

April, May, June 2025

Volume 43 Issue 4



James MacArthur
STATE COMMANDER



Comrades,

I want to start out by thanking all of my fellow comrades for supporting me and giving me the great honor of becoming the Department of New York VFW Commander. I don't have a great deal of information or a long message to convey as it has only been two weeks since our convention. I have been at Headquarters working with our Department Adjutant on finishing up appointments and creating a great team to work with me and make the Department of New York the envy of our National Organization. Right from the start I want to thank my team and comrades for their dedication I know we will have a great year.

I just returned from our National Home in Eaton Rapids Michigan had a great time there and met some of my fellow Commanders from other states, also went on the ferries wheel with Past National Auxiliary President Jane Reape, it was a fantastic day and a great way to end the 100-year celebration of our National Home.

So, comrades, we are on our way; it is a new year. I know we will do great things and help our Veterans that are in need in some way, or another don't be afraid to reach out, it's our duty. As you know membership is always a big goal for us each year. This year our goal is to reach 101%. I know we can achieve this and I know we will achieve this goal.

State Commander continued on page 2



Robert Mitchell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

Congratulations to all our incoming 2025-2026 Department Officers! We enjoyed a very successful State Convention at the Albany Marriott in June where we welcomed in our new

State Adjutant continued on page 2



Daniel McMahon
STATE QUARTERMASTER



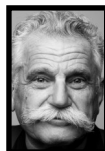
Comrades,

We have completed the Department convention and now our new officers at all levels are in need of training and assistance from everyone. There are training information, videos, and forms on the Department and National web sites. I would encourage the officers to go to the web sites and download the manuals and videos for the office you were elected or appointed to.

Quartermaster continued on page 3



Jody Treadway
Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Barbara Bishop
State Photographer



New York State Overseas Veteran

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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.

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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 am here to work with you and assist you in any way I can. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for assistance. Bob Mitchell and I are currently working on getting us into the State Fair for a recruitment event, and Past CIC Borland has offered to be there with us and help recruit. If you are planning a recruitment event and would like our assistance please reach out that's what we are here for.

It's the beginning of a New Year, let's make it a great one. Reports and programs get started now don't wait and put it off and say oh I've got time there is no time better than right now.

As I sign off, I just want to let you know my Home Coming is August 23rd at the Stuyvesant Falls VFW Post 9593. Hope to see you there and have a great summer!

Yours in comradeship,
James MacArthur
Department Commander

State Adjutant continued from page 1

State Commander James MacArthur and Auxiliary President Justine Robles. We also had an entertaining Testimonial Dinner where we had the opportunity to honor our outgoing State Commander Daniel Kell and Auxiliary President Darlene Baker. We also took the opportunity at the dinner to recognize our Public Servant Award recipients along with our very deserving Scout of the Year.

This has been another successful and enjoyable year for our Department. The staff at headquarters have continued the tradition of maintaining the high standard of support and quality of assistance that Posts in our Department have become accustomed to. One of our many accomplishments this year included developing a partnership with New York City Department of Veterans Services and establishing an office in the Veterans Administration New York City Regional Office. This initiative included the hiring of four new Assistant Department Veteran Service Officers and increased our total number of Department employees from eleven to fifteen. The Department will be hiring two additional VSOs and one Administrative Assistant in the coming months to fully staff this initiative.

The Department recently completed an update to our Employee Handbooks. The new edition will allow for the Department to protect itself by conforming and complying with current Department of Labor and Employment Law Policies. The revised handbook also establishes employment policies and practices that comply applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Membership is a priority again this year and Commander MacArthur appreciates your efforts in recruiting new members. It is equally important that we work hard to retain our current members. Every member we can recruit

State Adjutant continued on page 4

Quartermaster continued from page 1

Quartermasters, there is a special manual for your position and you should download it for reference throughout your term of office. One major issue is bonding of the Liquid Assets of the Post or District. The Post Quartermaster is the chief financial officer of the Post. The Quartermaster is the custodian of all Post property and the officer responsible for safeguarding Post funds and property. The duties of the Quartermaster are set forth in **Section 218 (a) (5) of the Manual of Procedure**. Qualify and secure a bond in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which they may be accountable in accordance with Section 703.

There will be Training for Quartermasters at the Department and Districts during the year. I cannot say it enough, **PLEASE ATTEND an OTI session near you.**

Bonding. There are too many Posts which believe the Post insurance company can provide a bond to cover the Quartermaster and anyone who handles money. Most of the time it is a surety policy and not a true bond. One key item, if it has a deductible or requires an arrest and police report, it may not be a true bond. If your Post has a budget, those items up to the budget limit may be dispersed without an approval at a regular or specially called meeting. ALL expenses aside from budgeted items **MUST BE** voted on and approved at a regular or Special meeting before the bill is paid. We at headquarters are here to assist with any concern which may arise. Call or email. Enjoy your summer.

Thank you,
Daniel McMahon
Quartermaster
518 414-2605
dmcmahon@vfwny.com



Daniel Kell
PAST STATE COMMANDER



Comrades,

The year has come to an end, with the National Convention right around the corner, I would like to take this time and congratulate all the incoming Department Officers and District Commanders on their election to their office this ensuing year, looking forward to having a great

year and working together as a team.

