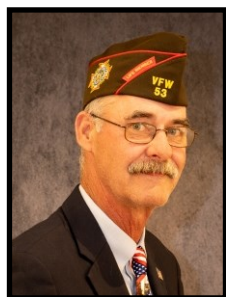


January, February, March 2025

Volume 43 Issue 3



Daniel Kell
STATE COMMANDER



Greetings Comrades,

With Washington Conference behind us, I want to thank my Legislative team, comrades and President Darlene Baker for a job well done on lobbying with their Legislators and pushing our Priority goals on Capitol Hill. I would also like to put a shout out to Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt for an outstanding Testimony to the Special Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs stating, "Honor the Contract". We met our end of the agreement; you need to keep yours.

I also had the honor with Department of New York State President Darlene Baker in escorting along with the other Departments Voice of Democracy Parade of winners at the Washington Conference. I would like to congratulate all the Department winners for an outstanding job on their essays.

Membership is continuing to move forward; the Department is currently at 93.23% in membership as of March 25, 2025, needing 3,163 new or re-instated members to reach 102% in membership to meet Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt's goal of 102% in the Department by the end of June 2025. To achieve this goal, I put out 2 incentives to encourage the district and posts to push Membership and to help the Department make its goal of 102% by June 30, 2025.

State Commander continued on page 2



Robert Mitchell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

As we enter the final quarter of our administrative year, I would again encourage you to utilize the Department "Memstats" database to evaluate where your Post stands statistically. "Memstats" is

State Adjutant continued on page 4



Daniel McMahon
STATE QUARTERMASTER



Comrades,

It's that time of the VFW Year, where everything seems to be needed all done **Today!** Elections are here, new officer training is here trustee reports, Community Service reports are but a few of the many items on our agendas today.

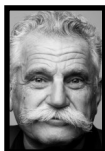
UNCLAIMED FUNDS UPDATE:

For some time, I have called and/or sent notices of

Quartermaster continued on page 3



Jody Treadway
Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Barbara Bishop
State Photographer



New York State Overseas Veteran

The official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

**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. They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.

** DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES:

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

State Commander continued from page 1

- As an incentive to achieve National's Membership goal of 102% by June 30, 2025, the following incentive will be put in place, for the 2024-2025 Membership year. Any District that attains 100% by May 1, 2025, will receive \$500 from the Department of New York to be put in their Membership budget. As an additional incentive in reaching 102% by June 30, 2025, an additional \$1,000 will be given to any District that achieves 102% in Membership from the Department of New York to be put in their Membership Budget.
- Currently, right now what is drawing our department back in attaining our goal of 102% in membership is members at large which currently stand at 83.46%. As an additional incentive to bring our membership percentage up the following will be awarded: The District and Post that has the highest number of Reinstatements from their at-large list by 31 March 2025, will receive a \$500 Gift Certificate to the VFW Store.
- Currently right now Department of New York is behind from last year at this time. There still is time to reach our goal of 102% in membership by June 30, 2025. I ask each District to come up with a membership plan and get with their membership teams for the next 3 months to help Department of New York and National attain National Membership Goal of 102%. I would like to congratulate District 8 for attaining 100.84% in Membership prior to May 1st, 2025.

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

Inspections are coming in slowly; There are many Districts that still have a lot of work to do to get their Post Inspections completed and submitted to Department of New York. With just over 3 months to go, those Districts that are behind in Inspections need to come up with a plan to get their Posts Inspected prior to the end of the year.

As the Spring Conference is coming upon us, I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in Comradeship.

Daniel L. Kell

Department of New York State Commander



**104th Department of New York VFW
State Convention
June 11-15, 2025
Albany Marriott**

Quartermaster continued from page 1

unclaimed funds belonging to many Posts across the department. I recently heard from one Post which stated they were able to recover about \$50,000.00 in unclaimed funds. The bottom line is, the money is there, it belongs to 10-15 Posts and 2 Auxiliaries. All that needs to be done is to **APPLY FOR IT!!!!**

POST ELECTION REPORTS:

First, while completing election reports, answer all questions correctly. Please, make sure your election report is reflecting the correct year. Newly elected officers are for the 2025-2026 VFW Election year. Please put the date of the election in the correct box. If not filing online, make sure a copy is sent to Department Headquarters.

If the Quartermaster is a newly elected QM, that person must file an 8822B form with the IRS. This is to inform the IRS of a person in authority in a respective, Post, District or Department. If a Quartermaster has not as yet filed an 8822B form from previous year(s), it must be done immediately.

MEMBERSHIP:

Recently I sent to the District Commanders copies of the unpaid members in the at-Large NY Post and relocated at-large posts. These at-large members have not paid their dues for one or more years. With the New York At-Large membership at only about 73% and the Department is at 94+%, if we recruited only a few hundred in each District we could be at 100%. If you haven't received a copy of the unpaid lists check with the District Commander and/or Adjutant.

TRAVEL MILAGE

There have been discussions over the past few years concerning travel reimbursement. There are several different events which will result in different reimbursements depending on the event.

If a member is assigned to a specific task for the Department of NY VFW, any travel associated with the task will be paid at the rate of \$.50/mile inclusive. If travel is authorized by the event, Conventions, conferences, or any provisions of the by-laws results in a group rate which has been approved by the C of A and adjusted as necessary. Just a reminder, should

a group carpool to anything, only one person receives the travel reimbursement.

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



James MacArthur
SR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

Winter is over; spring is here - time to clean the golf clubs and get ready to play and don't forget the shorts. Speaking of golf clubs and shorts now is the time to register for the annual State Commander's "Homeless Veterans" Golf Tournament which will be held Friday May 9, 2025 in Clifton Park; Saturday May 10, 2025 in New York Mills and Friday May 16, 2025 in Randolph. The complete registration packet is included with this newsletter.

It has been a long cold and snowy winter here in the Northeast, but that doesn't mean we have not been busy here at the Department of New York VFW. I have been busy working on Appointments and putting together my programs for the coming year, also I have attended many District meetings even if it meant traveling in a blizzard to the snow belt of Western New York. For those District meetings that I did attend, I would like to thank them for their support and hospitality. It is always a pleasure to spend time with my comrades from across the state.

Membership! We are now at 92.86% with a little hard work and dedication I know we can reach our goal of 102%, next week myself, our Department Commander, Past CIC Tim Borland and others will be going to Fort Drum for a recruiting event and hopefully a successful one. So, comrades now is not the time to rest; get out there and find those comrades who deserve to be members of our great organization.

Back at the beginning of the Month I traveled to Washington DC for our legislative conference and Parade of Winners. First of I have to say CIC Al Lipphardt did a wonderful job testifying in front of the joint Veterans Affairs Committee. Our team did a great job meeting with our representatives,

Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 5

State Adjutant continued from page 1

a valuable resource that is available to assist you in your efforts to track your membership percentages, confirm you reporting requirements and aid you in your efforts to meet Post minimum requirements for Department All-State Program consideration. "Memstats" can be found on the Department Website at vfwny.com under Programs. I would also encourage you to also utilize the National "All-American" Dashboard to record your Post's National Reporting requirements and progress toward achieving National All-American for the 2024-2025 membership year. The All-American Dashboard can be found on the National Website at vfw.org. All Posts that participated in the Voice of Democracy Program and Patriot's Pen Programs should have their dashboard entries completed by now. The Department's All-State and National's All-American Programs exist to recognize exceptional leadership, teamwork, and accomplishments in membership growth and VFW core programs.

