



Eugene Ratigliano

State Commander _____

Dear Comrades:

This will be my last letter to you in this publication as your State Commander. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you this year. I am so proud of the work you have all done to bring the Department of New York over the top in membership, a feat that has not been repeated in some 27 years. The Department presently stands at 101.07% and are +506 members over last year's membership total as of this writing – and we still have until June 30th.

During my remarks to you at the State Convention last spring I related to you that my theme this year was "Back to Basics – A Foundation for Success" and that I wanted us to work as one, VFW and Auxiliary working hand in hand in our efforts for the

— STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 5



Tom Todaro

State Sr. Vice Commander _____

YOU DID IT!! YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!!
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU
THAT WENT OUT AND RECRUITED.
Department of New York is 100.77% as of this writing!!

We need to keep the momentum going and keep moving New York forward. It was not long ago that the Department of New York was over 100,000 members so I know if we

— STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 5



Tom Howard

State Jr. Vice Commander _____

Comrades:

We are getting closer to the end. In a few short months the year will be over. A lot has been accomplished. We have a new District 9 which took four years in the making. To all that worked hard to achieve the mile stone well done and thank you to the posts that have reached 100%. I have learned a lot about the VFW this year and have a lot more to learn. We as a team will keep on striving to make it better.

Hope to see you at the state convention. If you need anything don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,
Tom Howard



Harold Burke Jr.

State Adjutant _____

Comrades,

This has been another very busy and interesting year. Once again, we have had a series of unique situations which consumed my time as the State Adjutant. There had been everything from Posts surrendering their charters to preparing for this year's State Convention. It has been an interesting experience and I am looking forward to the future challenges of the Department.

— STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 2

"DOC"

Candidate for National
Commander-in-Chief

To all the comrades who have supported our candidate for National Commander-in-Chief, thank you for your contributions and participation. We aren't quite on target but there are a lot of contributions that have not been counted yet. Some comrades have not yet returned their tickets but I'm sure they will make the commitment soon. Raising money to get our candidate elected is a grueling task and it takes a lot of funding to be successful. If you haven't yet helped our cause please participate if you can so "Doc" will be successful.

Thank you,
Bob Barnhart
Fund Raising Committee Chairman for National Commander-in-Chief

Photographer:



Editor:



INSIDE
this
NYSOV



Pages 1-3	Officer's Messages
Page 4	Voice of Democracy Report
Page 5	2019 Safety Recognition Awards
Page 6	Miracle Workers
Page 6-8	District Briefings
Page 9	Post 5350
Page 10	Eagle Scout Presentation
Page 11	Post 386
Page 12	District 7 News

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 VFVNY web site WWW.VFVNY.COM. Publications are 8.5"x11" 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. Send JPG/PNG/PDF images with corresponding captions. E-mail 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@VFVNY.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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— *STATE ADJUTANT, continued from page 1*

To better prepare the membership, I would recommend a continued, strong presentation by the Department Officers at District meetings to provide training and bring information pertaining to our mission. Additionally, the Department representative should bring back any issues to the State Commander and Line Officers for resolution. Further, we must encourage those Posts that have not attended OTI in a couple of years to attend as the By-Laws change every year and they can contact those who could be a resource in the future. I suggested that the District Commanders continue share their OTI dates so that each could maximize the effect of the training.

Simply stated, the Department Line Officers and Membership Team need to be more visible at the Post, County Council, and District meetings.

Reminder: VFW Posts may change their Quartermasters this year and the IRS requires that the all new Quartermasters file IRS Form 8822-B within 60 days of taking office. This form provides the Quartermaster's current contact information and current address in the event that the IRS send notifications and/or contact the Quartermaster. There is a link on the Department website to download the IRS Form 8822-B.

Sincerely,

Harold "Hal" Burke Jr., PSC, PSQM, PJAG
State Adjutant 2014-2019



Daniel L. Kell

State Surgeon

Time has moved fast and as the year comes to an end, it has been an honor to serve as your Department of New York Surgeon. In March I had the opportunity to visit Brooklyn, VA Hospital and St. Albans, VA Hospital, also at St. Albans VA Hospital. I was able to participate in their celebration for the Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War where the Director of the VA and the Staff presented each Vietnam

Veteran with a plaque and pin also thanking them for their service.

Throughout my travels this year to the VA Hospitals and Veterans Nursing homes, it is encouraging to see the improvements they have done by bringing in up-to-date technology, equipment and modernization to the patient rooms in providing better care to our veterans. Talking to the veterans about the care they are receiving, listening to any issues they may have and all the positive points they have on the care they are receiving at these facilities.

I also want to congratulate Department of New York, the Department Membership Committee and the Posts in the Department for an outstanding job they did in Membership in bringing Department of New York back to 100% in Membership this year.

