




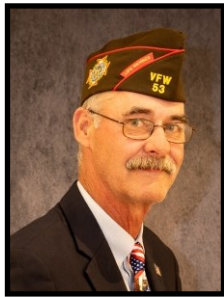
NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



October, November, December 2024

Volume 43 Issue 2



Daniel Kell
STATE COMMANDER



Greetings Comrades.

It has been a busy year, with many things going on within the Department of New York. District meetings are off and running, getting their programs done and Fall Conference being a success.

Membership is moving forward; the Department is almost at 90% in membership prior to the 1st of the new year. Currently as of December 13, 2024, the Department of New York is at 87.89% needing 5,091 new or re-instated members to reach 102% in membership to meet Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt's goal of 102% in the Department by the end of June 2025. As a reminder in September, I put out an incentive for the districts that meet 100% in membership by 1 May 2024 and 102% in membership by 30 June 2024 as follow:

As an incentive to achieve National's Membership goal of 102% by June 30, 2025, the following incentive will be put in place, for the 2024-2025 Membership year. Any District that that attains 100% by May 1, 2025, will receive \$500 from the Department of New York to be put in their Membership budget. As an additional incentive in reaching a 102% by June 30, 2025, an additional \$1,000 will be given to any District that achieves 102% in Membership from the Department of New York to be put in their Membership Budget.

State Commander continued on page 2



Robert Mitchell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

As we approach the Holidays, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Department of New York for what is turning out to be another successful administrative year. State Commander Kell has directed some very positive

State Adjutant continued on page 4



Daniel McMahon
STATE QUARTERMASTER



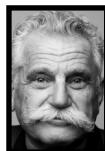
Comrades,

Over the last few years there is an ever-increasing question on renewing a Post's EIN number due to the present EIN has expired or **been revoked**. Before, providing some general information on re-instating a Post's Tax-exempt status, I would like to ask these questions, Where are the officers of the Post???

Quartermaster continued on page 3



Jody Treadway
Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Barbara Bishop
State Photographer



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.

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**SUBMISSION & FORMAT:

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. Email articles and pictures as attachments with sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the emails. 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 articles/submissions.

** ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO:

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Is established by the State Adjutant.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to:

Jody Treadway
Editor NYSOV
Department of New York VFW
69 Sand Creek Rd.
Albany, NY 12205

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I ask and need every Membership Chairman in the District communicate with their Posts and advise our State Membership Chairman PSC Michael Burke of any membership drives their Districts are having throughout this issuing year, this will allow the Department to aid the District Membership Chairmen with the required material and assistance they will need to have a successful membership drive. As of December 13, 2024, 6 of 11 Districts are 90% or better. Continue to push membership and let's end the year on a strong note and meet the challenge.

Legislation is moving forward, at the Mid-Winter CofA Conference in Albany, the Department will be having a Legislative meeting for District Commanders and District Legislative Team to go over our 2025 Legislative Priorities.

Community Service Reports, Inspections, Quarterly reports, and District All-American Dashboard reporting. As the posts complete their programs be sure to input this information on the Department of New York Dashboard for Community Service, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teachers so National will have accurate statistical information on Program activity and the Posts getting credit. Also, District Adjutants completing their entries as well on the All-American Dashboard.

Inspections are coming in slow; I am asking all the District Commanders to assign and train 3 Inspectors in their District to get all the Inspections done by 28 February 2025. This year with the cutoff date of 28 February 2025, each district should be able to complete and be accepted by the department to the goal of 100% inspected.

As we all know, the Department of New York Mid-Winter Conference and Washington DC Conference is right around the corner. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

As we enter the Holiday Season, I extend my season greetings and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. While traveling be safe in the slippery conditions and your surroundings.

Yours in Comradeship.

Daniel L. Kell

Department of New York State Commander



Quartermaster continued from page 1

First, it is the Commander and the Quartermaster's obligation to make sure all local, state and federal documents are filed in a timely manner. **If a post loses its Tax exemption status** a lot has happened or should I say a lot **Has Not happened and hasn't been done for 3 or more consecutive years**. Yes, if a 990 has not been filed for **3 years**, the EIN number is automatically revoked and the Post must reapply for the tax-exempt status.

Secondly, Where, were and are the **trustees** who are supposed to be reviewing these documents when they complete their **Trustees Report**??? What happened at the last 3 inspections?? Again, where are the trustees??

I am not an authority in filing 990's, I am not an accountant and cannot give you legal advice on your individual 900's

From what those posts which have reapplied for their exempt status, they are saying, is it expensive, time consuming and UN NECESSARY! But only if you have filed the 990 report each year. Many Posts need only to file a Post Card 990 or go online and do it electronically. Look for the accepted notation after electronically filing.

A post will probably need to hire a CPA to complete the necessary forms. These will fill a 2 -1/2" to 3" binder before your number is reinstated.

There may be a \$600.00 filing fee.

The IRS Has a special section on entities losing their status and how to apply for re-instatement.

Some FAQ:**How do I get through to IRS customer service?**

You can call 1-800-829-1040 to get answers to your federal tax questions 24 hours a day. Tax forms and instructions for current and prior years are available by calling 1-800-829-3676. You can also order free publications on a wide variety of tax topics.

Can an organization have its tax-exempt status reinstated if it was revoked for failing to file for three consecutive years?

Yes, but you must apply (or reapply) and pay the appropriate user fee to have your tax-exempt status reinstated if it was revoked because you failed to file for three consecutive years. An exemption application is required even if your organization was not originally required to file an application. Reinstatement of exempt status, if the application is approved, will generally be effective the date the application was filed; however, reinstatement may be retroactive to the date of revocation if the organization shows that it had reasonable cause for not filing for three consecutive years. See [Rev. Proc. 2014-11](#) for an explanation of "reasonable cause" and information on how to request reinstatement of exemption back to the effective date of automatic revocation.

How do I contact the IRS about tax-exempt status?

You may direct technical and procedural questions concerning charities and other nonprofit organizations, including questions about your tax-exempt status and tax liability, to the IRS Tax Exempt and Government Entities Customer Account Services at 877-829-5500 (toll-free number). Aug 20, 2024

How long does it take for the IRS to reinstate tax-exempt status?

How Long Does It Take for the IRS To Reinstatement Tax-Exempt Status? The timeframe for IRS reinstatement can vary depending on various factors, including the completeness of your application and the current workload of the IRS. Typically, the reinstatement process may take anywhere from 3 to 9 months.

(Note) *Sometimes longer if forms are not complete and correct.*

What happens if tax-exempt status is revoked?

When your tax-exempt status gets revoked, you will be required to pay income tax on your revenue. In addition, **donors will no longer be able to claim their donations as deductions on their yearly tax returns.**

How do I change my filing status to exempt?

How to claim exempt status on a W-4. To claim an exemption, you must complete only lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 and sign the form to validate it. (In Box 7, write "EXEMPT". Writing this will guarantee that withholdings are not taken from your future paychecks.)

Forms?

To apply (or reapply) for tax-exempt status as a section 501(c)(3) organization, use [Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption](#), or [Form 1023-EZ, Streamlined Application for Recognition of Exemption](#), as

State Adjutant continued from page 1

changes in the Department this year. Changes that we will continue to enjoy for years to come. One of the most significant changes occurred on August 15, 2024 when the Department Council of Administration approved the Department's partnership with New York City Department of Veterans Services in an initiative to expand our Veterans Service Officer assistance to New York City veterans. This initiative captioned the "Vallone Veterans Initiative" was named after Paul Angelo Vallone who was a leader in his native borough of Queens as well as a leader in the New York City Council.

On September 12, 2024, the New York City Council passed Transparency Resolution #2, awarding substantial fiscal year funding to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York under the Veteran Resource Centers Initiative. Effective this date, all funds expended by the Department in support of the Vallone Initiative became fully reimbursable.

On November 12, 2024, the Department hired three full-time Veterans Service Officers to staff the New York City Regional Office. An additional three Veterans Service Officers will be hired by March 1, 2025 for a total of six full-time Veterans Service Officers that will be assigned to the New York City Regional Office. Although the Vallone Veterans Initiative is a program that will require annual New York City Council funding approval, our discussions with New York City Department of Veterans Services envision that this will be a long-term initiative with a twenty plus year partnership.