As a reminder and in accordance with our National Bylaws its time again for Posts to complete their annual election of Post officers. Nominations of Post Officers were recently opened in March and Post Officers shall be elected in April. It is imperative that Post Quartermasters immediately file a Post-Election Report in the National Online Membership System (OMS) following elections. The OMS System allows Post Quartermasters the opportunity to report the Post's newly elected and appointed officers efficiently and effectively. It is important that all Post Election Reports be completed in OMS even if there are no changes in the elected or appointed officers for the ensuing year. When completing the Post-Election Report be sure to update all pertinent member information to include address, telephone contact numbers and email addresses. Failure to complete a timely Post Election Report could result in the Commander-in-Chief to suspend and eventually revoke a Post Charter. If your Post has any issues or problems in completing your Post Election Report, please contact Department Headquarters for guidance.

Yours in Comradeship,
Bob Mitchell

Sr. Vice Commander continued from page 3

explaining and lobbying for our legislative goals, and lastly attending the Parade of Winners ceremony was and honor and what a great bunch of students and future leaders, congratulations to all of them.

Coming up the weekend of March 22nd I will be attending a District 4 meeting in Rome, sorry to say I will be missing our Spring Conference. I will be at SR. Vice Training in Kansas, at the end of April I will be at District 9 Convention in Plattsburg. In May District 3 Convention May 3rd District 8 Convention May 4th and then comrades in June I hope to see as many comrades as possible that can make it to our Department Convention.

Lastly Comrades I just want to say it has been my pleasure and honor to serve you as the Department of New York Sr. Vice commander and thank you for all of your support.

James MacArthur

Sr. Vice Commander

PS always pack a pair of shorts in your suitcase.





Jack Sanford
JR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades;

As the Winter comes to an end we look forward with a renewed vigor and focus on the months remaining and bring our Programs and Membership to a successful conclusion.

We still have some time left to finish our annual Reports, but I still find it hard to believe that there are Posts that still have not been Inspected! It takes less than an hour to complete. Without the key elements of the Inspection (EIN, 990 and Bond along with Trustee Reports) YOU jeopardize your Charter and your Tax-Exempt status You can no longer function as a VFW Post. There seems to be a Problem with filling them out. If this is too difficult to do, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE. There is no reason to not ask for help.

Remember NO INSPECTION NO VOTE

As for membership you all know the importance membership growth along with our Programs is what sustains us and our ability to grow and be of impotence and a source pride within our community. Remember Your Programs are a great selling point when recruiting new members.

Wishing all continued success

Jack Sanford
Jr. Vice Commander
Department of New York

**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



Ben Thompson,
PSC
JUDGE ADVOCATE



Comrades,

It is now that time of year when we elect Post and District officers for the ensuing VFW year. All Post and District Commanders should familiarize themselves with National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure sections that pertain to their respective levels.

For Post Commanders it would be:

Sec.215 – Eligibility to Office.

Sec 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.

Sec 217 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office

Sec 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.

Sec 222 – Delegates, District Conventions & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Post Election Report forms have been mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1. Avoid having your Post Charter being suspended by ensuring the Post Election Report is filed on time.

For District Commanders it would be:

Sec 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.

Sec 415 – Eligibility to Office.

Sec 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees

Sec 417 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office

Sec 418 – Officers: Duties and Obligations

Sec 421 - Voting

Judge Advocate continued on page 6

Judge Advocate continued from page 5

A properly completed District Election Report shall be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

To all the Past Commanders at the Department, District and Post levels, remember it is our responsibility to assist our officers with all the counsel and experience we gained during our term of office.

Let's all work together to finish this year on a high note and have a banner 2024 – 2025 VFW year.

To the incoming officers, I am only a phone call or email away if I can be of assistance to you.

Good luck and remember, we are One Team.

Ben Thompson, PSC

Judge Advocate



**Gene Ratigliano,
PSC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEMBER**



Comrades,

Since my last report to you, I attended the Washington Conference where a workshop and formal C of A was held and National Commander Lipphardt provided his testimony to the Senate and House Committee on Veteran's affairs which was very well received with the room packed to the gills.

During the C of A workshop Quartermaster General Marc Garduno provided a wealth of information on the financial condition of the National organization and reported on a number of important committees and follow-on actions that would take place at the formal C of A during the conference.

Quartermaster General Garduno and Victor Letourneaut the Budget Chair reported to the Council that as of December 31, 2024 the VFW's total unrestricted cash and investments were \$77.5 million at the end of December. This represents an increase of \$7.3 million since August 31st. The increase was due to strong fundraising during the month of December which saw a total revenue of \$11 million which was the largest fundraising month in the history of the

VFW. As we move into 2025 the National organization is reflecting a deficit of a little over \$2 million which is not unusual at the beginning of the year. With the markets fluctuating as they have been we will tend to see an up and down rise in income and revenue. The direct mail packages with the guaranteed contract VFW has in place for a large portion of the fundraising program should put the budget in a strong position by the end of the fiscal year.

During the full day workshop on Sunday, March 2nd a number of topics were discussed. There were updates from the Quartermaster General on the Audit & Compensation Committee, a Retirement Board update, discussion of the Life Member Payout to Posts and Departments and a lengthy presentation on upgrade to the VFW properties.

Adjutant General Dan West provided the Council suggested job descriptions for the senior leadership as was requested previously by the Council. The VFW marketing plan was presented as well as National Awards and Citations and Legislative Committee Policy discussion.

Of particular note was a discussion on the Voice of Democracy Program and the proposed changes to the program from the current Parade of Winners and awards at the Washington Conference to the proposed program in Valley Forge. A number of Council members presented their feelings on the change and the leadership provided the pros and cons for changing the program. The resulting discussion brought out the risks associated with continuing with the program in Washington vs the proposed program for Valley Forge wherein the National organization felt mitigated the risk of liability. The Adjutant General suggested to the Council that when it came to voting on the change during the upcoming C of A, there were three options. Vote for the change by secret ballot, vote by roll call vote or vote by a voice vote. A voice vote at the following days C of A was what was agreed upon at the workshop by the Council members. Based on the Department of New York's desire to keep the VOD Program as it currently stands, I voted no to the recommended change.

It was announced that the 126th National Convention to be held in Columbus, Ohio from August 9 – 13, 2025 will be shortened by one day. The easiest way to make reservations is on line at www.vfw.org/convention. Deadline for reservations made by phone or on-line will be July 1, 2025. If you have any questions regarding reservations prior to the cutoff date you can send an email to housing@experiencecolumbus.com.