As the new year begins, we need to continue to communicate with each other, continue our mission on recruiting new members, reinstating members and letting them know we are a family-oriented organization that not only supports our veterans but our communities as well, we need to continue to work together to make a difference and build membership to include all generations. This past year our Department membership goal was 102% in membership set by National Headquarters. I would like to thank my Membership Chairman Michael Burke and his team as well as the District Commanders and their Membership Teams for there continued strive to put forth their best effort in attaining National goal of 102%. The Membership stats as of June 24, 2025, show as listed below the effort everyone puts forth in membership: Department of New York: 97.78%

District 8: 103.45%

District 11: 102.79%

District 4: 102.42%

District 9: 101.40%

District 6: 100.77%

District 3: 100.27%

District 10: 100.22%

District 2: 99.59%

District 5: 99.40%

District 7: 98.86%

District 1: 93.99%

I would also like to thank all my Line Officers and Committee Chairmans for continuing push our programs and legislative goals throughout the past 2 years as your State Commander. Your communication, leadership and guidance show the teamwork we have here in Department of New York. Our State Adjutant Robert Mitchell and the Department of New York Administrative team, we here in Department of New York our fortunate to have and amazing team at the State Headquarters ensuring the support to our posts, administrative obligations, Conferences and Conventions are set up.

State Commander Jim MacArthur, congratulations on your election as Department of New York State Commander. I am looking forward to working with you and assisting you in the ensuing year. I wish you success as your year begins and know you will have an outstanding year.

Yours in Comradeship;

Daniel L. Kell

Immediate Past State Commander



State Adjutant continued from page 2

or retain will contribute to the overall success and strength of our Department and the VFW.

Lastly, I would like to thank State Commander Daniel Kell for the appointment as State Adjutant. It has been an honor and pleasure serving under his leadership.

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell

State Adjutant

**Jack Sanford**

**SR. VICE
COMMANDER**



Comrades,

Well, last year was rather busy in January with visiting numerous January Posts in District 1, 5 Posts in District 2 (Staten Island) with Sharon Wadell.

In February I was invited to meet with members of The C.W.V., V.V.A. In March I attended the Washington Conference. I also attended the District 8 Meeting and the Auxiliary Spring Conference where I had time to talk to my counterpart in the Auxiliary Jr. Vice President Belinda Cole. In April I attended VFW Spring Conference Visited the Lebbetti Post in Staten Island to inform them of the procedure for transferring from District 2 to District 1. I also attended District 10 Convention and Installed their Officers. In May from the 3rd. to the 11th I attended District 7 Convention in Batavia then went to Albany for a Budget Meeting then on to District 5 for their Convention, I made a mistake and thought their Convention was on Sunday and forgot about Mother's Day and their Convention was on Saturday and apologized. From May 15th to the 18th, I was assigned to visit the National Home. In June I attended the State Convention.

I would like to thank Commander Pennelle and Kell for allowing me the opportunity to serve you, and I look forward to serving you again under Commander MacArthur. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call.

Together we can make this a GREAT YEAR!

Yours in Comradeship,

Jack Sanford

Sr. Vice Commander

**Ben Thompson,
PSC**

JUDGE ADVOCATE



Comrades,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Comrades for reelecting me to the high office of State Judge Advocate. I look forward to serving with Commander MacArthur and the 2025-2026 Administration on all levels.

To the officers at all levels, I recommend you obtain a copy of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. This will be your guide and will help to make your job easier.

It is the responsibility of the Commander along with the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders to enforce strict observance of the laws and usage of this organization including Post, District and Department Bylaws along with the Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual and all lawful orders from proper authorities. Therefore, it is also recommended that copies of the District and Department Bylaws be obtained also.

As the Department Judge Advocate, it is my duty to advise the Department Commander, and the Department Council of Administration based on the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. I am also available to provide assistants to any Post, District or Comrade.

As we move towards the upcoming elections cycle, I direct everyone's attention to Article VII, Sec. 702 of the VFW National Bylaws, which states, "No Post, County Council, District, Department or the National Organization, or any component part or member thereof, shall participate in any way in a campaign of a candidate for any partisan public office..." This

Judge Advocate continued on page 6

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
VFW**

**69 SAND CREEK RD
ALBANY, NY 12205**

518-463-7427

518-454-8904 (fax)

www.vfwny.com

www.facebook.com/VFWNewYork



Department of New York *Homecoming*

Welcome Our Newly Elected
Department of New York

Commander James “Jim” MacArthur
President Justine Robles

August 23, 2025 1-5 PM

VFW POST 9593

845 County Road 25

Stuyvesant Falls, NY 12173

Roast Beef, Clams, Potatoes, Corn

*RSVP by August 8, 2025 to
Jody 518-463-7427 for VFW
Justine 347-760-0879 for Auxiliary*



Marcello Rotunda

JR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

Thank you for electing me as Junior Vice Commander for our Department. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you this year.



I was involved in dedication of military circle at Blockville, New York cemetery on 17 May 2025.



On May 22nd I presented the Life Saving award to Amanda Drummond at Dunkirk Post 1017.

Judge Advocate continued from page 4

applies to fundraisers, endorsements, and the use of VFW facilities or names in any way that suggests the VFW is supporting a candidate.

The Post building may be rented or used by a political campaign for an event, and this is done the same way as with any other private group (e.g., through a rental agreement, without promotion or endorsement by the Post), this may be permissible, as long as:

- The Post does not advertise, promote, or sponsor the event.
- The event does not use VFW branding or materials.
- The Post does not show favoritism or exclusivity to one candidate or party.
- The Post ensures equal opportunity for other candidates to rent the space (if requested)

The Commander and the Post membership must take great care to avoid giving the impression that the VFW is endorsing the candidate in any way. Always remember, if you're not sure, ask first.

Yours in Comradeship,

Ben

Ben Thompson, PSC

State Judge Advocate

Phpm1896@verizon.net



I represented the VFW at the Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Park .