Based on New York City Department of Veterans Services statistics, there is a population of over 200,000 veterans who reside in New York City. It is fully expected that this initiative will also substantially benefit the Department's recruitment efforts.



Colin Anderson, Director Veterans Services with Assistant Department Service Officers: Madison Fletcher, Yoselin Brice and Wesleyan Tanco in the New York City regional office on Houston Street.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and a very happy and peaceful New Year!

Yours in Comradeship,
Bob Mitchell
State Adjutant



James MacArthur
SR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

Here it is December and the holidays are upon us and 2024 is coming to an end, I would like to wish my fellow comrades and their families a Happy and Merry Holiday season especially those who will not be with their family for the Holidays.

I would like to thank all the Districts for their work on getting OTI classes done, just a reminder if you still have Posts that have not met the requirements to attain All State Status you can still have another OTI class, prior to February 28, 2025, if the District Commander decides to approve it.

Membership – The Department is currently at 87.63%; as you know and we say it all the time, membership is important and necessary for our dep and organization to survive. I understand it isn't easy but it's part of what we need to do. So, as they say recruit, recruit, recruit – lets get to 100% before May 1, 2025.

Legislation is another important issue. We have our Mid-Winter C of A meeting coming up January 10th and 11th. Our legislative teams both Department and District will be meeting on January 11th at 9:00 AM to go over our legislative goals for 2025. Recently I traveled with Bob Mitchell, PSC Tom Howard and PSC Pete Pennelle to Cleveland, OH to tour Arrow Gaming. What an amazing company; we need to support them to get Electronic Gaming legislation passed through the State Legislature.

On another subject, we are around six months away from our annual Commander's Golf Tournament which I will be chairing again this year. For those of you who support and play every year will be playing on three different golf courses this year and I will be there at all three. Unfortunately, last year I missed the first two because I was in Kansas City. More coming on this after the first of the year.

Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 5

Sr. Vice Commander continued from page 4

For me I continue to travel to District meetings and have been to several posts for their meetings. I have more meetings in the coming year, Conventions in the spring, trying to see as many of my fellow comrades as possible, unfortunately I will not be at our Spring Conference as I will be in Kansas City with my fellow Sr. Vice Commanders from around our National organization – looking forward to that.

I attended the Eastern Conference in Burlington Vermont where I was elected as Chaplain for the Eastern Conference which was a great honor for me.

So, Comrades I want to wish you all Happy Holidays, Happy New Year – be safe and thank you for all of your support. Remember no one does more for Veterans than Veterans.

James MacArthur
Sr. Vice Commander

Quartermaster continued from page 3

applicable. To apply (or reapply) for exemption under section 501(c)(4), use [Form 1024-A, Application for Recognition of Exemption under Section 501\(c\)\(4\)](#). Use [Form 1024, Application for Exemption under Section 501\(a\)](#) for most other types of tax-exempt organizations.

Before anyone else has issues, please review the filing dates of the 990 form. Check on your last date of filing. Trustees, your task besides signing a for someone else has completed is to review the filing of necessary documents.

Enough said.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I have again split a donation between the Commander's Special project and a local Grand Island foundation which help those persons and families in distress. I have done this in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

Stay Safe,

Daniel B. McMahon
Quartermaster
Department of New York
Past Grand Commander
MOC Grand of New York
518 414-2605
dcmahon@vfwny.com



Jack Sanford

JR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Let us remember those of our Comrades who are ill and recovering hope they will be soon on the mend and those who have gone before us.

Let us also take time to reflect on what's important in our lives, take this time to recharge ourselves to the task ahead.

Let us attack this New Year with confidence in our ability to achieve our goals, but do not set your goals so high as to make them unattainable but within our reach, a good mark is 5% over last year's mark, in Membership and Programs please don't try to keep up with other larger Post but compete with yourselves to strive to reach that 5% mark. If your Post has not been inspected as of yet get in touch with your District Inspector.

Again, Happy Holidays to all

Jack Sanford
Jr. Vice Commander

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VFW**

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Department of New York VFW
Headquarters will be closed
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Through
Wednesday, January 1, 2025



Ben Thompson,
PSC
JUDGE ADVOCATE



Comrades,

As a Post or District Officer, have you ever questioned whether you are performing your duties correctly? If the answer is yes, there are several ways to find the answer to help you correct what is needed. The first and easiest is to speak to a Past Commander. Past Commanders at all levels are there to provide guidance and assistance. The next avenue is the Department or District OTI. For Some officers the OTI is mandatory but is open to all members. The curriculum of the OTI covers a wide range of topics needed to make a Post or District successful. The third option is found on the VFW National webpage. After logging in, on the MY VFW page, scroll down to the Member/Post Resources section. Under this section will be subsections titled [Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates](#) and [VFW Training & Support](#). Under the Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates section, go to Training. There you will find topics like [Conducting a VFW Post Meeting](#), [Challenging a VFW Member's Eligibility](#), [Unnecessary Committee Reports & Shortening Your Meeting](#), [How to Close Debate](#) and much more.

All these options are free of charge and are available to help make you as an officer successful. The main thing to keep in mind is to be never afraid to ask for help. We as Department Officers are always available to assist you in any way we can.

In closing, I wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Ben Thompson, PSC
State Judge Advocate



Gene Ratigliano,
PSC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEMBER



Greetings from your National Council Member!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and had time to spend with friends and family.

For those who may not be aware, one of the most important responsibilities of your National Council Member is to be intimately involved in the oversight in the preparation of the budget for the National organization and monitor its progress through the year. At the end of November, I received the final Budget Report for the 2023-24 fiscal year. The Quartermaster General's report indicated that after starting the year with some negative market performance which some of us experienced in own investment portfolios, the market rebounded which enabled National to have a \$12.5 million dollar increase during the fiscal year. Around \$7.5 million dollars in growth was in the general fund and an additional \$5 million in various program funds. As a result, this growth has put the National organization in a position where it can easily handle the years it incurs a deficit. So far this year VFW National is ahead of the curve. October's revenue objective was \$5.2 million, and the month closed out at \$5.8 million.

As a reminder to all, Membership and Membership Services continues to offer Monday webinars to assist you in recruiting.

Webinars that have been presented are also available on the National website with the last one being, "How to Set Up a Recruiting Booth."

National Council Member continued on page 7



National Council Member continued from page 6

You can view this one as well as a number of others on the VFW Membership Facebook page or on the Training & Support page behind the member login at vfw.org. This site also offers other informational videos about all aspects of membership from recruiting to interpreting Memstats reports. If you have requests or ideas for training email the membership team at Membership@vfw.org.

As I write this article for this edition of the Overseas Veteran, National Administrative Operations continues to carry a heavy load with 38 Posts under Department suspensions as well as being engaged in 10 Article IX disciplinary actions as well.

The National Inspection Program is still a priority of National Commander Lipphardt with ten Departments scheduled to be inspected this year. I just returned from inspecting the Department of Michigan and will be heading to South Dakota in February. The other Departments scheduled for inspection this year are Utah, Washington, Pacific Areas, Europe, Delaware, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. The inspections for the Pacific Areas and Europe will be done using Zoom due to the cost of sending an inspection team to those areas.

The Washington Conference will be fast approaching which will occur at the Crystal City Hyatt beginning March 1st and going through March 6th. VOD winners will be recognized at the Parade of Winners on Monday March 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Commander-in-Chief Lipphardt will provide his CIC testimony on the hill on Wednesday, March 5th at 10:00 AM. Our Department Legislative representative will be storming the hill during this week providing our elected representatives from NY the VFW Priority Goals for 2024-25. If you plan on attending the Washington Conference, it's not too early to get your reservations locked in.

That's all I have to report at this time. I will be attending the Washington Conference in March at which time there will be a National Council of Administration meeting as well a working with the legislative reps on the hill.

If you have something you would like me to report on, let me know. Remember, I am your Council Member representing you!

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Until next time, as always, I will do my best to keep you abreast of items that may come my way.