Yours in Comradeship

Daniel L. Kell
Department of New York Surgeon



State Convention

06/05/2019 - 06/09/2019

Albany Marriott





Bob Mitchell

State Inspector

Comrades,

As we wrap up our inspection year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank each and every District Commander, District Inspector, and Inspection Team member for the outstanding work that was accomplished this year on inspections. Although it does not appear that we will reach our goal of having every Post inspected, we are at 286 of them complete, a very respectable 76% of the Department. I am also very optimistic that the numbers will continue to increase as we approach the end of the inspection year. The quality of inspections this year have been excellent with 85% of the inspections submitted being accepted and approved. During the course of the year, our Inspectors have greatly assisted our Posts by working with them to identify and correct various deficiency items, truly one of the primary objectives of the inspection process. If an inspection has identified deficiencies at your Post that you have not addressed, please continue to work with your respective Inspection Teams to rectify the issues. The inspection process is in place to ensure that all Posts are operating in a manner that is consistent with our Department and National By-Laws. Thank you again for a very successful inspection year!

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell
State Inspector

Daniel B. McMahon
Quartermaster



Eugene Ratigliano
Commander

April 30, 2019

It has been a long time since our membership program has enjoyed the great success as we have this year. I would like to thank each and every member of the Department of New York VFW for this success. As we go ahead, we need to look into the lists of members reassigned to individual posts earlier this year. The members are listed as undeliverable. The Post Quartermasters need to download these members and verify their addresses and update the OMS system. In my post, we found most of the undeliverable addresses are snowbirds and their change of address didn't catch up in time and the result they were assigned to **undeliverable**. Please recheck your post rosters for these. Every post benefits from these members through the per capita they receive.

This past year has been quite an experience. Some of the properties which I had hoped to have taken care of long before now are still under ownership of the VFW NY.

Post 54 has been sold and the new owner is remodeling the entire building. The Liberty Post is the only unresolved site, which by the time this is ready for publishing, we hope to have this site also resolved.

From the end of the 2018 calendar year our investments have made a steady improvement. The funds from the State of New York have been received and placed in our restricted accounts. Our regular conversations with accountant and our investment counselor have kept pace with the ever changing environment.

We are looking forward to another great year.

Thank you,
Daniel B. McMahon
Department Quartermaster

VFW National Home for Children

By Art Scheuneman

We are coming into the homestretch in recruiting Life and Associate Life Members for The VFW National Home for Children. To date, as Department Chairman, I have submitted 90 new applications for National Home Life Membership. Welcome, and thank you to those that have committed to support The Home with your membership.

We are still short of our goal for recruiting Life Members for the 2018-19 year. We can do it, there are two months remaining to reach our goal of 100 New Life Members. For additional information and application, please contact me at wdstock44@yahoo.com or 585-689-5975.

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.

Did you know that the Department of New York sponsors two houses on The National Home campus? There are great expenses associated with maintaining these homes. Reporting of donations to The National Home has been slow. When making a donation to the National Home be sure to put on the memo line New York Houses and send your donations to the Department of New York VFW office. Donations we also be accepted at the State Convention in June.

To help raise funds, a Security Uniview Tec Network Video Recorder model NR08P with 4 cameras has been donated as a Fund Raiser: tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 / \$10.00 and will be drawn at The VFW State Convention on Saturday June 15, 2019 General Session. Fund Raising Tickets and the new 2019 VFW National Home Pins @ \$3.00 each will be available for sale at the State Convention. All proceeds to benefit The VFW National Home for Children.

Attention all National Home Life Members: Election ballots for VFW National Home Trustee Division 2 which New York, New Jersey and Europe are members will be mailed out in July. Please look for this mailing and be sure to cast your vote.

Please join me with your membership into the VFW National Home. For additional information and application, please contact me at wdstock44@yahoo.com or 585-689-5975.

Sincerely,

Art Scheuneman
State National Home Chairman
Department of N Y VFW
wdstock44@yahoo.com
585-689-5975



Voice of Democracy Report



Dear Comrades, Auxiliary & Friends,

Seems like only last week I was preparing my thoughts of the 2018-19 VOD program for our Department's OSV. That ship sailed in Sept. 2018. Thanks to all my Comrades, Auxiliary & Friends in the Department of New York VFW for our Department VOD program was another huge success.

Since my last OSV article I have some very exciting news to report. I spoke for the entire Department of New York VFW when I congratulated our Department's 1st place VOD winner Miss Sofia Isabella on her winning the Silver Springs VFW (Department of MD) VOD Scholarship. That translates to a 14th place National finish and returning home to Jamestown NY with a \$2,000 award. Congratulations Sofia. I encourage all to attend our Department Commanders & Presidents Testimonial Dinner where Sofia will be reading her awarding winning essay. Later in the month of June, Sofia will be representing the Department of New York VFW while attending a leadership seminar held in Valley Forge PA.

