

# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



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## Marlene Roll State Commander



### WHAT'S OUR BUSINESS?

Some would believe that we are not a business at all. But I think all would agree that we are a non-profit organization. The term non-profit does

not exclude us from being a business. As a non-profit or not-for-profit organization we do fall under the State and Federal Tax Codes. By the IRS definition, we are classified as a charitable corporation.

This article is only addressing VFW posts, not the canteens or bar businesses that some post may have.

**Business:** a person, partnership, or corporation engaged in commerce, manufacturing, or a service. (VFW is service)

**Charitable:** freely giving money or help needy persons.

**Corporation:** a legal creation authorized to act with the rights and liabilities of a person. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation.

**Non-Profit or Not-for-Profit:** Not conducted or maintained for the purpose of making a profit. An organization that uses its surplus revenues to further achieve its purpose or mission, rather than distributing its surplus income to the organizations shareholders as profit or dividends.

So, what is our business?  
 Our business is to help veterans and their families and we do that by fundraising and using that money to obtain that mission. If you agree with me on even that much, then you have to agree that we should be running our posts more like a business.

You might ask what are we selling, what product do we have? Actually we have several of them.

Fraternal, Patriotic, Educational, Charitable, and Historical. These five products are the basis of our business.

Fraternal-we are all former or current members of the military. Brothers and sisters in arms and should be treating each other as such.

Patriotic-nobody loves this country more than we do and we need to instill more patriotism in our communities which goes hand-in-hand with educational.

Educational-it is our duty to educate the community not only with things like the flag code or promoting our essay programs, but also to teach our communities who we are and what we do for veterans in our communities.

Historical-we are the ones that know the true stories of the wars that we participated in and maintain the integrity of that history, as we can no longer rely on the history books to do so.

Charitable-we fund raise to help our veterans and their families in need, but also give back to the community through

—COMMANDER, continued on page 14

## Michael Burke Jr. Vice Commander



Comrades,  
 Our fiscal year is just about over. I continue to travel across the great State of New York to visit Posts, Counties and Districts. The membership turn out at your meetings are consistently improving and I commend you for that. The meetings I have attended for the most part are conducted by our rituals and by-laws and cover important information as it relates to the VFW and your post. The committee

—JR. VICE, continued on page 3

## Dennis Sullivan Sr. Vice Commander



Comrades,  
 Happy New Year 2016. I hope that each and every one of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'm sure we all took a little well needed time off but now back

to reality. We still have a lot to accomplish to finish out the 2015/2016 year.

The National website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) has a lot of information for us to educate ourselves. They explain about each program including how you can become an All American Post.

—SR. VICE, continued on page 2

**Photographer:**  **John Brunato**



**Editor:**  **Don Mackey**

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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](mailto: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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## Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. State Adjutant



Comrades,  
It appears that the winter has finally arrived in New York, although we have had an opportunity to enjoy some lasting Fall weather.

event.

What we do know is that all Students must pre-register, as the Officer Training Program will be held in a hotel. The maximum students will be 200 and the cost per Student will be \$30. The Hotel will have rooms available at the rate of \$119 per night. Registration forms will be provided on the website, in the OSV and in a General Mailing after April 1, 2016. Districts are still required to hold an OTI for their members.

If there are any upcoming events at your Post, County Council or District that you would like the State Commander or a Department Officer to attend please send your request to Department Headquarters as soon as possible so we may get it scheduled.

—STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 3

### Great News Comrades,

Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Sullivan and State Quartermaster Robert Barnhart have been working together to fund and run an Officers Training Program on August 13, 2016. The details have not been finalized other than the date. This will be a one-day

## This is what happened to Harvey

I want to share with you the story of a comrade that you may or may not know. His name is Harvey.

In the day, he was young, strong and popular, especially in his hometown. Harvey enjoyed a good life for many years. He had many friends and activities he was involved with over those many years.

Slowly, over time, this comrades' health started to decline. It wasn't really noticeable at first. He had stopped activities he had enjoyed and eventually stopped going to meet with friends or seeing family. Someone decided to check on him and discovered he had cancer. Everyone who knew him was very upset by this. People slowly drifted away not knowing what they could do and some were uncomfortable and feeling helpless being around him.

The cancer eventually gained a very strong hold on Harvey and a medical team was called in when he collapsed. They worked hard to save his life. They did stabilize him with blood transfusions and operated to remove the cancer. It was touch and go for many months. Just when they thought he was on the road to recovery he had a heart attack. The medics were called again and they had to use the paddles several times. He was flat lined. The medics didn't want to give up and decided to go for one more shock – BAM! Everyone waited...one heartbeat... two heartbeats...three... four... He was back!!

He went through Rehab and a lot of TLC from nursing staff and his family and is gaining strength. At 82 years of age Harvey is starting to get back into the activities he loved, friends are coming around to see him again and the future is looking good for Harvey.

If you would like to send words of encouragement and congratulations on overcoming the cancer, you can send them to: Harvey D. Moran VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224.

### —SR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 1—

It explains about VOD, Patriot's Pen, Scout of the Year and Teacher of The Year.

I would like to remind you of the mission of the VFW members. We qualify because we served in a war. Whether you were on the front lines or in the rear, it was a team effort that got the mission completed. Now as we volunteer in our post, we must continue as a team to complete our mission to serve our veterans in need. We can only be successful if we work together. Membership has always been our Departments biggest concern and our greatest effort required

in this organization. We must all work together on membership and bring the young returning veterans into our post in order to grow. If each VFW member brought in only one member per year, we would be a thriving organization.

Comrades, why wait for the Membership team to call you. Let's call the Membership team and asked them what we can do to bring up our membership numbers.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Dennis Sullivan**

**Dept of NY Sr. Vice Commander**

## William "Doc" Schmitz PRN Director of Veterans Issues



### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

We talk membership, VA issues, political issues, community service, inspections, reports, projects, helping veterans, helping others, POW/MIA, going by the rules, and many other things. What's it's really all about is keeping the unity and conformity in our unit, "The VFW". We must function as a unit, that's our strength!! One person presenting something does not have the power of a few hundred thousand doing the same thing. None of the above-mentioned are new to any of us that served in the military; I guess we get lax.