Gene Ratigliano
Gene Ratigliano
National Council Member



William Moore
VOD CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

I am currently receiving the various District winners. Our NYS judging will be held on December 29, 2024, in Red Hook, NY 12571 at 1PM. Thank you to all the participating Posts and Auxiliaries this year. The essays and audios were most interesting and well thought out.

I look forward to sharing our New York State winner in the next edition in 2025. District winners will receive a certificate for their respective participation on the State level.

Happy Holidays to all!!!

William C. Moore, PDC

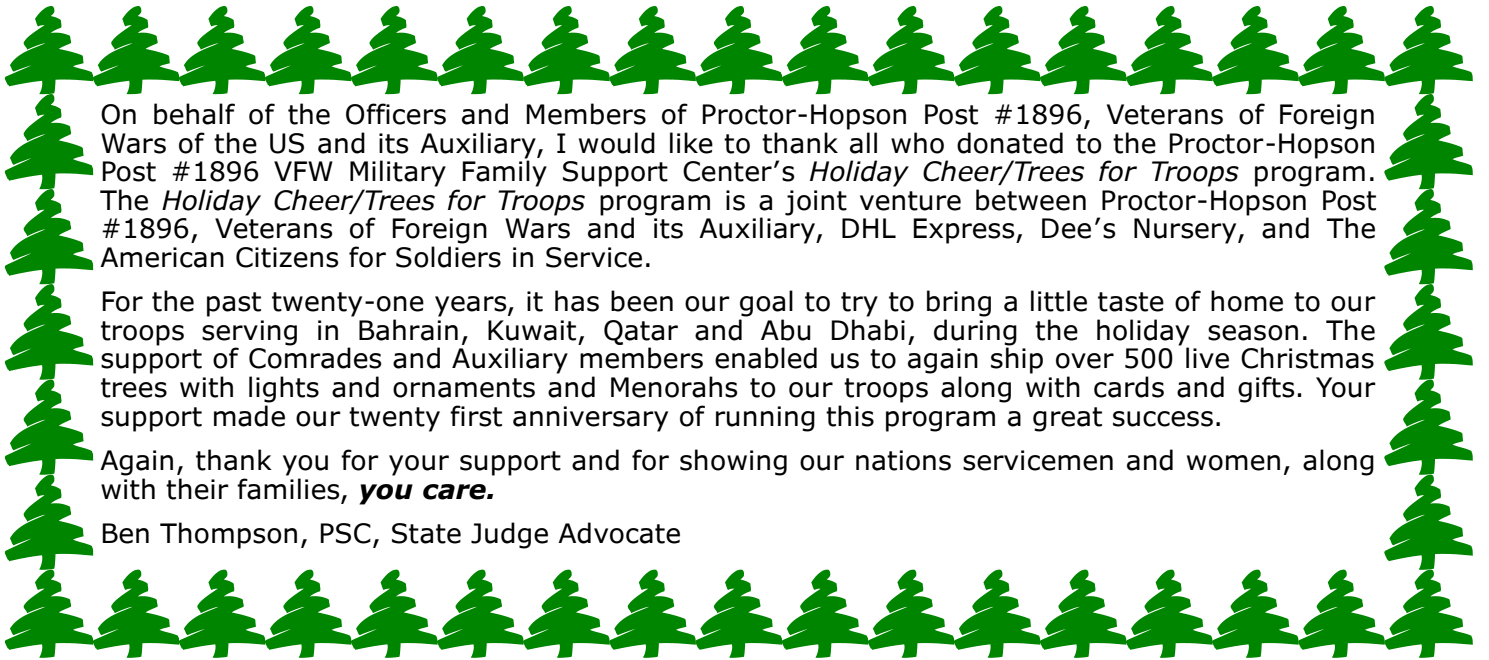
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1077 \$80.00



On behalf of the Officers and Members of Proctor-Hopson Post #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US and its Auxiliary, I would like to thank all who donated to the Proctor-Hopson Post #1896 VFW Military Family Support Center's *Holiday Cheer/Trees for Troops* program. The *Holiday Cheer/Trees for Troops* program is a joint venture between Proctor-Hopson Post #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, DHL Express, Dee's Nursery, and The American Citizens for Soldiers in Service.

For the past twenty-one years, it has been our goal to try to bring a little taste of home to our troops serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, during the holiday season. The support of Comrades and Auxiliary members enabled us to again ship over 500 live Christmas trees with lights and ornaments and Menorahs to our troops along with cards and gifts. Your support made our twenty first anniversary of running this program a great success.

Again, thank you for your support and for showing our nations servicemen and women, along with their families, **you care.**

Ben Thompson, PSC, State Judge Advocate





James Haas

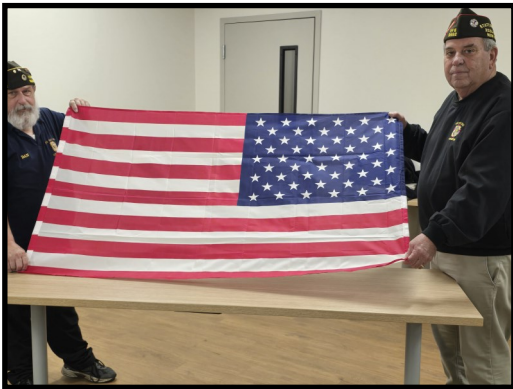
STATE SURGEON



Comrades,

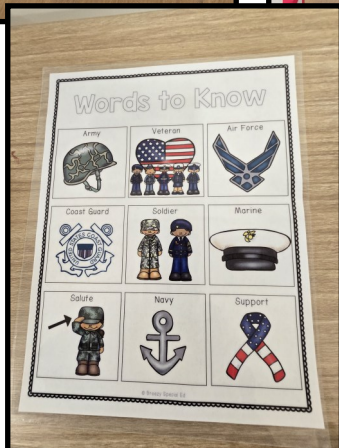
Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Visited Langdon School for Disabilities along with



Dan Goodnaugh
Post 8692
Commander
and Kathy Haas
Post 8692
Auxiliary. We

taught them about veterans and the American flag. The students were great and very attentive. Many of the students are sons, daughters and grandkids of veterans and active military personnel.



Breakfast is back at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center sponsored by the VFW 8692. Cooked and served by:



Jim Haas - Dept Surgeon

Dan Goodnaugh- Cmdr 8692

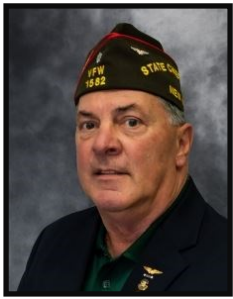
Ray Theis- VAVS District 3

Karen Covey- 8682 Auxiliary



On December 10, 2024 Santa and I made a stop at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center and had lunch with 42 veterans and staff.





Luke Magliaro, Jr. CHIEF OF STAFF



Comrades,

As I begin my article for this "Holiday" edition of the Department of NY VFW Overseas Veteran, I am with hopes all of our Comrades and their families had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Since our fall edition, I have continued to represent Commander Kell at various meetings and or events and speaking to various Posts to assist them in their day-to-day operations. On December 9th, 2024, I had the honor of joining Commander Kell, along with State Quartermaster Dan Mc Mahon, PSC Mick Leavor, State Jr. Vice Commander Jack Sanford, several Officers of District 1 and District 10, as well as PSC / State Judge Advocate Ben Thompson at the Annual Trees For Troops / Holiday Cheer Program, Chaired by PSC "Big Ben" Thompson.

I have attended many of the Trees For Troops Programs over the 21 years in existence, and each and every year somehow, Chairman Thompson seems to surpass the previous year's program. I am sure Commander Kell will mention success of this great program in his article. Great Job PSC Thompson!

