

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



2014
April/May/June

Volume 33
Issue 3

Michael Pascal State Commander



Comrades,
We are at Department Convention time once again. This will be my last article to you as your State Commander. It has been an honor to serve

the membership of our great Department of New York.

I would like to begin by congratulating all the newly elected officers in our Posts, County Councils and Districts throughout our Department. I wish you great success and may all of your appointed officers and chairman provide the support necessary to make 2014-2015 a prosperous and rewarding year.

I would like to thank each and every Post, County Council and District that I have traveled to for their generosity, hospitality and courtesies, which were extended to me,

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

William “Doc” Schmitz Sr. Vice Commander



Elected and appointed comrades, by the time everyone reads this most elections will be done throughout our Department with some new officers, appointed positions

and some old ones. Each and every one of us have strengths and weaknesses, various levels of expertise, and of course, our opinions of what and how to accomplish our goals. We have the ability to agree to disagree and yet work together for the common good and goals. We have all been impacted by our

—SR. VICE, continued on page 4

Harold “Hal” Burke, Jr. State Judge Advocate



Comrades,
We are entering into the final weeks of this VFW Year, by now the Post, County Councils and Districts should have completed their election process. To

those who have served our organization as an officer this past year Congratulations and thank you for your service. To those newly elected Officers my best wishes for a successful year.

We have had a number if inquires during the past months the question was; it is required to verify the membership of those current Life and Annual VFW members that transfer from the Department at Large Post or any Post in

our organization. The presumption at the Post level is these members have had their eligibility verified at the time they joined the VFW. The answer is simply the Post has the responsible to verify membership eligibility for each applicant.

Reference Manual of Procedure Sec. 102—Applications—Affiliation of New Members.

Every application for membership must be submitted on an approved, signed application outlining the applicant's honorable service, citizenship, eligibility and other pertinent information. Proof of service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant.

The Post is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every member accepted to

—STATE JUDGE ADV, continued on page 3

Marlene Roll Jr. Vice Commander



Comrades,
As we end our 2013-14 year I just want to say thank you for all the hard work you have put into making your post and the Department, as a whole, stronger.

Our mission is, has been and will always be, first and foremost our veterans and their families. If we concentrate on that all else will fall into place.

I have had an informational and

—JR. VICE, continued on page 4

Photographer:



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Don Mackey

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New York State Overseas Veteran

The official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

** PUBLICATIONS:

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. All publications are digital format online and available on the VFWNY web site WWW.VFWNY.COM. Publications are 8.5" x 11" for individual printing capability. 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 Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

** 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



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Dennis Sullivan State Surgeon



Comrades,

As my second term as State Surgeon comes to an end, I think back and reflect on how vulnerable we all are and at the mercy of damaging weather. This past year, we have had

flooding in some area throughout New York and we have helped our fellow veterans financially, thanks to our "Emergency Relief Fund" and all of your generous donations. Please encourage your post and Ladies Auxiliary to keep donating to such a worthy cause. We all hope we will never be in a situation to need such a service but weather is unpredictable. We don't know where and who will be affected next but most likely it will happen again. We must have the funds on hand to be ready.

I have been visiting New York State Veterans Hospitals. Hospital Chairman, Willie Burks, and myself toured St Albans Hospital and was very impressed with the quality of care our veterans are getting there.

Past State Commander, Mario Raimondi is residing at St Albans Hospital and he is being very well taking care of.

The State Commander Mike Pascal, Past State Commander Jim Durkin, Past State President Helen Weeks and I, visited Canandaigua VA Hospital and Commander Pascal and I visited Buffalo VA Hospital. Again, we were very impressed with the facilities and the care our veterans are receiving. The veterans we met, were very happy with the staff and had no complaints. The staff was very hospitable and escorted us around the hospital with pride.

If I can be of help to anyone, or you have any questions, you can email me at dmsullivan9@optimum.net or call me on my cell at (631) 848-3486.

Please send donations payable to "The Department of New York" and earmarked "The Emergency Relief Fund" and send to the VFW Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

Yours in Comradeship,
Dennis Sullivan
State Surgeon

STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 1—

my wife and my aides. You are all very much appreciated.

Our Ladies Auxiliary State President, Bonnie Burgy, and her officers and delegates compassion and generosity helped support our State Special Project this year with a large contribution which allowed our Department to move into phase two of the Special Project which is "Homeless Veterans." We, the officers and members of our Department, thank you from the bottom of our hearts; and comrades, if you have not done so yet, you can still make a donation.