Now for some Good News, Bad News, you draw your own conclusions. This is my last OSV article for this year's VOD program. I have been asked by Department Sr. Vice Commander Todaro to Chair next year's VOD program (so he must be fairly confident he'll be elected). I graciously accepted. Please let me get a head start, the 2019-20 VOD theme "What Makes America Great"

In closing, I would like to thank Commander Ratigliano for this appointment and hope to meet you during our Department Convention in June.

Yours in Comradeship,

Wally Zincio

State Youth Development

Recognition & Scholarship (VOD) Chairman



Mike Webster

Veterans & Military Support Programs

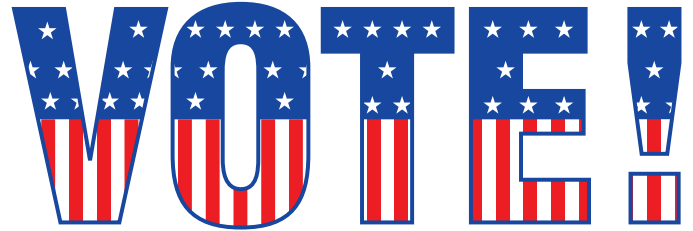
I wish to thank all who supported the V & MSP, whether through donations, directly or through the Department, or through the purchase of the pins. It was better than the year before and I hope that that trend will continue. At the

Spring Conference I asked if I should raise the number of pins ordered for this coming year and the response was yes. It is done, I ordered \$1200 worth and I will be picking them up at the National Convention in Orlando Florida.

I have ordered several Memorial Commendations this VFW year and with the assistance of others those certificates have been presented. I am working on at least three others.

Please keep those donations going to the "Veterans and Military Support Programs." Send your checks to the Department, earmarked to the underlined. These programs are working and literally thousands of veterans, military members and their families are being aided.

Michael W. Webster
Chairman



PLEASE VOTE FOR MICHAEL HOAG
DEPT OF NY JR VICE COMMANDER

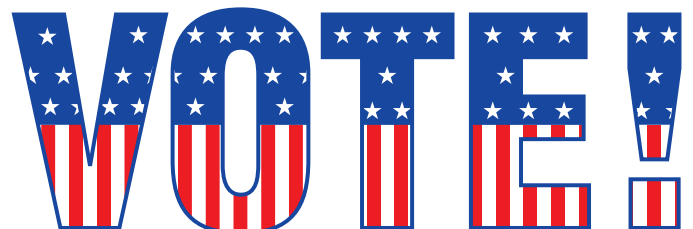


PROUDLY ENDORSED BY

DISTRICT 3

HUDSON MOHAWK & SUFFOLK COUNTIES COUNCILS

ADIRONDACK POST 2475



2019 Safety Recognition Awards for Policemen, EMTs and Firefighters

Bryant Pappas received the Law Enforcement Award from District 2

Submitted by Jim Mcgovern Post 1666

Richard Zolli received the EMT Award from District 2

Submitted by Jim Mcgovern Post 1666

Otto R. Madsen III received the Firefighter Award from District 3

Submitted by Roland Abare Post 420

These will be awarded at Department of New York State Convention.

— *STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

coming year. Many of you took that to heart and became part of a well-attended Officer Training seminar in Binghamton. Many new Quartermasters were able to garner the basics of the position as well as our more experienced Quartermasters going home with some new information as well. Our Districts improved on that session and held District training with their own post members who could not attend the Department session. Our conferences this year were joint ones enabling our veterans and auxiliary to network as well as reduce travel costs by enabling those with spouses and partners to attend together. As I made my visits to the posts and Districts this year I could see that the VFW and Auxiliary are continuing to work well together and by doing so empowering both to be successful.

If you attended the conference C of A's you would have noticed the attendance of the District Sr. Vice Commanders at the Spring Conference as well their Jr. Vice Commanders at others. The Department will continue to invite the Sr. Vice Commanders as part of our mentoring program to ensure they are prepared when the time comes for them to step up in their important leadership roles. District Commanders for the first time were provided a Standard Operating Procedures Manual providing them guidance in the many facets of their responsibilities as new District Commanders in the Department. Additional resources will continue to be provided in the future coupled with additional training to ensure our District leadership

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

keep up the good work we can continue to put New York back into the spotlight.