Immediately following the "Trees For Troop Program", I headed to the Nassau County Legislative Building, to speak in support of legislation to have the County of Nassau, transfer property to the Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation for construction of a new Veterans Housing complex. A deteriorated vacant former Motel that was an eye-sore and menace to the Island Park community, where it stood in disrepair for years prior to and after Hurricane Sandy. This proposal to knock it down for Veteran Housing began some years back, by US Congressman, Anthony D'Esposito, when he was a Councilman for the Town of Hempstead located in Nassau County. As a resident of the Island Park community, and knowing first-hand, the great work the Tunnels 2 Towers organization has done not just in New York for First Responders and Veterans, but throughout the Nation. Had I had the opportunity to gain support of the Department of New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at a Council of Administration meeting prior to presenting this legislation, I would have been honored to publicly express our support to this worthy project. I urge all to go online to lookup the Tunnels 2 Towers foundation and see the great work they have done, are doing and the financial assistance they have provided to those in need. I was proud to have had the opportunity to

speak in support of this great program and have it unanimously passed by the Legislators of the County of Nassau. Projects like Veterans Housing, need our full support. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but together we can and will get it done.

In closing, may I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah or any other Holiday you may celebrate. May I also wish you a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Yours in Comradeship,
Luke A. Magliaro, Jr.
Chief of Staff
Department of New York



A flag from the Spanish American War was gifted to the Department of New York VFW by Cindy Kirchhofer.

Early in 1898, Commodore George Dewey's Asiatic Squadron was coaled up and waiting in Hong Kong Harbor. If war broke out, their mission was to engage the Spanish fleet based at Manila.

At 9:40 AM on February 15, 1989, the Battleship USS Maine was blown up in Havana Harbor with a loss of 260 lives. The war had begun and Dewey sailed for the Philippines. Just before dawn on May 1, 1898 the little fleet, 6 ships in all, entered Manila Bay while under the noses of the Spanish Shore gun batteries on Corregidor Island.

By breakfast time the Spanish fleet was in flames and just before noon the shore batteries fell silent. The war was over for that part of the world. Total American casualties were 8 wounded.

This flag was there!

Due to the large size of the flag and it's age, a special flag case will be constructed so the flag can be displayed at Department Headquarters.



*Eastern
Conference
Burlington, VT
November 1-3, 2024*





Art Scheuneman

NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

This past quarter was a busy time of year. I was in attendance at the National Home for the Annual Board Meeting for the week of October 21st-27th. Then turned around to attend the Eastern States Conference in Burlington Vermont from October 31st thru November 3 and attend a District 7 Zoom Meeting on the drive home from Vermont. But not as busy as this coming year will be.

A rundown as what is to come at the National Home this coming year. Here are some important dates we are looking forward to in 2025, The 100th Anniversary Year of the National Home."

On January 7, 2025, the VFW National Home will turn 100 years old. In acknowledgement of this milestone in the history of the VFW National Home, the following commemorative events will take place:

- January 7, 2025—Birthday Celebration
- February 8, 2025—Gala Celebration
- March 7, 2025—Pollett House Dedication
- June 28, 2025—VFW National Home Community Celebration
- August 9-14, 2025—Celebrations at VFW National

There are still openings available for the February 8th Gala Celebration to be held in Grand Rapids Michigan. For further information and details on these celebratory events, visit the VFW National Home website at <https://vfnationalhome.org>.

Loyally,

Art Scheuneman,
National Home Trustee
District 2 2019-2025
VFW Department of NY
National Home Chairman
wdstock44@yahoo.co
585-689-5975



V F W
NATIONAL HOME

IN MEMORY OF PSC JACK VEAZY



Jack G. Veazy, Sr. 82, of Rome, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 6, 2024, at the Abraham House, Rome, NY.

Mr. Veazy was a United States Army veteran, serving in the Vietnam War. He entered the U.S. Army in July 1964. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam, as a Helicopter Crew Chief, returning home in 1968. He received the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation and the National Defense Medal.

Jack joined the VFW in Miami in 1968 held various Post chairs, served as Post Commander in 1974-75 and as Dade County Council Commander from 1974-76. Jack transferred to Rome Post 2246 in 1980. He was elected to the office of Post Quartermaster serving in that position from 1980-2001.

After holding many of the District Chairs Jack was elected as 4th District Commander 2002-03 and was an All-American District Commander.

At the Department level, Jack has had many appointments to include State Membership Chairman 2005-2006. Jack is served as State Chief of Staff for 2006-08.

Jack was elected as State Sr. Vice Commander at the 90th State Convention. He was elected as the State Commander at the 91st State Convention.



VFW NATIONAL HOME

CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss		Name:	
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Date of birth:	*Email:	*Mobile Phone:	
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> NH Membership Upgrade Member number _____ <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 _____

I am a member of VFW Auxiliary _____ in the Department of VFW Auxiliary _____

RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: _____ Art Scheuneman _____ Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number: _____ 4823 _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Apply online at: www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership	One-time membership fee \$100	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to VFW National Home <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:	Security code:

CENTENNIAL LIFE MEMBERS



You can become a part of this special program by upgrading your existing membership or becoming a new member. As a Centennial Life Member, you'll receive a special centennial membership pin and membership card that will allow you to display your affiliation with pride. Plus, you'll enjoy discounts on souvenirs and apparel that are not available to regular members.



The Centennial Life Membership program is only available until 12/31/2025, so upgrade your existing membership or become a new member today!

Scan to buy your membership online!

*These fields are required for electronic voting.



Ronald Sorrentino
SERVICE OFFICER
JOURNAL AD
CHAIRMAN



Comrades.

Once again, I am writing to all my comrades and Auxiliaries, about our Servicicers Officers Raffle and Journal. We all know the importance of this program, as I have said many times before, and will repeat it on and on, our Servicicers Officer does so much for all our veterans. It is a tireless and never-ending job, they not only prepare the paperwork, file the paperwork and as we know they follow through to make sure our veterans receive their benefits. As you all know, last year was a great success, and once again we met our goal this year in the raffle donation. I am so thankful for all our comrades, Post and Auxiliary because of your generosity this will be another outstanding year for such great program.

I know I sent this information out before but is always good to jog your memory and to keep the information fresh, This is only one of the program our Servicicers Officers are working on. Please read this and say this is why I want to donate to our service officers

We all know the good work that our Servicicers Officers perform for our veterans; one of the programs is the PACT Act. The Pact Act Veterans and their survivors have filed more than one million claims for toxic exposure-related benefits under the PACT Act since the law was signed on Aug. 10, 2022. VA has processed more than 551,000 of these claims, granting 77.9% of them and awarding more than \$2.2 billion in earned benefits to Veterans and survivors. The Service Officer is the one supporting Veterans and their families to address military related toxic exposure.

As you know the Department is looking to hire addition Service Officer, even more reason to donate to this program.

So, this now brings me to the Raffle Tickets and Journal Ad

There is no better way to continue to show your support for our Service Officers than by taking out an Ad in the journal and buying raffle tickets.

The Ads are:

The full page is \$ 90.00. Half Page is \$65.00. The quarter Page is \$ 45.00

Now let's talk about Raffle Tickets

We also want to remind you that the Raffle Tickets are included with this package.



Last year we had a great Raffle, I think we could do the same this year Lets show our Servicicers Officers how much we appreciate the work they do for all our Veterans. There are 2 sheets of tickets with 12 tickets on each sheet. The tickets are \$5.00 a piece or 6 for \$25.00 or 12 tickets \$50.00. You can always ask you more (HINT). The drawing will be held at the Spring Conference April 11-13, 2025 in Corning, NY.

thank you!



Santa said, don't forget to purchase the Service Office Journal Ad and Raffle tickets.

Ronald Sorrentino

Ronald Sorrentino
 Service Officer Raffle & Journal Ad Chairman



Ronald Sorrentino
COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN



Harland J. Hennessey
VFW Post 5538



Comrades,

This is my second year as the community service chairperson, as of this report the Department of New York has the following totals:

Volunteer Hr.	14,993
Dollars Donated	\$381,271
Total	\$883,396

The following are the top three districts of this reporting period:

District	Volunteer Hr.	Value of Hr.	Dollars Donated	Total
10	3,567.30	\$119,469	\$63,308.33	\$182,777.21
3	2,277.50	\$76,274	\$52,458.45	\$128,731.95
2	2,417.00	\$80,945	\$28,996.14	\$109,941.47

This is only for the first two quarters; we are moving in the right direction but are behind last year's total. I know we could do much better. On the reporting of community service, you must remember that the VFW year goes from 1 July – 30 June, **to have your reports count it must show that the activity happened within the 1 July – 30 June time frame.**

Also, the description on the reports must have more than one word explanation, one word is not a description. The best way to ensure your reports are in the correct time frame is to do the report in the same month you did the activity.