Yours in comradeship,

Marcello Rotunda

Jr. Vice Commander



Gene Ratigliano,
PSC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEMBER



Comrades,

Let me open this article with a very big thank you for re-electing me as your National Council representative for the next four years. I am very grateful for your support and confidence in me and will continue to serve YOU on the National Council with due diligence as I have in the past.

At this juncture of the year there is not much to report on as we close the 2024-25 VFW year as we prepare and head to the National Convention in Columbus in August. As I write this article there are two days left in the membership year and this will be in your hands after the dead date of June 30th. As of this morning the Department is at 98.14% in membership and it is unlikely that we will reach our goal of 100% this year. Congratulations to those Commanders and Quartermasters along with your post members who worked hard to earn All-State recognition.

Now is the time to start planning and get on the wagon to get an early start on next year. 2024-25 is behind us now so let's do everything we can to get ahead of the game and make the first female National Commander in the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars make that 101% goal for 2025-26 she has set for us. We can do it – you can do it – we've done it before! New York needs to continue to be at the top not somewhere in the middle and certainly not near the end.

Administrative Operations at National have been extremely busy. There are currently 44 Posts that are in suspension, two posts in consolidation, four posts which have gone defunct and seven Article IX Disciplinary Actions in process as well as six Administrative removals or actions pending. Six VFW eligibility challenges are also being reviewed and evaluated at this time.

The National Commander has been continuing the Department Inspection program with nine inspections planned for the 2024-25 term with nine being completed which included Delaware, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Utah, Pacific Areas, South Dakota, Washington and Europe.

Following my return from the National Convention I will provide you an update of actions taken at the National Council of Administration along with a wrap-up of pertinent resolutions and changes to our By-Laws and Ritual that may be approved by the membership.

Continue to have an enjoyable summer and be safe in your travels.

Yours in Comradeship,

Gene Ratigliano

Gene Ratigliano, PSC
National Council Member



Luke Magliaro
CHIEF OF STAFF



Comrades

I begin my Article for the Overseas Veteran with my most sincere thanks to Commander Dan Kell for giving us two great terms as State Commander, with dedication, pride, dignity, determination and loyalty to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Department of New York. I thank Commander Kell for appointing me as Chief of Staff for his 2024-2025 term. I wish him all the very best in all his future VFW endeavors.

As we begin the 2025-2026 term of office, having had a great convention and Change of Command ceremony, I congratulate our newly elected State Commander, James MacArthur as well as all the other newly elected and or appointed officers of the Department of New York, VFW. I am honored to have been appointed by State Commander MacArthur to be his Chief of Staff for the 2025-2026 term of office, which I accept with great pride and honor. I look forward to working for Jim, as I admire his Lead-By-Example, no-nonsense, straight forward approach to getting any tasks accomplished with great success. I am also looking forward to working with my fellow State Officers, including the District Commanders, whom I have always offered and assisted in any way I could in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

I am with hopes, by the time this article is published, the Department of New York has reached our membership goal of 102% to cap off Commander Kell's year. I also wish to congratulate the great job all our Chairmen did with this year's VFW programs. All honorees were so deserving of their awards.

In closing, I am committed to State Commander MacArthur to ensure we have a successful term, offering my assistance when called upon, with hopes our entire VFW Department of New York membership works together to put New York back on top! God Bless America!

Yours in Comradeship,
Luke Magliaro
Chief of Staff



Colin Anderson

DIRECTOR VETERAN SERVICES



Comrades,

Congratulations to our incoming Commander James MacArthur, we are looking forward to this upcoming year.

The Department's Veteran Service Officers have been incredibly busy over the last few years. A lot of this is due to the PACT Act going into effect in 2022. Amongst things, the PACT Act expanded eligibility, health conditions and awareness for Veterans. I ask that everyone continue to advocate for Veterans and make yourself aware of any legislation from local to national that impacts Veterans. Fiscal year 2023-2024 was a record setting year as far as money recouped for Veterans and eligible family members from VA compensation and pension claims. For FY 24-25, we are over \$15 million ahead of last year's pace with three months left to go in the fiscal year.

Another reason our VSOs are so busy, we have expanded, and the word is getting out that we are open for business. Some National Veteran Service organizations have downsized their presence in New York State. With the expansion into New York City, we have gone from five full-time VSOs to nine, with a couple more in the works. We can reach out and provide better in-person services now in NYC. On a personal note, I would like to see our coverage in Central New York expanded. This takes money and hopefully we can get the message out to our state legislators that we provide a valuable service for Veterans and their families across the state.

For the post and district service officers, titles and scope of responsibilities may and are changing. For any updates or assistance, please contact me at colin.anderson@va.gov. I am sure there will be more after the National Convention.

Finally, I want to thank outgoing Commander Dan Kell for two outstanding years of leadership. He has shown great vision and support in our endeavors to expand in NYC. He has shown unparalleled dedication to Veterans in the State of New York. On behalf of the VSOs, I want to wish him well and look forward to his continued roles within the organization.

Yours in Comradeship,

Colin Anderson
Director of Veteran Services.

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

If you know of any service member currently deployed to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Doha, Abu Dhabi or Djibouti, please provide me with their name and contact information. I will submit their information so we can try and send them a live Christmas Tree with the trimmings this year.



We have been 98% successful in the past, reaching all the service members submitted by the Department. I need the contact information before November 30, 2025, so we can contact them prior to the Christmas Tree sendoff.

