claims and may award benefits retroactively for earlier periods.

For new claims, VA may pay benefits retroactive to the effective date of the regulation or to one year before the date VA receives the application, whichever is later. For pending claims and claims that were previously denied, VA may pay benefits retroactive to the date it received the claim.

VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for access to VA health care and compensation now, so the agency can begin development of their claims.

Individuals can go to a Web site at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm> to get an understanding of how to file a claim for presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure, as well as what evidence is needed by VA to make a decision about disability compensation or survivor benefits.

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services for Veterans exposed to the chemical is available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange

The regulation is available on the *Office of the Federal Register* Web site at <http://www.ofr.gov/>

Chris Mattiace
VFW Post 1545



Bugles Across America...

Bugles Across America, NFP was founded in 2000 by Tom Day, when Congress passed legislation stating Veterans had a right to at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and play Taps on a CD player at their funeral service.

Bugles Across America was begun to take this a step further, and in recognition of the service these Veterans provided their country, we felt that every Veteran deserved a live rendition of Taps played by a live bugler. To this end, we are actively seeking volunteers to provide this valuable service to Veterans and their families.

Visit the site at: <http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/Pages/default.aspx>



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WWII Clock Dedication – Granville, NY



On Saturday, September 18th, members of the Granville VFW Post 1653 and Ladies Auxiliary, other Posts in the region, a contingent from American Legion Post 323 and other veteran organizations attended the rededication of Granville, New York's WWII Clock in the center of town.

The clock was originally dedicated in 1943 to commemorate the 50 Granville

men who had lost their lives in World War II, as well as those who were living at the time.

Over time, the clock had fallen to the ravages of age, weather and neglect and has not worked for many years. John Freed, a Granville citizen became angry that a clock dedicated to veterans ceased to work. Freed, the owner of a computer software firm and music instrument repair business, decided to fix the clock for the veterans of Granville. He started the task with gusto and determination, expending much of his own time and money.

When word leaked out after the clock was taken down, unexpected donations started to pour in. The clock, which cost roughly \$9,000 to restore, is owned by the village. Pride and patriotism spurred the village residence to pull together making the project a work of love.

At the 18th of September ceremony, Mr. Freed turned the now restored and working clock back over to the village, asking them to ensure that the clock remained a working one for future generations.

The rededication began with a very well attended parade starting at the Granville Elementary School and threading its way down to Main Street in the heart of the village. A Color Guard from Hudson Mohawk Counties Council Ladies

Auxiliary marched in the parade, as well as the Granville VFW Post 1653 Commander Art Brannigan, members of the Ladies Auxiliary and HMCC Ladies Auxiliary and other Post members.

Rick Roberts, Village Clerk, was the organizer for the event with Jerry Austin organizing the parade. Don Mackey, Past District 3 Commander and Gene Ratigliano, Hudson Mohawk Counties Council Commander jointly read the names of the World War II veterans in attendance at the rededication ceremony. Congressman Scott Murphy also attended and gave a very stirring historical narrative of the dedicated veterans who served from the village of Granville from the Revolutionary War to present.

Two Granville natives returned to their roots as guest speakers: Col. Edward "Ned" Fish and Col. Jeff MacEachron, both of the U.S. Army. Each told of their childhood memories and how local Granville veterans always answered the call to service when needed.

A special guest brought to the event was Past Granville VFW Post 1653 Commander John Norton, an 86-year-old World War II Veteran who was attired in his full dress Army blues.

Following the dedication ceremony, the veterans and guests in attendance were treated to an exceptional post-reception buffet at The Forum Restaurant.

The event would not have been possible without the cooperation of the town, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1653, American Legion Post 323, Town Clerk Rick Roberts, Mayor Jay Niles, John Freed and many others who are too many to mention.

Special recognition goes out to Kathy Hayward and Dorothy Reid, Granville VFW Post 1653 Ladies Auxiliary President who organized and coordinated not only the invitation of many of its participants, but the preparation of the food and desserts that were served to the many veterans who attended the event. Michael Hayward, Kathy's son, also spent many hours preparing for the event and shuttling many of the veterans and guests to and from their cars.

