

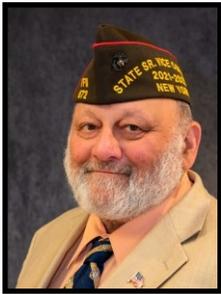
# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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




July, August, September 2022

Volume 41 Issue 1



**Peter Pennelle**  
**STATE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

Communication is the key to any successful organization and the Department of New York VFW is no exception. The best communication takes place in person because it allows for a dialog to take place. During the COVID years we relied on Zoom so meetings could take place since in person meetings were not possible, but now thanks to the vaccines we are pivoting back to in person meetings.

District meetings are one of the most important meetings that take place throughout the year. These meetings serve as a bridge between the Department and the posts. Each district meeting has a Department officer in attendance in addition to the District Commander so they are able to update the posts on issues, policies, events of importance to the posts. At the same time posts are given the opportunity to voice any questions or concerns that they may have.

Department Order No. 9 speaks directly to this. I am asking that all District and Post Commanders follow this order which spells out the regulations as required by National's By-Laws. Posts are required to have a representative at each of the two District meetings held a year. While it is ideal to have the Post Commander attend the meeting, **any post member** can attend their District meeting to ensure that the post is credited with attending the meeting. Failure to follow Department Order No. 9 can result in a letter of

**State Commander continued on page 2**



**Robert Mitchell**  
**STATE ADJUTANT**



Comrades,

The Department continues to make great strides in the implementation of technological upgrades to enhance the manner we capture statistical information. The majority of the Posts in the Department have successfully transitioned to

**State Adjutant continued on page 2**



**Daniel McMahon**  
**STATE QUARTERMASTER**



Comrades,

The department of New York VFW will be accepting credit cards in the very near future. Recently, we had an initial meeting and hopes are high to complete the paperwork to initiate acceptance of credit cards. We will be assessing a convenience fee for each charge.

There is quite a bit of chatter about posts closing and/or merging. Before a post should consider to

**Quartermaster continued on page 4**



**Jody Treadway**  
**Co-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.

### \*\*PUBLICATIONS:

Overseas Veteran is published four times annually by the Department of New York in July/August/September; October/November/December; January/February/March and April/May/June. All publications are digital format online and available on the VFWNY web site WWW.VFWNY.COM. Publications are 8.5" X 11" for individual printing capability.

### \*\* ARTICLES:

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including Veterans of Foreign Wars, its members, member communities, awards and activities are welcome.

### \*\*SUBMISSION & FORMAT:

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. 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:

[JTreadway@VFWNY.com](mailto:JTreadway@VFWNY.com). They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.

### \*\* DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES:

1st of March, June, September, and December.

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

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

### ***State Commander continued from page 1***

warning to the post commander or the removal of a post commander; actions that I do not want to take but will if necessary. District meetings are an essential way for the Department and posts to communicate and work together.

Having the lines of communication open between the Department and the posts will only help to make the Department of New York VFW a better and stronger organization for all of us.

Yours in comradeship,

Peter Pennelle

State Commander

### ***State Adjutant continued from page 1***

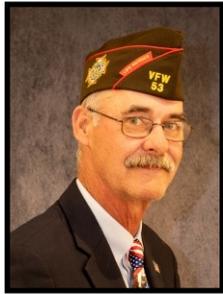
reporting their Community Service via the Department website portal. For the few Posts that are still in the process of transitioning, the Community Service portal is located on the Department Website ([vfwny.com](http://vfwny.com)) in the "members only" section. You must login to submit your Community Service report. Your login is your membership number, and your password is your last name. Once logged in you will see a link for Program Reporting. Upon submitting your report, you will automatically receive an email confirming the Department's receipt of your report. Although the Department will continue to accept paper community service reports through the end of the calendar year, starting January 1, 2023, all Community Service reporting will be required to be submitted electronically via the Department website. If you have any difficulties with the process, please contact Department Community Service Chairperson Madison Fletcher or Department Headquarters staff for assistance.

If you are a member of a Department of New York County Council, your Council must decide by January 1, 2023, whether to apply to the Department to form a District or be incorporated into a neighboring District. Department of New York Bylaws adopted by the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Convention on June 11, 2022, states that as of January 1, 2023, all County Councils in the Department of New York will be dissolved and no longer recognized by the Department. Policy Directive 2022-23 No. 2 provides guidelines and procedures to guide you through the application process.

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell

State Adjutant



**Daniel Kell**  
**SR. VICE COMMANDER**



Greetings Comrades;

I hope everyone had a great summer and ready to have a great 2022-2023 year for Department of New York. As we all know membership has declined in our organization and Department, we need to continue to work on our members that have not paid their dues and get them reinstated back into an organization so we can stay strong and keep our voice which pushes legislation to get the benefits we deserve. We need to continue to work together to make a difference and build our membership to include all generations. With the goal set forth by National for the next 3 years we want to not only put Department of New York back at 100% but get our VFW National membership back over a million members.

With School back in session, we should be already into our schools and working on our youth Scholarship programs such as Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year Programs. Deadline for submissions is 31 October 2022. We also do not want to forget the other programs and reports required to be submitted such as Community Service and Inspections.

Department of New York OTI Program 2022 has been completed, holding our OTI in 3 different locations of the state Albany, Binghamton and Fairfield NY was a success. There were approximately 75-80 Comrades that were in attendance from various posts within the Department at each of the locations. Comrades that were in attendance felt that the presentations provided were beneficial, informative, and easy to follow.