Something new for the National Convention this year is a formal awards banquet to celebrate

National Council Member continued on page 7

National Council Member continued from page 6

VFW's 125 year history and recognize some of the more prestigious awards from the VFW and Auxiliary. The banquet will take place on Monday, August 11th from 5:30 to 9:00 PM in the Battelle Grand Ballroom at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Seats for the banquet are \$125.00 each on a first come first serve basis. Cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 PM and banquet doors will open at 6:15 PM. The Dress Code for this event is Semi-Formal to Formal Attire. Ticket sales opened March 18th. More information will be provided by the Department as the event is firmed up.

The Council of Administration at the Washington Conference approved a number of motions which included the following:

- To accept the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Financial Statements and Report of the Independent Certified CPA's for FY ending August 31, 2024.

- To approve the engagement of Pickett, Chaney, & McMullen for audit and tax services for the 2024-25 fiscal year. (Just as a note, by engaging this firm VFW National saves \$100,000.00)

- That the Council authorizes Life Membership payouts for the 2025-26 fiscal year as follows:

Plans A, B & C \$10.50 for each Life Member (\$3.50 each to Post, Dept & National)

Plan D \$11.70 for each Life Member (\$3.90 to each Post, Dept & National)

Plan E \$23.10 for each Life Member (7.70 to each Post, Dept & National)

- To suspend the Voice of Democracy Program as it currently stands with awarding of scholarships and Parade of Winners at the annual Washington Conference and replace it with the "Founding Forward" trip formally known as the "Freedoms Foundation" trip in Valley Forge, PA.

The Council of Administration Workshop is where all the work is done by Department Council members prior to the holding of the formal C of A when scheduled. The workshop is a lengthy day in which to compact a variety of topics to be discussed and reviewed by Council members. In just this Washington Conference alone topics covered included review of the National past budget results and review of the upcoming VFW year budget, marketing strategies, membership, Retirement Board actions, external audit strategies and the review of independent auditor reports, detailed review of VFW property upgrade work, VFW Foundation progress and a review of Administrative Operations.

I would like to remind all our Post Commanders that March is the month for all nominations for

those moving up through the chairs with elections to take place in the month of April. Do not submit any election reports in the month of March as they will be returned. And finally, use the On-Line Membership System (OMS) to enter your elections reports. It is easy, it is fast and is the way to go!

Until my next update, don't forget about membership. We have just a little over two months to reach that goal of 102%. You can get us there. And remember, all reports are due by May 1st to be eligible for the State Commander's All-State Awards Program.

As we near the convention in June, I would like to make you aware that I am seeking another term on the National Council of Administration for the upcoming term. Representing you on the National Council has been a demanding and rewarding experience and hope that I have provided you an insight into the workings of the National organization. Please consider sending me back to represent you at National and am asking for your support and delegate votes at the Department convention in June.

May you have a fun and enjoyable summer and with all the work we do, make time for your families.

Yours in Comradeship,



Gene Ratigliano, PSC

National Council Member



James Haas
STATE SURGEON

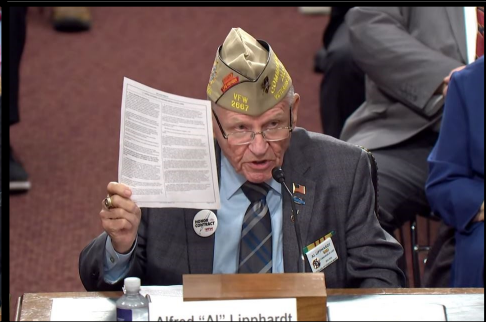
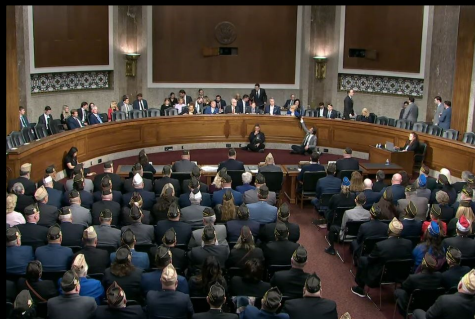


Comrades,

With the cold weather this winter the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center asked me if the VFW could help collect footwear for the veterans that they assist.

With a shout out to the Posts in District 3, at the end of February, I delivered 45 pairs of boots and shoes to the Albany Stratton VA. All the boots and shoes came from Ghent Post 5833, Ballston Spa Post 358 and Colonie Post 8692 with a total value of \$3,400.

State Surgeon continued on page 9



State Surgeon continued from page 7

In March an additional 8 pairs of boots and 6 pair of slippers from Glens Falls Post were donated, 20 additional pairs of boots from 3274 Fort Plain and 18 pairs of sneakers from Queensbury Post with a value of \$2,800. All total 73 pair of boots. 6 pair of slippers and 18 pair of sneakers. The total donation is \$6,200.00. March 31st, I delivered Hospice 6 handmade quilts and 18 lap blankets all knitted. Donation came from Queensbury Post.

Yours in Comradeship,
James Haas
State Surgeon



Art Scheuneman
NATIONAL HOME
CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

After turning the page on a New Year, a lot of things are underway during this year. First off, on January 7th the National Home celebrated its 100th year of operation with a Birthday party and cake cutting.

Celebrating a Century of Service: 100-Year Anniversary Gala I attended the VFW National Home's 100-Year Anniversary Gala on February 8, 2025, which was truly a night to remember. Two hundred supporters, consisting of Trustees, alumni, and staff of the VFW National Home gathered at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Lansing to commemorate the milestone: 100 years of dedicated service to veterans and their families! Many of the National Line Officers from the VFW and the Auxiliary were in attendance along with past National CiC's and National Presidents to help celebrate this historic event. This momentous event was not just a celebration; it was a heartfelt acknowledgment of the unwavering commitment to honoring our veterans and their sacrifices.

VFW National Home Paving Project Completed: A Step Forward for Our Community We are excited to announce the completion of the street paving project for the VFW National Home, a significant initiative that began in the spring of 2024. This project was completed in multiple phases throughout 2024, all with the aim of minimizing disruptions to the community and ensuring the safety of residents and visitors alike.

The National Home's neighborhood is open to the families of actively serving military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children. If you know a family that could use our services, please encourage them to call 800-313-4200 or through our website at www.vfwnationalhome.org

The National Home is celebrating its 100-year anniversary during the year of 2025, and we'd love for you to join us! We have a series of events planned throughout the year, including a community celebration in June. If you are looking for something to do and have never been to the National Home or even if you have visited many times in the past, you are all invited to visit the National Home during the week June 21st – 28th. There are many hotels in the area, please make your reservations early as rooms are going fast. It all cumulates on the 28th with a daylong celebration. There will be carnival for the young at heart, live entertainment, old timers' baseball game and capped off with a laser light show.

Finally, during the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio the National Home will be running charter buses from the convention to tour the VFW National Home. Prior reservations required. For more information, please visit our website at www.vfwnationalhome.org

Loyally,

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



V F W
NATIONAL HOME





VFW NATIONAL HOME

CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss		Name:	
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Date of birth:	*Email:	*Mobile Phone:	

Membership Type: ☐ New Member ☐ NH Membership Upgrade **Member number** _____

☐ Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary)

☐ Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)

VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION

(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

☐ I am a member of VFW Post _____ in the Department of _____

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

RECRUITER (Not required)

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

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Apply online at: www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership	One-time membership fee \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to VFW National Home <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express		
Name on card:	Card number:	
Signature:	Expiration date:	Security code:

CENTENNIAL LIFE MEMBERS

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

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



Scan to buy your membership online!