So, with that said, let's continue getting in our community service reports.

Ronald Sorrentino
 Community Service Chairman

The remains of the namesake of the Harland J. Hennessey Veterans of Foreign Wars Post have been found, and now both post and family members hope to have a celebration soon to commemorate that final closure.

"I want to throw the biggest party ever," said post Commander Johnathan Vienneau. "We really should have a huge celebration to commemorate this."

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Washington recently announced that the remains of U.S. Army Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey were identified on Sept. 23. Harland's nephew, John Hennessey of Boonville, said he was personally contacted on Oct. 1 by the United States Army that his uncle's remains had been found and are now in Hawaii.

It will still be a few months before the veteran's remains will make it back home, where John said he will be buried with Harland's parents Howard and Dorothy Hennessey in Boonville Cemetery. All expenses will be paid by the Army, John said he was told.

It was John's DNA sample that identified his late uncle since John is the oldest living adult male in the family, he added.

Born on Sept. 1, 1918, Harland was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II. In 1942, he was a member of the 803rd Engineer Battalion, Aviation stationed in the Philippines, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Intense fighting erupted, finally leading to the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.

Harland was captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese.

Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps.

Harland J. Hennessey continued on page 16



Pat Iulucci

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

Washington – May 10, 2024, the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) today identified the remains of Sergeant First Class Raymond Earl Hall, missing from the Korean War.



Sergeant First Class Hall joined the U S Army from Tennessee and served with C Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. On July 31, 1950, he was reported missing in action after his unit engaged in intensive combat actions with the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) in the vicinity of Chungchon-ni, Republic of Korea and he

was captured by enemy forces. On October 20, 1950, Sfc. Hall was being transported north with the POWs when NKPA guards stopped the train in a tunnel near Suncheon and executed him along with 65 other U.S. POWs in what would be called the "Suchon Tunnel Massacre." The remains of the soldiers were found by U.S. forces, the following day and were transported to the United Nations Military Cemetery (USMC) in Pyongyang for temporary interment. Sfc. Hall was initially identified by FBI fingerprint comparison while at UNMC, but Pyongyang had to be evacuated due to enemy activity and his remains were not recovered. During Operation Glory, the exchange of war dead which took place following the end of the Korean War, the remains of over 2,900 American soldiers were returned by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Of those, the remains of 848 soldiers could not be identified at the time and were buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. In August 2017, one set of these Unknown remains were disinterred and sent to a SPAA laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established the remains as those of Sfc. Hall.

Sergeant First Class Hall is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National

Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2022 to include names of the fallen. In October of 2024, Sfc. Hall's remains were transported to Maloney's Funeral Home in Holbrook, Long Island, NY. A Military Honor Guard was provided at the funeral home and at Calverton National Cemetery in Calverton, NY for a Military Burial with Honors.

Still unaccounted for: WWII – 71,998; Korean War – 7,449; Vietnam – 1,574; Cold War- 126; Gulf War – 6.

Take a moment in every day to remember those that are still missing and held as prisoners of war.

In Comradeship,
Pat Iulucci



Harland J. Hennessey continued from page 15

Harland and other POWs were forced into the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp #1. Harland died Nov. 1, 1942, at the age of 24, one of more than 2,500 POWs who perished in the camp.

"He was the first serviceman to die in World War II from the Boonville area," John said.

The cause of his death was Beriberi, a disease brought on by an insufficient diet, and the exertion of walking in the death march, John noted. Harland was buried in a common grave in the Philippines. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency exhumed the gravesite there in 2018 and Harland's remains were finally identified.

Harland's name is memorialized on the Cabanatuan Memorial in the Philippines that was erected by survivors of the Bataan Death March and the prisoner of war camp at Cabanatuan. He is also listed on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Vienneau said whatever the VFW plans for a commemoration event, most likely coming in the spring, will be approved by the family.

"I want to make sure the family is right on board with this," Vienneau said. "We've got some time to plan for this and we want this place hopping."

STOP 22 WALKS

This year there were a total of 21 Posts and Auxiliaries who held Stop 22 walks in their community with a total of 936 participants who donated \$8,996.68 to help our veterans in need.

Based on the number of individuals participating in the walk, run, dance, etc. as well as donations collected and information documenting the events to include photographs, newspaper articles etc. for Stop-22, the following posts are awarded the following:

- 1st Place VFW Post & Auxiliary 7227, Carthage, NY
- 2nd Place VFW Post 4658, Greece, NY
- 3rd Place VFW Post & Auxiliary 1384, Long Beach, NY

Congratulations to all the Posts and Auxiliaries for highlighting the needs of our veterans!





John Pieprzak
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 1



Greetings comrades.

I hope this letter finds all in good health. It feels like I just did one of these. Well, here we go anyway. Downstate we were enjoying nice weather almost until the end of November. It has caught up to us. The cold, wind, and rain [no snow yet] lets you know you are alive with all the aches and pains.

We delivered school supplies to two local schools that we collected during our drive in August.

September 11: I held a Patriots Day ceremony at my Post for our neighborhood to remember the 23rd anniversary of that day.

October 11-12: I attended the Fall Conference and the C of A meeting.

October 26: I attended a Halloween party for our community.

November 8: I was the guest speaker at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church's Youth Group. We discussed the meaning of Veterans Day. I also had a Q & A session about joining the service.

November 10: I celebrated the Marine Corps. 249th birthday.

November 11: I was invited to a Veteran's Day ceremony held at my post. For the first time, our Auxiliary put together and ran the full ceremony. I was very impressed.

December: I am working with local groups to run a coat, hat & glove drive during the month. We will also be collecting toys for our local schools.

December 9: I attended the 21st Anniversary of District 1's Trees for Troops.

December 14: I was on the Panel for District 1's Legislative Breakfast at Flanders Field Post 150.

January 10-11: I will be attending the Mid-Winter conference.

District 1 has started off slow on membership this year, but we are picking up steam. Time to go to all the holiday parties and see who wants to give themselves a Christmas present and join the

VFW. As I stated in the last issue, events are shifting to indoors. Watch for flyers for bingos, craft fairs, night at the races, karaoke, school events for your kids or grands, etc. from other organizations.

I wish all comrades a healthy and happy holiday season. We must remember to take a small break and spend time with our families. Merry Christmas, I'll see you in the next issue.

Semper Fi,

John Pieprzak

District 1 Commander



Sharon Waddell
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 2



Happy Holidays and a bright New Year to all!

It's been a busy Fall with Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day events.



On 9 November VFW Posts 973 and 1161, both of Newburgh, teamed up to host their 3rd annual post to Post 5K Run/Walk for

Vets. The race, starting at Post 1161 and ending at Post 973, has grown larger each year. In addition to awards for each age category, the top male and female veterans earned a special award.

Post 973 honored Veterans Day with a short ceremony at the Orange County Veterans Memorial in Newburgh. The ceremony acknowledged the contributions and sacrifices all Veterans



make to our country and concluded with the ringing of a bell eleven times at precisely 11:11, the time World War I ended 126 years ago.

District 2 Commander continued on page

District 2 Commander continued from page 18

Post 1666, Yonkers, hosted its annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Mass on Sunday, 1 December. The service and ceremony were attended by four district VFW posts, other veterans' groups, and local dignitaries.



On Saturday, 7 December, posts throughout the district remembered

the attack on Pearl Harbor. Post 5491, its Auxiliary, and members of the public read a roll call of the ships lost that fateful day and laid a wreath in remembrance of the lives lost.



Events such as these promote comradeship and Americanism, both key pillars of the VFW. Looking forward to 2025 we hope to continue to advocate for Veterans and their issues; provide assistance to Veterans, their families, and the military community; and help posts succeed. Recruiting will be a

focus to help achieve these goals.