We, as one organization and individuals, can't afford to be lax any more. We all watch the news, local, county, state, country, and international, there are multiple issues on all levels that need to be addressed. Who better to stand and address these issues than those that have fought to maintain our freedom on all levels, the American Veteran! We must muster our local units, increase our ranks, and work with the national VFW to work as well-oiled units addressing issues. We no longer can stand by and let our way of life be tampered with. We need unity; we need members, we VOTE!!! Our country looks to us as veterans to protect them, we have and will. Show leadership in your community, get the VFW face out there, put that VFW cover on and start attending events. In your upcoming elections elect leaders, not your friends, or someone cause it's their turn, but one that will lead, and no matter who gets elected, support them. May GOD bless our country and it's up to us to protect it.

**William "DOC" Schmitz PSC**  
**National Surgeon General 2010-2011**  
**Candidate for National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief**



## An action alert for the BoardSource Community

*The IRS needs to hear from nonprofit board leaders*

A proposed change in IRS rules would require some nonprofits to collect their donors' social security numbers, as explained in this article ("Never" Is the Better Answer). At BoardSource, we believe this would have very damaging impact on nonprofits, and that boards need to speak out.

By requiring nonprofit organizations to collect social security numbers, the IRS will be opening organizations – and their board members as fiduciaries – to significant liability and place a tremendous burden on nonprofit organizations to invest heavily in cybersecurity measures to protect this valuable data from hackers. It will also create confusion, alarm, and distrust among potential donors who may – as a result – choose not to support our important missions.

The IRS is asking the public for feedback, and we encourage you to submit your own comments in opposition

to this potentially harmful proposal by **next week's deadline of Wednesday, December 16.** The National Council of Nonprofits, one of our partners on the Stand for Your Mission initiative, has developed and posted free materials on its website for you, including an analysis, various talking points, and sample comments.

**This e-mail was received by the District 7 and forwarded to this Office. We checked with our CPA and he said we should ignore this e-mail.**

**IGNORE THE NOTICE FROM THE POST –  
IT IS BOGUS.**

Regards,

**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr.**  
**PJAG/PSC/PSQM**  
**State Adjutant**

—*STATE ADJUTANT, from page 2*

State Commander Marlene Roll has placed great emphasis on the importance of the Department of New York, VFW responding to all communications in a timely manner. Therefore, the Commander is requesting that all correspondence regarding VFW matters be sent to the Department of New York Headquarters to assure that she is successful in her quest. Headquarters will confirm the correspondence is properly annotated, distributed and responded to with actions that may be necessary to bring the issue to closure.

Should you receive a media inquiry, you should respond: "I have no authority to respond to your request" and refer the individual to the Department Adjutant.

Cindy, Dale, Gene, Don and I are here to assist you, our membership.

If we can ever be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-463-7427.

Sincerely,

**Hal**  
**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr.**  
**PJAG/PSC/PSQM**  
**State Adjutant**

—*JR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 1*

reports are good and you can tell that the chairperson has done his/her job. Keep up the good work.

As I look at the statistics of all the States, we are seeing a decline in membership across the board but at the same time we see many states in the black with recruiting. So we must recruit, recruit and recruit. As you know, sometimes things come from the top down and sometimes from the bottom up. In order for New York to rebuild and be on top, we must start at the post level. So commanders on all levels, lets continue to lead New York in a positive direction.

On another note, comrades, it is important to respect our fellow veteran and their family. I do understand, all that is rosy is not so cozy, but as veterans who have fought in wars for our country and performed other duties during wartime, we should be able to get along and respect one another.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Michael Burke**  
**Jr. Vice Commander**  
**Department of New York**



**Department of NY VFW**  
**Mid-Winter Conference**  
**Council of Administration Meeting**  
**January 16, 2016**

District	Number of Posts in District	Number of Inspection Reports Received	Number of Inspection Reports Cleared	Number of Inspection Reports Pending Deficiency Resolution	County Councils in the District	County Council Inspections Cleared	District Inspections Cleared	Number of Post Left to be Inspected
1	105	25	19	6	4	1	0	80
2	90	48	26	22	5	0	0	42
3	59	29	20	9	4	0	0	30
4	42	28	22	6	1	1	0	14
5	46	22	9	13	2	0	0	24
6	46	23	7	16	3	0	0	23
7	24	24	21	3	N/A	N/A	0	0
8	31	8	7	1	3	0	0	23
Total	443	207	131	76	N/A	2	0	236

We are now approximately half way into the VFW year and we have 236 posts which still need to be inspected.

Of the 207 inspections received, 76 have pending deficiencies that require correction before the reports can be closed.

Of particular concern is a number of posts with deficiencies that could have been corrected within a week or two with minimal effort and some of those deficiencies are still outstanding.

Although there has been a gradual improvement in the preparation of the Post Inspection Reports, some however, are still continuing to be completed in a haphazard manner. Likewise, the quality of the Trustee Report of Audit are, in some cases, still not of the quality that should be expected for the protection of post assets. Many do not reflect the isolation of funds for Dues Reserve and the Relief Fund.

The following information is repeated below for information and action as required:

I would like to reiterate that ALL inspection reports need to be funneled through the District Commander by Council and District Inspectors so District Commanders are aware of the condition of their posts and the items that may need attention before the report is forward to the Department Inspector.

After my review of the inspection report two copies are returned to the District Commander, one for the District files and one for return to the Post Commander.

In some cases of only one document missing I will contact the District Commander to try and resolve the issue.

The inspector review feedback form will indicate no further action is required or will identify deficiencies that need to be corrected before the Inspection Report is closed reported in Mem Stats.

Some commonly recurring problems with inspection reports received are:

- Post Quartermaster under bonded
- Some post inspection reports list the bonding issuer as the VFW; however, no bond was received or issued by the Department
- Incomplete name and expiration of QM bond when the bond is not with the VFW
- Date Dues Reserve Fund transferred to the General Fund left blank
- The inspection report may reflect a “yes” answer to the question “Does the dues reserve fund reflect payment of annual and life member dues”; however, when reviewing the Trustee Report of Audit, all blocks are blank with no Dues Reserve Fund amounts in the blocks??