*These fields are required for electronic voting.



Department of New York VFW

Legislative Breakfast

Legislative Office Building

March 12, 2025

9:30 AM—11 AM





Ronald Sorrentino
SERVICE OFFICER
JOURNAL AD
CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

Once more I want to say **Thank You** to all the Posts, Auxiliaries and Members who donated to the Service officer Raffle and Journal. As of now we have \$10,050.00 in prize money with 87 prizes that will be drawn. The Journal had 66 Ads. We are down 7 from last year, I hope by the time this memo goes to print we will come closer to last year's total. I just want to repeat and say **Thank You** to all Comrades, for the great response to this deserving cause. We are so grateful to all who have participated in the [Service Officer Raffle and Journal](#) through the years. As I said before, without your generous support, we would not be able to raise the additional funds needed to continue the service provided by our Service Officer. The work they do, as we all know, is essential in both counseling our Veterans and helping them with their claims so they can receive the benefits they need. I hope to continue as the Chair of the Service Officer program once again. I will graciously accept the Chairmanship. With all your help as in the past, we can hope to have another great Program next year. In closing I would like to congratulate all the winners in the raffle.

Now let's talk about Raffle Tickets

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

Ronald Sorrentino

Ronald Sorrentino
 Veterans Service Officer Journal & Raffle
 Chairman



IN MEMORY OF
PSC Arthur E. Koch III



Arthur E. Koch III, 76 years of age, passed away Friday January 24, 2025 at Nicholas H. Noyes Memorial Hospital in Dansville, NY.

Art served with U.S. Army, 361st Signal Battalion in Vietnam 1968-1969. Upon his return he served with the Signal School at Ft. Gordon, GA till his discharge in 1971. Art was also a member of the National Guard for 3 years.

Art was a Charter and Life Member of Frank J. Casbolt Memorial Post No. 6780 in Dansville, New York. At Post level he served as Commander for 3 years earning "All State" honors each year. He served as Post Quartermaster for over 20 years. On the Council level, he was named to the team of "All State County Council Commanders" 1981-1982. Art was "All State District Commander" 1986-87 where he had both highest gain in percentage and numerical.

Art served as State Commander of New York 1995-1996. He was the National Chief of Staff 1999-2000 and also served as Vice Chairman for several National Committees.

Art retired from Foster Wheeler with 33 years of service when plant closed but he didn't completely retire. Art was appointed State Adjutant for the Department of New York VFW in August 2003 and relocated to Albany where he worked as the State Adjutant for eleven years.



Pat Iuliucci
POW/MIA
CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

Washington – The Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that U.S. Army Forces Staff Sgt. Eugene J. Darrigan, 26, of Wappinger's Falls, New York, killed during WWII was accounted for on September 20, 2024.

Darrigan's family recently received their full briefing on his identification, therefore additional details can be shared.

In March of 1944, Darrigan was assigned to the 320th Bombardment Squadron, 90th Bombardment Group, 5th Air Force and deployed in present day Papua New Guinea. On the morning of March 11th, Darrigan, the radio operator onboard a B-24 "Liberator" "Heaven Can Wait" departed Nadzab Strip #1, Papua New Guinea, as part of a bombing mission against enemy positions at Boram Airfield and Awar Point, Hansa Bay located along the northern coast of New Guinea. Observers from other aircraft in formation reported seeing flames erupting from the bomb bay, spreading to the tail quickly. "Heaven Can Wait" was seen pitching up violently before banking left and crashing down into the water. It is believed that anti-aircraft fire hit the plane, causing un-dropped ordnance to explode.

Following the war, the American Graves Registration Service, the military unit responsible for investigating and recovering missing American personnel in the Pacific Theatre, conducted exhaustive searches of battle areas and crash sites in New Guinea, concluding their search in 1948. In March of 1950, a board of AGRS officials concluded they were unable to locate any remains of Darrigan and the other "Heaven Can Wait" crew members. They were designated as non-recoverable.

Between 2013 and 2017, the family of 2nd Lt. Kelly, "Heaven Can Wait" bombardier, undertook a dedicated archival research effort to collect historical documents and eyewitness accounts of the loss of the "Heaven Can Wait" crew. The family worked with Sr. Scott Althaus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to complete this effort and provided this documentation. In October 2017, Project Recover, a DPAA partner organization, located the wreckage, performing visual inspections and clearing the site of any unexploded ordnance. From March 9th through April 13th, 2023, an

POW/MIA Chairman continued on page 14



John Lombardo
Assistant Department
Service Officer



Comrades,

Some of you may remember a time in the not too distant past when I worked for you from the Albany VA Medical Center as one of your Accredited State Service Officers. As you may or may not be aware, I recently began working out of the Buffalo office this past July. It has been a wonderful transition back to my childhood neighborhood as this is where I grew up. One thing that has become clear since my return, is that there is no shortage of need when it comes to qualified knowledgeable service officers. In fact, I believe the volume of need has only increased since my time in Albany. In recent days, I have been asked several times about working for VFW DNY and or working as a service officer in general and so I thought this topic might be appropriate for the newsletter. I encourage you to find those members amongst you that have that drive to serve and the willingness to learn to reach out to Department whenever there are open positions. This goes double for downstate!

That said, this work is not for everyone. Allow me to lay some hard truths on you in contemplation of taking on a State Service Officer role. First, this job is very difficult for those with young children. I cannot begin to count how many times I have needed to be away from home (trainings/conferences/etc.) for extended periods of time or have needed to meet a Veteran outside of normal working hours (to accommodate their work schedule for example) at the cost of missing time with children or laying additional burden on a spouse. In the same breath, you will not get rich from doing this work. There is no overtime, no retirement/pension, nor benefits (such as medical/dental/etc.) and the salary is not competitive even with the same position in neighboring States. Additionally, you will see every version of human personality from disrespectful, impatient, and obtuse to

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underwater recovery team excavated the crash site, where they recovered possible osseous materials and various material evidence, including life support equipment and identification tags. The recovered evidence was sent to the DPAA Laboratory for review and analysis.

To identify Darrigan's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analyses, as well as material and circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA, Y-chromosome DNA and autosomal DNA analysis.

Darrigan's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for. Darrigan will be buried in Calverton, New York yet to be determined.

Still accounted for: WWII -71,970; Korea - 7,438; Vietnam - 1,573; Cold War - 126; Gulf War - 6.