Suggestions received:

Keep the Comrades from holding separate conversations while the instructors are presenting the instruction, have them step outside.

The breakout in a separate room for the Quartermaster and Trustees was a big plus.

Have a representative from the New York State Gaming and New York State Liquor Authority Speak.

**Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 4**



**Leslie Crossett**  
**JR. VICE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

In an effort to support Commander Pennelle and ensure our Department has a successful year, I plan to help as many Posts and Auxiliaries as possible receive #StillServing grants from our National organization.

Want to start the year off with a bang? I encourage every Post AND Auxiliary in the State to immediately apply for a **\$1000 Community Support Grant**.

Check with your membership and ask who in the community would appreciate some unexpected financial support. Is there an animal shelter nearby that needs help? What about a charity in the area that collects school supplies for needy kids? How about a senior center? All you need to do is identify a non-profit within 25 miles of your Post and you can provide that organization with up to \$2000. Or, since every Post and Auxiliary can apply individually, the Post can support one charity while the Auxiliary helps another.



Summer is good for traveling and I sure did, I attended dedication of State Route 365 Rome, N.Y. As "Oneida County Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway", Thanks to the effort of Dennis Breheny

Commander  
Whitestown Post

7393 for getting this project rolling. I also attended two recruiting events in District 4, the NY State Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville and Mountain Fest at Ft Drum both in August. I had to pleasure of attending the District 6 & 7 meetings and there was School of Instruction held in Albany, Binghamton and Rochester. All these events were well attended. And finally, I attended the annual 4<sup>th</sup> District POW/MIA ceremony at Boonville Post 5538 which was very well attended with excellent coverage by the Boonville Herald newspaper.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Les Crossett  
Jr. Vice Commander

**Quartermaster continued from page 1**

either close or merge, the post should contact their District Commander and have that person get involved so a smooth transition is done. There are notifications and information which needs to be exchanged.

Whether it is close or merge, proper notification to post members, district and department officers is mandatory. I cannot stress enough, ask for assistance from other officers and headquarters. It is easier to do it right the first time rather than having to go over it again. Look at the **by-laws** and in the **Commander's Manual** which comes out each year for details. Both of these documents can be downloaded from the National web site for free at any time.

Speaking about the national By-Laws, if your copy is more than 1 year old, you need to toss your copy and download a new copy. A year ago, there were many changes and Unit IX Discipline was replaced in its entirety.

When considering the sale of your Post Property, the Protocol printed here on **page 5**. Not only is it necessary to notify to notify those listed above, but in some instances, the State of New York needs to give it an ok. You will need an attorney and they should be involved at the very beginning.

Our investments are on the same rollercoaster as has been for the last year or so.

Thank you,  
Daniel B. McMahon  
Department Quartermaster  
[dcmcmahon@vfwny.com](mailto:dcmcmahon@vfwny.com)

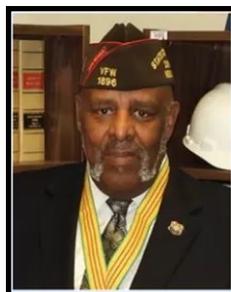
I would like to ask our membership to provide me with the names and contact information for anyone they know who is currently deployed to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, or Abu Dhabi. I will submit their information so we can try and send them a live Christmas Tree with the trimmings this year. We have been 98% successful in the past, reaching all the service members submitted by the Department. I need the following information as soon as possible so we can contact them prior to the Christmas Tree sendoff on December 5, 2022

NAME  
UNIT NAME & NUMBER  
APO ADDRESS  
EMAIL ADDRESS **(WE MUST HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS)** Please email the information to Ben Thompson at [thompsonbl@state.gov](mailto:thompsonbl@state.gov)

**Sr. Vice Commander continued from page 3**

Fall Conference is right around the corner 14-15 October 2022, looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in Comradeship  
Daniel L. Kell  
Sr. Vice Commander



**Bernard  
Thompson, PSC**  
**JUDGE ADVOCATE**



Comrades,

It is recommended that officers at all levels obtain a copy of the current 2023 podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters. The 2023 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 123rd National Convention, which became effective on Aug. 20, 2022.

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, Manuel 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 advise to any Post, District or Comrade.

Looking forward to a problem free year.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Ben Thompson  
Judge Advocate




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**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**


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Department of New York Headquarters | 69 Sand Creek Road | Albany, New York 12205  
 518-463-7427 | 518-426-8904 FAX | [www.vfwny.com](http://www.vfwny.com)

## POST PROPERTY SALE PROTOCOL

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a uniform process for disposal of Post Property (Buildings, Land, etc.) when a Post must down size. These steps have been established to ensure that the entire Post Membership is provided with an opportunity to be part of the process. The VFW is a member organization and as such the membership is entitled to be present and vote on all matters concerning the Post and its property.