Our Legislative Committee has been working extremely hard to complete our goals for 2013-2014. I truly believe their efforts have gone above and beyond expectations.

With our new administrative year rapidly approaching, let us all commit ourselves to picking up the slack in membership. If for whatever reason we do fall short of our goal, we need to work that much harder so 2014-2015 will be even more successful.

Once again I thank you, the membership of our Great Department of New York, for granting me the privilege of serving you as your State Commander. It has truly been an honor. May God Bless You, our Troops, and God Bless America.

Yours in Comradeship,
Mike Pascal
State Commander
2013-2014

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STATE JUDGE ADV., continued from page 1—

membership. With respect to active duty military personnel currently performing service qualifying for membership, applications may be submitted on their behalf by a member who shall certify the requisite qualifications for membership based on personal knowledge concerning the applicant and shall be acted upon in accordance with the provisions of Section 103. Active duty military personnel admitted to membership under such procedure shall, within a reasonable time, sign the application, personally certifying eligibility and subscribing to the obligation of membership. The application shall bear the name and the ID number of the member recommending the applicant and the recommendation of the Post Reviewing Committee.

REMINDER

Subscription Dues are an important part of the Nominating and Election process. In March 2014 the Posts should be nominating their Post Officers and in April electing them. We recommend that those elected pay their dues immediately for the ensuing year. Your due date of subscription dues will not change and you may save yourself the embarrassment of being removed for failure to pay your dues. National will remove you from office if your dues are not paid by the date they are due. With the computerized membership program recording system this will happen on the day your dues become past due. If removed you may not hold an office in the VFW for

the remainder of that year.

Additionally, all election reports are to be recorded at National. Quartermasters at all levels have access to the National Website and the online reporting capability. Please send your completed report with Valid, Live members whose dues are current to the VFW National Organization. Do not give your election report to the County Council or District Commander and expect that they will file your Election Report. **FILING A COMPLETED ELECTION REPORT IS THE POST'S COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** Failure to provide a completed election report to National will result in the report being returned and could possibly result in the Charter being cancelled for failure to provide the completed election report.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing the Department of New York and the Membership this year as the Judge Advocate General and the State Judge Advocate.

I ask for your support once and votes again at this year's State Convention, as I will be seeking the office of Department Judge Advocate once again.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-598-3923.

Sincerely,

Hal

**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr., PSC/PSQM,
National Judge Advocate General
State Judge Advocate**

Bob Barnhart
State Quartermaster

Comrades,

I am pleased to announce that the Department has operated to date, and if we continue to stay course, will finish the year within our established 2013-2014 budget. The year is not over and we ask that everyone continue to work on membership which is the life blood of our organization. This year ends on June 30, 2014 and every new and reinstated member counts. This request is not for your Post, County Council, District Commander or our State Commander Mike Pascal, rather to help us, the Department of New York, to continue our mission. "Service to Veterans" requires a strong, membership.

We have finished the 2014-2015 Budget and it appears that we are in for another year of financial stability. Some areas have received additional funding as necessary to support our programs. This was possible in part with the impending transition of the National Pension program to annuities for those Department Employees that were entitled at the time the pension plan was frozen. The completion of this transition will result in more funds being available to support programmatic efforts. This pension deficit has been a long on-going struggle. Our efforts will ensure that our employees are compensated as they were promised when they retired. This transition should be completed by November 2014.

I am very concerned about the Department Finances and future. I spend many hours daily to ensure that our investments and expenditures are all done with the best interest of the Membership and Department of New York.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during my tenure as State Quartermaster and ask for your votes and support at this year's State Convention as my intentions are to run for this office for 2014-2015.

Sincerely,

Bob Barnhart
State Quartermaster



John Lombardo

Service Officer



Service Officer
Contact
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John J. Lombardo
State Service Officer
Department of NY
Veterans of Foreign
Wars of the United
States

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VA Medical Center – Room C308-5A
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
Phone: (518) 626-5687
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*Bring
Our
Troops
Home
Safely!*

SR. VICE, continued from page 1—

dwindling numbers from the local to the national level. If I'm not mistaken, we're a combat unit and what do combat people do best? They plan to attack and follow through! "COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, MEMBERSHIP" These three words are interchangeable in any order. We need to get members, educate them with communication, communicate to recruit them and retain them. The trick is what we communicate needs to educate and that has to be correct information. If you don't know or are not sure of what you are saying, contact someone who does know. If someone corrects you then research it to find the truth. If we're putting out incorrect communication we are not educating properly which affects recruitment and retention. If we get it right we can recruit and retain! THE BIG QUESTION IS: WILL YOU GO TO WAR AGAINST OUR DWINDLING NUMBERS AND RECRUIT TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP OR WILL YOU BE A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR? I, FOR ONE, CHOOSE WAR AND FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION!