As we move into a new year and have a whole new slate of officers, let's not forget that it is a TEAM effort that makes us successful so don't hesitate to get everyone in your post involved in order to make 2019-2020 another banner year.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the Department Officers and the Legislative Team attended the Washington Conference. Our VOD winner received \$2,000 and in addition, the Legislative Conference was capped by VFW C.I.C BJ Lawrence's speech in front of House and Senate lawmakers. He focused on the Blue Water Veterans and shared his disappointment with Congress for failing to restore benefits earned by these Vietnam War sailors, and urged them to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act to ensure their earned benefits are never arbitrarily stripped away again. The Chief also covered the newly passed VA Mission Act. To view the Chief's full speech visit <https://vfw.org/legislativeconference>

Members now have the ability to download their digital version of their membership card. This will not replace the physical VFW membership card as they will still be sent out in the mail. You can go

knows how to do the job when they are placed in that position of responsibility that is so important in their roles on behalf of the Department. All of this is part of mentoring and the Department will continue to improve with each follow-on Department Commander.

As this year comes to a close keep in mind that another is just around the corner. I have full confidence in your incoming State Commander Tom Todaro and ask that you give him your full support next year as you have for me. The Department has accomplished much this year and we as a Department need to continue the momentum and continue to build on the membership foundation you have worked so hard to create this year. As I have brought to your attention on a number of occasions, if the voice of New York veterans want to be heard, both at the State and National levels, we need to speak with a loud voice through a strong membership. The more members we have the louder our voice will be.

I wish to thank all my Chairmen who have worked very hard to further our VFW Programs and appreciate their diligence in selecting the best of the best in our scholarship and recognition programs. I hope to see many of you at the State Convention in June and wish each and every one of you the best in your future endeavors.

Gene Ratigliano
State Commander

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.

On another note, the VA has just implemented a new Appeals Modernization System, that will speed up the appeal process, you will be hearing more about this at the OTIs next year. If you have an appeal pending it will still be adjudicated under the old system; if you are going to start a new appeal make sure you talk to an accredited service officer.

Yours in Comradeship,

Thomas Todaro
State Sr. Vice Commander



District 1 Briefing

Pat Iulucci, District 1 Commander

Comrades,
Let me start by congratulating the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. on achieving 100% + in membership,

Department Commander Eugene Ratigliano, all line officers and chairman for an outstanding year. This milestone could not be established without the cooperation and dedication, by all the members in all the districts. I know for myself as District 1 Commander, I have worked feverishly to have District 1 reach 102%+ in membership, and at the same time allocate myself to my family and my personal affairs. The V.F.W. has become for the main part, my number one priority. I

could not have succeeded without my entire District 1 Staff, however the job is not done yet, we must continue to be diligent in filing our reports as they are also the main ingredient for success.

Lastly, in closing, I extend my sincere gratitude and best wishes to all the Department Officers, District Commanders and all the comrades for their outstanding achievements this year. As we approach the end of our V.F.W. year, I will end with "Thank You for Your Service, and GOD BLESS You All."

**Pat Iulucci,
District One Commander**



District 3 Briefing

James MacArthur, District 3 Commander

Hello Comrades:

Well, comrades, my term as District Three Commander is coming to an end in a month and a half and this will be my last article in the

OSV newsletter. It certainly has been a busy and successful year.

Our membership attained 100% in March and we continue to be in first place in the Department of New York at 103%. 27 of our 46 posts are at or above 100%, with many posts close to being at 100%. I know that those posts that are close to being at 100% will be able to attain that before our Department Convention in June. I would like to thank every post commander and their members for all of their hard work over the past year.

So many good things have happened around the district that I would be typing all afternoon to mention all of them and I would use up a full page of the newsletter, so I am going to end by saying what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as District Three Commander. To anyone who has not served a high office in the VFW, please step up to the plate, it is truly a rewarding experience and you will not regret it.

Remember no one does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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

Miracle Workers

Veterans share a common bond of service and often a common desire to help fellow veterans in need. All of us are familiar with the "Big Six" National Veteran's Service Organizations who provide a wide array of services for our nation's finest from legislative advocacy and victories, to local educational and community improvement efforts. Most of us are also familiar with a few local not-for-profit organizations that assist veterans as well. These groups can vary widely in their focus, scope, size and effectiveness. Nonetheless, they can be extremely helpful and pair well with the VFW's Service mission for veterans. As VFW members, we should be familiar with the grassroots work being done within our communities so that we can share and collaborate to bring optimum results for those that need us.

Our Albany and New York City Department Service Office work alongside some of these organizations in order to identify, locate, and assist veterans and their families. In many cases, there is an immediate need for necessities that larger private and government organizations are not capable of responding to in time. Legal constraints, logistical challenges and funding rules often restrict larger entities from moving quickly; simply, a hare is faster than a hippo! Local non-profits generally have a small but strong network of people willing to help quickly. I remain amazed at how many veterans these groups bring to us, many of them unaware, in need, and eligible for VA benefits! Our relationships with local efforts is mutually beneficial; our Service

Office will often identify needs that these partners can fulfill through a wide variety of resources and contacts. The partnership is always beneficial to the veteran as the 'All Hands' approach consistently yields the best results!