Information needed:

NAME

UNIT NAME & NUMBER

APO ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS (**WE MUST HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS**)

Please email the information to Ben Thompson at phpm1896@verizon.net



Art Scheuneman

NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN



VFW National Home 2025 Celebration Year in Review

Birthday Party – Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Over 90 people attended the birthday party kick-off for the 100th anniversary of the VFW National Home. The Mayor of Eaton Rapids spoke as did Mike Wilson and Jerry Blake.

Two members of the Spencer family were in attendance as well as several past and current residents. Hundreds of birthday cards from VFW's and Auxiliaries from across the Nation were sent in acknowledgement of the anniversary and used as decoration. Funds received from them totaled \$7,434. A live feed of the program was broadcast on Facebook and has had 6.2k viewers to date. It was a very nice kick-off for the anniversary year celebrations.

National Home Chairman continued on page 10



**PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars
"VFW Military Family Support Center"
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
Department of New York VFW Auxiliary
&
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR SOLDIERS IN SERVICE**

HOLIDAY CHEER

On behalf of our military personnel serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Djibouti, Doha and Abu Dhabi, we are again sending Christmas Trees, lights, ornaments and Menorahs to our military personnel in harm's way at the above locations. This is our **twenty second year** of running our program sending trees to our deployed troops and we look forward to it being as successful as the previous years.

To support this program, you may fund a tree with the appropriate lights and decorations for a donation of \$25.00. You may fund as many trees as you would like. Working together, we as supporters of our military personnel can make the Christmas holiday a little more enjoyable for those fighting far away from home.

If you would like to support this program by funding a tree(s), make your check or money order payable to:

PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896
(MARK IN MEMO: TREES)

MAIL TO: BEN THOMPSON
119-26 204TH STREET
ST. ALBANS, NY 11412

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 30, 2025

For additional information: (718) 527-6532 or phpm1896@verizon.net

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Ben Thompson, PSC
Proctor-Hopson #1896
VFW Military Family Support Center

National Home Chairman continued from page 8

100th Anniversary Celebration Gala – Saturday, February 8, 2025

The Gala attended by 180 people went smoothly and was felt to be a great success. The net cost was \$3,788.78. The diamond/champagne raffle fundraiser was quickly accomplished to the salesmanship of Sandi, Michelle, and Wendy. It was an exciting ending when the winner, June Haynes, wife of Chris Haynes, announced she intends to give it to her son to have set in an engagement ring so he can propose to his girlfriend.

There were lots of compliments on everything from the decorations to the spacious hospitality room, history banners and keepsake program. Attendees also praised the interesting and well delivered program.

New Pollet House Dedication & Ribbon Cutting – Friday, March 7, 2025

The Pollet House Dedication & Ribbon Cutting was attended by more than 40 people, including two decedents of the original Pollett family. Attendees toured the house and enjoyed refreshments. Welcome remarks and acknowledgements were made by Mike Wilson, Executive Director, Jerry Blake, National Home Board President, The State of Missouri Commander, Richard Depontee, and Amy Jo Lett, Missouri Auxiliary President. The Invocation was followed by the Blessing of the House by Deborah Halter, VFW Dept. of Missouri Chaplain

Community Celebration – Saturday, June 28, 2025

The event is a one-day community festival (to replicate in part the past carnivals historically held at the Home) to celebrate 100 years of service and partnership with the local community. Invitations were made to National Home Board members, VFW & Auxiliary National leadership, Past National Presidents, Cootie Supremes, Commanders in Chief, and National Home Alumni, donors, residents, and staff.

Rides & Bounce House – There are 6 rides including a 40' Ferris wheel and Mechanical unicorn ride sure to please young and old kids! There is also a 36' Pirate bounce house donated by the grandson/nephew of a past resident family that grew up at home. They are very pleased to contribute to this event. Car Cruise-in – The Charlotte Cruisers Car Club has been instrumental in helping spread the word about our event. At 3pm we plan to coin the Board's Quarter-Century Picks from all car entries. Movie Characters – Legion 501 (Star Wars Characters) and League of Enchantment (Movie Characters of all kinds) will roam around the festival grounds engaging with families and providing selfie opportunities. Vintage Baseball game – Capital Base Ball Club of Lansing and the Eclipse Base Ball Club of Northville, Michigan, are baseball and history enthusiasts who play ball by the rules and gentlemanly conduct of the 1860's – not at all like today!

The Laser Light show – This is sure to be a people pleaser and something new for the area. Dynamic

FX is an award-winning company with many well-known clients include American singers Jennifer Lopez, Barbadian-American singer Rihanna. The show is set to popular tunes you'll recognize and be sure to watch for VFW, Auxiliary, MOC and MOCA logos in lights!

Tour Wed., August 13, 2025 - VFWNH Bus Tours from Conference August 9-14, 2025:

The Home's staff will be leading this event given their experience and the similarity of this event to the annual Jr. Vice and other on campus events with large groups.

08-13-2025 06:30 AM - Vehicle Onsite at Hyatt Regency Columbus, 400 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215, USA
08-13-2025 07:00 AM - Depart from Hyatt Regency Columbus, 400 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215, USA
08-13-2025 11:20 AM - Arrive at 3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827, USA
08-13-2025 03:00 PM - Depart from 3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827, USA
08-13-2025 07:20 PM - Arrive at Hyatt Regency Columbus, 400 N High St, Columbus, OH 43215, USA

National Home Trustee District 2 Election Update

In District 2 we have 3 applications – (New York, Vermont, Connecticut & Europe)

Thomas Howard – VFW, New York, Post #982
 Darlene Baker – Auxiliary, New York – Post #7325
 Judith Barnes – Auxiliary, Connecticut – Post #5095

All Election ballots will be done via email. If you do not have a valid email on file with the VFW National Home, please contact Nancy Archambeau at narchambeau@vfwnationalhome.org. The election voting will start on August 19th and stop on Sept. 17th with one reminder being sent out during that time period to Life Members of District #2. Winners will be declared and contacted on September 17th from the Board President. Good luck to all those running for District #2 VFW National Home Trustee 2025-2031.