- Maintaining relief and dues reserve fund questions left unanswered and if the questions are answered no, no explanation as to why a Relief Fund and/or Dues Reserve Fund is not maintained
- Differing Employer Identification Number (EIN) reported on the inspection report
- Posts which own property are not naming the VFW as an additional insured on their post insurance policies
- IRS 990 or electronic filing acceptance not attached to the inspection report
- Some reports which have the question filled in for the date of the last Trustee Report of Audit on the inspection form have not had a copy of their Trustee Report of Audit forwarded or on file with Department in over two years! Report of Audit are not signed by the Post Commander or Trustees.

Inspectors which have been attaching the latest Post Trustee Report of Audit, acceptance verification, and a copy of the insurance information for posts bonded with companies other than the VFW have had their inspection reports cleared quickly.

Inspectors need to take the time to review the necessary documentation to complete inspection report, then the report would be cleared expeditiously.

For posts which have lost their tax exempt status and that is the only pending deficiency holding up the closing out of an inspection report, the report will be closed out as completed provided a certified mail receipt, or other documentation is forward to the department to indicate the application has been formally submitted to the IRS. Due to the length of time it takes IRS to process a reinstatement there is no need to hold up the closeout of an inspection report provided a reinstatement application has been properly submitted to the IRS.

Inspection reports will only be closed out and reported on Mem Stats when all deficiencies have been corrected.

I also want to thank the District Commanders and Inspectors that have contacted me by phone or email to correct problems with inspections. I appreciate the courteous and friendly manner they all have shown in solving the inspection process.

If you have a question or problem that your District Commander cannot resolve, I remain available to you by phone or e-mail.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Dave Czarnecki, State Inspector**  
**Department of New York – VFW**

## Gene Ratigliano

### Chief of Staff



Happy New Year to all and I hope each and every one of you had a very Merry Christmas and that the new year finds you and yours in good health and spirits for what

lies ahead in 2016.

In this article for the *Overseas Veteran* I would like you to think of what lies ahead for the future of our organization and about what kind of legacy you'll leave behind. Your legacy - that something you create during your life solely to benefit future generations, something you may never see come to full fruition, just like the farmer who plants a tree knowing he'll never live to taste its fruits. A legacy is the gift you leave behind without expecting anything in return.

Many of us have been members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for a number of years. Everyone in our organization works hard to increase membership to ensure its viability and we all think of our Post as our second home. Do you want to ensure that second home away from home carries on in the future? If you do, then I ask you to think about your VFW legacy and consider a VFW Legacy Life Membership.

When you become a Legacy Life Member you are helping to strengthen the VFW. There are three levels of membership - Gold, Silver and Bronze. Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. The Bronze membership begins at \$400.00, Silver at \$800.00 and Gold at \$1,200.00 (a \$400.00 donation at each level to reach the final goal of Gold membership at \$1,200.00). One can begin at the Bronze level and increase to the next level at any time thereon until you complete your legacy at the Gold level. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the organization. Your contribution will not only help today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

At each level of membership there are also personal incentives which are immediate which include a plated engraved Life Member Card, lapel pin, hat pin, framed legacy certificate and discounts at the VFW store from 5% to 15% depending on the level of membership achieved. Additional perks are provided as well as one moves

from one level of membership to the next.

To become a Legacy Life Member you must be a current Life Member of the VFW, complete an acceptance form or transition on line through your Post Quartermaster and the Quartermaster Tools option at his/her disposal. If you start at the basic Bronze level you can increase your level of membership at any time or if you so desire begin and go to the Gold Legacy Life Membership level at the outset. Payment options include, check, money order or credit card. There is also an installment payment option where you can elect the Installment Legacy Life Membership by making four equal payments with the first payment accompanying the application and be equal to 1/4th the level being purchased (Bronze \$100, Silver \$200 and Gold \$300). The remaining balance will be billed by National Headquarters quarterly.

Each year your Post will receive two membership rebates for your membership. One for being a "Life Member" and another for being a "Legacy Life Member." Unlike the Life Membership where the Post no longer is the recipient of an annual dues rebate when a member passes, the Post continues to receive a return of dues from the National for Legacy members who pass thus leaving a lasting positive impact on the Post's financial well being. The Legacy Life Membership is tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. This is a great way to continue giving to the Post and to the VFW long after you and I are gone and have left the Post to the next generation of veterans.

I would be happy to discuss the Legacy Life Membership Program with anyone who desires more information on the Program by contacting me at 518-885-9666/e-mail at [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com) or you can inquire directly with the VFW National Membership Department at 816-756-3390.

The legacy we leave is part of the ongoing foundations of life. Those who came before us left us the organization we are now part of. Those who come after will have only what WE leave them. We are the current stewards of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and we have a calling in our lives to leave it better than how we found it when we became members, even if it seems like such a small part. And now it's your turn to decide what kind of legacy you'll leave for those veterans who come after. Become a Legacy Life Member and become one of those dedicated members who leaves something behind for those who will come after.

Greetings Comrades,

As you attend some VFW functions, you may see someone with a little bug on their collar and wonder "What is that?" and being a good comrade you may want to knock the bug off.



At some functions you may see a comrade with a Red Suit Jacket on and wonder why it sticks out so much. Well, they are members of the Military Order of the Cooties, the Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. All members of the Cooties are VFW members, however not every VFW member can be a member of the cooties.

Our main missions are the VFW National Home, we have been the biggest supporters of the National Home for over 90 years, and is a very near and dear place in all Cooties Hearts. Our other mission which is even bigger, and is also a duty of all VFW members, is Hospital Work.

One of our slogans is "**Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White**". If you have ever been in a hospital and not had visitors it can be a sad place, but when somebody comes in, and talks to you for even a few minutes it will put a smile on your face, and make the healing process go faster.