1. Post Membership may discuss the sale of property at a regular or special Post meeting. If the decision by the membership present is to investigate the sale of the property by proper motion, second and vote in the affirmative.
2. All Post Members must be notified individually by card or letter of the time and place of the Meeting at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.
3. Once the Post Membership votes on the sale of the property and it is passed to sell the building the State Commander must be notified of the decision by certified mail.
4. The State Commander has thirty (30) days to respond to the Post
  - a. The Post must state the reason for the sale
  - b. How the funds are to be dispersed
  - c. Attach a statement of the current financial position of the post to include all financial obligations and liabilities.
5. Next a realtor/assessor must determine the fair market value for the property. The property must be advertised for sale in the local newspaper. This will assure that the property is sold for the best price possible and in the best interest of the Post Membership.
6. The building proceeds may be used to satisfy any known obligations and bills of the Post. Once all known bills are paid the Post shall retain in a special reserve account 35% of the balance of the remaining funds to pay any unknown bills or assessment of the Post that may arise. This special reserve account must be held for a period of 12 months from the closing date of the property.
7. If the Post surrenders its charter, then all funds will be forwarded to the Department who will hold them until the 12-month period is up. At the end of the holding period said funds will be dispersed as directed by the Department Council of Administration.
8. Funds from the sale of Post property must be used for the benefit of the VFW. Funds may not be dispersed to any members of the Post, their friends or relatives.

Harold Burke Jr., PSC/PSQM  
 State Judge Advocate

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



# Thomas Todaro PSC DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICES



Comrades,  
Please read this very important news on scammers and the PACT Act Benefits. **Advocates Will Soon Target Vets Due to Receive New Burn Pit Benefits**



The FTC estimates that veterans reported \$177 million in total fraud loss in 2021 -- well over half the dollar amount reported in 2020 for all Americans. Other scams, in general, may not come in the form of a shady phone call or spam email. Last month, a major jewelry retailer --Harris Jewelry -- was **ordered to pay more than \$30 million** in fines and refunds to consumers after allegedly duping troops and their families into nebulous credit agreements. "It would be difficult to pinpoint exactly why there was such an increase in reports," Armeson told Military.com. "Generally, scams go unreported because victims either don't realize they have been scammed, don't think what has happened is a crime, or don't know where to report. "Our hope is that through increased education, we can make more Veterans aware of ways to protect themselves from scams," she added.

The Cybercrime Support Network identifies a number of red flags that scammers may use to dupe veterans into bilking them for money:

- Demanding an upfront fee in order to receive benefits.
- Requesting information to update records in order to be eligible for benefits.
- Requesting personal information to verify a service member's identity.
- Requiring payment to receive access to records.
- Using language suggesting a need to act quickly.

CSN also recommends three rules for veterans to use if they suspect they are being targeted by a scam: slow it down, spot check, don't send. Additionally, while the VA is encouraging veterans to apply for claims now, it does not expect to process PACT Act benefits until 2023, after Congress approves funding for the law. "The VA is the only organization that processes PACT Act-related benefits, and you must submit a claim on their official website," Armeson told Military.com. "No one else is able to process claims or get you your benefits sooner."

CSN also recommends researching or "spot checking" the organization or entity that is contacting a veteran. "Before providing sensitive information or payment, perform an internet search of the organization who contacted you, followed by the words 'scam' or 'complaint,'"the group said in Wednesday's press release. Armeson also recommended that veterans look for typos in email messages and to be wary of "look-alike" URLs where a website link may look like an official site, but have one or two letters off that may be missed on first glance.

CSN advises against sending any unsolicited payment to an unverified source. "As a veteran, you never have to pay an upfront fee to receive your benefits or access your documents," the nonprofit wrote. "If someone is asking you to pay for these, it's a scam."

In Comradeship,  
Tom Todaro  
PSC/Director



Young fair-goer enjoying the **VFW** booth at the New York State Fair in Syracuse



**Gene Ratigliano**  
**PSC**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MEMBER**



Greetings from your National Council Member!

Summer is behind us with Fall approaching. I hope everyone had an fun and enjoyable summer.

I attended a two-day session in late August in Kansas City where we had a very successful and intensive workshop. We completed an extensive review of the 2022-23 budget which was approved at the C of A prior to my departure that week.

There have been a number of pertinent happenings that should be of interest to you since my last update. I am happy to report that the VFW's top three levels of VOD Scholarships have been raised totaling \$171,000. The National First place winner will now receive \$35,000 (T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship); the National Second place winner will receive \$21,000 (Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship) and the National Third place winner will receive the \$15,000 (VFW Scholarship). This is a tremendous boost in scholarship money for our students which should provide additional incentive to get out and promote our great scholarship programs in your local communities.

A great achievement of our VFW is the passage of the PACT Act – a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans – and their survivors – with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The two provisions of the Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post 9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

We owe a great many thanks to each and every one of our veterans in our and other organizations who did their part to get this act passed and we owe a particularly special thank you to our VFW Legislative members and partners who worked so tirelessly to see this goal achieved.

The Member Service Center at VFW National Headquarters has extended its hours for the VFW Store, dues processing, magazine subscription

inquiries, adjutant/quartermaster services, and general membership inquiries to better serve our members. The new hours of the Member Service Center are **Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM CST.**

Our Department Legislative Committee members met with senators, representatives and staffers in Washington, D.C. to discuss the VFW's legislative goals for 2022-23 and to thank them for the historic passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*. There was a specific focus given to cracking down on predatory claim companies, eliminating unjust offset for Chapter 61 retirees, and the role of economic opportunity in helping prevent veteran suicide.

In continuing to bring to the public's attention the importance of veteran suicide, remember to participate in the Department's STOP-22 initiative at the Fall Conference on October 15, 2022 as well and your local efforts to coordinate STOP-22 initiatives in your community.