Once you plug into the entire scope of Veteran's Service and Support resources, you will be surprised at just how many and how much is out there. The network of State, County, Municipal, private and even individual organizations is overwhelming. This realization leads one to ask: "Then why do veterans remain unassisted?" The answer is complex. First, the demand overwhelms the available workforce. We have been continually engaged in multiple conflicts for almost 20 years. Second, of all the available services very few are sharply focused and able to respond quickly. There are food pantries that are only manned part-time; clothing centers require intake sessions and registration, and Veterans Homes that demand extensive background checks and referrals. Often, there is no one at hand who can readily fix a crisis. Lastly, funding is often misfocused. Many donate to causes that make them feel good such as a cute furry service dog perhaps instead of a load of groceries. In light of these realities, know that there are still groups out there that work diligently to fix immediate problems with what I call the "Three T's" (Time, Talent and Trade). All of us know a

— **MIRACLE WORKERS**, continued on page 10



District 4 Briefing

Ron Bambury, District 4 Commander

Hello Comrades,

If Only Winter Would Go By This Quickly!!

A year of learning, trials, tribulations, sadness, happiness, achievements, goals met and some still coming to fruition,

celebrations, challenges, etc.

My hat's off to all the members and post commanders for working on 100%. Without the dedication of their time and efforts, the VFW Department of New York, districts and posts, we would still be less than what we truly are, The Empire State, second to none! Regardless of politics, climate and differing periods of veterans, let us not ever forget that.

Many thanks to Commander Ratigliano, Department Officers and especially the membership team for your guidance, push, participation, encouragement, creativity to achieve 100%. Let us all take a moment to celebrate. We cannot stop now and we cannot slide backwards. We must continue to go forward. Many membership rolls have been cleaned up so let us keep them tidy and manageable.

District 4 posts have been busy participating in Department and Public Events such as bingo nights, dinners, car shows, recruiting drives, fundraising for Community, State and National charitable causes (veterans, cancer, etc.). Thank you!

Now, for our viewing pleasure, from District 4, Legislative Chair and Department Scouting Chair, Mr. Ron Jubis. He is pictured with US Representative Anthony Brindisi of Congressional District 22 in Utica, New York. Representative Brindisi's event was to announce a bill to address Veterans' Mental Illness Programs. Many thanks to Ron for attending. Many thanks to US Representative Brindisi for his attention to veterans and emphasis on programs.

In closing, thank you for this past year and let us all strive toward continued success in the year ahead.



Ronald Bambury

a6bambam67@verizon.net



District 6 Briefing

Brenda Serena, District 6 Commander

What an incredible year for Sixth District! We have accomplished milestones that had not been seen in many years. I am very proud of what the Posts in District 6 have accomplished

during my tenure.

Reaching a 100% membership was Department Commander Ratigliano's goal this year for the Department, which is great. However, reaching that goal and having all the Posts in my District submit their Community Service report, Quarterly Trustee Audits, inspections and having all the Quartermasters attend OTI was my goal. And I must say that the County Council Commanders in my District did a great job.

Danny Williams, Commander of Cattaraugus-Allegany County Council achieved 102% in membership, 100% inspections performed, 100% in both Community Service reports periods, 100% in all quarterly Trustee Audits and election reports. In addition to having outstanding Post participation, the County Council has donated over \$250,000 over the last twenty years, providing support to Homeless Veterans, Van Service for veterans to appointments at the Buffalo and Bath VA facilities. Commander Williams has three (3) Posts that will receive All-State recognition.

Colin Anderson, Commander of Chautauqua County Council

achieved 102% in membership, 100% inspection performed and accepted, 100% in both Community Service report periods, 100% in all quarterly Trustee Audits. Commander Anderson has three (3) Posts that will receive All-State recognition. In addition, the Department Voice of Democracy winner, Sofia G Isabella, was sponsored by the John W. Tiffany VFW Post 53 in Jamestown, NY.

Jacob Welsted, Commander of Erie County Council achieved 100% in membership and had 22 posts inspected out of 23. Commander Welsted has four (4) Posts that will receive All-State Recognition. Inspections were 92% and quarterly Trustee audits were 71% although not a 100% it was a tremendous increase from last years percentages.

I am very proud of my District and of all the VFW members in my District, their hard work accomplished the goals set before them this year.

See you at Department convention!

Brenda J Serena, Commander

District 6

Bserena2017@gmail.com

716-697-2275



District 9 Briefing

Patrick Rourk, District 9 Commander

It's Finally Here!