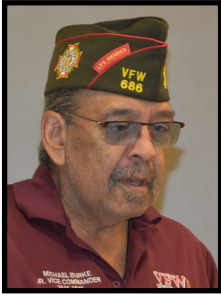
Loyally,

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









Michael Burke, PSC MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

First, I would like to thank Commander Dan Keil for giving me a 2-year appointment as Membership Chairman.

As Chairman, Department has made so much progress during my Chairmanship. Year 2023-2024 we made 100%. Year 2024-2025 as of June 30, 2025, 4:10 AM Department is at 98.30%. This is a tribute to all eleven (11) Districts. A lot of hard work was done to accomplish this.

Out of the 323 posts in the State of New York, 205 were 100% or better and the following Districts were 100% or better District 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Fabulous job!

I would like to wish Commander McArthur and his administration the best for the coming year.

Yours in Comradeship,
Michael Burke, PSC (2017-2018)
State Membership Chairman 2024-2025

want to say to all our comrades, Post, Auxiliaries and members who donate each year, **THANK YOU!** Which is why I'm writing here today not only as my year-end report, but to say we will be starting another year for our Service Officer Raffle and Journal program, and I am hoping we do as well as the past years donations, but I know we could do better.

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 750,000 of these claims, granting 85% of them and awarding more than \$4.2 billion in earned benefits to Veterans and survivors. The Service Officer are the ones supporting Veterans and their families to address military related toxic exposure. These are just one of the programs the service officers help veterans with.

This program with raffle tickets and journal Ad is our way of saying thanks to the service officers for all the hard work they do. The next program will start soon, keep watching for my letter for the start of the 2025-2026 Service Officer Raffle and Journal Program.

So, I am asking you please support our Service Officers and donate to the Raffle and the Journal.

Ronald Sorrentino

Chairperson Service Officer Raffle and Journal



Ronald Sorrentino SERVICE OFFICER JOURNAL AD CHAIRMAN

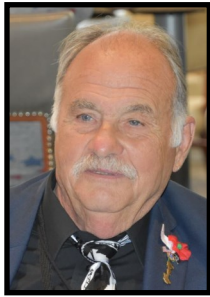


Comrades,

By now you should all know me. As you know This is my third year as the Service Officer Raffle and Journal Chairman.

Throughout this time, we have done extremely well for the program. We gave out over 200 prizes for the raffle. Ticket sales throughout the years have gone up every year with 3806 tickets sold this past year. Sorry to say we were down eight journal ads this past year, but overall, another good year. I





Pat Iuliucci
POW/MIA
CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

On September 23, 2024, the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Private Harland J. Hennessey, missing from WWII. Private Hennessey entered the U.S. Army from New York and served in the 803rd Engineer Battalion, Aviation. He was stationed in the Philippines at the time of the Japanese invasion of the islands. Pvt. Hennessey was captured in Bataan following the American surrender, on April 9, 1942. After the surrender, the Japanese began the forcible transfer of American and Filipino prisoners of war to various camps in central Luzon, at the northern end of the Philippines.



The largest of these camps was the notorious Cabanatuan Prison Camp. At its peak, Cabanatuan held approximately 8,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war that were captured during and after the Fall of Bataan. Camp overcrowding worsened with the arrival of Allied prisoners who had surrendered on Corregidor on May 6, 1942. Conditions at the camp were poor, with food and water extremely limited, leading to widespread malnutrition and outbreaks of malaria and dysentery. According to prison camp and other historical records Pvt. Hennessey died on November 1, 1942. He was reportedly buried in Common Grave 704 (CG704), but complications in the burial and recovery process precluded identifying his remains immediately following the war.

In 2018, as part of the Cabanatuan Project, the DPAA exhumed the Unknowns associated with CG704 for comparison to associated casualties. Laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of remains as those of Pvt. Hennessey.

Private Hennessey is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

You will be notified of Private Harland J. Hennessey's internment as the information becomes available.

POW/MIA Chairman continued on page 16



Ronald Sorrentino
COMMUNITY
SERVICE CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

This VFW year will come to an end on June 30, 2025; this year we started off a little slow. But as of June 23, 2025, report for 2024-2025 we have almost doubled our Volunteer Hours for the department from last year. The department total as of June 23, 2025, is 1,356,739 volunteer hours with a donation amount of \$ \$ 2,567,939.34. The national total is 4,943,272 volunteer hours with a donation amount of \$ 208,057,046. This is great for both the nation and our department.

Below I have shown the districts total as of June 23, 2025. Thank you for the work you have done for the department of New York.