During my visit to Kansas City our National Commander-in-Chief Borland asked each and every one of us – including – YOU – to recruit at least ONE new member this year. As of this writing 4,000 comrades have stepped up to the plate!

As I write this article for this edition of the Overseas Veteran, National currently has 72 Posts under suspension, seven of which are new since my last report and nine suspensions have been lifted. Administrative Operations is currently engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 21 administrative actions and seven membership eligibility challenges.

As you can see, the administrative workload at the National level continues unabated and it is important to stress to you the need to pay close attention to due dates of reports and the necessity of keeping election reports up to date and submitted promptly. Be prepared for your annual inspections by getting ahead of the game and review the findings from the previous year to ensure any items identified previously have been corrected. Some of the administrative burdens at the National level are the direct result of actions a Department has to take at the local post level and move forward to National. Let's keep that from happening by doing what we are required to do as a responsibility of our positions.

Until next time I will do my best to keep you abreast of items that may come my way. I wish you all a happy Fall and get out there and enjoy the changing of the foliage. We live in an area that provides us an abundance of beauty that other parts of the country wish they could enjoy. Get out there and enjoy it!

Yours in Comradeship,

**Gene Ratigliano**

Gene Ratigliano

National Council Member



## Madison Fletcher

**COMMUNITY SERVICE  
CHAIRMAN**



Greetings Comrades,  
Last Year we had a total of 95,340 hours of community service done, with a total of \$1,156,510 donated putting us at a total of donation of \$3,749,761. This year is unfortunately off to a slow start. So far this year we have 3,194 hours completed and \$65,067 donated which puts us at a total of \$165,713. Even though it is not a competition, I do want to mention that in the top spot we have District 1 at 877 hours completed and \$13,789 donated for a total of \$40,041. Next is District 5 with 700 hours to date and \$11,954 for a total of \$28,687 and in third we have District 2 at 478 hours and \$12,098 which totals to \$26,364.

Please remember that our year starts in July so any entry put in with a date before then can not be accepted as well as a date that has not happened yet will not be approved. Also the easiest way for everyone is to input the event when it happens to avoid batch reporting. Batch reporting takes more time on both sides and also makes it more likely for the Community service representative to miss a submission.

Please continue to get reports in. I think if we work at it we can beat last years numbers.

Madison Fletcher  
Community Service Chairperson



## Ronald Sorrentino

**SERVICE OFFICERS  
JOURNAL AD CHAIR**



First and foremost, I would like to say Thank You to all the Comrades, Posts and Auxiliaries who have already donated to the Service Officer raffle. We are asking those who have generously supported us last time, to donate once again. At present we are doing well, but I know we can do better. You have till November 30, 2022, to donate and ensure we have sufficient time to

prepare and mail out the raffle tickets to our Posts and Auxiliaries. Without your support, we would be unable to raise the additional funds needed to continue the service provided by our Servicemen's Offices. The work as you know is essential in counseling our Veterans so they can receive the benefits they need. So please donate to this worthy cause.

Ronald Sorrentino

Veterans Service Officer Journal and Raffle  
Chairman



## Ron Jubis

**SCOUTING CHAIRMAN**



The 2022/2023 VFW Scouter Program will hopefully increase the number of applicants received by local VFW posts. This goal can only be achieved with the cooperation of Post Commanders reaching out to their local scout council leader's and scout troops, explaining the educational benefits available for the VFW Scout program. On September 5, 2022 I sent an e-mail to District and Post Commanders requesting the names of the District or Post scout contact person. As of this date I have not received any names.

I will be working with the Scouter Committee members to reach out to local and state wide scout council leaders, contacting statewide newspapers in major cities and TV stations across the State asking for consideration in providing time on their broadcast for the VFW Scouter programs.

Ron Jubis  
Scouting Chairman





## James Brooks

**PATRIOT'S PEN  
CHAIRMAN**



### PATRIOT'S PEN 2022-2023

THEME: "MY PLEDGE TO OUR VETERANS"

Patriot's Pen is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U. S. permanent residents or applying for citizenship.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Download and complete the Patriot's Pen entry form. All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. The essays must be 300-400 words in length (+ or—5 words max). The essay must be the contestants original work and a from his or her own thinking (no help from anyone else). The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. The contest's teacher, counselor, and parents can check the essay for punctuation, grammar, and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestants. Your Patriot's Pen entry must be submitted to a VFW Post by midnight on 31 October 2022.

#### Important Dates to Remember:

Midnight October 31st entries to the Posts  
November 15th completion of Post judging  
December 15th completion of District judging  
January 10th completion of Department judging  
January 15th Department winners to National

**JUDGING:** Suggested number of judges is 5 to 9 but 3 is acceptable. All judges should be from the community, not VFW/Auxiliary members. Leaders from education, broadcasting, corporations, small businesses and other fraternal organizations are ideal judges.

Time is running out for getting contestants, go to the schools next week if you haven't already!

James Brooks  
Patriot's Pen Chairman



## William Moore

**VOD CHAIRMAN**



### VOICE OF DEMOCRACY 2022-2023

THEME: "WHY THE VETERAN IS IMPORTANT"

Open to students grades 9-12, enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools or home study programs. Not eligible are foreign exchange students, students 20 years old or over, previous VOD 1st place state winners, GED or Adult Education students.

#### ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE:

Students:  
Original 3-5 minute essay on a flash drive or CD  
Typed essay  
Completed entry form  
Participant and parental sections must be signed

#### Posts:

All post information must be signed and filled in which includes number of students participating, number of winners advancing, dollar amount of Post/Aux scholarships awarded and Post/Aux dollar amount of additional expenses (banquet, plaques, pins) on entry form

#### Districts:

Additionally districts need to include district prize money awarded and post monies awarded

#### SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES DEADLINES:

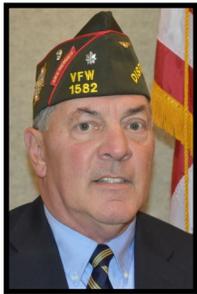
Posts: October 31, 2022

#### JUDGING CRITERIA:

Originality—35 points—treatment of theme showing imagination and human interest

Content—35 points—clear idea expressed in an organized manner. Developed theme using transitions to move smoothly to one idea to another.

Delivery—35 points—speak in a clear, credible manner.



**Luke Magliaro, Jr**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 1**



Senator Brooks, Luke Magliaro and Joe Cognitore showcase the money that Senator Brooks facilitated for the Service Officer grant for the State.

Sayville resident Joan Furey was honored on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Stony Brook University's School of Nursing's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Joan was presented with the School of Nursing's Distinguished Alumnus Award for Lifetime Achievement in Nursing. A 1967 graduate of the Pilgrim State Hospital School of Nursing, Joan served with the Army Nurse Corp from 1968 to 1970, including a one-year tour at the 71<sup>st</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, Vietnam, where she was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Achievement. Upon her discharge from the Army, Joan applied to the newly established Stony Brook University School of Nursing to study for her Bachelor of Science Degree, which she received in May of 1972, one of 25 students in their first graduating class. Today, Stony Brook's School of Nursing is nationally recognized as one of the top 10 Schools of Nursing in the United States, offering degree programs ranging from the BSN to PHD's in nursing, in a variety of clinical and academic specialties.

Joan, Past Post Commander of Sayville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 433, was recognized for her accomplishments during her 30-year career with the Department of Veterans Affairs. During that time, she was directly involved in developing and implementing a variety of programs designed to address the needs of both male and female veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder related to military service, including combat, combat casualty care and sexual trauma. She was also appointed as the founding Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans in

Washington DC, where she was charged with improving VA's services to women. Upon her retirement she was receive VA's prestigious Distinguished Career Award; and in 2015 she received the New York State Senate Women of Distinction Award and was inducted into the New York State Veterans' Hall of Fame by then State Senator Tom Croci.



Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement in Nursing

Dean Annette Wysocki, PH.D. presenting Joan Furey with Stony Brook University's School of



**Elisabeth Gessel**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 2**



Hello Comrades, I hope this finds everyone well. It is our time of year where we celebrate ourselves. It is also that time of year when we should be looking out for Veterans that cannot look out for themselves and finding new members to join our ranks.

For Veterans Day every year posts throughout the District look for organizations that help Veterans in various ways. Whether it is helping other Veteran organizations in your community or making donations to other non-profit organizations who have programs that help Veterans, this time of year is about the Veteran.

Even if you were not welcomed home from your service in a way that you would have hoped, each and every one of you is a hero, and you should be proud of your Veteran status.

A quick note about Camp Lejeune water toxicity – please make sure that you talk to your local Veteran Service Office before you make any decisions about filing a lawsuit, or submitting your

**Commander District 2 continued on page 11**

**Commander District 2 continued from page 10**

claim to the VA. Make sure that you have all the facts as they pertain to you as an individual before you make any decisions.

District 2 Events

OTI will be Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the New Paltz Post.

Winter Conference Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 location TBD

Spring Convention April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 location TBD

VET2VET OF ULSTER COUNTY PRESENTS  
**EQUINE ENCOUNTER**  
AT GREEN HERON FARM

**OH YEAH! IT'S FREE!**  
October 14, 2022 | 11:00 am  
Green Heron Farm  
446 John Joy Road, Woodstock, NY 12498

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL GAVIN WALTERS AT (845) 481-4004  
FOOD PROVIDED BY KEITH BENNETT'S KARATE ACADEMY

Logos: Keith Bennett's Karate Academy, HVNCR, VET2VET OF ULSTER COUNTY, GREEN HERON FARM

**ULSTER COUNTY  
VETERAN SERVICES AGENCY**



**VETERAN'S LUNCHEON  
THURSDAY, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Viebey-Sutton Post #124  
Marlboro American Legion  
50 Western Ave, Marlboro, NY 12542

SEATING IS LIMITED, please RSVP  
CALL: (845)340-3190  
Veteran Service Officers **ON-SITE** for VA Outreach

**Fall Veteran Luncheon**

Free Food | Provided by Keith Bennett's Karate Academy

**26** 12 PM at The VFW  
(Veterans of Foreign War)  
October 2022 708 East Chester St., Kingston, NY 12401

Please RSVP: Keith (845) 399-3766

Logos: VET2VET OF ULSTER COUNTY, Keith Bennett's Karate Academy, HVNCR

VFW Post 9215 is holding a Commanders Cup Golf Outing. 11/7/2022. \$22 for Veterans & \$57 for civilians. Pre-registration is highly recommended. [Vfw9215golf@gmail.com](mailto:Vfw9215golf@gmail.com) for additional information.