William "DOC" Schmitz
Dept. Sr. Vice Commander
Past VFW Dept. of NY Surgeon 2007-2012
VFW National Surgeon General 2010-2011



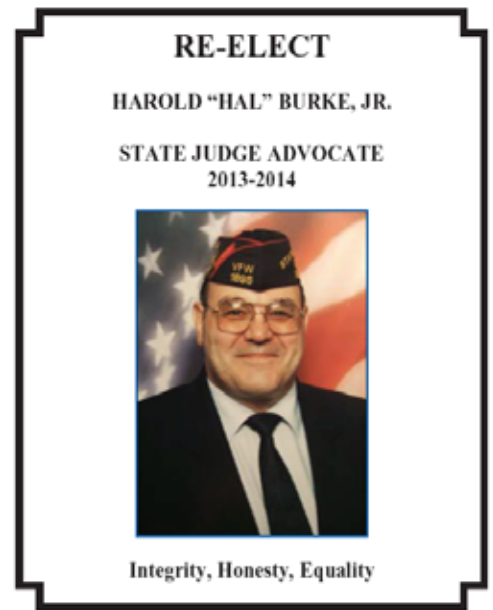
JR. VICE, continued from page 1—

educational year as your Jr. Vice Commander and thank you for your support and input throughout this past year. I look forward to my Sr. year building on that with and for you.

I am proud to be a part of this great organization and to call you all comrades. I let everyone I talk to, that is not a member, know how unique we are and the good friends I have come to know from across not only this state, but across the country.

I wish you and yours a great summer with family and friends and ask that you promote the Veterans of Foreign Wars wherever you may go.

In Comradeship,
Marlene Roll
Jr. Vice Commander



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families during difficult times.

The VFW National home for children was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war – mother and children, brothers and sisters – could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their servicemen didn't come home.

Today's families face different challenges – reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment and rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, among others – and the National Home has evolved over our decades-long history to meet those changing needs.

Whether we help a family find strength and support close to home through our Helpline (800-313-4200), or they become part of our campus community, military and veterans families can count on the VFW National Home for Children to help them build better lives together.

The campus is a quiet, with tree-lined streets connecting the 42 single-family homes with community facilities like our community center, chapel, and guest lodge, child care center, playgrounds and recreational facilities. This tranquil setting provides the perfect atmosphere for children and families to grow stronger. (www.nationalhome.org)



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 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

SERVICE OFFICER RAFFLE

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LET'S SHOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK CARES

The Department of New York Service Officer Raffle is ON!

The Department of New York Service Officer Raffle Committee is once again sponsoring a CASH raffle to benefit our Service Officers. We are looking for donors to support this invaluable program.

If you would like to recognize a veteran loved one or someone you would like to honor by designating a donation of \$100 in their honor, mail your donation to: **Department of New York Service Officer Raffle Prizes, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Department Service Officer Raffle Chairman Gene Ratigliano at 518-796-4338/518-885-9666 or by e-mail at mcpo4@nycap.rr.com



VFW Post 8647 Receives 2014 Best of Mayville Award

Mayville Award Program Honors the Achievement

MAYVILLE April 23, 2014 -- VFW Post 8647 has been selected for the 2014 Best of Mayville Award in the Veterans Organization category by the Mayville Award Program.

Each year, the Mayville Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Mayville area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2014 Mayville Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Mayville Award Program and data provided by third parties.

About Mayville Award Program

The Mayville Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Mayville area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

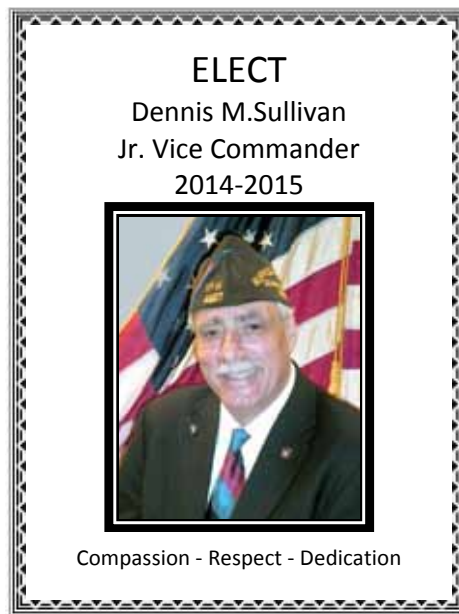
The Mayville Award Program was established to recognize the best of local businesses in our community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to recognize the small business community's contributions to the U.S. economy.

