



April, May, June 2026

Volume 44 Issue 4



Jack Sanford
STATE COMMANDER



Comrades,

I would like to start off by Congratulating Jim MacArthur in making All American and all of the Posts and Districts who supported him but making All American.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me through the years with encouragement and friendship. I now need your support for the coming year, maybe we can set a trend that National will stand up and take notice.

Please make sure that your Post is taking the following actions throughout the year:

Send in your bond, it takes 10 minutes to do and the form can be found on the Department's website under Resources - Bonds.

File your IRS 990, if you have a problem call and ask for help. Failure to file your 990 can result in your post losing its tax-exempt status.

You need to have your Post inspected annually; your District has inspectors and all you have to do is call them to make an appoint, it's that easy. If you're having a problem Contact Harold Patchen or Neil Jordan, they are the 2 Department Inspectors.

Remember to submit your Community Activity Report online through the members only section of vfwny.org, any member can submit them

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Daniel Kell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

Congratulations to all our incoming 2026-2027 Officers! We enjoyed a very successful State Convention at the Albany Marriott in June where we welcomed in our new State Commander Jack

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James Hass
STATE QUARTERMASTER



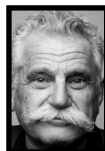
Comrades,

I would like to thank everyone for supporting me for the office of Department Quartermaster. I am honored to serve the Department and all the members of New York. I am committed to performing the Quartermaster duties to the best of my ability.

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Jody Treadway
Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Barbara Bishop
State Photographer



New York State Overseas Veteran

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**** 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:**

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Is established by the State Adjutant.

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

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

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(EVERY TIME YOU DO A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY, SEND IT IN. MORE THE BETTER).

The Trustee Report must be filed quarterly based on the dates listed on the form. The report should be reviewed and sign by the three trustees and commander as soon as the quarter has ended. Once signed, the report must be submitted to the Department. You can download the form from the Department Website; it's listed as Trustees Report printable form, it does all the math for you.

Plan to attend either the Departments OTI or your District's (Quartermaster's Training or the 3 yr Trustee's Training). They both have to attend.

The final key is Membership, when all the above is completed, you are now free to focus on Membership. The Departments goal is 100% + 1 Member with 80% retention.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER WHEN YOUR POST SUCCEEDS, WE ALL SUCCEED. I would like to break the record for All State Commanders.

Final Note the winners of my raffle are

Freire Pirda of Syracuse \$500,

P.S.C. Tom Todaro, \$250,

Robert Orloff, Brooklyn \$150,

VFW POST 1574, Staten Island NY \$50.

Sorry for the delay, the checks are going out before the weekend.

Thank you again for your Support!

Jack

State Adjutant continued from page 1

Sanford. We also had an outstanding Testimonial Dinner where we had the opportunity to honor our outgoing Department Commander James MacArthur and Department President Justine Robles. We also took the opportunity at the dinner to recognize our Public Servant Award recipients along with our Scouting winners.

I would like to also recognize and thank two comrades, Past State Adjutant Robert Mitchell and Past State Quartermaster Daniel McMahon for their outstanding job they did at the Department Headquarters with the staff, Administrative Affairs, Financial areas of the Organization and by ensuring and continuing to provide the tradition of maintaining the high standard of support and quality of assistance that Posts in our Department have become accustomed to.

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Quartermaster continued from page 1

As many of you transition into your newly elected positions, you will find that there is great responsibility in accepting your position. I suggest each one of you go on the National Web Site (VFW.org) to download your officer duties and responsibility manual. This information will help you get started on a successful year.

New Quartermasters remember to file IRS form 8822B listing you as the individual responsible for finances at your post or district. If you purchase your Quartermaster bond through the VFW, your new bond application will be due no later than September 1st.

Each post and district should plan on attending upcoming OTI schools. OTI is a very important tool for officers. These OTI's answer many of your questions as to correctly operating a post and district. OTI is open to all members, not just officers. I hope to see OTI this year well attended.

Another very important step in operating your post is membership growth. Every member within the post should always be looking for new members to recruit. Growth is what keeps your post successful. Remember the young veterans of today are the future of your post and VFW tomorrow.

Again, thank you for your confidence in me as the department quartermaster. My office is always open to any member who has questions regarding quartermaster duties. Have a great year.

James (Jim) Haas
Quartermaster
QM@vfwny.com
518-807-7748



Marcello Rotunda
SR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

I would like to thank everyone for supporting me for the office of Sr. Vice Commander and congratulations to Commander James MacArthur on a great year and making All American. With the support of all of you we can do it again this year.

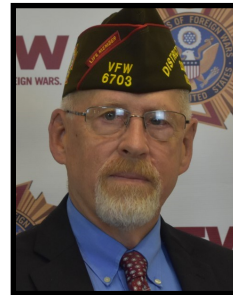
The Department's OTI will be taking place on Saturday September 26, 2026 at the Albany Marriott. This year the 3rd year Trustee and the

Quartermaster must attend OTI, either the Department's or District's, in order for a post to be able to qualify for All State status. The information and registration form were mailed out with the Fall Conference packet.



John W Tiffany, Post 53 Commander William Johnston donated a check to the healing disability Veteran association.

Yours In Comradeship,
Marcello Rotunda
Department Sr. Vice Commander



Jeffrey Gillette
JR. VICE
COMMANDER



Comrades,

I want to start by thanking all of my fellow comrades for supporting me and giving me the great honor of becoming the Department of New York Jr. Vice Commander. I had the opportunity to attend a number of District meetings prior to the State Convention. This allowed me to introduce myself and meet a number of you. For those I haven't had the opportunity to meet please let me briefly introduce myself.

I retired from the Army with 32 years of Service. My military career started as a combat engineer reaching the rank of Sgt. I then went to the dark side, went to OCS, was Commissioned, and retired as a Lt Colonel. During my career I had the opportunity to Command at ALL levels, platoon, company and my final command was as a Battalion Commander.