**COMMANDERS CUP  
GOLF OUTING**

7 AM Pre-Registration  
9 AM Shotgun Start / Best ball  
**BLUE HILL GOLF COURSE**

\$22 FOR VETERANS  
\$57 FOR CIVILIANS  
INCLUDES 18 HOLES OF GOLF  
& CART LUNCH RAFFLE  
50/50

**Monday November 7th**

TO REGISTER, CONTACT  
[VFW9215GOLF@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VFW9215GOLF@GMAIL.COM)



## Harold Patchen

**COMMANDER  
DISTRICT 3**



Comrades - District 3 has been busy since our last Overseas Veterans Newsletter went to press. Below is a snapshot of what's been happening.

**Membership:** As of Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, our membership stood at 3104 or 80.75%. We have a long way to go as we lack 740 to make our 100%. I'm sure that we'll make that goal.

We began inspecting Posts in the district in August, hoping to be finished before the New Year. Past District Commander, Marc Farmillette, chaired our **annual District 3 Golf outing**, in August, at Christman's in Windham. I'd like to thank all who attended. Our winning foursome was captained by Jim MacArthur. Marc also chaired a recruitment event at the Schaghticoke Fair August 31 – September 4. We were going to be there Labor Day as well but with the forecast calling for 98% rain all day, we decided to pack it in. While there we signed up two members. We also distributed literature, membership applications and a list of posts, to those showing interest in joining. Those helping with this event were Marc, Bud Abare, Jim MacArthur and myself. I want to thank Marc for chairing both of these events.

### Gurtler Bros. Post 420 (Saratoga Springs)

Held three recruitment events. The first on July 4<sup>th</sup> at the "Firecracker 4 Miler", in Saratoga Springs and at the flat track on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. **Post 420 and Auxiliary** held a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>. This event was chaired by our Post Auxiliary President Heidi Underwood and myself as Post Commander. The next Blood Drive will be held on Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Sullivan-Teator Post 770, (Catskill)

Participated in a joint Honor Guard for the dedication of the Northeast USA Vietnam Memorial in Greenville, NY. The monument lists the names of 17 service members from Greene County who lost their lives in Vietnam.

**Commander District 3 continued on page 13**



## Joseph Martel

**COMMANDER  
DISTRICT 4**



Comrades,

The sure sign of autumn's arrival is spreading across District 4. Leaves are changing color as the amount and intensity of sunlight each day declines. As of this writing I would say the colors are at their peak in District 4.

I attended several events in the District most noteworthy were the New York State Woodsmen's Field Days held in Boonville, during August, our District team had a recruiting table setup for three days. Another recruiting event was held during Mountain Fest held the last day of August on Ft Drum with hundreds in attendance, probably the windiest day of all summer. Our annual District POW/MIA ceremony at Harland-Hennessy Post 5538 was very well attended; I would like to thank the Boonville Herald newspaper for their coverage before and after the event.



Several of our District officers and members attended the designation of a portion of State Route 365 in Rome as the Oneida County

**Commander District 4 continued on page 15**

**Commander District 3 continued from page 13**

Frank Mead Eels Post 270 (Walton)

Voted to sponsor a book, honoring the residents of Walton who were veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and those killed in action. The walkway to their Flagpole, to honor all Walton KIA's, was dedicated on Memorial Day 2022. After one year of fighting, they were successful in changing the of the bridge, as you enter town, to Lt. Stephen H. Doune. Lt. Doune was a Vietnam veteran killed in action, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. I applaud your hard work and perseverance. Job well done.

I was invited to and attended a Chicken BBQ, hosted by Stuyvesant Falls Memorial **Post 9593** on Sunday August 7th. A good time was had by all attending. I want to thank Commander John Heusdens and his Post for inviting me. I will be returning for future BBQ's.

Castleton Memorial Post 7337 (Castleton)

Participated in a village wide Garage Sale on September 10th. Post Commander Ric Cosgrave manned a table at the Post. There Ric passed out Poppies, Membership information, Recruiting, National Suicide Number Bags and cards. To help the local Girl Scout troop Ric let them hold a bake sale on Post property. The following day, Patriots Day, Ric was at it again. Ric led the opening prayer at the Girl Scouts rededication ceremony for the 9/11 plaque at the Schodack Town Park. He later rang their VFW 7337 bell 10 times for each of the planes that went down that day in 2001.

Ballston Spa Post 358

Held their annual chicken BBQ on Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>. They promoted the VOD / Patriot Pen programs at Ballston Spa High School on Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Post is holding a fishing tournament later in October. A 1950's era M37 Self Propelled Howitzer is in the process of being restored by the post. This will eventually be placed in front of the post.

Carner Etman Smith (Post 6340, Grafton)

Supported The Grafton Vol. Fire Co. at their monthly breakfast on May 22nd. They sent out a mailing with information regarding the VFW. Invited 50 combat veterans living in the jurisdiction to attend the breakfast at no charge. Set up a collection station for used/out of service flags to be disposed of properly. Provided ALL

**Commander District 3 continued on page 14**



**Paul Hrynio**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 5**



Comrades,

As we continue the New Year in the VFW, my counterpart & I continue to the ground running with recruiting.



We started out at the Syracuse Vet center picnic at Jamesville beach for 3 hours where we were able to welcome 5 new members.

Then we went & set up at the New

York State Fair welcoming and additional 144 members over more than 150 hours of effort.



