

# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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Veterans of Foreign Wars  
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Volume 37 Issue 3



## Eugene Ratigliano

State Commander

Greetings Comrades,

Fall has arrived and we are on the cusp of oncoming winter but we still have some bright days ahead and

some time to work while the weather is still with us to concentrate on MEMBERSHIP. My thanks goes out to all of you who have been working diligently in adding to our membership strength and the many events I have observed you attend throughout your districts. I offer my congratulations to those posts which have made or exceeded 100% to date. I am pleased to report that we continue to be on an upward trend and are currently at 92.34% with only 3,605 more members to recruit/reinstate to reach 100% as of this writing. Your hard work is paying off. I had set a goal for the Department at 90% by the time we headed off for the Eastern States Conference and 92% by January 1, 2019 and as I write this article for the OSV we have

already exceeded that on both counts! Our next goal is to be at 95% by 1 March. We are as close as we have ever been in meeting our end strength and with all of us working together, I know we can make it.

The Washington, D.C. trip award in my membership program this year is still within reach for some Councils and Districts. The first County Council Commander who reaches 100% in membership by December 31st will be awarded a monetary travel expense award up to \$700.00 to be used for attendance at the Washington Conference where the Nation's VOD and Patriot Pen awards will be presented and the Commander in Chief will give his testimony on the hill. The first District Commander who reaches 100% by December 31st will be awarded a travel expense of \$1,500.00 in the D.C. trip award.

December is an important month for membership as a great percentage of our members' dues will expire on December 31st

— STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 5



## Tom Todaro

State Sr. Vice Commander

First of all I would like to thank all of you that have recruited at least 1 or more new members. Remember EVERYONE is on the

membership team, and should be working the lists that are sent out on a regular basis. Let's get out there and bring back in the members who haven't paid their dues in the last 2 years or more and make sure that we are pursuing those delinquent members to pay their annual dues. If we are diligent in doing this we can put NY over the top this

year. Posts should also review their roster of elected and appointed officers to ensure that neither will be expiring during their term of office, as they will be removed by National and not be able to hold another position for the rest of the Administrative year.

The 2018-2019 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Lawrence. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Why My Vote Matters" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "Why I Honor the American Flag"

The Department winning essays are due to the National

— STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 5



## Harold Burke Jr.

State Adjutant

Comrades,

The Holiday Season is upon us and on behalf of Dale, Monica, Gene, Don, and I we wish you

a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

As 2018 comes to a close, if you have not already done so, please take time to complete your Community Service Report and Trustee's Report of Audit.

By the time you receive this newsletter the Department should be well over 90% in membership. You are all working hard toward our common goal of 100%. Please remember that membership is the back bone of our organization.

We are one of the few organizations that have an independent meeting with Congress due to our large membership.

Do not forget to place your order for "Buddy"® Poppies. Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required and please do not use "ASAP"

**SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.** Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be close to completion and District level should be preparing to begin. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the Departments by **December 15**. After Department judging, each Department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline for

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Photographer:



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Don Mackey

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NYSOV

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Post News  
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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](http://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](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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## Thomas Howard

State Jr. Vice Commander

As I have traveled throughout the state of New York, I am hearing the same thing: "We can't find members."

Let's look at the ones that we have left our organization and try to bring them back. We comrades must change and get more evolved in our communities to help make our posts people friendly. Let's hand out poppies more often, not just on Veteran's Day. We need to let the community

know that we live here just like they do and invite them into the post to see what we are about. Work with different groups by asking what we can do to help our veterans outreach centers, feed a Vet and especially the homeless. Please don't forget the elderly ones that are in nursing homes or might need a ride to a doctor appointment, etc. Let's become brothers and sisters once again and become one big family.

**Thomas E. Howard  
Jr. Vice Commander**



## Dan McMahon

State Quartermaster

Since my last article we have made some strides in resolving those properties of defunct posts within the Department. Old Post

54's building in Niagara Falls was sold and paperwork is almost completed. The new owners are ecstatic to be able to obtain the building and are in the process of rehabbing it. They are going to use it for the NYS Heritage Trail tours.

Old Post 199's building in North Collins, is to be let go for back taxes. Commander Ratigliano and myself toured the building and agreed the building is so rundown it would take more money to rehab it than it is worth.

Old Post 355's building on Sloan is going to be revitalized and those members of several defunct posts in the area are being asked to create a new Post in the building. The C of A at the Fall Conference approved monies to be spent to rehab the inside. The building is intact and very sound.

Old Post 9217's building in Liberty is being sold to a nearby contractor. The future buyer is talking with the Liberty officials as there may be an asbestos issue he is trying to work out.

It is the goal of the Department to return to the Members monies from the defunct posts. That being said, at the same time as the monies for the defunct Post 355 were set aside, there was money also set aside for increases in the Department winners in the VOD and Patriots Pen scholarships. Money was also set aside in case the national VOD and Patriots Pen programs the Department had endowed

some time ago are not properly funded in the future. The Increase in the monetary awards for the youth essay programs will begin in the 2019-2020 VFW year. Awards will begin at the 2020 Department Convention. Funds for assisting our veterans with hardships has also been set aside. The details for the conditions, incidents and amounts are in the process of being finalized. The details must be approved by the Department C of A.

The investment report from Bill Schappacher at the fall conference we are holding steady and the Bonds are doing better, at the present.

A side note from the IRS concerning retirees and their withholdings: The IRS is advising each retiree check with their financial advisor before the end of the year. This is due to the federal income tax reduction which was enacted earlier this year.