Yours in comradeship,
Sharon Waddell
District 2 Commander



Harold Patchen
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 3

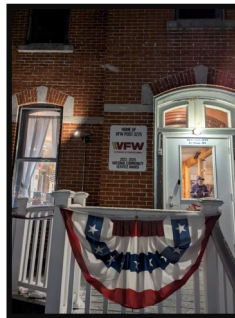


Comrades,
District 3 has been active since our last OSV articles in September. As of this writing, our membership stands at 86.43%, needing **572** to reach the Commander in Chief's goal of **102%**. This is achievable **if** we continue to work together. We already have 3 posts at 100% and 1 at 122%. Our Community Service reports are coming in at a steady pace, as well as our Trustee reports. Our inspections are coming in at a good rate and we should be at **100% RECEIVED** by

1/15/2025. In January 2025 we have two informational (not mandatory) meetings. One in the "northern zone" at Queensbury Post 6196 on January 5th and the other in the "Southern zone" at Stuyvesant Falls Post 9593 on January 19th.

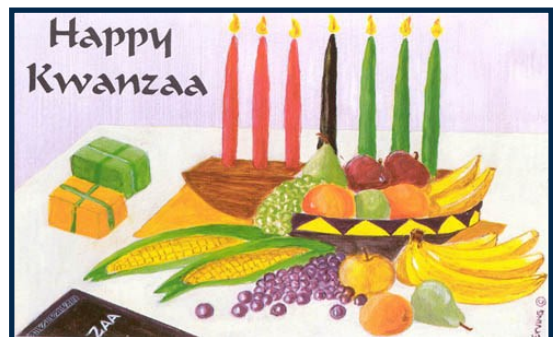
Our district was invited to do a membership drive on Friday afternoon 11/8, at Siena College by the Student Association. It was an excellent opportunity to speak with many students about what the VFW is and about our many programs. We distributed poppies which were well received by everyone. Many students, staff, ROTC Cadets and their NCOIC dropped by our booth and spoke about a parent, grandparent or other relative having served in the military. We have been invited back over Veterans Day weekend again in 2025. We were represented by myself, District Chief of Staff John Heusdens and PSC/NCA member Gene Ratigliano.

I'd like to congratulate Ft. Plain Post 3275 on their National Community Service Award. Job well done comrades. Not only are they doing well with Community Service but they're bringing in new and younger members.



Happy Holidays to you and your family!

In Comradeship.
Harold J. Patchen
District 3 Commander





Susan Rogers
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 5



Comrades:

It continues to be a year of adventure and learning as a district. Our focus in the district always is for our membership to grow but also to **sustain and retain** what we already have. Our emphasis has been on community engagement and the preservation of those who served. Our members and posts have been very busy and nonstop. Our members work very hard to plan the events their posts sponsor and work closely with the district to make sure it's a success. Communication has been the key, and it has paid off with an increase in membership and comradery and conflict resolution. We have two OTI's under our belts this year along with Zoom meetings monthly with posts to keep that engagement going between the district commander and the posts.

A HUGE shout out to **the following** posts **below** for their efforts for the community **engagement** holding veteran related events for Clearpath, VA, fundraiser events for people in need, Civil Air Patrol and ROTC, family movie nights, pancake breakfasts, Fish fries, golf tournaments, Boy and girl scouts' events, patriot rides, finally last but not least Veterans Day remembrance events and military funerals for those who served. Last but not least Christmas Parties for our communities that host our posts. SANTA has been seen sporting a VFW patch or two!

Edick-Hamlick Post 369 Mexico, Richard Hoyt Post 478 Binghamton, Crystal city Post 524, Corning

Fulton Post 569, Fulton, Rex Field Post 901 Elmira, Liverpool -Clay Post 951, Clay

Glenn Warner Post 1371, Owego, Major Ray Humphrey post 1449, Endicott

Webster- Hill Conklin Post 1470, Bath, Lafayette Memorial Post 1955, Lafayette

Auburn Post 1975, Auburn, Corporal J Mooney Post 2250, Hornell,

Alfred & Henry Michalovic post 2332, Johnson City, Christy Rock Post 2782, Norwich

Mattydale Post 3146, Mattydale, Afton Memorial Post 3529, Afton,

Phoenix Memoria Post 5540, Pheonix

Quattrini- Dehm Post 5885, Oswego, Gordon Hoover-Wantuck post 6083, Elmira

Finger Lakes Post 961, Ithaca, Clifford E. Galbraith Memorial Post 7127, Moravia

Pulaski memorial Post 7289, Pulaski, Edwards-Weavers Post 7290, North Syracuse
 Trach-Auringer Post 7325, Constantia, Town of Manlius Post 7872, Manlius
 Waverly Memorial 8104, Waverly, Herbert D. Rossburg 8664, Camillus,
 VanEtten-Spencer Post 8139, VanEtten, Cable Trail Post 8534, Lacona
 Hastings- Parish Memorial Post 8823, Hastings, Simon Parise Post 9596, East Syracuse.

We as District 5 are full steam ahead ready to kick off the new year for the good of our veterans!

Yours in Comradeship,
Susan M Rogers

Saugerties Memorial VFW Post 5034 on October 24th at the Post monthly meeting had the honor



to host the VFW Department of NY Sr Vice Commander James MacArthur to meet and

address the Post leadership and Membership on the current topics of the VFW.



While with us the Sr Vice Commander James MacArthur along VFW Post 5034 Commander Arin VanDemark Presented VFW Members Charles Stracuzzi & Cecil Towns with their new VFW Life Membership service Cap.

The Commander also during his visit toured the

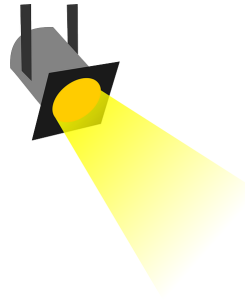


American Legion Post 72 Veterans History Museum.



Marcello Rotunda

**COMMANDER
DISTRICT 6**



Spotlight on VFWNY.COM

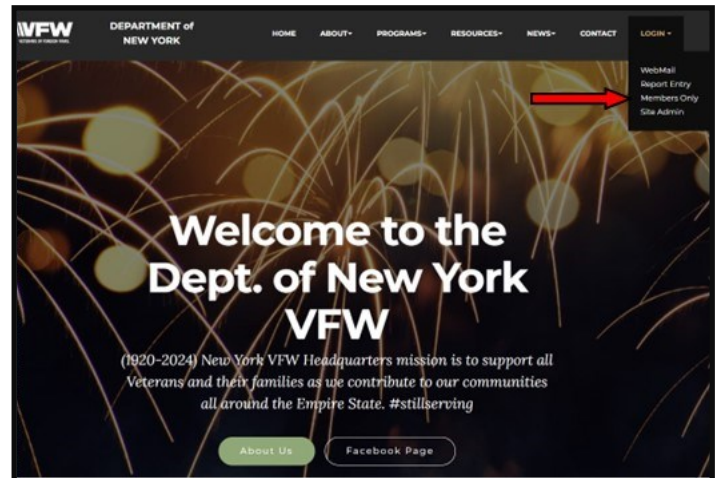
Featuring: **Members Only Page**

Comrades,

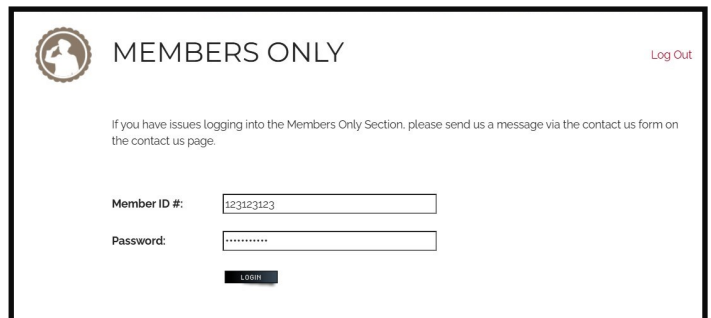
These pictures from Silver Rose celebration in Tombstone, Arizona with the American Legion. Sons of the Legion and the Legion auxiliary and the VFW for Vietnam Veterans affected by Agent Orange.