After many trials and tribulations, District 9, Department of New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. was formally stood up on Sunday the 31st of March 2019. Due to the size of the attendee group the meeting was moved to the Knights of Columbus Hall in Tupper Lake, New York under sponsorship of VFW Post 3120 of Tupper Lake. Department Commander Eugene Ratigliano accompanied by the Department Staff traveled from Albany NY and presented the Charter to the First District 9 Commander, Patrick R. Rourk; this was followed by the formal presentation of the District 9 colors. Commander Ratigliano then presided over and installed the District officers. The Department Staff attending included Senior Vice Commander Thomas Todaro, Junior Vice Commander Thomas Howard, Chief of Staff Michael Hoag, and Quartermaster Daniel McMahon.

In a concurrent ceremony at the same location, different area, Department of New York Auxiliary President Darlene Stanton had also traveled North to present the District 9 Auxiliary Charter and install the District 9 Auxiliary Officers.

District 9 was created when 16 posts from the Northern area of District 4 petitioned to break out into a new District simply due to the significant distances when measuring the travel distances to attend meetings.

Once all the formalities were completed and the first formal District 9 and Auxiliary Meetings completed, Department Officers and all other guests joined District 9 and Auxiliary as they celebrated a scrumptious prime rib feast courtesy of VFW Post 3120.



District Quartermaster Webster, left displays the District's new colors with Dist. Commander Rourk, left.



District 9 Commander Pat Rourk, left receives District Charter from Dept. Commander Eugene Ratigliano, right.

Annual Teacher Awards Dinner

Front Row: The teacher is Mrs. Antonetta Concotta and the students were all winners. The annual awards dinner is in its 24th year.



Buddy Poppy Time

Greetings Comrades,

We have two months to go for 2018-2019! Poppy orders are up to 372,000 for this year. We are at 83% of the 3 year average. You can still order Poppies for this year.

Memorial Day is just a few days away and many VFW Posts will be out performing ceremonies in their respective communities honoring those who gave their lives in service to this great country and Buddy Poppies are a part of this. Does your VFW Post have a Poppy Drive Organized? It's easy to do: Poppies, Veterans, a place to go and the will to do it. Be visible. Wear your hat and a uniform. Don't forget your fellow veterans that are in nursing homes or unable to get out without assistance. They are still part of posts and the community.

Have a great Memorial Day. Hope to see you at the New York State Convention for my final report.

Harris H. Bartz
 NY State Poppy Chairman



* HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING *

Saratoga Warhorse Chairman Dennis Sullivan

I had the pleasure of being appointed the Chairman of Commander Ratigliano Special Project: Saratoga Warhorse.

The organization's mission is to help Veterans with PTSD after returning home from the war. These veterans have a hard time coping and fitting back into society. They believe that interaction with these horses will help these veterans favorably interact with society.

I, as Chairman, was enrolled in a three-day course in Baltimore, Maryland and had an unbelievable and very rewarding experience. Going there, I had no idea what to expect.

In this short stay, we learned all about horses before going into the ring to meet our assigned horse partner. They all have a history, my horse Riff was a former race horse.

We were taught commands and having eye contact. In this short time, my partner would listen to my every command and follow me wherever I wanted to go.

It is an amazing program and very beneficial to our Veterans with PTSD. But, it takes a great deal of money to run this program. We are still accepting donations to this worthy cause. Please donate to the VFW Department of New York Commanders Special Project. In the memo line write Donation for the Warhorse.



Post 5350

Team Eva finished her fourth of seven back to back marathons at VFW Post 5350 in Westhampton Beach on Tuesday April 30th. Eva Casale with support from her team donates to the not-for-profit Hope for the Warriors to support Veterans and their families in Suffolk County. This fourth day was dedicated to SSGT. Louis Bonacasa who was killed in action two years ago. Eva Casale is to say the least a remarkable woman, athletic and a patriot. I have attached three photos of the event. Thank you.

William M. Hughes Jr.
 SCCVFW Commander



— *MIRACLE WORKERS, continued from page 6*

good plumber, electrician, autobody specialist or mechanic that might help a veteran in need. All of us would drop what we were doing to assist a comrade in crisis. Some of your small and local non profits can help you to focus those resources for a wide ranging rapid response.

How do we as VFW members augment these efforts? Our organization derives its power from only one place our members. When having a post meeting, discuss the “Three T’s” and find out who is willing to give an hour of time, talent, or trade. It requires no funding, no fundraising, and very little effort. We all “know a guy who knows a lady who knows a guy” that could prove to be invaluable at a critical point of a veteran’s life. Once you’ve made a list, start researching local grassroots groups and let them know that VFW Post 1234 stands ready to help with ‘XYZ.’ Your ideas may be called upon quickly, take some time, or never be required, but they will always be available. Ms. Ramos and I are resources for you as well. Feel free to contact us if you are researching ways to assist a veteran in need. Our list is growing daily, and we might have what you need to make a difference. Lastly, think of ways to get the word out. Grassroots means face to face; the “old fashioned way” of doing business. There are times that I have been hesitant to ask for help for a veteran only to find that it was gladly and freely given. Our Service Offices in Albany, NYC, and Buffalo are working hard to make sure that the VFW is known for its unique and standard setting level of care. We are reaching out on your behalf and hope you help us enhance our service delivery. Remember this... the quiet and humble “one man show” that is hanging around the VA, giving rides, delivering groceries, visiting patients, sweet talking town judges, and just checking in on folks is likely a force to be reckoned with! They are unrecognized miracle workers, and they fit right in alongside the VFW!