If you would like to know more about The Military Order of the Cooties, who we are, and what we do, then by all means please ask one of us as we are looking forward to signing up new members and starting new Pup Tents. We have lots of fun doing the business that we do. Our next state meeting will be our Grand Convention that will be held at the Travel Lodge, Little Falls, New York on the week end of April 7 thru 10 and as usual we will have a Grand Ol' Time.

One of our biggest endeavors that we undertake is our annual Tomb Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. We have just been notified by that after 81 years of placing wreaths at the Tomb that starting this year we will not be able to perform this honored and sacred ritual as we have done for so many years. The Department of the Army's reasoning is due to "Emerging Staffing Limitations at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier have created conditions that preclude these labor intensive activities." We hope to have this resolved as soon as possible so that we may continue with our time honored tradition of honoring those known but only to God.

LOTCS

**Rick Gales, Grand Commander**  
**Dept. of New York**  
**Military Order of the Cooties**





# HAPPENINGS AROUND NEW YORK VFW

## Annual Recognition of Veterans

Senator Kathleen Marchione's Office held their Annual Recognition of Veterans at the Whittier Health Center on November 10th. Senator Marchione's Representative, Stephanie Gardinier, presented each Veteran with a Certificate of Appreciation for the service they gave to their Country. Columbia County VFW Post 1314 provided the Color Guard and Ghent VFW Post 5933 joined in honoring these heroes.



*Front Row (L-R): William P. United States Army, Stephen L. United States Navy, Alvin Z. United States Army and Angela B. Reserves*

*Second Row (L-R): Robert S. United States Army, Conrad B. United States Army Medic, Louis D. United States Army, Marilynn W. United States Army Women's Army Corps, and George D. United States Navy*

*Third Row (L-R): Donald W. United States Army*

*Back Row- Columbia County VFW Post 1314 Color Guard*

## VFW Post 1314 Bell Ringing

Vince Grimaldi, Commander of Columbia County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1314, collects for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program at the Wal-Mart Store in Greenport. Handing out American Flags as thanks by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for donations received. American Flags were also given to children who lit up with a big smile on their faces when given the flag.

Anyone wishing to donate can contact Jill at the Hudson Salvation Army, by calling 518-822-1602.



*Pictured (L-R): George, a 49 year fireman and presently residing at the Fireman's Home is thanked by Vince for his donation and receives an American Flag.*

## VFW Members and Auxiliary Post 4927 Poppy Drive



### Centereach Post 4927



## Car Giveaway Program

*Centereach Post 4927 members and auxiliary attended the Car Giveaway Program.*

### Recycled Car Program gave away 5 cars



### Gold Chevron Ball



**Bring  
Our  
Troops  
Home  
Safely!**



## Post 2813



### John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813 presents Youth Essay Awards in Woodside

New York City, NY December 11, 2015

Commander Mike Smith presented Patriots Pen Awards at St. Sebastian's RC School in Woodside. This year's award ceremony was held on Friday, December 11, 2015, in the auditorium of St. Sebastian School 39-76 58 Street, Woodside NY 11377. Ms. JoAnn Dolan, St. Sebastian's Principal, led the assembly in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off this year's ceremony. St. Sebastian's hosts this academic awards ceremony annually each December.

This year's first place contestant for the Voice of Democracy audio based contest, Kiana Nicole Marte of Cathedral High School,

was unable attend the award ceremony due to a prior academic testing commitment. Kiana was awarded her certificate and prize money at the annual Post Christmas/Hanukkah Party on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

The essays are judged by the Ladies Auxiliary of the John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813 and other community leaders. Our ladies took on the arduous task of grading over 20 well-written essays. It is safe to say the ladies worked as hard as the children in this endeavor. On behalf of Post Commander Mike Smith congratulations and thank you to all of our contestants and judges.

#### John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813, 2015 Patriots Pen Essay Contest Winners!

1st Place: Jasmin Lorraine Ferreiras- St. Sebastian's School \$100.00

2nd Place: Eunice Y. Lee- Halsey JHS 157 \$50.00

3rd Place: David M. Vasquez- St. Sebastian's School \$50.00

#### John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813, 2015 Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Winners!

1st Place: Kiana Nicole Marte- Cathedral High School \$100.00



*Pictured (L-R): Judges William Roeder, Mary Roeder, Chairman Marvin R. Jeffcoat, Judge Lila McFarlan, Voice of Democracy First Place Contestant Kiana Nicole Marte, and Post Adjutant/Quartermaster Dan Harris, judges not pictured Ann Horata, Tomoko Herrera, and Raysa Rodriguez. Photo courtesy of Maria Jeffcoat*



*Pictured (L-R): Youth Essay Chairman Marvin R. Jeffcoat, Commander Mike Smith, Patriots Pen Contestants Jasmin Lorraine Ferreiras, Eunice Y. Lee, and David M. Vasquez. Photo courtesy Ms. JoAnn Dolan, Principal, St. Sebastian's RC School*

**Organization Information:** John V. Daniels VFW Post No. 2813 is a subordinate unit of District No. 1 Department of New York. The mission of the 2.1 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities; and to advocate on behalf of all veterans.

#### Contact Information:

Past Commander Marvin R. Jeffcoat SFC, USA (RET), John V. Daniels Post No. 2813 Veterans of Foreign Wars 51-27 Queens Boulevard, Woodside, NY 11377 (347) 841-4335 [jeffcoatm505@aol.com](mailto:jeffcoatm505@aol.com).



## NYS Veterans of Foreign Wars Announces “Voice of Democracy” Essay Contest Winners

The Department of New York State VFW sponsored annual oratorical essay contest for high school students ended on January 2nd, 2016 and Wally Zincio of Stuyvesant, Youth Development and Scholarship Chairman, announced the winners. The State final judging was held at Columbia-Greene Community College by a panel of impartial judges consisting of elected officials, community leaders and local business owners who gathered to listen, review and score essays that were submitted from around the State.