The Department's website has a Member's Only section that can be accessed from the Departments Home page using the menu along the top of the screen. Click on the Login option and then select Members Only and click.



On the Members Only screen you will be asked to enter you Member ID, which is your membership number from National and can be found on your membership card.. If you need help with you password please call the Department and we will happy to help you with your password.



Happy Holidays!

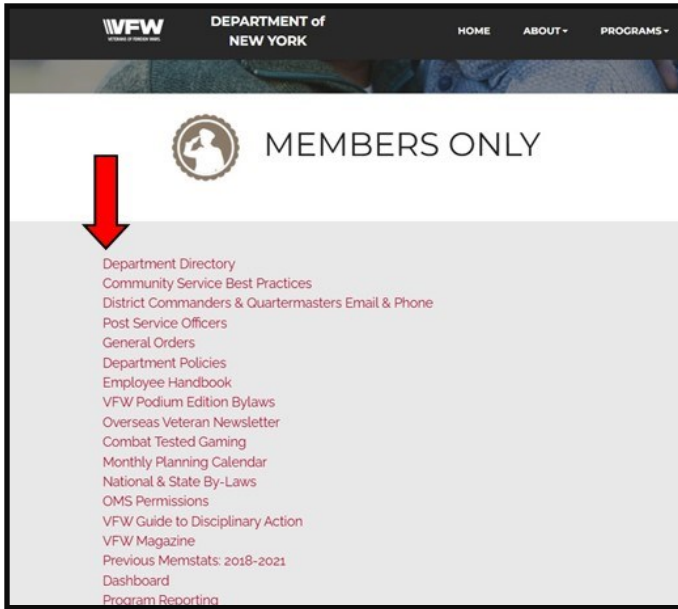
Yours In Comradship,
Marcello J. Rotunda
6th District Commander



Once you are signed in to the Members Only page you will see a list of 18 different topics. The majority of the topics listed are only available through the Members Only portal. The newest feature on this page is the Department Directory, which is an online directory for all our active posts. This feature went live a month ago.

Spotlight continued on page 22

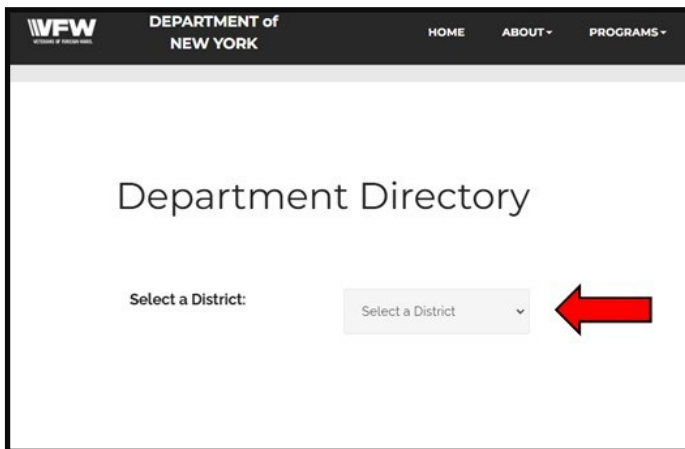
Spotlight continued from page 21



Clicking on words Department Directory, which is a hyperlink, it will bring you to the screen shown below where you can select a District to see all the posts in that District.

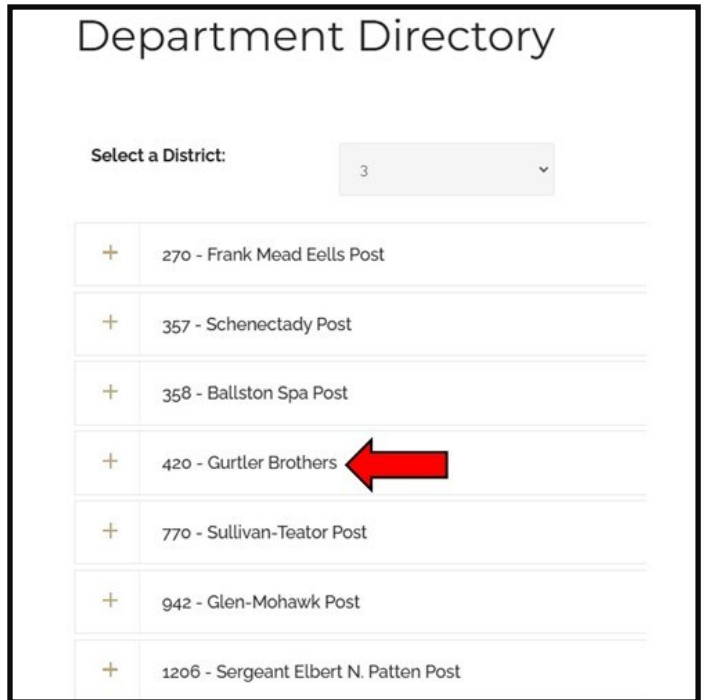
If you are looking for a specific post and do not know which the District that the post is in, you can use the Directory, which is located on the Department's website under Resources and then click on Post Roster to determine a post's District. You do not have to be a VFW member to access the Directory.

Once you know the District you want, you can select that District from the drop down menu by highlighting that District using your mouse.

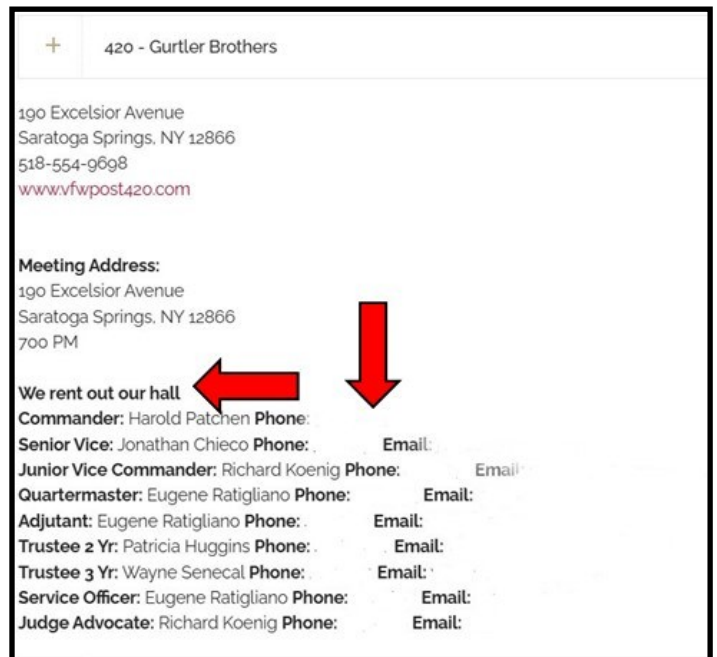


Once you have selected a District you will see this screen, which will list all the posts in that district in numerical order. To view the detailed information on a post, click on the gold plus sign

that is in front of the post's name.



The post information will list the mailing address, the meeting address and time, the post's telephone number; post's website if they have one, if they have hall rentals and their current officers and contact information.



This information is taken from a post's election report filed with National. It is important for posts to update their information by filing a new election report.



Jack Stein
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 10



William Hughes
Commander
District 11



Comrades,

During this holiday season District 10 has been giving out blankets and other necessities to veterans to The Northport Veterans Hospital and Stony Brook Veterans Home . Syosset VFW Post 6394 received over 75 lap blankets made by a local girl scout troop.



Christen Butcher VA staff member accepts blankets for the residents

Syosset Post Jr. Vice Commander and Service Officer Phil Rhoads delivers blankets donated by the Girl Scouts



Stony Brook VA Home, Samantha Calandrino, staff and Jack Stein District Commander



Holiday items were delivered to be handed out to the residents. Representing Pup Tent 69 District Commander Jack Stein.



Happy Holidays!
Jack Stein
District 10 Commander

Comrades,

We are proud to report that we in District 11 are working hard to maintain our "All American" status. We were in attendance for our October 11th and 12th for the Fall Conference and appreciate being kept up to date and sharing important talking points. Some our Leadership attended the OTI in Albany, and we then had a successful OTI on October 20th in District 11. It was well attended and thank you to the instructors and Post 2913 for hosting and doing a standup job.