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State Adjutant continued from page 2

Membership has been a priority this past year and Commander MacArthur appreciates your efforts in retaining and recruiting new members. With the help from Department of New York Membership, Districts and Posts James MacArthur and Department of New York has achieved All-American status for 2025-2026. This year it shows how we can come together as a team and work hard to meet our membership goals set forth by National. Every member we can recruit or retain will contribute to the overall success and strength of our Department and the VFW.

This year the Department will again focus on the importance for Posts to report their Community Service via the online "members only" portal on the Department Website. Effective Community Service will benefit the Post with new members, more effective fundraising, and greater participation in events. It is equally important that Posts record their Program activities on the All-American Dashboard that is located on the National Website. The statistical information captured by both these platforms to record your Post's National Reporting requirements and progress toward achieving National All-American for the 2026-2027 membership year. 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.

Yours in Comradeship,
Daniel L. Kell
State Adjutant

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My eligibility for the VFW is due to three combat deployments. First to Bosnia and twice to Afghanistan and to my receiving the Combat Action Badge.

I was the District 8 Commander for the last 3 years (2023 – 2026). The District has made All-American the last two years. I am currently the Post Commander for Hamlin Post 6703 and have held that position for the last four years. We have made All-State the last two years as well. Prior to becoming the post commander, I was the post quartermaster for about ten years.

I don't have much additional information or a long message to convey as the State Convention has just passed and I have just assumed my current role, but I would like to recognize the outstanding job ALL posts throughout the state did with membership. It was truly impressive to see the Department reach the

101% goal and reach All-American status. Let's all continue to work hard to retain the members we currently have. I am here to work with you and assist you in any way I can. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for assistance.

It's the beginning of the New Year. Let's make it another great one. Reports and programs start now. Don't wait! Get started NOW, there is no better time to start than right now. I look forward to attending many more District meetings and getting to meet many more of you. Have a great summer!

Yours in Comradeship,
Jeff Gillette
Jr. Vice Commander



**Ben Thompson,
PSC
JUDGE ADVOCATE**



Comrades,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Comrades for reelecting me to the high office of State Judge Advocate. I look forward to serving with Commander Jack Sanford and the 2026-2027 Department leadership team. To the officers at the Post and District levels, I congratulate you and wish you a successful year.

After the close of the National Convention, National will begin updating the National Bylaws, Manual Procedure and the Ritual with any changes approved by the membership. I recommend that all Officers at every level obtain a copy of the 2027 podium edition as soon as it becomes available. It wouldn't hurt for every member to have a copy. It can be purchased from the VFW Store or downloaded. This will be your guide and will help to make your job and understanding of our organization easier. It is the responsibility of the Commander along with the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders to enforce strict observance of the laws and usage of this organization including Post, District and Department Bylaws along with the Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual and all lawful orders from proper authorities. Therefore,

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Judge Advocate continued from page 4

it is also recommended that copies of the District and Department Bylaws be obtained also.

As the Department Judge Advocate, it is my duty to advise the Department Commander, and the Department Council of Administration based on the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. I am also available to provide assistants to any Post, District or Comrade. To the Judge Advocates at the Post and District level, it is your duty to advise your Commanders and leadership team based on the Bylaws. It is not your responsibility to make decisions, only to provide advice.

As we move towards the upcoming midterm election cycle, I direct everyone's attention to Article VII, Sec. 702 of the VFW National Bylaws, which states, "No Post, County Council, District, Department or the National Organization, or any component part or member thereof, shall participate in any way in a campaign of a candidate for any partisan public office..." This applies to fundraisers, endorsements, and the use of VFW facilities or names in any way that suggests the VFW is supporting a candidate. The Post building may be rented or used by a political campaign for an event, and this is done the same way as with any other private group (e.g., through a rental agreement, without promotion or endorsement by the Post), this may be permissible, as long as:

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

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

Yours in Comradeship,

Ben

Ben Thompson, PSC
State Judge Advocate
Phpm1896@verizon.net



Madison Fletcher

STATE SURGEON



Comrades,

First, I want to say thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me by electing me to serve as State Surgeon. I am truly honored to accept this position and the responsibility that comes with it.

I understand that the role of Surgeon is to promote health programs for the good of the Department and our community, to stay informed on important health issues, and to be a resource for our fellow veterans and their families. I accept this duty with humility, compassion, and a strong commitment to service.

Our veterans have already given so much in service to this nation. In this office, I will do my best to help ensure that no comrade feels overlooked when it comes to health, wellness, and support. I will work to encourage awareness, provide helpful information, and support programs that strengthen the well-being of our members.

I look forward to working alongside our officers, committees, and members to continue the mission of this Department with dedication and care. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve. I accept this position with gratitude, and I will do my very best to fulfill its duties faithfully.

I have already had meetings with Syracuse VA and Albany Stratton and am looking forward to meeting with more. We are already starting to get lists of needs in and events coming up. I hope to visit each hospital in the year to come at least once to let Veterans know that the VFW is here to improve morale and facilitate their needs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve our veterans and I'm excited about the year.

Yours in comradeship,

Maddie Fletcher

State Surgeon



It's time to apply for your 2026-2027 Quartermaster Bond

<https://vfwny.org/uploads/documents/2026-2027/2026-2027OfficerBond.pdf>



Harold Patchen

STATE INSPECTOR



Comrades,

I want to Congratulate Past State Commander Jim MacArthur and all District Commanders who made All American this past year. Congratulations are also in order to every Post Commander / Quartermaster who made All State. Job well done.