There are still officers being removed from office for failure of that officer to pay his or her dues prior to the due date. National has changed the expiration date from the actual date of the month to the last day of the month. I will repeat, Quartermasters need to be aware of those members and especially their officers, whose dues are about to expire and make contact with them. If any of the Annual Post's officers are doing or has done exceptional jobs, why not pay that individual's life time membership? If a life member of your post has done or is doing an outstanding job for the Post, why not pay for a Level of Legacy life membership for that individual?

**Yours in Comradeship,  
Dan McMahon**

## Service Officer Fund

We are moving closer to begin in real earnest to start to raise funds for the New York State VFW Service Officers. This is without a doubt one of the most critical parts of the VFW. We are after all a Veterans Service Organization first and foremost. To help the Department with the costs that we need for operating the offices that the Service Officers and their staff work in we will once again have a Service Officers Raffle and a Service Officers Journal.

Ben Thompson, PSC is the chairman of the Service Officer Raffle and Karl Rohde, PSC is the chairman of the Service Officer Journal. We are working together on these projects. Ben has chances for the raffle available at this time. The applications will be going out after the first of the year along with raffle tickets.

We urge you to go outside of your posts, counties and districts to sell these raffles and to get ads. If you have a club room ask the vendors that bring you supplies to take ads or to buy raffle tickets. Everyone should be willing to help with Service Officers. Explain to non-VFW exactly what a Service Officer is and the importance of Service Officers. They are the people in the trenches helping Veterans every day.

On the Journal I announced a special ad that we will have in this year's journal. Send me \$20.00 and a business card and you will get a business card size ad in the journal. Well actually send it to State Headquarters. At this time our Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief is the only person to take a business card ad and pay for that ad. Don't let him be the only business card ad.

## Youth Programs

Comrades, thanks for your question on how the process works for judging and responsibility for our youth programs.

Your post is required to forward your Post VOD winner to the District and nowhere else and that includes your county council. If you have more than 15 entries in Patriot's Pen then you use the formula of 1 per 15 entries to the district. Your county council can use the winners if they are part of the county and award them separately but have zero responsibility or bearing in the judging to move forward. Bottom line: your entries go from Post to District then to State.

**Lynn W. Rolf III**

## National Legislation Update

There are currently two bills awaiting action in the Senate in Washington, DC and all veterans and their families are strongly encouraged to call our two Senators and ask them to act on these bills now.

HR 299 is the Blue Water Navy Act of 2018 which passed UNANIMOUSLY in the house on June 24th 2018. This bill would restore benefits for Blue Water Navy vets who served off the coast in territorial waters during the Vietnam War, expand benefits for Korean DMZ veterans exposed before April 1968 and provide Spina Bifida benefits to the children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand. Currently there is opposition from the VA to this bill so your input to the Senators is important.

HR 5469 is the Transition Improvement Act of 2018 which passed

— *NATIONAL LEGISLATION UPDATE, continued on page 4*



## Daniel L. Kell

**State Surgeon**

In the past few months I have had the opportunity, with the Department of New York VAVS Chairman, to visit and tour Batavia VA Hospital, Batavia Veterans Nursing Home, Syracuse VA Hospital and Montrose Veterans Nursing Home. This was a great experience to visit with the veterans and talk to them on the care they are receiving from the staff and employees at these facilities and most of all thank them for their service to our nation.

Each post in the Department should be reporting their volunteer hours in our hospitals and Veteran Nursing Homes on their Semi-Annual Community Service Report. I am also asking the County and District VAVS Chairman's provide me by email their volunteer hours and activities they provide at our VA Hospitals and Veteran Nursing Homes on quarterly basis so I can provide that information at our Department of New York Conferences and C of A meetings. My email address is [grizzlybear60@windstream.net](mailto:grizzlybear60@windstream.net)

If I can be of assistance to anyone or any post in the Department please do not hesitate to call me.

**Yours in Comradeship;**

**Daniel L. Kell**

**Department of New York Surgeon**

## Bob Mitchell

**State Inspector**

We are well into our Inspection year and are making good progress on our goal to have each and every Post in the Department of New York inspected. I would like to commend our District Inspection teams for completing very thorough and excellent Post Inspections! As you know, it is our duty to ensure that all our Posts in the Department of New York are operating in a manner that is consistent with our Department and National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It is also imperative that our inspection process safeguards the financial integrity of our Posts and most importantly, protects the interests of our membership!

If your Post has not yet been contacted by a District Inspection team member and scheduled for an Inspection, I would encourage you to reach out to your District Commander and request that your Post be inspected. I am confident that it will be a very constructive and rewarding event. As a reminder, consideration for a Post All-State award requires that your Post be inspected prior to April 30, 2019 and that your Inspection Report is received and approved by the Department prior to May 1, 2019.

**Yours in Comradeship**

**Bob Mitchell**

**State Inspector**







## Mike Webster

### Veterans & Military Support Programs

As I said at the Fall Conference, "I need these pins gone." I verbally thanked those remaining at the General Session but here I wish to thank all of you who purchased the pins this year. I brought \$1000 worth of pins from the National Convention and right after our Conference I mailed a check to Veterans & Military Support Programs for that \$1000. Thank you again. The Department of New York VFW receives the credit.

I repeat from my last article: Please make your donation today. To help the Department show participation and receive the credit due your Post, or yourself, make the check out to the "Department of NY VFW" and annotate in the memo block "Veterans & Military Support Programs". Mail it to the Department.

Burger King is raising money for **UnMet Needs** during the month of November. Please stop by and enjoy a meal.