Eagle Scout Presentation



FDNY Foundation



FDNY Foundation Donates \$25,000 to Scholarship Fund for Children of Firefighter Christopher A. Slutman

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Fire Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro today announced the death of Firefighter Christopher A. Slutman, 43, of Ladder Company 27 in the South Bronx. Firefighter Slutman, a 15-year veteran of the Department, died as a result of injuries sustained while on active duty in Afghanistan, while serving in the United States Marine Corps on Monday, April 8. The FDNY Foundation has contributed \$25,000 to a scholarship fund for the children of Firefighter Christopher A. Slutman.

The FDNY Foundation has set up a scholarship fund for Firefighter Slutman’s three daughters. Please click here to donate: <https://www.fdnymfoundation.org/donate/>

“Firefighter Slutman bravely wore two uniforms and committed his life to public service both as a New York City Firefighter and as a member of the United States Marine Corps,” said Commissioner Nigro. “The hearts and prayers of the entire Department are with his loved ones and with the families of his fellow service members who lost their lives in service to our nation.”

Firefighter Slutman was appointed Firefighter in September of 2003 and assigned to Ladder Company 17 in the South Bronx. In 2015 he transferred to Ladder Company 27, located in the Claremont section of the Bronx. In 2014, he was honored for bravery after rescuing an unconscious woman at a fire in the South Bronx.

Firefighter Slutman is the 1,152nd member of the Department to make the Supreme Sacrifice in the line-of-duty.

Firefighter Slutman is the fourth FDNY member to die while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan since U.S. military action commenced in 2003.

Firefighter Slutman is survived by his wife, Shannon, and their three young daughters.

REST IN PEACE

Post 386



NYS CWV Cmdr. Marvin Jeffcoate presents information pertaining to upcoming Memorial Day events as NYS CWV 1st Vice Cmdr. Lubkeman (center) and NYS CWV 2nd Vice Cmdr. Paul Cluskey (left) prepare their reports.

Catholic War Veterans Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386 hosted the New York State Catholic War Veterans meeting on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at St. Joseph's School (currently Sacred Heart School) in New Windsor. New York State Commander Marvin Jeffcoate conducted the meeting and stated how impressed he was of the local post's preparations and attendance. This is the First NYS CWV meeting hosted by the local post, which boasts the NYS First Vice Commander, Bruce Lubkeman, as one of its own members. NYS CWV Second Vice Commander, Paul Cluskey was also present for this meeting. Both Cmdr. Jeffcoate and 2nd Vice Cmdr. Cluskey traveled from the New York City area in order to hold this meeting.

Former CWV Kansas Commander, Joseph Keary, now of Buffalo drove the 5 hours Saturday morning in order to represent his new home community. Local Post Commander, Robert Schiela ensured all attendees enjoyed a continental breakfast, decorum and a comfortable meeting venue. Pine Bush's commander was also present for the meeting. Cmdr. Jeffcoate concluded the meeting by thanking Post #386 for hosting the event and stating he plans to get to more NY Posts during his term in office.

After the conclusion of the meeting Post #386 displayed its new flag that carries the inscription "Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386" in memory and honor of one of its deceased founders. *Article & Photos by James R. Formato*



CWV Members who attended the NYS CWV Meeting.



CWV Post #386 members proudly display their new flag dedicating their new designation as the Joseph R. Farina Memorial Post #386.

Three Tips to Help You File a More Complete Form 990-Series Return

A tax-exempt organization using the calendar-year as its tax year must file a Form 990-series return by May 15th, unless it has filed Form 8868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return. The IRS suggests organizations consider these three tips to help ensure a complete return and reduce the chances we'll send your return back or need to request additional information:

Issue 1: Report your organization's correct organization type. Many organizations report the incorrect organization type in Part I of Schedule A, Public Charity Status and Public Support, which all 501(c)(3) organizations must file with Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Solution: Look at the letter we sent your organization recognizing you as exempt (your "determination" letter) to verify your correct organizational type.

Issue 2: Employment taxes. Many organizations forget to file required employment tax returns, such as Forms W-2, 940, 941 or 945. **Solution:** Learn about employment tax filing requirements for exempt organizations. The Employment Issues Course explains how to report employee wages, payments to independent contractors and other reportable payments.

Issue 3: Missing attachments and schedules: Organizations often forget to attach the schedules that may be required of Form 990 or Form 990-EZ filers.