Many members may not realize that as a life member, your membership provides ongoing funds at the National, State, and post levels which makes transitioning you annual members to life members equally as important as recruiting new members.

**Commander District 5 continued on page 15**

**Commander District 3 continued from page 13**

attendees with poppies. Shared veteran's service-related information to veterans in attendance. In July the Post supported the Annual Berlin Forth of July parade. Post members road on a float, shared Veteran related experiences with Rensselaer County residents. Post 6340 also managed the Grafton Banner Program. The program is marketed by the town and allows families of Veterans to purchase banners that are affixed to phone poles in the town.

**(Post 5933, Ghent)**

Post and Auxiliary members are discussing developing a "Field of Flags" to honor local veterans. The VFW membership is developing a webpage to expand their presence locally and make it easier for area veterans to locate their post. The Post Color Guard will be presenting the Colors at the Chatham High School Homecoming on 9/30/2022. They are organizing a "Coats for Kids" and "Stuff the Bus" events on November 4<sup>th</sup>. On November 11<sup>th</sup> they will be holding their Veterans Day ceremony at the monument in Chatham.

Sgt. James F. Carty, D.S.C **(Post 1545, Windham)**

Will be holding a membership drive at the Windham Autumn Fair during the Columbus Day town fair.

Chandler – Young Post **(Post 8162, Nassau)**

Post members participated in the town Memorial Day Ceremony and a Flag Day Ceremony. After both ceremonies they had an open house for the community and provided lunch. In August they participated with other VSO's in Bike Rodeo for children, donating refurbished bikes to the community. They also sponsored, with other VSO's, a fundraiser to raise money for families in need in the Nassau community. These funds will be used for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals as well as winter cloths and presents.

Our District 3 OTI was held at Gurtler Brothers **Post 420**, in Saratoga Springs, on Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup>. Instructors included Gene Ratigliano (OTI Dean), Past District Commander Jim MacArthur (inspections), Past Department Commander Mike Hoag (Commander's duties), Department Adjutant Bob Mitchell (adjutant duties), John Wenig, from the Department of N.Y., (Sexual Harassment) and Denise Diresta Post 6196 a Warren County Service Officer (Service Officer).



Post Commanders are to ensure that all trustee and community reports are sent in when they become due. If a post needs assistance with membership or any reports don't hesitate to let either me or one of the other District officers. We are here to help.

District 3 will hold our first of two mandatory meetings on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 P.M. at Ballston Spa Post 358**. We are zooming this meeting to ensure that we have a quorum. Post commanders are responsible to either attend the meeting **or** to be sure that one of your officers OR another member, from your post, in good standing attends in your place. The Department Commander will and has removed Post Commanders for failing to do so. Those attending via zoom **MUST** remain for the entire meeting. Mechanisms are in place to ensure this.

In Comradeship,

Harold Patchen

District 3 Commander



Past State Commander Michael Hoag presents Marc Farmillette with his All American Team District Commander hat

**Commander District 4 continued from page 12**

Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. It was four years ago when Vietnam War veteran Dennis Brehemy, Commander of Whitestown VFW Post 7393, helped start the process of having a portion of the highway dedicated to Korean War veterans. "There were a lot of people that died, almost 37,000 that died in Korea," said Brehemy. "It was an unknown war, if you look in the history books, very little written on it."



The last Sunday in September is a day to thank Gold Star families; families who lost a family member while serving their country. Sunday was a day of remembrance in Utica area for those who have laid down their lives for their country. This was the 17th year of a ceremony honoring Gold Star families.



Through the efforts of Past Post 6001 Commander Thomas Buono and his team from the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Order of the Purple Heart a Ceremony and Dinner was held on Gold Star Mothers day

Again Post activities are too numerous to mention, those Posts with food specials are reporting good turn outs and selling out of items, wing nights, Fish Fry's, Car/Motorcycle shows,

Cans - n- Clams, etc, etc.

Members are reminded that VFW License plates are available from New York DMV here is a link to their site. <https://dmv.ny.gov/plates/veterans-foreign-wars>

Joseph Martel  
District 4 Commander

**Commander District 5 continued from page 13**

We also went and set up a booth at the Lafayette Apple Festival joining up with one of our District 5 post to help where an additional 3 comrades were welcomed into our great organization.

With over 150 new members, now the real works Begins! Just because they signed up doesn't mean they're in our organization. All of the post officers and delegates have to reach out to these people to welcome them into their post and verify their eligibility. Also to let the new recruits know what the VFW does, what we fight for, and each of us have earned in benefits and entitlements. I also had the pleasure of learning how big of an ordeal is to name a post office after a Veteran It was a 3 year ordeal. It has to be passed by, Congress, House, Senate and then signed by the President of the United States. This gentleman was a WW II veteran. He was on our original charter that formed in 1951. Post 7872 Town of Manlius, NY. He was also on the original charter members to stat the Fayetteville American Legion, NY.

Some other activities I've been involved with in the community: Scott Cox (past District 5 Cmdr.) & I were able to present checks to two organizations that the 2021-2022 State Commander raised over \$90,000 for homeless veterans. We donated \$5,000 to Clear Path for Vets, Chittenango, and \$5,000 to Feed the Vets in NY Mills. We also welcomed home the Honor Flight back to the Syracuse NY airport. If you do not know what it is about? I encourage you to check it out and see what it takes to fly 81 veterans to Washington D.C. to tour the capital all day & then come home.