Surgeon General Visits

On Friday, October 8, 2010 VA Western New York Healthcare System's Community Day Programs were visited by William "Doc" Schmitz, National Surgeon General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Department of New York State Surgeon. Surgeon General Schmitz was joined by Marlene L. Roll, Department of NYS VFW Chief-of-Staff; Commander Daniel B. McMahon, VFW Erie County Council; and Thomas J. Todaro, VFW State Service Officer. VFW leadership had an opportunity to meet with Veterans participating in the Community Day programs.

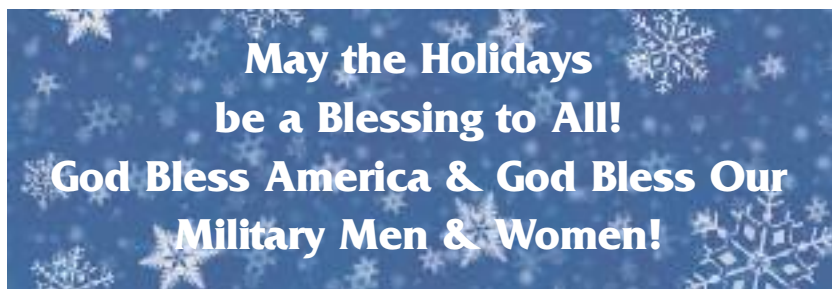
VFW officials toured two outpatient treatment facilities that include five distinct Community Day programs: Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM), Psychosocial Rehabilitation Recovery Center (PRRC), Partial Hospital Program (PHP),

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV), and Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO). The outpatient programs are located within the community off site from the Buffalo VA hospital. These programs are designed for individuals with a severe and persistent mental health diagnosis, and/or a history of homelessness, and provide intensive treatment to assist Veterans and help their families learn how to manage mental health symptoms. Veterans and their families benefit from individual and group therapy, medication management and peer support.

The Surgeon General and County Council Commander also toured the Altamont House, a VA-contracted Grant and Per Diem Program on the East Side of Buffalo to learn more about transitional living programs available for homeless veterans.



Pictured in back, L-R: Lasonya Shaw, RN; Jill Murray, LCSW; and William "Doc" Schmitz, National VFW Surgeon General. In front, L-R: Kathleen Vertino, NP; Donna Kesterson, SWA; Cheryl Heferle, LPN; Amber Kurosky, LCSW; Kenneth Khun, LMH; and Clifford Mahler, PhD.



Harpursville Medal of Honor Recipient and All Veterans Honored by Windsor Astronaut Col. Douglas Wheelock

Col. Douglas Wheelock (Army) from Windsor, NY is currently the Commander of the International Space Station. Col. Wheelock wanted to take something into space that would honor those who served. The Medal of Honor awarded to the late Sgt. Lester R. Stone, Jr. was temporarily transferred to Col. Wheelock for safekeeping by Sgt. Stone's mother, Doris, at a ceremony at her home in Harpursville, New York last spring.



Mrs. Stone, Col. Wheelock and Pastor Mike Rowe at the Transfer Ceremony where Col. Wheelock took temporary custody of the Medal. This was very emotional, as she had the medal in her possession since it was presented to her by President Nixon in Washington, D.C. in 1970.



Col. Wheelock took the Medal with him in a Russian Soyuz spaceship after it was cleaned and inspected by a Russian lab technician. Then it was packed in a small box of personal effects that were stored under his seat. Another astronaut took up a watch that belonged to Amelia Earhart, in honor of women who were aviation pioneers.



Right: The publicity poster for the launch! The 65 represents the number of years past since U.S. and Soviet (Russian) forces linked up in Germany at the end of WWII and the 35 represents the link-up of the Soyuz and Apollo ships 35 years ago.



Bottom: To my beloved Doris Stone, and to all that love peace and freedom... Grace and Peace on this blessed Independence Day! From the Node 2 'Harmony Module' in the U.S. Segment, with Sonny Stone's Congressional Medal of Honor, No greater love...