Receiving scholarship awards were: Third place Alyson K.Chocianowski entering her essay from VFW Post 9008 at Millbrook, Second Place Dean T. Mattschull entering his essay from VFW Post 10870 at Smithtown and claiming first place Honors

William (Will) J.Collins entering his essay from VFW Post 2535 at Lockport, whose essay will be advanced to the National finals and one step closer to winning the \$30,000 grand prize scholarship.

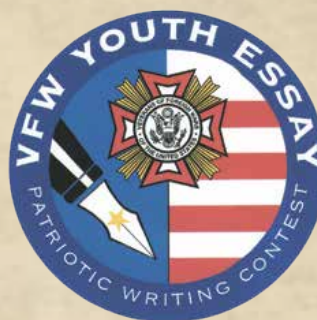
Earning Honorable Mention are: Maryann T. Turoci from VFW Post 9593 at Stuyvesant Falls, Allison K. Westbrook from VFW Post 478 at Binghamton, Emma M. Webster from VFW Post 309 at Peru, Cameron Majors from VFW Post 2472 at Buffalo and Oliva R. Sedita from VFW Post at 8495 at Fairport.

For information regarding VFW scholarships visit:  
<http://www.vfw.org/Community/Programs>



**The Judges -Photo by Wally Zincio**

*Pictured (L-R): CGCC President Jim Campion, Retired Greene County Clerk Michael Flynn, City of Hudson Mayor Tiffany Martin Hamilton, Past Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Patrick Gratten, Honorable Jonathan Nichols and Acting Judge & Statistician Carol Zincio.*



### Voice of Democracy Winners

### Patriot's Pen Winners

Place	WINNERS	Sponsoring Post	Sponsoring District
First	William J. Collins	2535	7
Second	Dean T. Mattschell	10870	1
Third	Alyson K. Chocianowski	9008	1
Fourth	Maryann T. Turoci	9593	3
Fourth	Emma M. Webster	309	4
Fourth	Allison K. Westbrook	478	5
Fourth	Cameron Majors	2472	6
Fourth	Olivia R. Sedita	8495	8

Place	WINNERS	Sponsoring Post	Sponsoring District
First	Alyssa Tasdeler	9483	8
Second	Jordyn Ras	5913	2
Third	Joseph Rowell	1419	6
Fourth	Josephine Perl	5350	1
Fourth	Hethar Scutt	7955	3
Fourth	Jack Anderegg	2246	4
Fourth	Ainsley Brouse	369	5
Fourth	Cierra Tiede	1602	7

## Membership Program

During the past few months several Comrades have contacted me concerning membership recruiting and annual member renewals and as a result, today, we will look at each of these issues.

To begin with, there are many, many older versions of our membership applications in circulation. If the version of the applications in your possession is NOT **ver 01/14**, it should be replaced and the older ones destroyed. Have your Quartermaster order new applications through the Department of New York Headquarters.

Previously, I reviewed these annual members' billing procedures. If the annual member has their email address on file with national headquarters, that member receives 6 dues notices. Three are sent via email at 6, 4 & 2 month intervals prior to their due date. Also, the annual member receives notices sent via US Postal Service at 5, 3 & 1 month intervals prior to their due date. Those with no email addresses on file, receive their notices through the US Postal Service at the 5, 3, & 1 month intervals prior to their due date. If anyone has moved, and did not update their address, they need to do so online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) immediately.

There have been reports where members have said they had paid their membership dues at the Post or given it to an officer and yet, in some of these cases they have not received their new membership card. In order to reduce or eliminate renewal delays, please follow these simple procedures: The easiest and fastest way to renew your annual membership is online. Go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and on the main page there is a link "**RENEW**" near the top of the page. When you click on the renew link you can renew your annual membership in a few easy steps. Another way to renew is to log in at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), which is next to the renew link. This will take you to "**MY PAGE**" online and the links will assist you in renewing your annual membership and at the same time, you can have your dues renewed automatically online by completing the forms. Another option is for you to become a life member. The payments will be deducted from

either your checking account or a monthly charge to your credit card or by Monthly billing.

Recruiting is a necessity for the future of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Department of New York has lost over 2,000 members in each of the last 4 of 5 years and the 5th year we lost over 1600 members.

Remember: **WE SHOULD NEVER NOT TELL A VETERAN:** "I do not have an application! If you have I-pads, I-phones, an android or a computer you will have access to our online system. There is an application for these devices available to download.

I would like you to ask at your next Post meeting: "How many members present have a family member or a neighbor who are Veterans? How many of these Veterans have been deployed?" Then ask: "Why haven't they been asked to join the VFW?"

Department Senior Vice Commander, Dennis Sullivan, is again the leader among all the department recruiters. With all the duties he has as the Senior Vice Commander, and his recruiting abilities, he is commended. Dennis, **Thank you**. Moreover, if Dennis can recruit more members year after year than any other member, **why can't you recruit just one member?** Our on-line system, as above, has recruiting hints, team planning and public service announcements you can use for your Post, County, and District.

The primary place to recruit is at Home and Garden exhibitions. Look for one in your area and contact the sponsors for a table and recruit. As always, if you need some help we, the department membership team, can assist.

**Dan McMahon**  
**Chairman**  
**Membership**  
**716-622-6911**  
**dbm021**

## What is it like to take an online class?



Many students find online learning flexible, meaningful, and engaging. Finding the right fit for you is about discovering your own personal learning style and strengths. If you have not taken an online class before, see an Excelsior online course for free to find out for yourself. Or, listen to what current students say about taking classes online.

Whether you're headed back to school full-time or want to try your hand at a course or two, explore Excelsior's quality online courses. Our courses are almost as limitless as your interests and encompass every type of learning style, ambition, and schedule. Not

sure what an online course is like? We offer you a test drive. Already know online learning is for you and looking to finish your degree? Search your course options by subject, format, and term.

To explore Excelsior College, a regionally accredited, online non-profit college, and learn more about online learning, start by going to: <http://www.excelsior.edu/web/experience/what-is-excelsior-like>

If you are interested in getting started with an online degree and learning about the veteran education partnership with Department of New York, VFW, go to: <http://www.excelsior.edu/web/partners/vfw-new-york>



# SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF



Many thanks to all those great supporters of our campaign to get our very own William "DOC" Schmitz in line National Commander-In-Chief. We have a long way to go, but we are on track and energized.