Lastly, if anyone checks our past District 5 commanders Facebook page I had the pleasure to do an interview with Spectrum News. On, where the VFW was, where the VFW is today, and looking forward to the future.

Yours in Comradeship:  
Paul W Hrynio  
District 5 Commander



**PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
"VFW Military Family Support Center"  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
VFW NY DISTRICT #1  
&  
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR SOLDIERS IN SERVICE**

## **HOLIDAY CHEER**

On behalf of our military personnel serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, we are again sending Christmas Trees, lights, ornaments and Menorahs to our military personnel in harm's way at the above mentioned locations. This is our nineteenth 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  
119-26 204<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ST. ALBANS, NY 11412

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 2, 2022.**

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



# Marcello Rotunda

**Commander  
District 6**



## Check Presented to Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420 Saratoga Springs, New York

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Veitch, a representative from the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors presented a check for \$15,000 to Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420 in Saratoga Springs as part of the counties COVID-19 Relief Funds to local non-profits. The COVID-19 Relief Funds were distributed to a number of number of profits in the county to make up for lost income during the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Hello Comrades:

I attend a Ceremony at Clymer central school for a



Lto R: Rich Koneig (Judge Advocate), Matthew Veitch(Saratoga County Board of Supervisors), Harold Patchen (Commander), Pat Huggins (Trustee), Shawn Larkin (Trustee), Gene Ratigliano (Quartermaster

Vietnam Veteran whose widow received a bronze star for her husband’s service during Vietnam where he was killed in action.



3 Post in 6th District supported the 2 Retired Marines walking across America from Massachusetts to Oregon on route 20 Post 2769 Ripley, Nee York, Sheridan Post 6390 Sheridan, New York and Alden Post 7967.

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW**  
**69 SAND CREEK RD**  
**ALBANY, NY 12205**  
581-463-7427  
581-454-6378 (fax)  
www.vfwny.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/DEPTNYVFW>  
<https://www.instagram.com/deptnyvfw/>

### Spelling Bee receives gift from VFW Post 1206

On May 12, 2022 members of the Sergeant Elbert N. Patten VFW Post 1206 presented a check in the amount of \$500 to DCMO BOCES to support the Spelling Bee Regional Program. The gift connects to the **VFW In Our Communities** initiative that supports local needs and special programs. According to Commander, Beth Akulin, the members wanted to impact a broader

**Post 1206 continued on page 18**

**Post 1206 continued from page 17**

region beyond Oneonta and the opportunity presented to impact a broader region and to contribute to helping youth improve vocabulary and reading. "We hoped to establish an effort that we can sustain in subsequent years not just with a financial contribution but also with involvement to share the history of our veteran's impact on democracy and freedom," said Akulin.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, guard, and reserve forces. The local VFW 1206 Post honors the memory of Elbert Niles Patten, a resident of Oneonta who enlisted in the National Guard in 1907. Sgt Patten was wounded on 29 September 1918 while serving in Europe and died on 18 October 1918 in Paris. According to Commander Akulin, the gift represents their commitment to serving the community and education initiatives that benefit young people. "We hope to inspire other organizations in the community to join the DCMO BOCES enrichment program efforts and play a role in helping our students better prepare for jobs and careers in our region," said Akulin.

Spelling Bee Coordinator, Martha Ryan expressed the organization's gratitude by saying, "This program serves 38 school districts in the region.

**Post 1206 continued**



The gift from the VFW Post 1206 will support the journey for our Regional Champion to compete at the National Level. Removing the financial barrier opens doors for our students to experience an incredible enrichment education experience and motivates thousands of students to compete for the regional title."

The Regional Spelling Bee Program entered its 20th year with the support of the Daily Star as the national sponsor. For more information about the program or how to support this effort, contact Martha Ryan at [ryanm@dcmoboces.com](mailto:ryanm@dcmoboces.com).

# BOONVILLE

## 1852-2022

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

# HERALD

Covering Oneida, Lewis, Herkimer & Hamilton Counties

20 PAGES - \$1.00 - NO. 39

## POW/MIA recognition ceremony held in Boonville

BOONVILLE - The official District 4 VFW POW/MIA recognition ceremony was held at the Harland J. Hennessey VFW Post 5538 in Boonville on Friday evening, Sept. 16.

This ceremony, held annually on the third Friday in September, has been held in Boonville for the past several years, formerly under the direction of Past District Commander Mark Shoemaker, who passed away in 2016.

The names of New York State Prisoners of War and

Missing in Action (POW/MIA) soldiers were honored. Also included, as always, was the 'Table Set For One' symbolizing the isolation and loneliness felt by our comrades whose whereabouts and fate are still unknown. The table is round to show our everlasting concern. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives to answer the call to duty; the single rose reminds us of the families and friends of these missing comrades who keep the faith while seeking an-

swers; a slice of lemon reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land; a pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers after decades of uncertainty; the Bible represents the strength gained through faith in our country, founded as one nation under God, to sustain those lost from our midst; the glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast; and the chair is empty... they are missing.



Standing behind the 'Table Set for One' at the POW/MIA ceremony held at the Boonville VFW Friday evening, Sept. 16, are Color Guard members, from left: Dwayne Clark, New Hartford American Legion Post 1376; Rich Dzura, New Hartford American Legion Post 1376; and Laura Parry, Remsen VFW Post 982.

(Photo submitted)



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
<b>THROUGH AGE 30</b>	\$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