### Mike Webster Chairman

#### — NATIONAL LEGISLATION UPDATE, continued from page 3

the house on July 24th 2018. Basically this bill is about jobs and benefits for veterans transitioning from active duty back to civilian life. It would require service members to begin TAP classes 12 months from separation, reorganize TAP to include mandatory information about education entrepreneurship or technical skills, reopen TAP in the community programs for veterans, provide grants for private organizations that specialize in transition to employment and open pathways for vets to connect with the community and veteran organizations in their hometowns while still on active duty.

Please call Senator Schumer's office at 212-486-4430 or in DC at 202-224-6542 and Senator Gillibrand's office at 212-688-6262 or 202-224-4451 and express your support.

## Life Members of the National Home

Life Members of the National Home are a special group of people. We take great pride in knowing our, **\$35.00 soon to increase to \$50.00 January 1, 2019**, one-time membership fee and annual support helps provide:

- Our toll-free Military and Veteran Family Helpline (800) 313-4200 answers urgent calls for help from our veterans and their family members. Phones are answered by experienced problem-solvers who can provide the knowledge, contacts and connections that struggling families need. A temporary home for spouses and children of active-duty military during a deployment.
- Deployed military members' spouses and children can live at the National Home during deployment for up to four years. Just imagine what a relief it is for our active-duty soldiers to know that their children are thriving within our happy extended family. These heroes have enough to worry about!
- Veterans and their families can rebound from a time of crisis

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## VFW National Home for Children

By Art Scheuneman

Comrades,

At our VFW State Convention held in Albany this past June, I was appointed State National Home Chairman. Thank You State Commander Eugene "Gene" Ratigliano for this opportunity to serve as National Home Chairman. I am looking forward to working with you and the Comrades of the Department of New York VFW and our Auxiliary to fulfill the goals and mission of this Organization.

Since my appointment, I have had many discussions with fellow Comrades about the National Home. I was really surprised that so many had no idea that our VFW National Organization even had a National Home for Children.

Did you know that The National Home has only one (1) type of Membership and that is a Life Membership? The cost of a Life Membership is currently just \$35.00, soon to be increased to \$50.00 on January 1, 2019. Now is the time to purchase your Life Membership to avoid the price increase. Please contact me @ [WdStock44@Yahoo.Com](mailto:WdStock44@Yahoo.Com) or call 585-689-5975 for further details on how to become a National Home Life Member. As my personal goal, I have set a target to RECRUIT one hundred (100) New Life Members for The National Home for Children. As a result of my efforts, National Home for Children has fifty eight (58) New Life Members from the Department of New York. As a team, Department of New York will increase its membership in support of the National Home.

During the weekend of October 26-28, I visited the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan for the Board of Trustees and Annual Life Membership meetings. Highlights of the meeting included the formal installation of new board officers and trustees. Newly elected trustees Kim Sloan, representing District 11 and Annabelle Furgason, representing District 7, were sworn in, along with new Board President Mike McGrath and new Board Vice President, Sam Compton. Outgoing District 11 Trustee, Barbara Stodgell and District 7 Trustee, Merridy Lewis, were honored during the meeting for their service to the National Home.

Following the Annual Life Membership meeting the Departments of Missouri and Wisconsin sponsored a Halloween Party for the resident children of the National Home. The Children that attended the Halloween Party came dressed in costume and had a great time partaking in planned activities and games and of course collecting their bounty of treats from all in attendance.

Now for a little background on The National Home for Children.

### The Mission

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Home for Children will provide children, youth and families of veterans, active-duty military and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in a nurturing community, and by doing so will serve as a living memorial to all veterans."

It was founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war -- mothers and children, brothers sisters could remain together, keeping the family circle intact.

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.

### The Idea

The idea for the National Home was first planted in 1923 when the Military Order of the Cootie presented the concept to the VFW at its National Convention. Members of the VFW embraced the idea of a home for the children and families of veterans, and the VFW

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under the old dues program so it is incumbent upon us to concentrate on having those members who will expire on the 31st renewed this month.

As important as membership is, we are heading into the holidays so please take some time out and make it a family affair. Although there is work to be done, you can still make time for family.

We should be hearing very soon on the selections from our chairmen for our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Contest winners in the Department as well as other contests still in progress. Those applicants who applied through your posts should also be recognized locally. If you have a dinner or awards ceremony get it published in the local papers to advertise your VFW in the community. There is still plenty of time to nominate a National Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter or EMT. A new post application form which can be distributed to the respective agencies to assist you in nominating one of their own is now available on the National website. Go to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and go to My VFW, Member Resources, click on Training and Support then Community Service and Youth Programs, then look under Public Servant Program. Let's see if we can increase the number of awards this year and recognize those in your community who provide such a valuable service and are most times never recognized. Now is the opportunity to do so. Every post is expected to participate in not only the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen but also the Public Servant Program, the Smart/Maher National Teacher's awards, Buddy Poppy and Veterans and Military Service Support Programs. These programs are the foundation of our organization and the more we promote them the greater our connection with the community and improvement to networking which eventually leads to higher membership.

To all who participated in the Stop-22 Suicide Awareness event THANK YOU!! We continue to strive to bring the number veterans who commit suicide to zero. Events like Stop-22 help to bring the community in focus with how difficult it really is to bring the numbers down because of the traumatic injuries, family separation and stress of combat that puts so much pressure on our troops who

— *STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

Programs office prior to Jan. 15th and please ensure that you have notated on that entry the date that you informed your winner of plan on informing them.

Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. This will not replace the physical VFW membership card, they will still be sent out. You can go up on the National Website and follow the directions for downloading your VFW card.