SOURCE: Mayville Award Program

CONTACT: Mayville Award Program

**Email: PublicRelations
recognitionawarding.com**

<http://www.recognitionawarding.com>



MOC & MOCA Grand of New York held their convention May 8-10, 2014 in Albany, NY.

Jr. Vice Commander Marlene Roll was the Department of New York Representative and is herself a Cootie. Also in attendance was the Supreme Sr. Vice Dave Wimmer from New Mexico. During the dinner Vince DeMarco was presented Seam Squirrel of the Year by Firth Turner and William Fowler. PGC was presented the Supreme Commanders Award by the Supreme Sr. Vice Wimmer.



World Book Night 2014

This is where volunteers pick out a book from a given list that authors agree to release for this event and bring those books to people who may not have access to new or any books. This year I joined, as Jr. Vice Commander of NY, with VetsHERD, a nonprofit that helps veterans in any way possible to bring books to our veterans in the Buffalo VA Hospital. We had volunteers from the Army Recruiting Station, seniors

from Williamsville West High School and all around good people from the community to help us deliver them person-to-person. The veterans were very happy to be offered new books to read. Some were unable to read but were happy for the conversation for a few minutes to brighten their day. I want to thank my very good friend Cindy for putting all of this together for us. It was a very rewarding night for all.



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Excelsior College Provides NY VFW Members a Courtesy Review at Convention

As a member of Department of New York VFW, you and your spouse are eligible for reduced tuition and fees for associate and bachelor degrees as well as a 15% discount on master's degrees at Excelsior College.

Excelsior College will be accepting unofficial military and civilian college transcripts from VFW members and their spouses during the convention. Excelsior College's Center for Military Education will evaluate your credits toward the degree you are closest to or a particular associate or bachelor's degree you have in mind.

How can you get a courtesy unofficial review prior to the convention?

Provide your unofficial college and military transcripts to be evaluated toward the degree you are closest to completing based on your credits or for a particular degree you have in mind to: veterans@excelsior.edu or all in one fax to 518-608-8142 with a cover sheet mention: Courtesy Review/NY VFW. Information provided via email or fax should contain: your name, contact information, and the degree program you would like to apply your credits

toward. Excelsior College will provide you an unofficial evaluation toward an associate or bachelor's degree within three to four weeks.

Why Excelsior College?

- Excelsior College has been recognized as a "Best for Vets" college by Military Times Edge magazine. Excelsior is an accredited, nonprofit distance learning college based in Albany, N.Y. Military Advanced Education has named Excelsior among the top military-friendly colleges or universities nationwide for the past five years.
- Excelsior's course, "Success Strategies for Military and Veterans" earned the 2010-2011 Innovation Award from the Center for Transforming Student Services (CENTSS). The course provides college and career orientation to veterans and military members and teaches transition strategies for those entering the civilian workforce after a military career.
- Excelsior is a recipient of the Council of College and Military Educators' (CCME) Institutional Award.
- Excelsior's military academic advising

team includes veterans who are uniquely attuned to the unique needs of military students, veterans and their spouses.

- CME Executive Director Susan Dewan is the recipient of the 2011 William E. Kennedy Award from the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME), which recognizes leadership in providing higher education programs to personnel at U.S. military installations.
- Excelsior President Ebersole is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who served in Vietnam and recently received the Secretary of the Army Public Service Award in 2010 for his leadership in contributing to the Army's educational mission.

Excelsior College, a private, non-profit, regionally accredited online institution of higher learning and the Department of New York has an education partnership to support the educational needs of NY VFW members and their spouses or domestic partners.

For more information go to: <http://www.excelsior.edu/nyvfw> or contact Judy Reed at jreed@excelsior.edu or call 518-464-8678.

How Veterans Get a Leg Up in the Job Market Using Transferable Skills

By Maribeth Gunner Pulliam



If you have retired from the military and are transitioning to a civilian career, it's time to take an inventory of your transferable skills – the skills that will place you light

years ahead of your civilian peers in a recovering economy.

The job market remains sluggish and veterans in particular are challenged in finding work. But there is good news. The experience and knowledge gained from military service, including training and coursework, has provided you with valuable transferable skills that will serve you well in your transition to civilian life. The challenge: Define these skills and sell them – and yourself – to your future employer.