I want to thank Commander Sanford for my appointment at State Inspector (2026-2027). The purpose of Post inspections is not "Big Brother" looking over your shoulder, trying to find fault but we are looking for things that could possibly cause your post issues. These issues could range from a ninety-day suspension to revocation of your charter. I. O. W. we want to keep your post from going under.

Some changes relative to all inspections made this VFW year (2026-2027) are:
 1) **2025 IRS-990's** will be accepted only through 11/15/2026. This was one item, though it's been around for years, that I don't think many inspectors were aware of. 2) **Quarterly Trustee reports:** Only the elected trustees named on the most recent election report are allowed to sign as a trustee. If for any reason you have a change in officers, you **MUST** submit a new election report A.S.A.P to the Department HQ. **IMPORTANT CHANGE:** After speaking with State Commander Jack Sanford **Trustees are now required to PRINT THEIR NAME as well as sign it.** 3) Posts must have a **viable recruiting AND retention program.** Without these your post IS SURE to go under as your older members die off.

Post Inspections: The District Inspector will assign trained members of the district to inspect posts within the district. The District Inspector must ensure that their inspectors are trained. The Department of N.Y. will be having an OTI in September. I'd suggest that anyone who will be inspecting attend. These inspectors will contact the Post Commander to set up a date convenient for both of you. If you have to change the date for a valid reason, the Post Commander **MUST** contact the inspector assigned to do your post.

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James MacArthur

PAST STATE COMMANDER



Comrades,

As our new year begins, I want to thank you for the great year we just finished. It truly was a great honor to have served as your Department of New York VFW Commander. I know it does not happen every year but with all of your hard work and dedication I was fortunate to have attained All American Department Commander Status.

As a little kid growing up in a small town in upstate New York the last thing I ever thought about was growing up going to Viet-Nam, becoming a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, going through the ranks becoming the Department Commander and then All American; it is a very humbling experience and one that I will never forget, I wish I could list everyone's name here that was a part of this experience but it would take up the whole news letter so just let me say thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart.

At the end of the month, we are off to the National Convention in Reno Nevada and I hope to see you there. Remember no one does more for Veterans than Veterans and I am proud to be part of our family of Veterans here in the great State of New York.

Yours in Comradeship,
 James MacArthur
 Past State Commander

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW

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District Inspectors: You should try and get the inspection process finished by the end of February. This will give the posts ample time to correct any discrepancies found.

Post and District Commanders: State Commander Sanford is requiring all trustees, at both the Post and Districts, to have their **3-year trustee** attend either the Department or District OTI. The purpose of this is, over a 3- year period, to ensure that ALL 3 TRUSTEES are trained.

F.Y.I according to section 215 of the National By-Laws: "Any officer OR committee member whose membership is not in good standing by reason of failure to pay current dues by the anniversary date shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office in that administrative year". As a Post Commander you should, right now, ensure that all Post officers are paid up through 30 June 2027.

If any Post Commander or Quartermaster have questions feel free to contact me by email HJP5551@GMAIL.COM or by phone 518-899-4976 (Landline) any **evening**. You can leave a message if I'm not home.

In Comradeship,
Harold Patchen
State Inspector DNY.



**Gene Ratigliano,
PSC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEMBER**



Greetings from your National Council Member!

As your National Council member, the VFW 2025-26 year was a hectic and busy one.

The VFW year began in August 2025 in Columbus, Ohio at the National Convention with a comprehensive workshop and National C of A meeting. In early September I was on the road again to Kansas City for the National Budget & Finance meeting where I participated not only as the Department's National Council Member but also as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. Again, an extensive workshop on the budget was held.

In November, I departed to inspect the Department of Kansas in Kansas City and was off again in

January to inspect the Department of Tennessee in Nashville.

In early March the Washington Conference was held in D.C. where VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The VFW delivered its top legislative priorities for 2026 which emphasized holding leaders accountable to "Honor the Contract" in upholding their end of the military service as well as improving the coordination of Community Care and strengthening the TAP Program. A major push was also made for the **Major Richard Star Act** (H.R. 1282/S.344) which will enable Chapter 61 retirees to receive both retired and disability pay without any off set.

The Washington Conference C of A approved some very important motions made by Quartermaster General Garduno, all of which were approved.

1 - Approved a 6% compensation credit to the VFW National HQ Employee Retirement Plan for current eligible employees in the plan

2- To accept the VFW's Financial Statement and Report of the Independent CPA's for FY ending August 31, 2025.

3- Approve the engagement of Pickett, Chaney & McMullen for audit and tax services for 25-26

4 - The Council authorized the following Life Membership payouts for the 2025-26 fiscal year:

Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.50 for each life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National).

Plan D - A total payout of \$12.54 for each life member (\$4.18 to each Post, Department and National).

Plan E - A total payout of \$24.30 for each life member (\$8.10 to each Post, Department and National).

As your Council representative I participated in reviewing the nominations and recommendations for the VFW National Awards which are to be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Reno which included nominations for:

- VFW Distinguished Fraternal Award
- VFW Distinguished Patriotic Award
- VFW Distinguished Historical Award
- VFW Distinguished Citizenship Award
- VFW Distinguished Education Award

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The Quartermaster General reported that the National organization was in good financial standing and the audit conducted by Pickett, Chaney & McMullen went very well with the VFW financially sound.

I would like to congratulate all those who worked so diligently in getting the Department of New York and Commander Jim MacArthur to 101% + in membership this past year.

To all new incoming District Commanders, Post Commanders and Department Chairman, congratulations on your election and/or appointments for 2026-27. More challenges are ahead of us this year and I have confidence in knowing that you are all up to the challenge.

We head to the National Convention in Reno in about a week at which time we will review recommendations for changes to our Manual of Procedure and Bylaws that will affect all of us in the coming year. As I close, I wish you all the best in the coming months and as always, am available to assist you in any way I can to continue to make this Department Number One!