There are also many training tools online. You can find Member and Officer Training, Forms and Templates, training material relating to Membership Recruiting and Retention, Community Service and Youth Programs, Communications and Public Affairs, Post Service Officer Training, etc. Commanders, use these valuable tools and training guides in your posts. Pick one out and use it at a Post Meeting, your members will thank you for it.

The 2019 Revised Podium Edition-Congressional Charter and Bylaws is available and can be purchased through the VFW store.

Finally I would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday Season, and let's not forget to remember our troops, as we sit down to dinner over the holidays.

Yours in Comradeship!!

become deployed again and again. Let's keep up the fight to reach that zero goal and continue to participate in programs like Stop-22 to assist in this effort.

The post winners who had the most participants in the Stop-22 event are as follows:

- First Place - \$500.00 Barben-Jones VFW Post 1400, Watertown, NY
- Second Place - \$250.00 Ballston Spa VFW Post 348, Ballston Spa, NY
- Third Place - \$100.00 Vail-Wolf McKenna-Frye VFW Post 170, Poughkeepsie, NY

Congratulations to you all.

A new logo has just been approved at National which is geared to make the Veterans of Foreign Wars more recognizable to the community. The new logo is without the Cross of Malta; however, the Cross of Malta will still be used in a more appropriate way in the future. An example used at the Eastern States Conference as a reason for the change is to treat the Cross of Malta with more respect - having someone walk into a post with wet or muddy boots on a door mat with the VFW Cross of Malta or an ashtray with the Cross of Malta in the center of that item and have someone stub out a cigarette on the seal- is that how we want to continue to treat the symbol of our organization? I can see why the change and hope that you can embrace it too.

As reported by VFW Communications, "the new logo and visual language embraces the organization's storied 119 years of service to America's veterans, service members and their families, while underscoring its forward-thinking approach to service and distinguished membership base. The VFW believes the new logo will improve market position and provide visual clarity to its mission."

As this will be the last issue of OSV for 2018 I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Gene Ratigliano**  
State Commander

— *STATE ADJUTANT, continued from page 1*

submissions is **January 15, 2019**. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation Citation.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and an all expenses-paid trip to attend a VFW and Auxiliary National Event.

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than **February 1, 2019**. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

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

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

## Community Service Report

By Andy Veiga

### Importance of Community Service Reporting

The Internal Revenue Code section 501(c) includes subsection [501(c)(19) which provide for tax-exemption for organizations that benefit veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Among other requirements, a veterans' post or organization must meet certain requirements to be exempt under this section, including that it must be operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes:

- to promote the social welfare of the community (e.g., to promote the common good and general welfare of the people of the community)
- to assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents - and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans
- to provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the United States Armed Forces
- to carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and comfort their survivors
- to conduct programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes
- to sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature

- to provide insurance benefits for members or their dependents or
- to provide social and recreational activities for members

Our Community Service Reports serve as the necessary documentation to support the above purposes, thereby having proof on file at HQ, for IRS inspection, that we as an organization are eligible be tax-exempt.

These reports must be submitted by the Posts twice a year, in November and May, for the prior 6-month period.

Copies of the report and notice are available for download on the Department's website ([www.vfwny.com](http://www.vfwny.com)), in the Resources/'Reports & Forms' section.

Report compliance by Posts, in the Department as a whole, last year was disappointing (at 52%).

Let's try to do a better job in reporting this year. It's not too early to start preparing the November report as almost all posts should have activities to report for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, etc.

Just a reminder to Post Commanders that under the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, Section 218 – Officer and Chairmen Duties and Obligation, sub-section (a)(1)(i) that **you** are to assure that all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded.

Let's not keep all our good works a secret. Report your activities and our entire organization will look better for it.

### — VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN, continued from page 4

National Home for Children was born as a non-profit corporation separate from the VFW itself.

On December 6, 1924, the National Council of Administration approved the idea of the VFW National Home. Articles of Incorporation were prepared, and on January 7, 1925, the dreams of Amy Ross, Corey Spencer and the Military Order of the Cootie had at last come true. On March 9, 1925, Mrs. Pollett and her 6 children entered the VFW National Home as the first residents.

The Department of New York and its Auxiliary sponsors two (2) houses at The National Home Campus. The first house New York 1 was built in 1927 it consists of a 1,620 square feet, 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath. The second house New York 2 was built in 1966 and boasts 4,070 square feet, 4 bedrooms and 3 baths.

As everyone knows with any house there is constant upkeep and maintenance. The Department of New York asks that when you or your Post is considering making a donation to The National Home that in the memo line that you specify New York House and to send those donations to The Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Rd, Albany, NY 12205. By all means if you find sending a check directly to The National Home is in order, please notify the Department of the amount and date so that we may keep track of donations being made. Thank You.

For those individuals or Posts that want to do a Fund Raiser for a good cause, why not try a Fundraiser for The National Home for Children? The National Home makes this possible through their Facebook page. To get started go to your Facebook page and type in the search bar VFW National Home for Children. Directions on how to proceed are located under "Create a Fundraiser."

More to come in future editions of the *Department of New York Overseas Veterans Newsletter*.

Loyally,  
Art Scheuneman  
State National Home Chairman

### — LIFE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL HOME, continued from page 4

while living at the National Home and learn how to rebuild their lives. Whether that crisis is triggered by financial problems or by the lingering effects of wartime service, such as PTSD our warm and welcoming community helps the entire family to heal.

- Recognizing that the effects of war can last for generations, the National Home community is also open to members of the VFW Post and Auxiliary, as well as their descendants.

The thousands of National Home Life Members believe in the importance of giving back to the families of those who have served. Now it's your turn.