ADSO continued from page 13

compassionate, understanding, and patient. You will work with those suffering from severe untreated mental illness and the dysregulated thought patterns they sometimes employ. You could potentially even find yourself in physical danger if you are not paying attention. Working in this field will require you to become proficient with the Latin language as service officer work functions within the arena where the medical and legal fields collide. As a service officer, you will find that the spare time you previously used for reading Cosmo magazine, an exciting graphic novel, or 50 Shades of Chartreuse, will instead, turn into reading the latest action-packed CAVC court decisions, studying the potential impact of the former Chevron doctrine on VA Law, the Veterans Law Journal, and activities such as conducting research on whether there is sufficient peer-reviewed medical literature to support the correlation between exposure to the cadmium found on aircraft wheels with the development of an ascending Aortic Aneurysm (spoiler alert: there is!). The threat of burnout is real, and you must have the ability hang up your hat when you get home (or at least try). You will try to resist the urge to continue doing work at home after

hours, but you will fail and end up ultimately accepting that you now have a second, albeit more domesticated, office space. You will find that you are lied to, ignored and frequently gaslit by the very agency that accredited you and you will have to learn to recognize when seeking a resolution becomes futile and a better use of your resources (such as your time) would be to take a different path. This is not always as straightforward and easy as it may seem on the surface; however, at some point you will gain enough understanding to become competent in your position. This does not happen quickly, and even the government estimates the average learning curve to proficiency in this work is 2-3 years. When you do finally get a handle on the business and nuances of the inside baseball at the VA, you will then have customers/stakeholders who will expect you to explain it all to them but not before you have taken your 2-3 years of knowledge and turned it into laymen's terms for them. Yes, I may be a bit facetious, sarcastic, and hyperbolic in my descriptions here, but I assure you.... not by much.

So why in the world would anyone want to work for the VFW as a service officer, you might ask?

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS. First and foremost, our motto is our mission, and no other organization can come close to matching it. If you truly feel those words, then this job is for you because you know you will let nothing get in the way of your mission. Nowhere else will you get to help your brothers and sisters in arms in such an impactful way and get to see the results of your work.

TRAINING. While many years ago it was not always the case, I can say confidently that for quite some time now, no other Service Organization provides the frequency, the quality, or the quantity of training in this field. Not the DAV, not the Legion, not NYS, not any of them. VFW National Service Officer training is the current premier standard.

CAMRADARIE. Some say misery loves company, I say shared service and sacrifice makes for unshakeable relationships. In part because of what it takes to do this job, those that carry the water with you in this career field will prove out to be some of the most loyal and rock steady people you will ever work with.

CATHARSIS. Some of us have a real problem with injustice.... I'm not mentioning any names here. Those of us in that camp find that work of this nature scratches that itch and provides an outlet of sorts. Sometimes we still need to have a little

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ADSO continued from page 14

"fight" in our lives occasionally. This work will give you plenty of targets, the ammunition to make that fight and the venues within which to have them.

PUZZLES. No two cases are ever alike. There is no getting bored with service officer work. I cannot begin to tell you the number of times I converse with a Veteran only to find their understanding of what has occurred with their VA claims is a mile off from the reality demonstrated by their Claims Folder. For those that enjoy peeling the proverbial onion, you will find a new story unfolding with each page you review.

INTANGIBLES. While it's true a position like this will not fill your pockets with gold, I can honestly say that I have never worked for a more generous and understanding employer. Department honors the Federal holidays and then gives additional time off on top of it. Each year they bring employees together to celebrate their hard work. I have never gone without the supplies I need to perform my duties and I have directly experienced how DNY values the family, personal relationships, military service, and the health and wellbeing of its employees. Through its compassionate steady leadership, VFW DNY provides the intangibles that are often out of reach for most employers.

I hear many people tell me they want to do this work or that they are interested becoming an accredited service officer. Most of them have no idea about the good and the bad that comes with making such a career move. This is why I thought a small primer on the nature of this work was warranted. I hope you found some small insights within, and I hope the next time you see an opening for a VFW DNY Service Officer Position, you will answer the call!

Yours in service,
John J. Lombardo
Asst. Department Service Officer



Ronald Sorrentino

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

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

Volunteer Hr.	141,657
Dollars Donated	\$ 4,488,633
Total	\$ 9,232,730

We are up from the last time I reported in the OCV by 8,349,334. That was only a few months ago.

Let's keep up the great work!

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

District #	Volunteer Hr.	Value of Hr.	Dollars Donated	Total
3	26,717.50	\$894,769	\$422,729.51	\$1,317,498.61
6	34,769.50	\$1,165,335	\$142,617.22	\$1,307,952.01
11	10,478.50	\$350,925	\$853,968.62	\$1,204,893.59

These numbers are from the last quarter; we are slightly behind last year's total for this quarter. I know we could do much better. On the reporting of community service, you must remember that the VFW year goes from 1 July – 30 June, **to have your reports count it must show that the activity happened within the 1 July – 30 June time frame.** Also, the description on the reports must have more than one word explanation, one word is not a description. The best way to ensure your reports are in the correct time frame is to do the report in the same month you did the activity.

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

Happy Easter to all our Comrades and the Auxiliaries!

Ronald Sorrentino

Chairperson Community Activity





John Pieprzak

COMMANDER DISTRICT 1



Greetings comrades,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health. We are just about done with winter and enjoying the beginning of spring. This year has flown by. Spring conference is right around the corner.

January 10-11: I attended the Mid-Winter conference.

February 15-16: held a neighborhood cold weather gear drive.

February 28: Held a remembrance ceremony for the end of Desert Storm.

March 16: District 1 was invited to march in the Brooklyn St. Patrick's Day Parade. I was unable to attend, my Sr. Vice Jesse Figueroa marched in my place.

March 21-23: Transported my Auxiliary members to their Spring Conference in Binghamton.

March 25: Held a ceremony to remember the recipients of the Medal of Honor, especially those earned posthumously.

March 29: I am planning to go to the ceremonies honoring the 50th Anniversary of the end of Vietnam sponsored by the UWVC.

April 11-12: I will be attending the Spring Conference in Corning.

District 1 is still struggling with membership this year; we are pushing to get to that 102%. Downstate they are starting to rebuild the outdoor dining rooms; I have a few comrades that are going to start to canvass them and ask the owners if we can put a flyer or a VFW sticker with the Post phone number in the menu boxes. Look for flyers for bingos, craft fairs, night at the races, karaoke, school events for your kids or grands, etc. from other organizations.

Let's make the final push for the year 2024-25 and keep it going for 2025-26.

Semper Fi.
John Pieprzak
District 1 Commander



Sharon Waddell

COMMANDER DISTRICT 2



Comrades,

Winter was a busy time for social events. Posts throughout the region hosted breakfasts, Valentines Day, and St Patrick's day events to share camaraderie and raise money for worthy causes. District 2 held a second in-person OTI on 25 January at Post 973 in Newburgh; twenty-two officers from Districts 1, 2 and 3 were trained.

District 2's winter meeting was held on 8 February at Post 2064 in Maybrook with 86% of posts in attendance. Members were treated to readings of the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy winning essays by the student authors; both state winners were from District 2 posts. Post 5491 of Mahopac submitted the winner of the Patriot's Pen while Post 2064 in Maybrook sponsored the Voice of Democracy winner.

Many posts participated in Vietnam War Veterans Day activities throughout the district. Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties Veterans Committee hosted an event at the Cornwall Yacht Club on 26 March.



local veterans who lost their lives in Vietnam at the Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties Vietnam Veterans' event held at the Cornwall Yacht Club on 26 March.