Gene Ratigliano, PSC
National Council Member



Luke Magliaro, Jr
CHIEF OF STAFF



Comrades,

What a script has been written for State Commander James Mac Arthur for the 2025-2026 term of office. Having a successful year is always great, but a wire - to- wire finish achieving All-American State Commander status, with 101.25% on the very last day, is a reflection of leading by example, with each and every district and post throughout the department supporting your efforts. Congratulations on such a great accomplishment. As your Chief of Staff, I am so honored to be part of your All-American team, and forever thankful to you for having the confidence in me to have appointed me to the prestigious position of Chief of Staff. It has been my honor to serve you for the 2025-2026 term, and

wish you all the very best in your future endeavors with the V.F.W.

I must commend all the Districts and their Posts throughout the Department of New York, with my most sincere congratulations to each and every of the District Commanders and Post Commanders that achieved All-State and or All-American status. I extend my congratulations to the District and Post Quartermasters, Adjutants and the officers for all your dedication and professionalism in making the Department of New York an ALL-AMERICAN State under Commander James Mac Arthur.

I congratulate State Commander Jack Sanford and all the newly elected Department, District and Post officers wishing all a very successful year. As always, I offer my assistance to any District or Post, so that you can have a successful 2026-2027 term of office. Just a reminder, make sure your last Trustee Report is filed, 990 Reports submitted when needed, and don't forget to get your 2026-2027 Surety Bond submitted as required.

In conclusion, it is imperative that I extend my most sincere thanks and congratulations to Past State Adjutant Bob Mitchell and Past State Quartermaster Dan McMahon, for your years of dedicated service to the Department of New York. Your assistance over the years has been unwavering, but you both have truly become exceptional friends, who I will admire always. Bob, you have set a new standard for State Adjutants, your professionalism coupled with a wonderful personality treating every member with the utmost respect and friendship is second to none. Enjoy your retirement from the position of State Adjutant.

I wish all my fellow Comrades and their families a wonderful and safe summer, and all the very best as we enter the 2026-2027 V.F.W. term of office.

Respectfully Yours in Comradeship,

Luke A. Magliaro, Jr.

State Chief of Staff





Thomas Varmette
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 3



Comrades,

HAPPY 250TH ANNIVERSARY to this great nation of ours! I hope that everyone had a wonderful 4th of July celebration, with picnics, social events and just plain old comradeship with others. Congratulations to all the Posts that made "All-State" this year and big congratulations to those Posts that made "All-American" status! I would like to commend James MacArthur for his leadership this past year and congratulations on getting over 101% membership! Lastly, congratulations to Jack Sanford on taking over the reins for this next year!

Any Post having an event, who would like to have it sent to all our posts, just send it to me as a document in an email and I'll forward it to all posts in the district. If every post will help like this we can and will be a tighter group and will grow. We are all part of the VFW Family.

EVENTS:

VFW District 3NY: Saturday, 25 July 2026 - VFW Riders Group will be participating in this ride to support "Operation At-Ease". The ride will start and end at Spitzes Harley Davidson in Colonie. Members of our group will be leading the ride from Central Ave in Colonia through Voorheesville and through Thacher Park, then through Berne, Knox and Altamont, then through Guilderland and back to Albany. It is a beautiful approximately 50-mile ride through the Albany County Hill Towns. Everyone is invited to attend whether they belong to a group or not. Before and after the ride our group will man a table to hand out information and answer questions from anyone who is interested in the VFW or the VFW Riders Group. Any of our members or any VFW member who would like to help with the table is welcome to let me know and I will give you the details. I hope to see everyone there to support "Operation At Ease" any your own VFW Riders Group.

In Comradeship,

Tom Varmette
District 3 Commander
Dept. of N.Y. VFW



Stephen Roberts
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 4



Comrades,

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity of being elected as the District 4 Commander. What an honor it is to serve and support the great veterans that have given so much and continue to serve our Veterans and our communities.

The Department of New York Convention was not only informative but is always a time to share comradeship with those throughout the state that we may not get to see every day. Having the District leadership as well as participation of many Posts made for a very successful convention. A big congratulations goes out to Leah Payton from Herkimer Post 4915 for being awarded the VFW District 4 and Department of New York Teacher of the Year. Post 4915 Commander Dominck Scalise and Auxiliary President Karen Kravac hosted an awards brunch to honor Leah and her accomplishment. A very proud moment for the Post, the District and the Department.

Members of Post 1400 in Watertown and Post 7227 in



Carthage were part of monument unveiling ceremony at the Jefferson County courthouse. The monument honors all Revolutionary War Veterans, and the timing could not have been better as these Veterans fought so hard to create and establish our nation and its roots.

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State Convention
June 9-14, 2026
Albany Marriott



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District 4 Adjutant and Quartermaster John Fox went



before the Oneida County Board of Legislators to urge passage of RESOLUTION NO.2026-3275 – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000.00. This funding will be available to the various qualifying Veterans Posts in Oneida County for building repair/maintenance and Post improvements. The resolution passed with unanimous consent. District 4 also held our Organizational Meeting to establish goals and our path forward for the year at Post 5538 in Boonville. This was attended by all the District officers and Post leadership as well as the District Auxiliary leadership as well. Being able to work with District 4 Auxiliary President Robin Ireland and her team is an absolute honor and we are looking forward to a very successful year ahead.

Yours in Comradeship,
Steve Roberts, District 4 Commander
Department of New York VFW



Thad Barber
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 6



Comrades,

On June 16, 2026, Post 6533 VFW and Auxiliary had a Streak Bake with a Band to raise money for our Building Maintenance. We also pulled the winners for our Spring Money Raffle to raise funds for building repairs and other veteran functions for the community, both events were successful. On June 27, 2026, the Post cooked a Chicken BBQ and raised money for the Relief Fund.