After 27 years we have a candidate for Commander-in-Chief. We all need to work together to support the Department's choice, William "Doc" Schmitz. If you wish to add your support, feel free to contact me at Dept. Headquarters.

**Bob Barnhart**  
Campaign Contact



## Associate in Science in Nursing Degrees now included in Excelsior College Partnerships!

The Associate in Science in Nursing and the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing degrees are now available for partnership discount effective January 1, 2016.

Beginning with Excelsior's Spring I term, partnership students enrolled in the associate degrees in nursing program will receive the partnership discount on online course credits as well as other partnership benefits. This includes currently enrolled students as well as those enrolling in the future.

As with other partnership students, those in the associate degrees in nursing program must take twelve online course credits to qualify for the discounts on tuition and fees, with six course credits taken each year to bypass the annual student fee.

### Graduate Degree Tuition Discount

Excelsior College offers a **reduction on tuition** to any individual enrolled in a graduate level program through a veteran organization partnership.

### Veteran Education Partnerships and Admissions

To see the list of Excelsior College's veteran partners in education go to: <http://www.excelsior.edu/web/partners/veterans> and see the savings.

For more information contact: Excelsior College admissions at: <http://www.excelsior.edu/admissions> or call 888-647-2388 ext. 2.

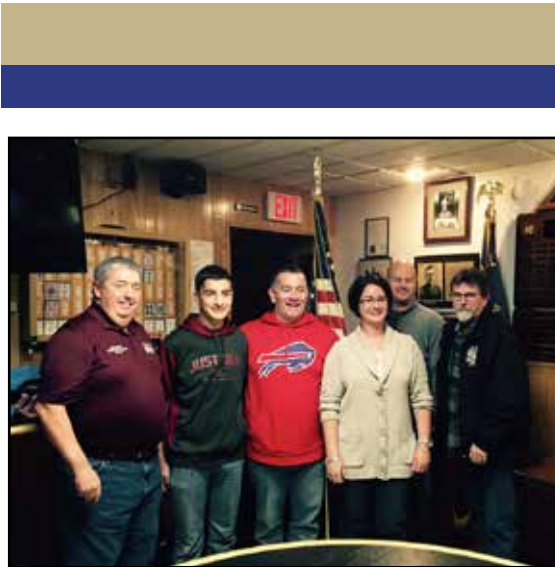
## Department Membership Chairman McMahon brings 2 family members into the VFW

Grand Island McMahon cousins are the newest members of the Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 9249. Jacob McMahon and Sarah McMahon completed applications to join the post while Jake is home on Christmas leave. Sarah Served in the US Army from 2004 - 2012 and was deployed to Iraq creating her eligibility for the VFW. Jake is currently in the US Marines and was recently awarded a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal while servicing in Cuba, creating his eligibility.

On hand for the ceremony were Jake's parents Sean and Maryann McMahon, Uncles Dan and Chris McMahon, Aunts Molly Powers and Sue McMahon, Cousins Bill Tokash USA-RET and Jessica. Post Commander Christian Eshelman swore both into the Post in a brief ceremony before Jake's returned to his duty station in Virginia. At 19, Jake McMahon is believed to be the youngest member of the Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249.



*Pictured Nephew Jacob McMahon and Niece Sarah McMahon*



*Members of the VFW and the McMahon family are (L-R) Dan McMahon, Jake, Sean McMahon Jake's Dad, Sarah, Bill Tokash USA-Ret. and Chris McMahon Men's Auxiliary Post 9249.*



## Department 2015 Trees For Troops Campaign Ends Successfully

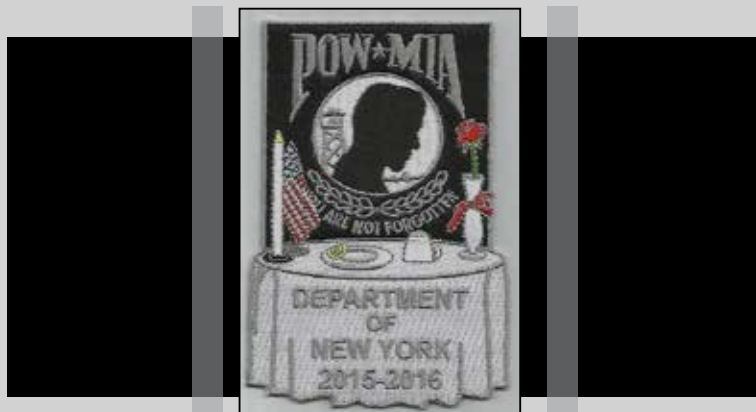
The Department of NY 2015 Trees for Troops has completed its campaign for 2015. A big thank you goes out to all the generous donors who supported the program this year. On December 4th the Department forwarded a check doe \$7,016.00 to the Christmas Spirit Foundation on behalf of the Department, its posts and auxiliaries. Since 2005, more than 157,000 free, farm-grown Christmas Trees have been provided to troops and military families in the United States and overseas through Trees for Troops. Thousands of trees are donated by American farm families and the public, and FedEx delivers these trees to more than 60 military bases in the US and overseas. Your generosity will bring some Christmas spirit and joy to many of our troops and their families around the globe. A big thank you to you all!!

## VFW DEPARTMENT of NEW YORK

*Now Accepting Ads for the OVERSEAS VETERAN*

Contact CITadmin for pricing and additional information.

[CITadmin@VFWNY.COM](mailto:CITadmin@VFWNY.COM)



## *Auxiliary members attending the Eastern Conference held in Albany, NY*



## They Say



## We Look Alike



Excelsior College's Center for Military Education presents

### **Veterans and Military: Pathway to a Career in Criminal Justice** **Wednesday, February 3, 2016 | 7 to 8 PM ET**

as a part of the **You're Home—What's Next?** webinar series

#### **Are you a Veteran, Active duty, National Guard or Reservist seeking to earn a degree in criminal justice?**

*The Pathway to a Career in Criminal Justice* webinar will discuss Excelsior's School of Public Service and the criminal justice degree programs that it has to offer. The School of Public Service provides students with the skills and knowledge needed for careers in criminal justice, state and federal governments, and military. During the webinar, you'll learn how your military experience, police training and prior education may qualify toward college credits.