The Millbrook and Wappinger Falls VFW Posts co-hosted a fundraising event on Saturday March 29,

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at heritage Financial Park during the Renegades Sports Card Show and Fan Fest; Mets pitcher Nelson



Figueroa signed autographs and posed for photos for a \$10 donation.

VFW Post 5913 Commander Mike Rahilly, Post 5913 Senior Vice Commander Virgil Capollari, former Mets pitcher Nelson Figueroa, Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Post 9008 Commander Jeff Moseman.



In Comradeship,
Sharon Waddell
District 2 Commander

Vail-Wolff McKenna– Frye VFW Post 170—Quilts of Valor

On December 14, 2024 Post 170 held a Quilt of Valor event. A Quilt Of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt awarded to a service member or veteran, saying "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

**Harold Patchen
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 3**

Comrades,

District 3 held our annual Gold Chevron Awards Dinner on Saturday March 8, 2025, attended by approximately 190 VFW and Auxiliary members and guests. After the dinner we honored our Patriot Pen, VOD, Teachers of the year and Safety Award winners. Our guest speaker Department Chief of Staff Luke Magliaro mentioned that he, back in the day, was a Patriot Pen / VOD participant himself. Every attendee was amazed by the content and presentation as each Patriot Pen and VOD winners read their essays. I'm sure that one or more of these young people will eventually be a Department of N.Y winner and

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possibly a National VOD winner. It was a privilege to award the winners with both a plaque and monetary gift. Our District Jr. Vice Commander, Tom Varmette, as chairman for this event did a fantastic job.



I want to thank our Department of N.Y. representatives Luke Magliaro (VFW) and Darlene Baker (Aux) for attending.

Our 1st place Patriot Pen winner Isaac Good also had an award for Jr. Vice Commander Tom



Varmette. Isaac awarded our Chairman Tom with a box of special crayons, complete with glitter. He found out last year that Marines look at crayons as a delicacy. The crayons now are in a special USMC table display at VFW Post 6196. We do like to enjoy ourselves in District 3.

The day before our Gold Chevron Awards dinner I had the opportunity once again, to attend the awards dinner for Post 3275, Fort Plain. My compliments to Chef Bill Farber whose chicken and biscuits dinner was outstanding. All of the

Patriot Pen and VOD winners, who wanted to, read their essays. What a group of young kids.



Their Teacher of the Year really impressed me, especially having been nominated by one of her students.



On Friday March 21st I attended an event at Castleton Post 7337. A class of 7th grade students, from a "Connection Class" came to the post to learn about veterans. After they were given a brief orientation and were asked a few questions they were released to view static personal presentations from Post 7337 members. It was also an opportunity for them to speak with veterans firsthand. They would then take the

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District 3 Commander continued from page 19

knowledge they gained back with them and write a report. I spoke with one young man who's first



question was "why did I enlist", "what did I do in the service" and "how did I benefit from my time in the Air Force". I mentioned the pay difference between when I enlisted and now, he couldn't believe how were survived. Post

7337 has been doing this event, three times each year, for a number of years. Great Community Service event Ric.

Usually something about membership is a lead-in to these articles. I decided to put it here so that it would be easier to remember. At this writing District 3 is in 10th place in the department, at 94.3%. We need 283 members to achieve the 102% goal set by Our CIC Al Lipphart, which we're expecting to achieve. We have 38 of 41 posts inspected and 12 of these posts, which had deficiencies, are in the process of correcting them.

In Comradeship.
Harold J. Patchen
District 3 Commander



MOCS Nursing home visit April 5, 2025.

When contacted about placing the VFW membership ad in the paper, the Boonville Herald a newspaper in District 4 not only placed the VFW ad, they ran an article that highlights the history and work that the VFW does for veterans but also explains how to join and where the local posts are located.

VFW members being sought

In his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865 — just over a month prior to the end of the Civil War — President Lincoln stated: "... let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Soldiers maimed in battle and sick from diseases contracted in war would not be systematically cared for until the 20th century.

Veterans of the 1898 Spanish-American War and the 1899-1903 Philippine Insurrection, founded organizations seeking government benefits for their service and suffering. The first such veterans groups were established in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Colorado.

Some of these organizations united and were known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, later the Veterans of Foreign Wars or VFW. It was the first national organization to represent returning military personnel who served in combat zones overseas. VFW membership increased from 5,000 in 1915 to approximately 200,000 in 1936 when it was granted a congressional charter signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Today there are nearly 2 million VFW and Auxiliary members in approximately 6,800 posts in the United States (mostly) and worldwide. The VFW is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, military and community service programs. The VFW lobbied for passage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 — the "G.I. Bill" — that provided an estimated 8 million World War II veterans with housing benefits as well as unemployment insurance and funds for attending college. Korean War and Vietnam War era G.I.

Bills helped over 10 million veterans of these conflicts attend trade schools, colleges and universities.

The VFW was a strong advocate for passage of the (2022) Honoring Our PACT Act which provides medical help for veterans harmed by burn pit fumes and other war related toxins. The VFW considers this bill to be "the most significant piece of veterans legislation in history...providing veterans who served in countries such as Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq expanded access to VA health care and earned disability benefits."

The VFW is community oriented with members donating approximately \$45 million annually to local community service projects as well as over \$3 million in college scholarships and savings bonds to students. The VFW estimates that its members annually contribute more than 8.6 million hours of community related volunteer work.

VFW membership is contingent on meeting two requirements: First, an individual must have served in the armed forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge, or a general discharge "under honorable conditions." An individual may be currently serving in the military.

Second, the individual must have served "in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters." Validation of this information is usually available on a veteran's DD-214 (separation from active duty papers) or other military documents. The following is a partial list of these campaign medals: Korean Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, "Navy Expeditionary Medal, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Receipt of Hos-

tile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay (verified by a military pay statement)-Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days

Although most VFW members are Vietnam War veterans, since 2005 more than half of all new members are under 40 years of age with women veterans one of the fastest growing groups. (While most VFW members do not list their gender on the application form, according to one report approximately 8% of members are female).

The VFW has made it a priority to "enhance programs and services for women and underserved veterans." A recent VFW report states the Veterans Administration needs to:

- Improve outreach to women veterans.
- Allow women to choose the gender of their VA health care providers.
- Train VA's workforce to treat women veterans with respect and dignity.

VFW District 4 is seeking new members who may need assistance or want to help provide services to veterans and the local community. Please pass this commentary on to friends and relatives who qualify for VFW membership. There are five active VFW posts in the greater Boonville area: Harland J. Hennessey Post, 5538 Boonville, Lewis County Post 6912, Louisville, Old Forge Post 1014, Remsen Post 982, and Upton Post 8259 in Skittville.

For additional information and/or questions in the Boonville area, contact VFW Post 5538 Commander Jonathan Vennema at hjh5538@gmail.com; Lowville area, Dennis Everson at Commander@vfwpost6912.com; greater Remsen area, Robert Thomas at rth1071391@aol.com; Old Forge area, Peter Shannon at chldof11@gmail.com; and the Holland Patent/Skittville area, Richard Summers at Uptonpost8259@yahoo.com.