District 6 will be holding their 1st District meeting on September 12, 2026. One of the main focuses will be

setting up Membership Drives within the District and Posts, setting a timeline to ensure all posts Inspections are completed. District 6 has set up their OTI which is scheduled to be held on November 14, 2026, to be held at Post 5260 Springville, NY.

Yours in Comradeship,
Thad Barber
District 6 Commander



Norbert Neiderer
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 9



Comrades,

First, I would like to congratulate Past Commander James MacArthur on reaching 101% State Membership. This is well deserved.

In April we held our District 9 Convention with all Posts in attendance. During the convention we held elections and installed Officers for the 2026-2027 Year. Congratulations to all officers, especially all the newcomers who stepped up to fill positions.

May was a busy month within the District. Several Posts participated in the VFW Day of Service Event. Events ranged from Food Drives, Blood drives, Visiting Comrades in Nursing Homes & Hospitals, to participating in School Memorial Day Assemblies/Ceremonies.

All Posts held a Memorial Day Ceremony or Participated with other organizations with their activities. I would especially like to thank Chaplain Thomas Azar for being our guest speaker and for traveling up from Florida to do so. His rendition of the Four Chaplains was great and kept everyone intrigued.

June continued on a fast pace. June 11 -14 we participated in the VFW DNY Convention. Both District 9 Commander and District 9 Auxiliary President were in attendance as well as 5 Posts with representatives.

Numerous Posts held Flag Retirement Ceremonies on June 14th, Flag Day. Between all the Posts there were more than 2500 flags retired..

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District Commander 9 continued from page 11

Now, everyone is getting ready to celebrate our Nations 250th Anniversary. Posts are planning events and participating in Parades, Field Day Events, Firework Activities and membership drives.

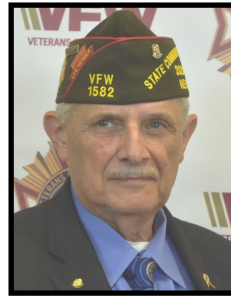
Lastly, I would like to thank Past Adjutant Robert Mitchell for his guidance, help and support over the years thus helping to make my officer terms easier and less stressful. Congratulations on your Retirement and Best Wishes with your Future Endeavors.

Yours in Comradeship,

Norbert Neiderer

District 9 Commander

Mark your Calendar
to attend the
Department of NY VFW
FALL CONFERENCE
September 18-19, 2026
at the
Albany Marriott
&
OTI Training
September 26, 2026
at the
Albany Marriott



Ronald
Sorrentino
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 10



Comrades,

Well, another year has come and gone. I would be amiss if I did not start this article with the great accomplishment from last year.

Congratulations to PSC James MacArthur for reaching the 101 % goal for department of New York. It was a long and hard road, but we pulled tighter and made it happen.

I also want to congratulate my district 10 for uptraining 102.38 % total. Our district had 18 Post with 100 % plus with only 6 posts under 100 %. Overall, our district came second to our next-door district 1. We had changed the lead throughout the year. We have always been in competition with each other, but we will always be brothers. **Go District 10.**

So let me start by going over what district 10 has done this past year

- On June 16, 2025, members of our district attended the wake for comrade Robert Inslee, a member of the Levittown post, Robert, passed away while at his post meeting. Robert was a great friend and loving husband to his wife Fran.
- Attended the Farmingdale Post Dinner that was held by the Auxiliary



July 26, 2025, Membership drive at Harley Davidson with comrades from the district in Bellmore.

District Commander 10 continued on page 14



HOMEcoming MEET & GREET



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

NEW YORK STATE COMMANDER

VFW DISTRICT 1'S OWN
JACK SANFORD
PROCTOR HOPSON VFW 1896

AUGUST 29, 2026
12 PM - 6 PM

110-02 MERRICK BLVD.
JAMAICA, NY 11433

Please RSVP to Ben Thompson (phpm1896@verizon.net or 718 527-6532) before August 20, 2025, the number of people attending.

District Commander 10 continued from page 12

- On August 8-14, 2025, I attended the National Convention in Columbus Ohio.



August 23, 2025, Senator Rhoads Veterans Valor Walk at Eisenhower Park.

- On September 11, 2025, I attended the 9/11 Memorial Service at Lido Beach.
- Attended the Legislative breakfast in Albany February 11, 2026.
- Attended Nassau County Veterans service meeting March 3, 2026.
- On March 20, 2026, Knight of Columbus Salute to veterans.
- On April 17, 2026, attending the Tower to Tunnel groundbreaking ceremony at Oceanside for the new veterancy homeless building.
- On May 24, 2026, members of our district helped place American flags on the graves of veterans at the National Cemetery in Pinelawn.
- On May 25, 2026, we held our Memorial Day parade.
- On June 27, 2026 I attended the Town of Hempstead salute to veterans. There were six honorees. At the event I spoke to honoree Marianela Lizana – Plaza the Commander of the American Legion in the Five Towns and found out she was eligible to join the VFW. Marianela is now a member of Post 1582.

District Commander 10 continued on page 17



Guillermo Sandoval
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 11



Comrades,

I want to start my first article for the VFW Department of New York's Newsletter by thanking all of you. Sometimes I do not think that we express enough gratitude for the volunteer work that each single Comrade selflessly gift to their communities, this is one of the things that I tend to notice. With that said, I would like to thank Pass Commander William Hughes for his many years of active and dedicated service to the VFW. Like I always say, we are living through a very special poignant time in our history, as two main generations of Military Veterans are working hand in hand to make the VFW the greatest Veteran Organization in the country. It is with this in mind that I take the helm from Bill and steer District 11 on route to continued success and prosperity.