What are "transferable skills?" These are the proficiencies mainly acquired through broad work, education, and life experience, and they translate across jobs and career fields. For instance, if you worked as a training specialist in the military, you have probably mastered communications and person-

nel management skills, as well as leadership abilities that are sought and valued in business and industry, government or education.

In addition, most military personnel have developed "work-content skills" that are technical and job-specific. These skills typically require formal training. They are more specific to trades or professions. And they have a separate skills-based vocabulary or jargon that is unique to the job, such as knowledge of certain sophisticated equipment operation. Work-content skills are not as portable as transferable skills, but when combined, both skill sets reflect the strength of your overall work ethic and demonstrate the array of accomplishments and abilities you have attained.

What employers want

Prospective employers have one important *GET A LEG UP., continued on page 8—*

GET A LEG UP, continued from page 7—

question: What can you do for us? The answer is often found in your portable, transferable skills. These skills influence how you prepare a top-notch resume and cover letter, conduct your job search and convey your talents in an interview. As you recognize and reveal these skills, you will also get a boost of self-esteem about your own achievements.

Identify your transferable skills

Start by reviewing your past or current educational, work, military and life experiences. Did your experience teach you to analyze data and write reports? Supervise others? Work as a team? Make quick decisions or meet deadlines? Organize and implement projects?

If you can analyze, write, plan, organize, lead others and work with a team -- you have just identified six highly valued skills you can place on a resume, discuss in a job interview and put to use in a new work setting.

When starting a military transition (<http://www.excelsior.edu/web/career-center/military-transition-job-resources>) job search, you can also identify your transferable and work-content skills with online career assessment

tools and career guidebooks. Keep this list updated over time, as you progress and evolve in your career. This “skills package” record will be a valuable resource for your future, and a reminder of how far you have come.

Trouble getting started?

Taking inventory of your various skills and categorizing them may seem like a daunting task, but there are several online tools you can use to get started. Excelsior offers free advice at its site (<http://www.excelsior.edu/web/career-center/military-transition-job-resources>). Take your time to reflect upon all that you have done. Talk with your friends, family and coworkers to discover more about the valuable transferable skills they believe you exhibit, since they can offer helpful observations that you may not see. These small steps will help you prepare for a job search and feel more confidence in your ability to convince employers that you are the person they’ve been looking to hire.

Veterans may not realize the many exceptional transferable skills they have acquired through their military service. Veterans are trained to lead by example, work respectfully

and collaboratively, and accomplish tasks on time – even when facing adversity. They understand the importance of dedication and perseverance. These are all skills employers seek.

Webinar: Demonstrate your value in the civilian job market

The Center for Military Education, veteran services office, has produced a webinar series; You’re Back, What’s Next? located in the Lt. Col Bryant A. Murray online veterans center. To see the webinar, Demonstrate Your Value in the Civilian Job Market at: <https://ac.excelsior.edu/p7hr2ljutxa/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>

Maribeth Gunner Pulliam, MS Ed is the Career Services Coordinator at Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., the education partner serving the New York VFW members and their spouses, through reduced cost higher education degree programs. For more resources on higher education and career transitions, visit Excelsior College at www.excelsior.edu, the Excelsior College Career Resource Center at, www.excelsior.edu/career, and the VFW Partnership page, <http://www.excelsior.edu/nyvfw>.



To Veteran Partners,

The faculty and staff of Excelsior College would like to thank you for all you do to support our service members, veterans, and their families. As we take the opportunity to recognize and reflect on Armed Forces Day, we know the contributions you make in the realm of veterans benefits, services, and education are vital. Our veteran students are truly fortunate to have you! The Veteran Organization’s daily efforts to inspire the pursuit of lifelong learning and help in navigating through degree attainment are sincerely appreciated. We wish our troops and their families as well as veterans and their families the very best on this Armed Forces Day. Excelsior College would like to show our gratitude for your organization’s dedicated work to enrich and strengthen our armed forces and support your veteran members and their spouses with higher education.

A message from our President, Dr. John Ebersole:

“Today we express our gratitude to the men and women who have made the many personal sacrifices that come with military service. Their commitment to serve and protect freedom, here and abroad, is a source of great pride to all. To those in uniform, veterans, their families and those civilians who support them, we salute you.”

Thank you from Excelsior College!

Judy Reed, M.Ed.

Director of Veteran Services and Outreach

Excelsior College

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