'Cindy's Casino Night' cancer benefit scheduled

BOONVILLE — There will be a benefit for Cindy Kerber from 5-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Boonville Elks. "Cindy's Casino Night" will feature casino games, live music, a cash bar, games, snacks, door prizes and raffles.

This event is for those age 18 and older. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per couple and can be purchased in advance (Venmo @kristie-bjork or CashApp @kristiebjork) or at the door.

Guests should dress in formal attire. For questions, please contact Stacy Northrup, Courtney Williams or Janis Marie.

YOU FOUGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY. NOW JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR VETERANS.

We understand the unique bond you share with other veterans of overseas conflicts because we, too, have been there. No matter which conflict called you to service, we invite you to join us as we continue to fight for all that's good FOR VETERANS.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Point of Contact District 4 VFW
315 272 9008
nydistrict4vfw@gmail.com



Place your Buddy Poppy orders with the Department of New York VFW by April 25, 2025 so your Post will have them in time for Memorial Day!





Marcello Rotunda
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 6



Comrades,

Buddy Poppies are synonymous with the VFW. In District 6 we were lucky to meet with student from the special education class at Pine Valley High School. These students are amazing doing the buddy poppy display with help from the teaching staff.



Pictured are Dahlia Dawson, Matt Burdice, Ryan Adams and teachers Daphne Cortight and Marsha Smith not pictured with Ray Sheldon (President) of Pine Valley Memorial Post 2522 Auxiliary Margaret Sheldon and 6th District Commander Marcello Rotunda and 6th District President Dee Ippolito.



Marcello Rotunda



Abe Zino
DISTRICT 7 JR. VICE
COMMANDER



Pictures from the funeral service for former President Jimmy Carter who passed away on December 29, 2024 at the age of 100.





Yoselin Brice
Assistant Department
Service Officer



Comrades,

The Bronx veteran pop up at Councilwoman Kristy Marmorato (District 13) was a success. We were in a conference area where both spoke with veterans because they showed up at the same time. The cases ranged from widows, seeking survivor benefits, to veterans wanting info about burial arrangements, we had 5 new cases and one appointment who showed up. We provided general info and did not go into any personal details for privacy concerns. We took POA and intent to file forms and advised that we would contact them via telephone to complete any necessary applications or in person appointments if needed.



The senior veterans who showed up were very excited and grateful to have someone come to their local community

to answer direct VA benefits questions. They said it was impossible to get anyone from VA on the phone to explain things in simple terms. They each had a list of questions which made it easy to address.

Lilyanna Pekic, Director of Community Affairs who arranged the pop-up event was very pleased with the turnout and how we took care of the veterans. She explained they have a large and active senior veteran community that is always asking for help with VA benefits. She asked if we

could commit to coming to the office once a month and work with veterans.

The second event that I attended was the

Vietnam Veterans Day Inaugural Luncheon

This event was to celebrate the passage of NYC Council resolution, designating March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day, presented by NYC Council Member Kristy Marmorato from district 13.

Officials in attendance were NYC Council Member Kristy Marmorato; Bronx County District Attorney Ms. Darcel Clark; Bronx Borough President Ms. Vanessa Gibson; Bronx Assistant District Attorney LTC Alvarez. The honorees were Marine Cord Sergeant Oscar Ruiz,

Amvets Post #38, American Legion Post #620,

American Legion Post #1458, American Legion Post #156, American Legion Post #253,

American Legion Post #1456, American Legion Post Auxiliary #1456. This was a well attended event with 50 plus participants from the above veterans' groups. Distributed business cards with all the post commanders and interested veterans. Several of the post ask if I could attend their meeting and events to make their members aware of VSO services. Many expressed gratitude for coming to their community thus not having to travel to the Bronx VA for VSO services.



CM Marmorato announce that she and NYC Dept of Veterans services had partnered with VFW to have VSO at her office

monthly.

Bronx Borough President, Ms. Gibson announce that she has coordinated with NYC Dept of Veterans Commissioner to have VSOs available at the Bronx Borough Hall building three times a week, starting in April.





Jack Stein
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 10



William Hughes
Commander
District 11



Comrades,

The V.F.W. co-hosted a Drumming for Veterans that supports The Northport VA Hospital and Stony Brook Veterans Home. This was the 8th year and we raised \$6,155.00 that is used for programs and items for the residents of both facilities. 100% of the donations gets split between both facilities. 240 residents and veterans supported the event. The Levittown Post 5942 helped in this endeavor with setting up and providing hot dogs and beverages for the participants.



Greetings Comrades,

Today happens to be the first day of spring although poppies are always in bloom in our beloved VFW. The start of spring gives us the opportunity to distribute poppies in many outside environments. As the Commander of district 11, I see a direct correlation between successful posts and having successful poppy drives in our communities and I think that would be applicable to all posts within the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

District 11 has initiated a commander's corner which is held once a month by a zoom meeting



we have topics that are applicable to all veterans and their families the past two meetings covered suicide awareness and wills and estates this evening's meeting will be on poppy distribution and best practices for success in that area.

The undersigned was able to attend our midwinter conference and also the legislative breakfast held at our capital in Albany. Both were a tremendous success, especially the

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Partnering with General Needs we helped two veterans transition from homelessness to a residence of their own. Coffee makers, counter top

ovens and other essential needs were donated. Through the Hud Vast program at the VA Hospital and The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless we are



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District Commander 10 continued from page 23

able to receive voucher to help many veterans in need.

We made donations to Northport Veterans Hospital of essential items the residents can use. Various sundries, Fixodent, Efferdent and underwear for men and woman. Many craft



items were donated to Stony Brook Veterans Home. Samantha Calandrino, Volunteer Services Director welcome our many donations and programs that we run at the State Home .

Yours in Comradeship,
Jack Stein
Commander District 10

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legislative breakfast and meeting with our elected officials and highlighting our legislative goals and initiatives.

The district has had great success in this submission of our voice of democracy patriots pen and our public servant awards, and many of our Posts have already had award ceremonies for these students, teachers and public servants.



We had a great veteran's luncheon at Texas Roadhouse in Suffolk County with 150 veterans in attendance and all put on by a generous donation of Texas Roadhouse their staff and



employees. Our next major event is on March 29th. will be a 50th anniversary ceremony at the county center honoring all our Vietnam Veterans and welcome them and welcoming them home and celebrating all they have contributed to our society and the freedoms we enjoy in America today.

And a friendly reminder that VFW day of service comes up in May, so regardless if you want to be an "All American" Post or not, this is something we do anyway, just make sure to make the entry online.

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

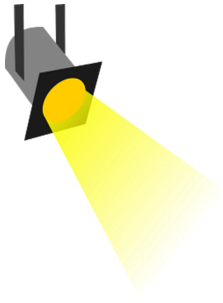
We of course are in the process of forwarding our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year and Public Service Candidates to the Department for judging.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Hughes Jr.