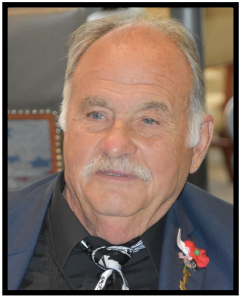
District 11 hails out of Suffolk County on Long Island and it said to be the second county in the Nation with the highest percentage of Military Veteran residents. It is no surprise that we are fortunate to be very active, and with 26 posts in the district, the events are consistent, bountiful, and are all special.

Let's reflect together as I paint a picture of Patriotism that we enjoy here in Suffolk County. As the frost melted and we began seeing nature's beauty come back, some posts had their day of service, which draws people to come out and clean up their proud communities.



Post Commander 5350 Bill Hughes and Post Comrades during VFW Day of Service

Commander 11 continued on page 17



Pat Iuliucci
POW/MIA CHAIRMAN



Continued from the January, February, March OSV edition

POWs Arrive in 1945:

Long Island would receive its first shipment of 500 Italian and German POWs sent to Camp Upton and in June, Mitchell Field received 250 additional detainees. In total an estimated 1200-1500 German and Italian POWs were held in Upton according to the records, but no full roster has been found. "We had hundreds of thousands of Axis POWs shipped to the United States and the experience varied depending on where you were sent and assigned to work." Axis POWs worked in agriculture, which connected them to the food supply, unlike the soldiers held in Europe, where the food supply was scarce.

80 Cents a Day:

Camp Upton's POWs were assigned to harvest potatoes, one of the governments designated staple crops. The farmers collectively estimated they save over a million dollars a year in labor costs from hiring the POWs who were paid 80 cents a day.

After the War:

By spring of 1946, the United States started the gradual process of sending the POWs back to their countries.

POWs buried on Long Island:

The only visible remaining relics of the POW camps are in section 2C of Long Island National Cemetery in Pinelawn. These are 55 gravesites of the 89 POWs who died while detained in one of the three regional camps. In addition, 37 German and 54 Italians are buried in the cemetery, with 36 of the Italians in a mass grave. They are the remains from a British ship transporting 1800 POWs that was torpedoed.

Current Statistics of our missing from all wars:

WWII – 72,000+ Korean War- 7,500 Vietnam War – 1,500 Cold War 126 Gulf War-6

These statistics are reported by (DPAA) Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Yours in Comradeship,
Pat Iuliucci
POW/MIA Chairman



Raymond Thies
BUDDY POPPY
CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

First let me congratulate PSC Jim MacArthur on surpassing 101% and getting All American. The Department did well on poppies this year, we even finished in the top 10 nationally. We had 2 posts that purchased 20,000 poppies each!

Yes, we did well but we can do better in 2026-2027. As we start this new year remember that your post can distribute poppies all year long, not just before Memorial Day and/or Veterans Day.

There are too many posts in each district that don't take part in this worthy fund-raising program that is only to be spent on needy veterans. And what area of the state does not have needy veterans? Why is it like pulling teeth to get some posts to even start in this program?

In District 3, I personally purchased some poppies to distribute to those posts which had not obtained poppies for some years; it was hard to even give them away to posts as seed money.

Yes, I know there are some posts with low membership or aged out members or no main shopping areas or are in an economically poor area, but we only had 35% of 325 posts participate. I/we can't compare one area or district to another as each post is unique and times are tough. We were all in the military and were told "When the times get tough, the tough get going", so why not with poppies.

District Commanders, you know your district best so try to spur your posts a little harder to obtain poppies and fund raise with them. In the newspapers we constantly hear about all of the poor families that need assistance to survive, well many of them are veteran brothers and sisters. Please help them out using you reserve funds. That is where the poppy donation money must go. Please do whatever you can.

Thank You!

Ray Thies
Buddy Poppy Chairman



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

HOLIDAY CHEER

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

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

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

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

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

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 27, 2026
Donations may be sent via ZELLE to phpm1896@verizon.net

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

Thanking you in advance for your support.

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

District Commander 10 continued from page 14**Now to talk about 2026-2027.**

I was just informed that District 10 has made All American. This is such a great Honor. Through the district's hard work, this award goes to all our post comrades in district 10.

Let me tell you about some of the upcoming events our district will be having.

- On July 4, 2026, the district and many of the post will be hosting a fourth of July 250 year ceremony.
- Post 1582, My post, has been donating to the Village of Cedarhurst for their summer concert in the park. On July 7, 2026, we will be honored with patriotic songs for veterans and America.
- On July 8, 2026, I will be one of the judges reviewing the candidates for Nassau County Salute to Veterans at the August 1, 2026, ceremony.

September 18, 2026, Nassau County Veterans Service Agency will be holding is Veterans Picnic and Resource Fair, our district will be holding a Membership drive at this event.

On September 19, 2026, Nassau Country along with Vietnam War Veterans will be hosting a POW/MIA night Vigil, at the Nassau County Veterans Memorial Plaza in Eisenhower Park.

So, for now I want to wish all our comrades in VFW Department of New York a safe Summer.

Yours in Comradeship,
Ronald Sorrentino
District 10 Commander.

District Commander 11 continued from page 14

As members of the community began to come outside



for PT, we witnessed one of our district's biggest allies and fitness heroes, something that we continue to push as a coping skill for mental health. You may be familiar with Eva Casale and **Team E.V.A.** (Every Veteran Appreciated) who completed their 10th annual 7-marathons-in-7-days tribute run across

Long Island from April 26 to May 2, 2026. Ms. Eva has built relationships with our VFW Posts, who have partnered with her to set up mini event/stops at different local VFW's as she completes her grueling feat, all in honor of our Veterans.

On May 5th District 11 held its yearly Convention at our Rocky Point Post 6249. Special thanks to the current Commander Frank Lombardi, who is currently our Jr. Vice Commander for District 11. Special thanks to pass Commander from said post, Joe Cognitore for also being instrumental in providing and hosting our



convention site. During our Convention we had the honor of presenting our Youth Awards, which are always very special and moving for the families and residents in our communities.