**Time is running out. Please join me today in becoming a National Home Life Member for the low cost of \$35.00. Beginning January 1, 2019 the one-time membership fee increases to \$50.00 and includes a Life Membership Pin.**

As a new member, you will receive a welcome packet with a wallet card and a certificate suitable for framing. But most of all, you will receive the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting an organization whose sole mission is to help military and veteran families through challenging times.

Thank you for taking time to read about the National Home. I hope you'll decide to join such a worthwhile organization by returning the attached application. If you sign up online, please include my name on the form under "Recruited By".

Sincerely,  
Art Scheuneman  
State National Home Chairman

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**





## Buddy Poppy Time

Comrades,

It's "Buddy Poppy Time" but anytime is "Buddy Poppy Time!" Has your Post ordered yours yet? As of the Memstats report dated November 2, 2018, 337,500 Poppies have been ordered for all of the Department of New York.

Reminder! Poppy orders go to the Department of New York! Orders for Buddy Poppies take 45 days to receive them so plan ahead. All other Poppy supplies are ordered from the VFW Store. There is a limited number of 100th anniversary poppies that may be ordered.

Elmer Wienclawski, one of my Post "Seasoned" Life Members, on duty during a recent Poppy Drive. He is only 98 years young. Comrade Weinclawski is a WW2 and Korean War Veteran. I'm sure in New York State, there are many VFW Posts that have Comrades like him. If you do, Please send me a picture so we can Honor them.

**Harris H. Bartz**  
**NYS Buddy Poppy Chairman**  
**hhbartz1@gmail.com**  
**Tel: (716)289-0122**



## Eagle Scout Honor

Jason Montagna was honored in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on November 24th, 2018 which was held at VFW Post 5350 in Westhampton Beach. To become an Eagle Scout, Jason earned 26 Merit Badges and served as Troop 62 Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader. He enjoyed camping with his Troop and earning his Wilderness Survival Merit Badge.

Jason's Eagle Project, "Safety of the Field", involved raising money and installing two Automatic External Defibrillators at Westhampton Beach Middle School and High School Athletic Fields. Jason taught a class on the use of the AED for the students of Westhampton Beach.

Jason is in the Eleventh Grade at Westhampton Beach High School and is Co-Captain of the WHB Varsity Wrestling Team. Jason loves the beach and surfing. This past summer Jason became certified as an Ocean Lifeguard and worked at the Westhampton Village Beaches. He also volunteers at Quogue Wildlife where he feeds rescued animals and the Bald Eagle.



**Respectfully submitted,**  
**William M. Hughes Jr.**  
**Suffolk County & VFW Post 5350 Commander**

## Voice of Democracy Report



Dear Comrades, Sisters & Friends,

I have some very exciting news for this release, but first, thanks to all Post & Districts VOD Chairmen that help make this program such a success. At this time of our contest all VOD essays entries are now on the desks of our Post Chairpersons' being judged by the National Criteria. I am looking forward to receiving an entry from each of our Department's 9 VOD Chairpersons. I would like to ask each District Chairmen to include a photo (head & shoulders) of their respective District winner with their advancement packet to me.

Now for the exciting news. Our Department VOD program is now international. A young lady in High School wrote to our National Programs Coordinator Quentin Carroll explaining her situation. Born, raised and schooled in the United States and familiar with VFW sponsored VOD essay contest, but recently because of her Dad's work, the family has moved to Toronto Ontario, Canada. Her question to Mr. Carroll was if she would be eligible to submit a VOD essay entry. His answer, even though she meets the qualifications, an entry has to be entered at a VFW Post and there are no VFW in Ontario. After hearing of her situation and the Department of New York being the closest geographical area Department Commander Ratigliano stepped-up and came to her assistance by offering Post 420 as a submission Post.

The second exciting news, Commander Ratigliano & our Department C of A took a close look at the Department's Youth programs (VOD & Patriot Pen) awards. I am very happy and excited to announce to you in this newsletter that the C of A has increased the awards 400% across the boards starting with next year's (2019/20) programs. That's RIGHT... 400%! Please do the math you'll be amazed as I was. That will be quite an incentive for students to participate in our VFW sponsored essay programs. I would like to use this forum to thank Commander Ratigliano & our C of A for making the Department of New York Youth Programs awards one of the most generous in the VFW.

I am now assembling a panel of elected officials and community leaders to serve as judges on Dec. 29th to choose the Department VOD winners from the entries that have reached my desk. I will then advance our Departments 1st place standard bearer to the Mother Ship for consideration of the \$30,000 scholarship.

Please thank all the students that participated in this year's essay program and the best on their future endeavors.

To all my Comrades, Sisters & Friends have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season.

**Yours in Comradeship,**  
**Wally Zincio**  
**State Youth Development**  
**Recognition & Scholarship (VOD) Chairman**





## District 1 Briefing

**Pat Iulucci, District 1 Commander**

Comrades,

As we enter the second phase of 2018-2019 term, it has been quite exciting and still very much overwhelming for me, as I am sure that it has been for my fellow colleagues in District Commander positions throughout the state. Post reports are still coming in slow, which tells me that there are still a lot of posts not taking these requirements serious. Again, I can't emphasize enough that the following reports are due on time to Department Headquarters, Quarterly Trustee Reports, I.R.S. 990's, Community Service Reports and Quartermaster Bonds. All posts are required to send District dues to the District Quartermasters in order for the post to vote at district convention. District 1 dues of .25 cents per member, for example (100 members at .25 cents = \$25.00)

The nice weather is almost gone and we are approaching another winter in the Northeast region, however this does not mean that we can take a break from recruiting. I have been speaking to my county councils on holding "OPEN HOUSES" at their posts, as well as holding recruitment drives at indoor sports complexes. All it takes is a little initiative to get out there and do it, IT CAN BE DONE.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen applications are due into posts by October 31st, judged by posts and forwarded to

County Councils and Districts in a timely manner. Be sure that all requirements have been met before forwarding to the above mentioned levels. I have taken on the District 1 "Teacher of the Year" Chairman position for 2018-2019. I have noticed that there are many posts not accepting Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen student applications, this will not be tolerated by District 1. I am instructing all post commanders not to turn anyone away who wishes to turn in an application to their post. Accept the application for processing and if you have issues, please contact me, the District Commander, and I will assist the post as necessary.