	District	Total VFW/Aux Volunteer Hours	Value of Hours	Dollars Donated	Total
	1	1,303.00	\$43,637	\$62,852.22	\$106,489.69
	2	6,879.70	\$230,401	\$114,575.24	\$344,976.40
Second Place	3	7,163.25	\$239,897	\$127,753.63	\$367,650.89
	4	2,277.00	\$76,257	\$61,009.03	\$137,265.77
	5	2,765.00	\$92,600	\$59,550.76	\$152,150.61
	6	2,956.00	\$98,996	\$68,654.58	\$167,651.03
	7	2,040.00	\$68,320	\$81,880.53	\$150,200.14
	8	1,167.50	\$39,100	\$77,490.87	\$116,590.45
	9	3,435.00	\$115,038	\$119,953.73	\$234,991.88
Third Place	10	5,887.30	\$197,166	\$169,962.34	\$367,128.03
First Place	11	4,638.00	\$155,327	\$267,517.83	\$422,844.45
	Total	40,512	\$1,356,739	\$1,211,200.76	\$2,567,939.34

Once more, AS I HAVE Said MANY TIMES, in all my reports, AND I NOW repeat it ONCE MORE.

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, please have your description on the reports with more than one word explanation, one word is not a description.

I know we could beat the 2023-2024 VFW year; we can even do more in 2025-2026 if we all remember to put in the reports as soon as they are done and ensure that the date of the activity is between the **1 July – 30 June**. **Have a Great Summer!**

Ronald Sorrentino
Community Service Chairman



Raymond Thies

BUDDY POPPY CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

As the newly appointed Department Poppy Chairperson I want to see how we will do next year as compared to this past year. In order to do so I tabulated what we did by District and this is the breakdown:

District 1—23 posts had 6 posts participate which is 26.1%, 3,500 poppies.

District 2—64 posts had 26 posts participate which is 40.6%, 34,500 poppies.

District 3—41 posts had 17 posts participate which is 41.5%, 26,500 poppies.

District 4—21 posts had 4 posts participate which is 19.0%, 4,000 poppies.

District 5—36 post had 7 posts participate which is 19.4%, 4,500 poppies.

District 6—34 posts had 13 posts participate which is 38.2%, 12,500 poppies.

District 7—19 posts had 5 posts participate which is 26.3%, 7,500 poppies.

District 8—22 posts had 6 posts participate which is 27.3%, 9,000 poppies.

District 9—14 posts had 2 posts participate which is 14.3%, 3,000 poppies.

District 10—24 posts had 14 posts participate which is 58.3%, 41,000 poppies.

District 11—27 posts had 14 posts participate which is 51.9%, 31,000 poppies.

I must say that we cannot compare districts to one another as each is unique in its make-up and character and wealth. The Department of NY had 3 posts purchase 10,000 poppies with one of those getting 11,000!

How did the Department do compared to all of the VFW? VFW National lists 5,553 posts and 6,010,830 poppies, I can't give you the number of posts from the rest of the nation that actually distributed poppies, while Department of NY lists 325 posts and 177,000 poppies purchased by 114 posts. I am sure that some posts still have poppies left over pre-COVID.

It would be nice if our newly elected District Commanders urged more posts in their district to participate. Remember that the funds donated are to be used only for fellow veterans in need and what area of our state does not have a few cases? I for one get a great feeling when I have issued checks from a relief fund to veterans in need. **The VFW, no one does more for veterans.**

Ray Thies
Chairman



Madison Fletcher

NATIONAL WOMEN VETERAN'S COMMITTEE MEMBER



Comrades,

It has been a busy few months on this side of the house. Women's Veterans Day was celebrated throughout the months of May and June with the official holiday being June 12th. I say holiday because in 2023 Governor Hochul proclaimed it a statewide celebration. This day commemorates the



signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act in 1948, which allowed women to serve as regular members of the military. While not a federal holiday, it is a state-recognized commemoration in New York, and several other states, to honor the service and contributions of women veterans.

The events kicked off with a women veteran's day long retreat where we did yoga, met with groups around the country, met with valuable resource groups and listened to keynote speaker Joyce Abbott, the female army veteran who became an award-winning educator with the troops to teachers' program and inspired the hit TV show Abbott Elementary. She opened her speech with reminding that women veterans to be proud of their service and that we are courageous for what we did. She highlighted the struggles of getting out of the service and breaking the mental health stigmas by saying that "the silence after war is deafening."

The next event was hosted by Assembly Woman Pamela Hunter in The Well at the Capitol Legislative building in Albany. Here women veterans were celebrated. After listening to multiple speakers talk about how they encourage women veterans to self-identify and own their rights we were taken into the assembly to listen to a resolution memorializing the occasion. Here the women who attended were

National Women Veterans continued on page

POW/MIA Chairman continued from page 14

He will be interned in his hometown of Boonesville, NY. For more information you can call Mill Funeral Home at 315-942-2722.

A memorial ceremony for Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey will take place on August 23, 2025, at VFW Post 5538, 108 Park Avenue, Boonesville, NY 13309. Please call the post to find out the time of the event: 315-942-4266.

Still unaccounted for: WWII-71,906; Korea-7,415; Vietnam-1,571; Cold War-126; Gulf War-6.

REMEMBER!

Pat Iulucci
Chairman
POW-MIA



John Pieprzak
PAST COMMANDER
DISTRICT 1



Greetings comrades.

I hope this letter finds you all in good health. Well, my year as District 1 Commander is done. It had its ups and downs, but overall, it was a great experience. My biggest regret is not accomplishing my membership goal. I will be working with the newly elected District 1 Commander to make sure we get it next year.

March 29: I attended the ceremonies honoring the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War sponsored by the UWVC.

April 11-12: I attended the Spring Conference in Corning.

May 16: District 1 veterans and family members attended the Military Appreciation Night at the Brooklyn Cyclone Stadium.

May 17: We had a small gathering at our post for Armed Forces Day where we explained to those in attendance the difference between Armed Forces, Veterans and Memorial Days.