Excelsior's criminal justice experts will explore a number of topics, including associate, bachelor, and master degree program requirements, criminal justice training assessment directory and the advantages of combining experience and education. Other topics include career services tools, peer mentorship, and variety of resources for those in the military community through the Lt Col Bryant A. Murray Online Veterans Center.

Excelsior College student guests will share their experience as students in the Excelsior College criminal justice program and guests will be invited to ask questions and comment on the topic.

This informative webinar on the pathways to a career in criminal justice is open to the public.

#### **Resources**

[excelsior.edu](http://excelsior.edu)  
[excelsior.edu/programs/public-service](http://excelsior.edu/programs/public-service)  
[cme.excelsior.edu](http://cme.excelsior.edu)  
[veterans.excelsior.edu](http://veterans.excelsior.edu)  
[career.excelsior.edu/military](http://career.excelsior.edu/military)  
[news.excelsior.edu/school-public-service-launched-excelsior-college-mindful-future-career-growth-trends](http://news.excelsior.edu/school-public-service-launched-excelsior-college-mindful-future-career-growth-trends)  
[news.excelsior.edu/dr-michael-verro-on-criminal-justice-career-pathways](http://news.excelsior.edu/dr-michael-verro-on-criminal-justice-career-pathways)

—*COMMANDER, from page 1*

scholarships and other awards.

A successful business has consistent product. You know as a consumer that you purchase items that you are satisfied with. You return to the businesses that you know had good customer service and treated you well. How many times you go back to a business that treated you poorly or did not have the product you needed? Much like any brand name product or chain stores, such as McDonald's, Coca-Cola, or L.L. Bean, you know what to expect from them when you buy their product whether you are in your own hometown or another state. It is consistency that you expect and brings you back.

When a company has a consistent product and customer service it builds a reputation. This is known as *Goodwill*. Goodwill, by definition, is the value of the trade a business has built up over time.

Goodwill is a by-product of a well-run business. While it is not tangible, it can carry a value and indeed be an asset to the business. In reverse, if a business's goodwill declines it can be a detriment to that business.

I believe this is where we see ourselves today in the VFW. A business with consistent product and a strong Goodwill has customers flowing to them. Our customers (potential members) are not flowing to us, making membership difficult and causing us to have to look for them. Wouldn't it be great to have members coming to us and not having to do membership drives to sustain our posts. I believe we can see that day. We need to work diligently and consistently together to provide a consistent product to rebuild our Goodwill as the VFW and membership will take care of itself.

It's a matter of all posts working the VFW programs. That is our advertising. Giving away money for scholarships such as the VOD and Patriots Pen or recognizing a valued teacher or even a heroic EMT or fireman can bring great awareness to your post.

We also need to pay attention to how we promote and present ourselves in our communities. In some businesses they have

uniforms. Our uniform, at a minimum, is our VFW cover. It is common sense when in public to wear our cover and proper attire for the events we attend. Stained t-shirts, shorts and flip-flops should only be appropriate at the end of a beach party.

We should also wear our pride in public. After all we are the greatest wartime veteran's organization in the world. Own it! Be proud of it!! Others will then want to be a part of it.

It takes each post to maintaining proper etiquette and ideals of the VFW as well as promoting the programs and partnering in their communities with other organizations to be a success. We can no longer hide inside the four walls of the post and expect members to come to us.

All this can help us financially as well. When the community knows why we fund raise and knows where it goes they will be more than happy to support us. I don't know of a single store that relies on its employees to purchase the entire product. You need the community to do that, so you have to attract them!!

I'm asking that each member that reads this article to take a renewed interest in our programs and think of creative ways of being in the community so that we are visible to our communities and start to build the goodwill we once had. I can assure you with a consistent product from post to post our Goodwill will grow and we will be a desired organization to belong to again.

Let's be that organization!

If you need help in getting this started in your post please contact Department headquarters and we will endeavor to help in any way we can.

In Comradeship,

**Marlene Roll,  
Commander  
Department of NY**

## VFW Foundation Community Service Matching Grant

The VFW Foundation has an exciting new grant that is geared toward VFW Posts & Auxiliaries. It is called the "VFW Foundation Community Service Matching Grant."

As its name implies, the grant is designed to encourage VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to be more involved in their communities through support of other local nonprofits that promote youth mentorship, senior care and other beneficial services. Instead of a military focus (troops, veterans and military families) this grant is directed more toward the general non-military local population.

The grant, which awards up to \$500, must be matched dollar-for-dollar by a Post/Auxiliary's own fundraising efforts. Examples

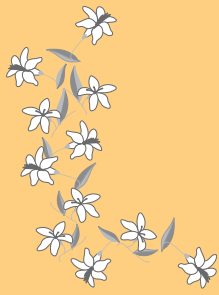
might include a Post or Auxiliary helping out a Little League baseball team, contributing funding for a K-12 school project or making a donation to a soup kitchen, senior center or homeless shelter.

The grant application can be accessed at [www.vfwfoundation.org](http://www.vfwfoundation.org) by clicking on the "Grants" tab at the top of the webpage. If anyone has a question about the grant or eligibility, please have them contact Jason Couch of my staff at (816) 968-1174 or [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org). Many thanks for this consideration

**Richard G. Freiburghouse**



**WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**



## Family gives thanks to the staff of the VA Hospital in Buffalo, New York



Good morning to all of you, my most favorite of family and friends.

I wanted to share with you the attitude of what is going on with the VA at their hospitals all over the country. There has been a very derogatory picture of how the VA hospitals are treating their patients across the USA. It is a dark and dismal picture being painted by many (including the Veterans that are under care with them). It seems that each week we read an article or watch a TV news segment about the awful way that portrays how we Veterans are treated and how poorly the upper management is handling things. Some of it may be true and some of it may actually occur. But the reason that I am writing this is because, I want to paint a picture for you how the VA treated my cousin Joe Campagna while he was under their care the last two days of his life.