On behalf of District 1 comrades, I wish to personally thank the Department Commander, and his membership team for the prestigious award which was presented to me at the Department Fall Conference for the district achieving first place in the Department. I was honored to receive the award, and will try to continue to do my best to help the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars to achieve 100% membership by June 31, 2019.

No One Does More for Veterans than The Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**District 1 Commander,  
Pat Iulucci**



## District 3 Briefing

**James MacArthur, District 3 Commander**

Hello comrades:

Summer is over and fall is here, with the beautiful colors in upstate New York.

There has been so much going on this summer that I am not sure where to begin.

As previously reported in my last newsletter, we had our OTI class for District 3. In attendance, were 60 members from 38 posts which was a great turn out. Our first District meeting was held on October 14, 2018 at Post 1545 in Windham. Another wonderful turn out with 38 out of 46 posts represented at the meeting. I would like to thank our District 3 Jr. Vice Commander, Mark Farmilette, who is also the Post Commander of Post 1545, along with his members for their hospitality. Department Commander, Gene Ratigliano, was also in attendance for the meeting and I would like to thank him for being present.

I want to cover membership. Two weeks ago, I attended our Department's Fall Conference and it seems we have a little competition going on with membership. Currently District One walked away with a very large trophy. With the help of my district membership chairman, Mike Hoag and our post commanders, we will be working very hard to ensure that trophy goes home with District 3 at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. To date, we have recruited 64 new members, are currently at 87.8 % in the department standings leaving us 3.7 % behind first place. I am confident that we can be in first place by January. My inspection team continues to be

busy with completing inspections.

There are many events taking place in the district this fall, too many to mention in this letter but I would like to mention one event. Some posts are holding STOP-22 events in conjunction with Humana to raise awareness of Veterans suicide. This event is very, very important and is just one example of the dedication of our membership to Veterans. What a great pleasure it is to be the commander of such a wonderful group of comrades, here in District 3 Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York.

Comrades I have to report on the passing Kenneth Wilber. Ken is a past County Council Commander, District Commander and the long time Quartermaster of District 3. Ken and I are longtime friends and have been involved in many other organizations here in Columbia County, including being Past Presidents of the Columbia County Fire Fighters Association. Ken is the one who supported and pushed me to become District 3 Commander and he will be greatly missed by all. Let us keep his wife Jeanette, his kids and grandkids in our prayers.

In closing, remember NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS than the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Until next time, everyone be safe and enjoy the holidays.

**Yours in comradeship,  
James MacArthur  
District 3 Commander**





## District 4 Briefing

### **Ron Bambury, District 4 Commander**

Starting September 9 with 1st of Our District Meetings at Post 6001, Yorkville, NY. Many Thanks to Commander Sychtyz and

Staff for Hosting Veteran's & Auxiliary.

Department Chief of Staff Mick Hoag was onboard to observe and emphasize importance of meetings and Commander Ratigliano's Topics. By the way, the food was over-the-top.

Speaking of Food - 9/15 Cream Cheese Festival, Lowville NY. Post 6912, Held a recruiting event.

District 4 POW MIA Remembrance on 9/21 was held at Boonville Post 5538. Always well done.

Come October 13 & 14 Council of Administration now get to sit in The "Hot" seats. It was very informational & enlightening, as to our Department, National and the many items/issues addressed or needing further work on. \*\*Highly suggest that each Post send a delegate to the fall or spring CoA.

STOP-22 WALK - Lead by Commander Ratigliano, Saturday 10/14. Very nice turnout. Other known STOP-22 walk's Yorkville 6001 - Natalie Spellman took charge. West Winfield 2338- Senior Vice Commander Diane Schoonover lead the way. Thanks to all who participated.

October 27, Rome Post 2246 State Commander's Dinner & Testimonial. Great job by Commander Ron Barry & Staff. Also earlier that day, I accompanied commander Ratigliano & his wife on a journey to the following posts;

- Bridgeport Post 8440, Commander Froio
- West Winfield Post 2338, Commander Evans
- Yorkville Post 6001, Commander Sychtyz

Thanks to all present to greet Gene and have a short discussion on a variety of topics.

November 3rd Military Ball at Clinton Post 9591. Very well organized, nice turnout. Many thanks to Commander Lamarche and his staff for hosting this event. Thanks to Chet Stutler for keeping us informed as planning progressed.

November 4 District Meeting. Department Inspector Bob Mitchel was onboard to observe & discuss Commander Ratigliano's topics of concern. He also made himself available for questions on inspections.

Recruiting materials were distributed to each post. I trust by now, all have found a home of high visibility. Do a regular check on the posters -If additional posters are needed, Department has more available.

Recruiting, New Members, Life Blood of The VFW & Other Organizations. Make Our Lives Easier - Take a Good Look at RETENTION!! Members signed on once - let's get them to sign up again and again. Think Life Membership for NEW & RETAINED members.

Stay safe during this holiday season.