Commander
District 11





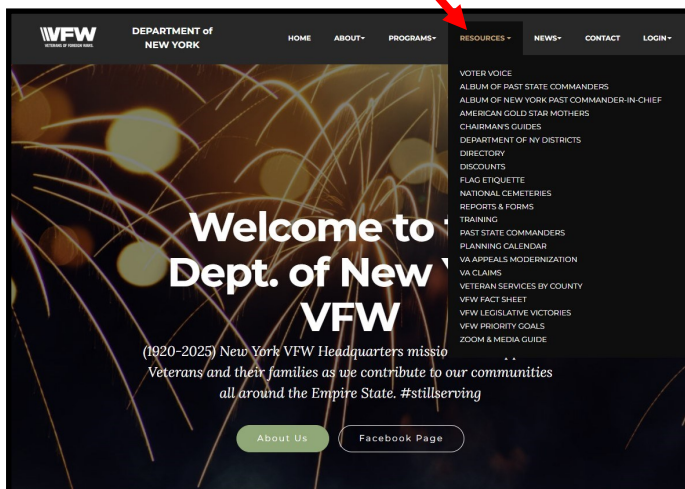
Spotlight on VFWNY.COM

Featuring: Voter Voice Page

What is Voter Voice?

Is advocacy tool that the Department of New York VFW is utilizing to help build awareness and drive legislative campaigns that will improve the quality of life for our veterans. The campaigns can be on both a state and national level.

Voter Voice can be found on the Department's website under Resources. It is the first Resource listed.



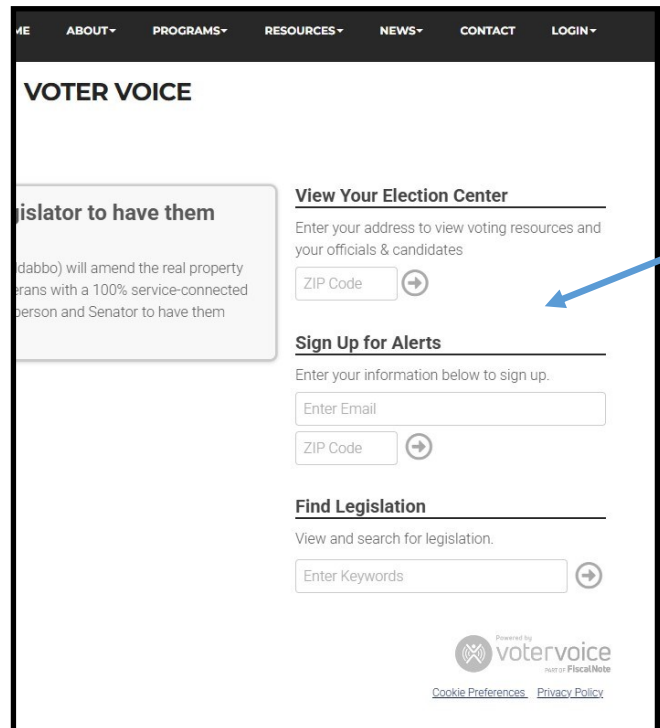
Any active legislative campaigns will be listed on the VoterVoice page. By using "View Your



Election Center" you will be able to send a

targeted message directly to your representatives on that legislative topic.

If you have not received a VoterVoice email you are able sign up for the legislative alerts that the Department sends out so you can stay in the know!



**Will be at the 104th
Department of New York
VFW State Convention**

June 11-14, 2025

**With many special
convention items**

**Albany Marriott
189 Wolf Road
Albany, NY**



VFW State Commanders
Save our Veterans Golf Tournament

Bringing awareness and support to

Homeless Veterans
And Suicide Prevention

Friday, May 9, 2025
9:00 a.m. SHOTGUN START

Van Patten Golf Club
924 Main Street, Clifton Park, NY 12065

\$120 per person Scramble Format
18 holes with Cart, Backyard BBQ Buffet - Prizes

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: May 1, 2025

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Foursome or individual registrations accepted!

Team Members: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW DEPARTMENT OF NY

MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:
VFW State Headquarters Attn: Jim MacArthur
69 Sand Creek Rd
Albany, NY 12205 – Phone 518 755 8978
Email- jmackancramhwy@gmail.com

Sponsored by:





VFW State Commanders
Save our Veterans Golf Tournament

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Saturday, May 10, 2025
10:00am SHOTGUN START

Twin Ponds Golf & Country Club

169 Main Street, New York Mills, NY 13417

\$100.00 per person Scramble Format
18 holes with Cart, Lunch at the Turn, Italian Buffet Dinner- Prizes

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: May 1, 2025

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____

Foursome or individual registrations accepted!

Team Members: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW DEPARTMENT OF NY

MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:

VFW State Headquarters Attn: Jim MacArthur

69 Sand Creek Rd

Albany, NY 12205

Email: jmackancramhwy@gmail.com Ph 518-755-8978

Sponsored by:





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Friday, May 16, 2025
10:00am SHOTGUN START

Cardinal Hills Golf Course
78 Conewango Road, Randolph, NY 14722

\$100.00 per person Scramble Format
18 holes with Cart, Chicken BBQ & Prizes

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: May 1, 2025

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Foursome or individual registrations accepted!

Team Members: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW DEPARTMENT OF NY
MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:

VFW State Headquarters Attn: Jim MacArthur
69 Sand Creek Rd
Albany, NY 12205

Email: jmackancramhwy@gmail.com Ph 518-755-8978

Sponsored by:





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Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum - \$5000 Includes 2 foursomes, Cart Sponsor and Event Signage

Gold - \$2500 Includes 1 foursome, Tee Sign and Event Signage

Silver - \$1000 Includes 2 Golfer fees, Tee sign and Event Signage

Bronze - \$500 Includes Tee Sign and Event Signage

Cart Sponsor (2 Carts) - \$250

Hole Sponsor/Tee Sign - \$100

All Sponsorships will be displayed at both Events

SPONSORSHIPS WITH PAYMENT DUE NO LATER THAN May 1, 2025

Sponsor: _____

Sponsorship Level: _____

Contact Info: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW DEPARTMENT OF NY

MAIL PAYMENT TO:

VFW State Headquarters Attn: Jim MacArthur

69 Sand Creek Rd, Albany, N.Y

Email Jmackancramhwy@gmail.com Ph. 518-755-8978

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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)

☐ ANNUAL (\$45.00)

☐ Please bill me annually for my membership.

☐ I would like to enroll in the Automatic Payment Plan.

☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (one-time)

☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (installment plan)

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of Dec. 31st

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN

initial payment

11 payments of

THROUGH AGE 30

\$425.00

\$45.00

\$38.64

31-40

\$410.00

\$45.00

\$37.27

41-50

\$375.00

\$45.00

\$34.09

51-60

\$335.00

\$45.00

\$30.45

61-70

\$290.00

\$45.00

\$26.36

71-80

\$225.00

\$45.00

\$20.45

81 AND OVER

\$170.00

\$45.00

\$15.45

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

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

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Check/Money Order

☐ Mastercard

☐ VISA

☐ Discover

☐ AMEX

Card Number:

Expiration Date:

Cardholder's Name:

Amount to be charged: \$

(if using Life Membership installment plan, amount is \$45.00)

VERIFICATION & SIGNATURE

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

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Mail form to: Membership Department, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

Questions? Call (888) JOIN-VFW (888-564-6839) or email us at membership@vfw.org