May 23: I was invited to be on a question & answer panel by Post 551 at a Raymor and Flannagan store. Different neighborhood organizations participated.

Past District 1 Commander continued on page

15

**You Don't Want To Miss
the Only**

**DEPARTMENT OTI
FOR THIS YEAR**

September 6, 2025

8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Cost is \$25.00

Albany Marriott

189 Wolf Road

Albany, NY 12205

**OTI Training is required for
the Post Quartermasters**

And 1 Trustee

**As part of the All-State
Qualifications**

**Information and
registration packets will
be in the mail**

Soon!



Past District 1 Commander continued from page 14

May 25: I walked with various posts from District 1 in the Maspeth Memorial Day Parade.

June 6: I attended a gathering to commemorate the 81st Anniversary of D-Day.

June 10-15: I attended the Department of New York Convention in Albany. I was honored to be part of the escort detail of the incoming Department of NY Auxiliary President, Justine Robles, who happens to be my wife. I was also happy to be part of the team that transferred the five District 2 posts from Staten Island into District 1. By doing so, it will make it easier for them to get to district meetings and conventions. A big thank you to District 2 Commander Sharon Waddell and Dept. of NY Sr. Vice Jack Sanford for all their work to make this happen. Welcome aboard to our new comrades.

As I stated earlier, it has been an eye-opening experience. I met a lot of new people and went to some new places. As I send out this last article, I look forward to next year and the strides our district will make. I wish good luck to the incoming Department lines, both on the comrade and auxiliary sides. May our organization have a great year doing what we do best, helping our veterans and their families.

Semper Fi,
John Pieprzak
Past District 1 Commander



Sharon Waddell
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 2



Comrades,

As we finish up the year and start the 2025-2026 year, I'd like to thank all the leadership and our members for their efforts these last 12 months. There were challenges and obstacles, but you rose to the task. Eight of our posts earned All-State honors; congratulations to Posts 973, 1666, 5034, 5444, 5491, 5913, 9257, and 12033! Two posts (1666 and 9257) also achieved All-American. District 2 finished

District 2 Commander continued on page 16



Harold Patchen
PAST DISTRICT
3 COMMANDER



Comrades,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate all 2024-2025 elected and appointed officers, Post, District and Department.

District 3 had a very successful 2024-2025 year in membership, inspections and IRS-990's. I want to congratulate our **7 All State Posts, 358 Ballston Spa, 420 Saratoga Springs, 6196 Queensbury, 7291 Greenwich, 7552 Hillsdale, 8692 Colonie and 9593 Stuyvesant Falls.** The final notice has not been released but looking at the National Dashboard just now we should have 3, possibly 4 Posts make All American. Congratulations, in advance, to each post.

I really feel blessed to have been the 3rd District Commander these past three years. It's been an Honor and a Privilege to have served with you. I was reacquainted with comrades from years past, made many new friends, if I tried to name you all I'm sure that I'd miss someone. I want to thank every post for making me feel welcome and leaving me wanting to return soon. I would like to give a special thank you to Gene Ratigliano, Jim Haas and Bob Mitchell, three comrades that I could trust and depend on.

I'm not walking away from the VFW, now that I'm a PDC but will remain active at my Post (trustee), District 3 (trustee and inspector) and the Department of NY VFW (Inspector).

I wish everyone an enjoyable, relaxing summer. Let's get reenergized and be ready when the Department OTI takes place. There will be a session for ALL DISTRICT INSPECTORS and I encourage you to attend. I hope that every post can be not only All State but All American also this year. Let's all get out and work hard for our new Department Commander Jim MacArthur and help him make his 101% membership goal.

In Comradeship,
Harold Patchen
Past District 3 Commander

District 2 Commander continued from page 15

the year with 100.5% membership while Post 12033 led its

national division in membership for most of the year. Posts 973 and 12033 both received membership awards at the department convention.

The year was also one of great change. At our convention in May we voted to support the five Staten Island Posts' (1574, 2159, 5090, 7172, and 9587) request to move to District 1. The Staten Island/Richmond County posts have endured years of long, expensive travel through District 1 or New Jersey to attend District 2 meetings; the move will benefit them greatly. The move was voted on and approved at the Department convention; we wish them the best in District 1.

I am looking forward to the coming year and welcome the new commanders and quartermasters who have joined us. This year we will continue to focus on the basics and help posts meet the standards. We will again hold two OTI sessions within the district to provide training. Our goal is to ensure every post is successful: submitting all required reports, their IRS 990, and achieving at least 100% membership.

For those who have not met me, I served twenty years in Army Signal; I have worked another twenty-one years as an Army civilian at West Point where I am currently the Director of the organization that provides post IT support. I served in Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Southern Watch, and Korea. My leadership philosophy is to empower the leaders I supervise and help them achieve success; I am here to support you. Feel free to reach out to me when you need assistance or have a question; if I can't help, I will find someone who can. Together we are here to help Vets and their families.

Yours in comradeship,
Sharon Waddell
District 2 Commander

National Women Veterans continued from page 15

recognized by Pamela Hunter and the Speaker of the House with fellow Assembly members.