**Ron Bambury  
Commander, District 4**

## District 6 Briefing

### **Brenda Serena, District 6 Commander**

Happy Holidays Comrades:

Our first District meeting held Sunday, September 9th, brought sad news of the loss of Chaplin Phil Ippolito, he will be greatly missed throughout our VFW organization. In addition, our Senior Vice Commander, Ed Fik resigned and we wish him good health and happiness in the future. A special election was held Saturday, October 13th to fill our vacancies. Our new Senior Vice Commander is Harris Bartz, Junior Vice Danny Williams and one(1) year trustee, Steve Siulc.

District 6 held a very successful OTI, Friday and Saturday, September 21st and 22nd at the beautiful lakeside setting at Camp Pioneer located on Lake Erie in Angola. Around fifteen comrades arrived on Friday evening to enjoy a meal and sit around the campfire. Seventy VFW Commanders, Quartermasters, Service Officers, Trustees and other officers successfully completed the all day courses on Saturday. Attendees received a certificate and National Bylaws, Manual and Ritual 2018-2019 edition or 2018

Service Officer manual.

We celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Sheridan Memorial Post 6390 at the Chautauqua County Council meeting on Saturday November 9th; congratulations Commander David Zelinski to all your comrades and Auxiliary

As the holiday season nears and we all prepare for happy times in our homes and Post, it is also a busy time for Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher entries, Posts and District judging.

I hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for a bright New Year.

**Best regards,  
Brenda Serena  
District 6 Commander  
716-697-2275  
Bserena2017@gmail.com**

## *Bring Our Troops Home Safely!*



## District 7 Picnic at Batavia Veterans Hospital

**Daniel Marsh, District 7 Commander**

The annual VFW/Auxiliary District 7 picnic at the Batavia VAMC was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018. Mother Nature was very cooperative in the weather department. Nine Auxiliaries and nine Posts were represented by thirty-nine volunteers to serve and entertain the thirty residents, men and women, and their family members. Musical entertainment was by "OneSong" who put on an excellent show and played many "special requests" from those in attendance. The menu consisted of hamburgers and hotdogs which were furnished by Lockport Post 2535 along with the rolls. The meat was grilled by the crew from Medina Post 1483 and as usual, they did a great job. The District 7 Auxiliary provided all of the "fixins" consisting of macaroni

salad, baked beans, condiments, cookies, watermelon, bottled water, lemonade and ice tea. Each resident in attendance was presented with a small bag of candy and a 4"x6" American Flag. Monetary donations were also received from Arcade Post 374, Batavia Post 1602 and Lockport Post 2535 Auxiliaries. Department Auxiliary President Darlene Stanton, Department VFW Membership Chairperson Roland Abare and VFW Department Surgeon Dan Kell were special guests at the picnic. Our guests were given a tour of the Hospital, the PTSD Unit and the State Veterans Home. Many "thanks" to Charlene Favata from Post 202 Auxiliary and all of her helpers for putting on another successful outing for our hospitalized veterans.

## District 9 - Not a Club

**Pat Rourk, District 9 Commander**

As a warzone veteran (Viet Nam) I belong to the only federally chartered organization in the United States that recognizes that fact – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I have a home post in Massena, New York. Yes, a Post! I don't belong to a Club or my club or the club, I belong to my Post. When comrades refer to their post as the club or my club, they continue to reinforce that idea of the old veteran sitting at the bar in a smoky room at 9:00 A.M. drinking a brew or something stronger. When veterans hear the term post, it conveys and reminds them of their military service. Why am I writing about this? Well all you have to do is listen to the Club members of other organizations to hear how bad their efforts are in recruiting new or returning members. When you make that transition to the VFW, it makes me realize why we have problems in recruiting new or returning comrades. Think about this and what we can achieve if we all return to our POSTS.

On another subject, we are entering the 2018 inspection period.

Proactive Commanders and Quartermasters are already in the process of obtaining (or already have) a copy of their new bond (does it reflect all the officers and canteen staff who handle Post funds?), insurance binder (is it enough for the Post house, internal property and external property?), most recent Trustee Report (has it been done and is it current) and the IRS Form 990 – if the Post garners less than \$50,000 per year, remember you can file via on-line report; sometimes called the post card. However, if required have you gotten the CPA to file it (not an extension – you pay for this) and have a copy for the inspection team? Now is the time to work on this, not when the team has arranged to do the inspection! As people say, "git er done".

I hope to see you all in the near future.

**Pat Rourk  
Commander, District 9**

## Post 9263

I had the pleasure of attending Post 9263 monthly meeting last evening. Prior to the meeting Life membership chair John Fox signed on a new Life member with the Post and he was sworn in at the meeting. The meeting followed all protocols and traditions and exemplified their involvement in Community by their donations to worthy causes. They also had a new idea, the forming of a social Post Bowling Team with the intent of having fun and wearing VFW Post shirts at the local bowling alley, a simple and great conversation starter. I commend Commander Fred Amore and his officers and the entire Post membership for a well-run meeting and keep up the good work.

**William M. Hughes Jr.  
Commander SCCVFW**





### Veteran Honored



VFW Lifetime member Patrick J. Gonzalez was honored at a ceremony in Suffolk County for his service in the military and the community. PJ is a member of VFW Post 5350 Westhampton Beach. Center photo, includes Suffolk Co. Commander William Hughes and Suffolk Co. QM Andy Veiga.

### Chesterfield and Home Depot Donate Labor Work



Volunteers including VFW member William Hughes, center.