Memorial Day crept up quickly and the county respectfully observed the holiday with parades, ceremonies, and celebrations in which different posts hit the pavement and gave out poppies and flags, which help spread our great sense of patriotism. A notable parade is always attended by Post 400, Ssgt Lou Bonacasa and Sgt. Santora Memorial Post out

District Commander 11 continued on page 18

District Commander 11 continued from page 17

Farmingville NY, which is my home post and proudly named after a childhood friend who was killed in Afghanistan and another fellow servicemember from the area who was killed in Iraq.



As we entered the final quarter of our administrative year, the district pulled together, and behind Pass Commander Bill Hughes, District 11 was designated as an **All-American District**, having met all the criteria set out in the 2025-2026 Membership Program.



Post 400 showing the banner that was used during this year's Memorial Day Parade. Lawn signs and a Banner promoting the VFW and America's 250 birthday were provided to every VFW Post in our state by the Department. This was the result of a motion put on the floor at the Winter Conference by Past Commander William Hughes of District 11. A very unified way to collaboratively celebrate our 250th Independence Anniversary.

It is memorable moments, such as the ones mentioned that truly remind us that the VFW is greater than any one man or woman and that we should be grateful to live in the best country in world, living among the proudest people in the world. I thank you fellow Comrades, as it is an honor

stepping into the role of District 11 Commander. I urge you to reflect on the fact that we are anchored to a shared mission and remember the fundamental values that brought everyone together initially. Keep in mind that every individual's contribution is a vital part of the team's overarching goals, and you should all be proud of yourselves.

Join me in enjoying the year. Let's learn from each other with respect and avoid petty jealousies and trivial personalities affect our camaraderie, as time flies and great moments seem to go even faster when you are surrounded by the best men and women that you have met in your life.

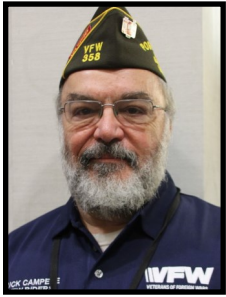
Commander

Guillermo Sandoval



The Fishkill Supply Depot was established in Fishkill NY by General George Washington in October 1776. As one of the largest Revolutionary War bases, it served as the "military nerve center" of the Continental Army. The depot operated for seven years. Thousands of Continental soldiers were stationed there. Hundreds died and were buried on site, making it one of the largest and most historically significant Veterans burial grounds in America. The burial ground remains largely untouched. On 16 May 2026 a landmark decision issued by the Fishkill Town Board officially designated the unmarked burial ground as a Revolutionary War cemetery.

Noel Todd Dillon, Capt. USAF (ret.)
VFW Life Member 10980242



Richard Campese

MOTORCYCLE RIDER CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

The VFW Riders Group is now defined in Article XIII of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Currently the Department of NY has three District level groups, one in District 11, District 4 and District 3.

Over the past year a committee was formed to write a set of Provisional Bylaws that, if approved, will establish the structure of the VFW Riders Group at the National, Department and Chapter levels. These bylaws were submitted to and reviewed by the VFW Commander-in-Chief and found to "be in compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual, and laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States".

The Riders Group will hold a meeting in conjunction with the National Convention this year where they plan to vote on these new Bylaws and elect the officers of the VFW Riders National Organization. I believe that these bylaws will be adopted at this year's convention and that will leave us a lot of work to do at the department and chapter levels to put the structure of our groups together to comply with these bylaws.

I will be asking for help from our current VFWRG members as well as the VFW Department and District officers in standing up the Department and the local groups that will be compliant with these bylaws. Ultimately, we will build a valuable organization that will help drive recruiting and retention within the VFW as a whole.

In the end, attracting new members and keeping existing members engaged is what we all know we need to do to keep the VFW as a strong and viable organization.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Campese

Dept of NY Chairman, VFW Riders Group



Ronald Sorrentino

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

This is the National and Department end of the VFW Year report. We have surpassed last year's department total by almost \$1,000,000.00. That is excellent. We still have some posts in the department that could do a little better. Through Community Activity we show our community what the VFW does and how we can help. To learn more about Community Service download VFW Guide for Community Service Best Practices found on the Department website.

National		
Total VFW/Aux Volunteer Hours		Dollars Donated
4,447,164		\$46,848,924
Total		\$201,565,765
Department of New York		
Total VFW/Aux Volunteer Hours		Dollars Donated
46,714		\$1,086,586
Total		\$2,711,766

	Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Money Donated	Total Donation
District 1	1625	\$56,534.00	\$64,493.30	\$121,027.06
District 2	9973.5	\$346,978.00	\$134,795.46	\$481,773.54
District 3	9328.5	\$324,539.00	\$267,839.18	\$592,377.71
District 4	2565	\$89,236.00	\$43,314.07	\$132,550.43
District 5	2731	\$95,011.00	\$36,492.23	\$131,503.72
District 6	1578.8	\$54,926.00	\$83,908.61	\$138,835.07
District 7	1999.25	\$69,554.00	\$45,435.95	\$114,989.86
District 8	2298.25	\$79,956.00	\$25,445.51	\$105,401.64
District 9	1926	\$67,006.00	\$125,922.98	\$192,928.52
District 10	5990.2	\$208,399.00	\$120,247.23	\$328,646.30
District 11	6698.5	\$233,041.00	\$138,691.52	\$371,732.35
Total	46714	\$1,625,180.00	\$1,086,586.04	\$2,711,766.20

Ronald Sorrentino
Chairperson Community Activity



Ronald Sorrentino
SERVICE OFFICER
JOURNAL AD
CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

I know you may think Summer has just started, but nay I say it's never too early to talk about the 2026-2027 Servicemen Officers Raffle & Journal. Summer is here and the starting gates are getting ready for a great Service Officer Raffle & Journal year. I am writing to all my comrades and Auxiliaries, to say **Thank all of You** who donated last year. As I always say we know the importance of this program, and it bears repeating on and on, our Servicemen Officer do so much for all our veterans. It is a tireless and never-ending job, they not only prepare the paperwork, file the paperwork and as we know they follow through to make sure our veterans receive their benefits. Last year were a little slow in reaching our goal. So, This year I wanted to start off early, with letters going out in August.