Solution: Carefully review Form 990 – Part IV, Checklist of Required

Schedules, or Form 990-EZ – Part V, Other Information, and Part VI, Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only, to ensure that your organization has completed and attached all required schedules.

The Form 990 Overview Course discusses which forms to file, when they are due, public disclosure of your return and tips to help prepare your Form 990-series return.

Electronic filing can help you file a complete return Electronic filing provides you with fast acknowledgement that the IRS has received your return. It also reduces normal processing time, making compliance with reporting and disclosure requirements easier. To ensure you are ready to file electronically, check your Electronic Filing Identification Number (EFIN) to ensure it is active.

In August 2018, EFINs were deactivated (dropped) if the system showed no usage for two years. For some filers, the system erroneously deactivated the account if the only returns filed using the EFIN were Form 990 series returns. Log into your existing IRS e-File application to check your EFIN status. If the status is not listed as "Active," you will need to reapply for a new EFIN by choosing the "Reapply" link on the "Application Details" page. If you encounter any problems when reapplying, you may contact the e-help Desk at 1-866-255-0654.

If you have a technical or procedural question about Exempt Organizations, visit the Charities and Nonprofits homepage on IRS.gov.

If you have a specific question about exempt organizations, call EO Customer Account Services at 877-829-5500.

District 7 Frederick Totten Post 5005 Geneseo Honors Civil War Veterans

On April 25th, 2019 **Geneseo Post 5005** held a dedication ceremony at the Civil War Monument in front of St. Mary's Church in Geneseo, New York. The ceremony was to add thirty (30) names of local Civil War veterans to the five (5) names that were originally inscribed on the approximately two and a half story monument in 1916. The project spearheaded by Post 5005 Quartermaster **Richard Platt** began in 2017 when a family friend of the Platt family who had previously moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, sent him a package containing the "mustering out roster" for Company "E, 33rd Regiment, New York Volunteers. She had come across the document while cleaning out a building she planned to open a business in. The second name on the list was **Moses B. Church** who was the first man to be killed in action from Geneseo. While on picket line guard duty, Moses engaged a small Confederate unit with his pistol and was shot in the head. When Richard checked to see if Moses's name was on the existing list inscribed on the monument, he found that it wasn't. Thus began approximately seven months of research and "digging" into old records. After checking with the Livingston County Historian, the Temple Hill Cemetery, the Census Bureau,

the book "**Path of Blood**" written about the 33rd Regiment by John Contant in 1996 and ancestry.com, he came up with the additional thirty (30) names. Included in the list of names was that of General Wadsworth who was from the area and who was killed in action in the "Battle of the Wilderness" when his unit was outflanked by Confederate troops. Of the thirty-five names on the plaque, six were killed in action, seven died of their wounds and twenty-two died from disease (mostly chronic diarrhea).

Once Richard was satisfied he had an accurate, complete list, he went to his Post and with the help of the local American Legion Post they raised \$5,000.00 to update the plaque to include all thirty-five (35) names. It took approximately a year and a half to get the new plaque and it was dedicated with military honors to include a color guard and rifle squad. There were roughly seventy (70) guests in attendance to include local residents and members of Post 5005 and the American Legion Post.

Company "E" participated in five (5) major battles and was decommissioned in June of 1863.

District 7 Warsaw Memorial Post No. 4823 Celebrates Fifty Years

On March 22nd, 1969 the District 7 Warsaw Memorial Post 4823 was "mustered". The Korean and Vietnam wars veteran who worked to create the Post and become its first Commander was Gerald NEELEY. He, his brother Richard NEELEY, and Francis HEAD who were both Korean war veterans along with about seventeen (17) others, mostly Vietnam veterans, were the original charter members. From March 1969 until March 1985 the Post met at the Warsaw Park Memorial Building. From March 1985 until the present Post 4823 has been meeting in the Wyoming County Veterans Club located in Warsaw. The Post has been "saving up" to build their own Post home at some future date. From its beginning in 1969 until the present, Post 4823 has grown from its original twenty (20) members to its current strength of eighty (80) members with the greater majority being Life

Members. The Post recognized two of its original charter members at their Post celebration. The Post has been honored by receiving an 11" x 14" Citation of Appreciation from National Commander-in-Chief Vincent B.J. Lawrence. The citation states in part "The members of VFW Post 4823 are a pillar of support for Warsaw, New York. Year after year, you have provided superb public service to those who have borne the battle, as well as to their families, and you advance the health and well-being of those who bear the burden of defending our nation and our way of life." The Citation is to be presented to the Post 4823 Commander Gary Gardner at the upcoming District 7 Convention. Post 4823 has continually set the standard for District 7 and has been awarded "District 7 Post of the Year" on several occasions in addition to being an All-State Post for several years.



God Bless America