## Veterans Appreciation Day

On Saturday, September 29th, VFW Post 2475 hosted a VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY block party. The intentions were many, including awareness of the Post, fun for veterans and their families, and recruiting. While it was never intended to be a fundraiser, it was known that the vendors would be kicking back some of their proceeds to the Post. It was agreed that this money would be split between Cmdr. Ratigliano's project and the Post's Relief Fund.

The Army, Marines, and local National Guard participated as

well as the City's police and fire departments. Representatives from the VA Medical Center, Red Cross, and the local VA clinic were on hand. Outback Steak House, Home Depot provided corn hole tournaments and children's building opportunities. Many food and beverage vendors and community volunteers assisted.

While many look to county fairs and other events to recruit, Post 2475 brought the Veterans to the Post and several have shown interest and applied for membership. It is estimated that over 500 people attend over the 5 hour event.



**WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

## Get Ready for Taxes:

*For many, time is running out to avoid a tax-time surprise; Check withholding, make estimated payments now*

WASHINGTON — Many taxpayers, at risk for having too little tax withheld from their pay, can avoid a surprise year-end tax bill by quickly updating the withholding form they give to their employer, according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Although the tax reform law, enacted last December, lowered tax rates for most taxpayers, it also nearly doubled the standard deduction and limited or discontinued many deductions, among other changes. As a result, taxpayers who itemized in the past who now choose to take advantage of the increased standard deduction, as well as two-wage-earner households, employees with non-wage sources of income and those with complex tax situations, are at most risk of having too little tax withheld from their pay. This is especially true if they didn't update their withholding earlier this year.

With employees typically only having one or two pay dates left this year, time is running out to remedy any shortfall through increased withholding. In many cases, affected employees may need to ask their employers to withhold an extra flat-dollar amount from their pay to cover any possible shortfall.

This is the fourth in a series of reminders to help taxpayers Get Ready for the upcoming tax filing season. The IRS has updated its [Get Ready page](#) with steps to take now for the 2019 tax filing season. Among other things, the page includes new [Publication 5307](#), Tax Reform Basics for Individuals and Families, designed to help taxpayers learn about how this legislation may affect the 2018 return they file next year.

Due to tax reform, many employees' withholding decreased in early 2018, giving them more money in their paychecks this year. As a result, many may receive a smaller refund or even owe tax, especially if they did not adjust their withholding after the withholding tables changed.

Ever since the revised withholding tables went into effect, the IRS has been urging employees to perform a Paycheck Checkup. The fastest and easiest way to do that is to use the [Withholding Calculator](#), available on [IRS.gov](#).

To use this tool most effectively, have a copy of last year's tax return handy, as well as recent paystubs. After answering the Withholding Calculator questions, the tool will recommend the number of allowances to claim on the [Form W-4](#), Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, a form an employee gives to their employer. With few pay dates left this year for the typical employee, the Withholding Calculator will often recommend that the employee also have an additional flat-dollar amount withheld from their pay each pay period.

The IRS urges employees to fill out a new Form W-4 and give it to their employer as soon as possible. If it's already too late to do that, another option is to make an estimated tax payment to the IRS. Estimated tax payments are also a good idea for anyone who receives income not subject to withholding, such as interest, dividends, self-employment, capital gains, prizes and awards.

[Form 1040-ES](#), Estimated Tax for Individuals, available on [IRS.gov](#), is designed to help taxpayers figure these payments simply and accurately. For more information on making estimated or additional tax payments, visit the [Pay As You Go, So You Won't Owe](#) page.

## Happy Birthday Duane

HIGHLAND, Calif. (WCMH) - A World War II veteran in California has a big birthday approaching and he's asking for a simple gesture: some birthday cards.

For most, getting mail is a mundane task that only brings more junk mail and bills. But Duane Sherman looks forward to seeing what awaits him in the mailbox.

"Every day, he said, 'Oh have you checked the mail?'" Sherman's daughter Sue Morse told KCAL, a CBS contributing station in Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, a special delivery rarely awaits him, and his daughter is hoping to change that.

Sherman will turn 96 on Dec. 30 and he hasn't felt much like celebrating. So, Morse turned to Facebook with a simple request: for people to send her father birthday cards.

At his age, Sherman is experiencing what a lot of older adults go through.

"All my friends are gone," he told KCAL.

Sherman is a World War II Navy veteran who received a Purple Heart for an injury he sustained when a Kamikaze plane hit the U.S.S. Lamson. Thirty of his shipmates died that day, and Sherman still has the shrapnel in his back.

"We should all be very proud of their service and honor them in any way that we can," Morse said.

If you'd like to help make Sherman's birthday a little more special, you can mail a card to Duane Sherman, C/O Sue Morse, P.O. Box 794, Highland, CA 92346.







VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**MEMBER INFORMATION**

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss	Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Date of birth:	Email:	Phone:
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)		

**VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION**  
(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

I am a member of VFW Post \_\_\_\_\_ in the Department of \_\_\_\_\_ VFW

I am a member of VFW Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ in the Department of \_\_\_\_\_ VFW Auxiliary

**RECRUITER**

If invited to become a member, who recruited you? *Art Scheuneman, State National Home Chairman  
Department Of New York*

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Please <b>allow 3-4 weeks</b> for your membership certificate, card and other information to be sent. You can also <b>apply online at:</b> <b><a href="http://www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership">www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership</a></b>	One time membership fee	\$35 *	
	Life Member pin (optional)	\$ 5	
	Total		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to <b>VFW National Home for Children</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express			

Name on card:	Card number:
Signature:	Expiration date:

**WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER**

BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honors our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.

**\*Please note that effective January 1, 2019 the cost to purchase a membership is increasing to \$50 and will include a Life Member pin.**