Thanks to a couple of people who I know at the VA Hospital here in Buffalo, we were able to see how the VA handled and treated Joe from the ER room to the 7th floor where Joe passed away. They, the nurses and doctors set Joe up in a private room at the end of the hall where we could privately be with Joe during his final hours which lasted from about 3:00 PM on Thursday of last week to about 4:45 PM Friday, the very next day when he took his final breath. The Palliative Care team looked in on Joe every 15 minutes assuring him of a peaceful and painless journey on to his next life. They had music softly playing that made all of us feel that we were in a world of serenity and music, birds singing and brooks babbling and the sounds of an American Indian playing a flute while being in the outdoors that Joe so loved. It was so serene and calming for all of us who stayed with Joe those remaining hours of his life.

Finally Joe passed. What happened next should send chills up and down your spine and maybe perhaps even make you drip a tear for a truly great guy. The Palliative Team does a memorial right there on the 7th floor that I, along with Tony (Joe's son) agreed to earlier that morning and it went like this.

They placed Joe's body on a gurney that would just wheel him to the hospital morgue, but instead here's what "really" happened. Upon placing Joe's body on the gurney, they draped an American flag over him completely covering him and the gurney, and wheeled him out into the hallway. Then and there all of the lights were dimmed down, and all of the beeps and sounds of the hospital monitors were all silenced. Next, there was a cd that played taps for Joe, and after taps they slowly started their march down the hallway where all of the doctors and nurses and patients stood side by side saluting Joes' flag draped gurney while they then placed a cd into the sound system that played a bag piper playing "Amazing Grace".

That, my friends, is how our VA Hospital treated my cousin Joe, a Veteran who was saluted for his service to his Country, by a group of caring care takers for the men and women who give of themselves while protecting us each and every day from very bad people.

*Thank you VA Hospital of Buffalo, New York, and thank you  
Nurse Nancy Duxs and Evangeline Conley  
who do these things each and every day for our Veterans.*

Phil Ippolito  
Aide-to-Commander Dept of NY  
VFW Harvey D. Morin Post #2940



## Housing Help for Veterans

*John Rago, Sr. Vice Dennis Sullivan and Richard DiLusso at St. Joseph's College.*





DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## SERVICE OFFICER RAFFLE

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

***NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS***

**LET'S SHOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK CARES**

**The Department of New York Service Officer Raffle is ON!**

**Our Generous Contributors Have Donated**

**over \$4,500.00 in Prize Money**

**TO BE GIVEN AWAY**

**AT THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK CONVENTION**

**IN BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK - JUNE 2016**

**IN SUPPORT OF OUR SERVICE OFFICERS**

The Department of NY is once again sponsoring a CASH raffle to benefit our Service Officers. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to our raffle prize donors this year. Their generosity will enable us to provide over \$4,500 in prizes to 45 lucky prize winners – **but you must have a ticket to win!** There will be two \$200.00 prizes, 41 \$100 prizes, 1 \$50.00 and 1 \$25.00 prize.

Our Department Service Officers continue to do an outstanding job. The efforts of Tom Todaro & Marlene Roll in Buffalo and our new Service Officer Cynthia Blair in Albany have enabled our veterans to be awarded over \$80 million dollars in VA benefits this past year. Let's make sure they are able to continue doing this great work for our veterans.

Each Post Commander and Auxiliary will be mailed two raffle ticket sheets this year. Please help support our fund drive this year by urging your Post to buy at least one if not two sheets. For those wishing to purchase tickets, they are \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00. You do not need to be present to win. If your post has run out of tickets, or anyone is interested in selling more tickets, give Department Headquarters a call at (518) 563-7427 and they will be sent out to you. Tickets are available from Department Headquarters as well.

The Service Officer Ad Book Chairman Firth Turner will also be publishing a Service Officer Ad Book which will be given out at the Department Convention in June. Make sure your Post or Auxiliary is represented. An Ad Book order form has been included in the raffle mailing to each Post and Auxiliary. Our Department Service Officers are totally funded by the Department of New York and from the proceeds of our raffle and Ad Book.

Let's make this another successful fund drive this year and continue to embrace our motto, **"VFW - NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS"**. Please make your checks or M.O. payable to Dept of NY VFW and mail your ticket stubs, payment and Ad Book order form to Department of NY VFW, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gene Ratigliano".

Gene Ratigliano  
Service Officer Raffle Chairman





USAA is  
**Proud to Serve**  
the Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Give back to the VFW.



USAA Bank proudly supports veterans and their families. Show your support by applying for the credit card that gives back to either the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary with every eligible purchase, and take advantage of:

- **0% introductory APR** for the first 12 months on balance transfers and convenience checks posted in the first three months after account opening (**10.90% to 25.90% variable APR on these balances after 12 months**)<sup>1</sup>
- **No annual fee**
- 2,500 bonus points after your first purchase.<sup>2</sup> **Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary**



### APPLY TODAY.

**VFW USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard®**  
[usaa.com/vfwcc](http://usaa.com/vfwcc)  
 800-274-8839

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 866-575-2859

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

<sup>1</sup>Offer subject to approval. As of 12/1/15, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.90% to 25.90%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances (\$200 maximum on each balance transfer and each convenience check) and 1% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. If you transfer a balance or write a convenience check with this offer, all purchases will be charged interest until you pay the entire balance in full, including any transferred/convenience check balances. After that, you will have a grace period on purchases when you pay your entire statement balance each month by the payment due date. If you apply for a USAA World MasterCard account and are approved, your credit history and credit limit will determine if you qualify for a USAA World MasterCard or a USAA Platinum MasterCard with the same rates and fees. <sup>4</sup>Earn 1 point for every \$1 in credit card purchases. Other restrictions apply. Rewards points terminate if account is closed or delinquent or program ends. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. The VFW and the VFW Auxiliary receive financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

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