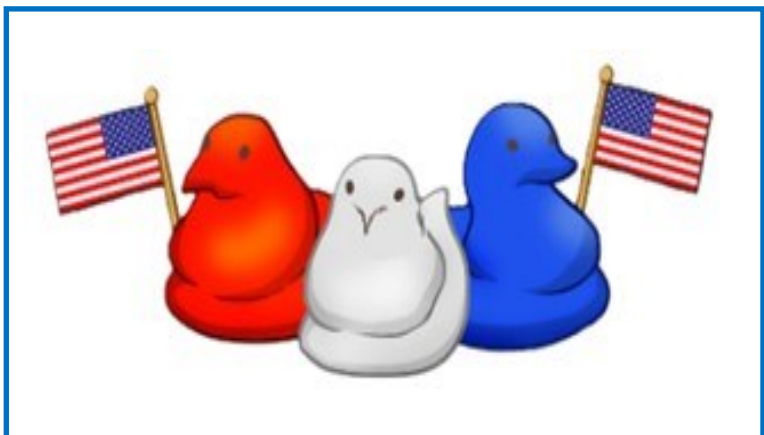
Moving forward, we are planning a women veteran's event in the coming months and plan to be able to put these on as a regular thing. Not just on Women's Veterans Day. We need the comradeship and bonding that our counterparts have. As stated above we need to self-identify and be proud of our service just as anyone. If you know an area that would like to help, put an event on, please reach out to me.

This year we are excited to prospectively have the first female National Commander In Chief of the VFW - Carol Whitmore. She is standing on her laurels that we are equals and supports any movement that accentuates that. I am looking forward to attending the momentous occasion of her being sworn in and will have pictures to follow. Please join me if not in person than viewing the stream online to support her and welcome her to her new role.

Lastly, I am asking for help, National wants to hear our concerns. The committee was asked by the Commander in Chief to develop a list of Women's concerns, whether it be a legislative concern or a concern with the VA, national wants to know so that we can address them appropriately. Please reach out to me and let me know anything you can think of so I can bring it up to the committee.

Thank you all for your support and thank you for the opportunity to represent the female veterans in New York State.

Yours in Comradeship,
Madison Fletcher
National Women Veteran's Committee Member





Norbert Neiderer

COMMANDER DISTRICT 9



Comrades,

As we move into the new VFW Year, I would like to pause and thank all of our District Officers and Post Commanders/Officers that are passing their baton over to the next generation of officers and to all of the officers who are willing to continue on to make our district proud. Together we can make this district shine.

All 14 posts have been doing their part in fulfilling their requirements; however, we all need to work together to ensure the documentation is done correctly and completely and forwarded to VFW Department of New York. IF you do the work let's show that it is completed.

May was VFW Day of Service time. Several posts did events ranging from visiting comrades in assisted living facilities, collecting 350 Lbs. of food for local community food shelves, holding a Tag-Less yard sale in support of the Sunrise Rotary, holding Blood Drives and cleaning up around the Gold Star Mothers Memorial. All of these events demonstrated to our communities what the VFW is doing and how we are helping everyone.

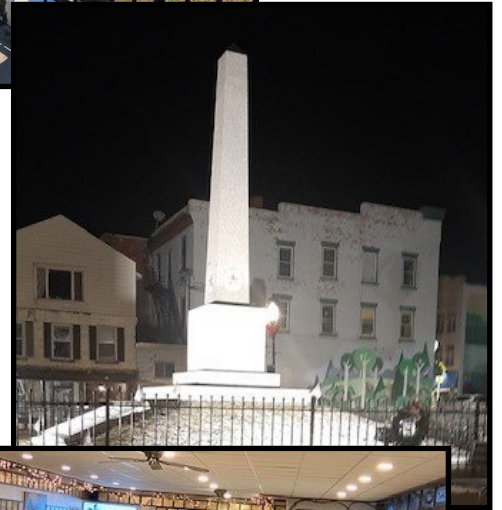
Memorial Day Ceremonies showed our proud support of all veterans who gave their all both during and after returning from all conflicts. Our posts with the help of the Boy Scouts and Community members placed over 3000 American Flags at deceased comrade graves in various cemeteries. We also handed out flags and poppies to community members attending the ceremonies. We want to thank our State Representatives who were guest speakers at our events.

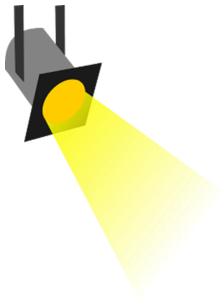
Flag Day has just past and between the 14 posts, we have officially retired over 2500 American Flags during ceremonies performed with Post, Auxiliary, Scouts, 4-H and Community members.

Yours in Comradeship,

Norbert Neiderer

Commander, District 9





Spotlight on VFWNY.COM

Featuring: *In Country* Cartoon



In Country Cartoon is the creation of Phil Fehrenbacher who enlisted in the Army in 1965. In Country is his satirical take on his time spent in Vietnam during the war.

It is available on several places on the department's website www.vfwny.com. The cartoon can be found at the bottom of the following pages:

Under the **News** tab-

- Announcements
- Calendar
- News
- Overseas Newsletter

On the Members Only section of the website, In Country can be found on the following pages:

- Overseas Veteran Newsletter
- Monthly Planning Calendar
- VFW Magazine

The cartoon is updated daily so check our website daily to see what is happening In Country today!

Now is the time
to get your
2025-2026
Bond

The Officer
(Quartermaster) Bond
Application for the
2025-2026 VFW year
is now available on the
Department's website:
[https://vfwny.com/
uploads/documents/2025-
2026/
OfficerBondApplication.pdf](https://vfwny.com/uploads/documents/2025-2026/OfficerBondApplication.pdf)



The 126th VFW National Convention will be held Aug. 9-13, 2025, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio.

As the VFW winds down its 125th year, it is returning to the city where everything started Columbus Ohio.

For more information on the convention please visit <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/126th-vfw-national-convention>



Don't forget to Like and Follow the
Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars



@VFWNEWYORK



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)

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☐ 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