We had a great meeting at Post 2937 with our Congressional Veterans Committee and took the opportunity to promote what we are doing in the district. We have initiated a monthly Commander's Corner which is held as an informative zoom meeting and focuses on a specific Veteran and VFW related topics. We recently again covered best practices in recruiting and membership, and Colin Anderson was a member/guest speaker covering community care and important VA practices.

On November 8th, we held a district wide Poppy Distribution at the Patchogue Brewery and as it happened our Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine stopped by to support our VFW District. All the dates before and after



Veterans Day, November 11th, were extremely busy with appearances at ceremonies, celebrations, and school appearances. So many of these events were shared via media both online and in the print media. Pup Tent #65 Cooties have been busy visiting the LI State Nursing home in addition to other nursing homes in the



District Commander 11
continued on page 24

District Commander 11 continued from page 23

district bringing gifts and handmade quilts to our brothers, sisters, and spouses of Veterans.

We of course are in the process of forwarding our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year and Public Service Candidates to the Department for judging.

Respectfully submitted.

William M. Hughes Jr.

Commander
District 11

“Dusting off the Dust: Honoring our Dust-Off Crews Who Served in Vietnam”

Nearly 50 years later, U.S. Army Vietnam Veterans were honored with the highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal at the end of October 2024. The “Dust-Off Crews,” family and speakers gathered at the Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) in Texas- the home of military medicine. The event was hosted by the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at the Army Medical Department Museum.

On Sept. 26, 2024, President Joe Biden signed the “Dust-Off Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act” S. 2825. — To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dust Off crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

The speakers included Medal of Honor recipient and former Vietnam Dust-off Pilot, Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady Brig. Gen Clinton K. Murray, MEDCoE Commander General, and the sponsor of the bill who pushed for nine years to honor our Dust-Off crews, Senator John Cornyn (TX.)

Our warriors of the Dust-Off crews came and



went in the Bell UH-1 “Huey” helicopters efficient with four people: two pilots, medic and a crew chief. Their call sign Dust-Off was established when Major Charles Kelly, Commander of the 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) was killed in action July 1st, 1964, while trying to

land and retrieve wounded soldiers facing hostile fire. Kelly, signed off with “Dust-Off” which is still used by medevac pilots and crews today. The helicopters were designed to efficiently fly during combat to medically evacuate those in need reducing the mortality rate to one death per 100 casualties.

In the process, over 900,000 lives were saved by the Vietnam Dust-Off Crews. They were among the first to arrive with specialized training to the relief of soldiers and citizens who were desperately seeking help. When arriving, the medical personnel could triage the moment the aircraft “dusted off.” For over half a decade, those lives even included enemy personnel for dust is made of fine particles of solid matter- true to service and remembrance of Kelly following the DUSTOFF motto “When I have your wounded.”

One of the most honored Veterans attending the Gold Medal Ceremony, Major General Patrick Brady shared his experiences in the book “Dust off: Army aeromedical evacuation in Vietnam” by Peter Dorland and James Nanney. Particularly the night of January 5th, 1968, patrol was injured in a heavily forested environment by the enemy force. An aircraft tried multiple times to land and could not because of Vietnam’s monsoon thick fog. “Patrick H. Brady, now a major, and his crew of Dust Off 55 now volunteered for the mission into the fog-wrapped mountains.” Dust Off 55 faced dense fog, enemy fire, while hovering and tilting the helicopter to fan fog away, to finding a landing zone “hazardous even in good weather.” Facing snipers, “Dust-Off 55 loaded up, climbed out through the soup, and flew the two critical patients and four others to surgical care.”

On December 18th, 1972, U.S. President Nixon gave the order to launch Operation Linebacker II. The two-week bombing campaign of North Vietnam, known as the “Christmas Bombing” with 20,000 tons of bombs on Hanoi and Haiphong. The United States lost 15 B-52s and 11 other aircraft during the attacks. Over 1,600 civilians were killed. The final Paris Peace Treaty was signed a few weeks later and American involvement was declared to end. However, it was not until April 30th, 1975 during the Fall of Saigon that the U.S. evacuated all remaining military and civilian personnel in Operation Frequent Wind, the largest helicopter evacuation in History.

The Vietnam War marked our need for helicopters and especially a plan to evacuate even with its risks to transport the sick, injured and wounded. The heavy brush and unstable weather made missions dangerous. Without “air ambulances” and our Dust-Off crews flying sometimes into the night sky with hostile fire, many more would have perished.

The Department of New York VFW Salutes.
Today and every day,
welcome home.

Thank you.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW

*Best Wishes for Peace and Joy
this Holiday Season and a New Year of
Health, Happiness and Prosperity*

Commander Daniel Kell

Sr. Vice James MacArthur, Jr. Vice Jack Sanford

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NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VFW Membership Mail-In Application

Yes! I want to join the VFW as a member-at-large and continue serving my country, my community and my fellow man.

PLEASE ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ Social Security #: _____

SERVICE INFORMATION Army Marine Corps Navy Air Force Coast Guard Space Force

Eligibility (choose all that apply)

- WWII Afghanistan Combat Action Ribbon SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia
- Korean War Iraq Expeditionary Medal Imminent Danger/
- Vietnam Korean Service (7/1/49 to present) Occupation Medal Hostile Fire Pay
- Persian Gulf War Kosovo Inherent Resolve Other: _____

Dates of Service: _____ to _____ Service Location: _____

Name of Campaign Ribbon or Medal: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please select one)

- ANNUAL (\$45.00)
 - Please bill me annually for my membership.
 - I would like to enroll in the Automatic Payment Plan.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (one-time)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (installment plan)

Automatic Payment Plan and Installment options require credit/debit card for processing. By signing this application you acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of the Automatic Payment Plan and Installment options, if selected.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of Dec. 31st	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		initial payment	11 payments of
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00	\$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$15.45

Automatic Payment Plan Terms and Conditions: You authorize the VFW to initiate electronic debit entries or affect a charge by any other commercially accepted practice to your account set forth above for the payment of dues reflected on this application. You understand such charges may be made within 2-3 business days of payment due date. For installment payments, charges will be made on or around the 1st or the 15th day of the month. This authorization will remain in full force until VFW has received notification from you of its termination or upon completion of the installment payments. Annual dues are subject to change. By completing this authorization, you acknowledge that you will only receive notice when the payment would differ by more than \$10.00 from the most recent payment. Contact VFW Member Services at 1.833.VFWYETS (1.833.838.8387) or write VFW Member Services, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 316, Kansas City, MO 64111 to inquire about or cancel a payment, or to report problems such as bank closures, lost or stolen account numbers, closed accounts, or unauthorized transactions. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time ten business days prior to the scheduled payment date. If you are unaware of the charge date for your account, please contact VFW. If a payment is returned by your financial institution (e.g., due to insufficient funds, incorrect account information, closed account, etc.) the VFW will contact you at the address we have on file, explain why the payment could not be processed, and provide alternate payment options. The privilege of making payments under this agreement may be revoked by VFW if any item is not paid upon presentation. You may have additional rights and responsibilities under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.

The VFW life membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a life membership by making an initial payment of \$45.00 and (11) monthly payments. The member will be issued an annual membership card at the time of enrollment. A permanent life membership card will be issued upon the completion of payments. The life membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the year in which the application is submitted. Delinquencies of 31-120 days can be corrected through make up payment(s) or plan end date pushed forward. Member will be dropped from the installment plan after 120 days delinquent and all monthly payments made to date will be applied to future years annual dues.

PAYMENT INFORMATION Check/Money Order Mastercard VISA Discover AMEX

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Amount to be charged: \$ _____
(if using Life Membership installment plan, amount is \$45.00)

VERIFICATION & SIGNATURE

I attest that by forwarding this application that I have confirmed my eligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to verify my eligibility for membership.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Mail form to: Membership Department, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
Questions? Call (888) JOIN-VFW (888-564-6839) or email us at membership@vfw.org