Let's Jump to an early start



So, keep an eye open in your mailbox for the letters on the Service Officer Raffle and Journal Donation letters.

Let's make this the best year ever.

Ronald Sorrentino
Chairman



Madison Fletcher
Women's Veterans
Chairman



Comrades,

This year is starting out busy already. I want to thank Commander Sanford for this appointment and opportunity to serve our female veterans. We truly have a great year ahead of us. Commander Sanford has tasked me with building a committee this year. In years past we just had a chairman, so we are doing things a bit different this year. I have built the committee members as Myself, Annie Hogancamp co-chair, Mellissa Huesdens, member, Stephanie Thurston, member and Amy Bernardez member.



I am asking each of you to assign one member of your district to be the Women's Veterans Chair for your district. That comrade will then report to the state team for us to make a report at all state

Women's Veterans Chairman continued on page 22

COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT DONATION



Past State Commander and Post 420 Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano presents a \$19,000 check on behalf of State Commander James MacArthur to Bob Nevins Director and his staff as part of Commander Jim's Department of NY Special Project.

Alliance 180 helps veterans move forward from trauma through equine-assisted healing programs that restore trust, connection and purpose.

On Flag Day, June 14, 2026, Alliance 180 presented a powerful display of American flags honoring veterans, first responders, and loved ones while supporting healing for veterans living with PTSD at the Galway Town Hall, Galway, NY.

Alliance 180 offers a three day no-cost experience to the veteran experience assisting them with PTSD and associated trauma issues. Travel, lodging and food expenses a fully covered by Alliance 180.

Veterans interested who desire more information can reach out to Bob Nevins at 518-744-3600 or email at bob@alliance180.org.



Women's Veterans Chairman continued from page 20

meetings. We will be asking for information such as events held or attended, women veterans' needs in your area, as well as asking for input on all national asks. Please also inform them to send me invitations to any events they have in your district so I can try to attend.

Once you have established who you are appointing to this position please email me their information so I can put together the directory. So far only Districts 8 and 10 have appointed someone to this position. Commanders, please appoint someone as soon as possible so I can get a meeting together via zoom to talk about the year to come.

We already had one event this month. Castle Point VAMC put on a Woman Veterans Retreat complete with information on suicide prevention and female needs. The day ended making rock paintings and fidget bracelets before a brief meditation

COURAGE & CALM A Retreat for Women Who Served VA HADRON VALLEY AREA HOSPITAL 101 TRAILHEAD DRIVE Sponsored by the New York State Department of Veterans Affairs		
TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER(S)
12:00 - 12:30 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks, Lunch (Grass and Cuts)	Chaplain Deb O'Hall Lewis
12:30 - 12:45 PM	Guided Meditation & Prayer Writing	Dr. Mollenhauer
12:45 - 12:55 PM	Primary Care Support & WVAID Issues	Kerry Ann VanDusen
12:55 - 1:05 PM	Coping with Violent Partners & Battering (DPV)	Dr. Gaudreault
1:05 - 1:20 PM	Best Practices in Managing MSV	Carl Lafferty
1:20 - 1:35 PM	My Reasons for Living Lockbox and DIY options	Ursula Dumasovic & Kristin Marotta
1:35 - 1:50 PM	Suicide Prevention Program	Dr. Chu
1:50 - 2:05 PM	TBI/Holistic Chiropractic & Acupuncture	Elana Leonard
2:05 - 2:20 PM	Birding Presentation	Angel Duncan
2:20 - 2:35 PM	My Life, My Story Readings	---
2:35 - 2:50 PM	Break / Networking / Resource Tables	Dr. Reyes
2:50 - 3:05 PM	Workshop: Stress Management & Coping	---
3:05 - 3:20 PM	Break	Maureen Schneider
3:20 - 3:35 PM	Hypnosis Therapy	Caroline Mann
3:35 - 3:50 PM	Nutrition & Supplement Advice	Jacque Truss
3:50 - 4:05 PM	Tools of Regulation (Breathers & Tapping)	Elizabeth T.
4:05 - 4:20 PM	Meditations 101	Lisa Egan
4:20 - 4:35 PM	Reiki	Event Lead
4:35 - 4:50 PM	Closing Remarks & Farewell	---

"You Matter, You Are Not Alone, You Belong Here."

• HONORING YOUR SERVICE, SUPPORTING YOUR JOURNEY •

and Reiki session. About 60 females attended this great event. It was truly a day filled with compassion, support, and camaraderie.

Lastly, please share the image below on your social media and amongst your districts. If you want the jpeg, email me and I can get it to you.

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to working with you. Let's have a great year!!!!

Yours in comradeship

Maddie Fletcher

State Woman Veterans Chair



Post 9594

Members of VFW post 9594 celebrate the 250th year of the United States with Congressman Paul Tonko (NY 20) along with members of VFW Auxiliary 9594 and AMVET post 9594 and the Coeymans NY " Freedom Festival" July 11 2026



THE 2026 VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION



VFW Presents Acclaimed John A. Biedrzycki Award

RENO, Nev. – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has selected Army veteran Colin Anderson as its 2025-2026 John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year. The annual honor is presented to a VFW Accredited Service Officer whose dedication, leadership and advocacy have made an extraordinary impact on veterans and their families. Anderson received the award today during the VFW's 127th National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore (far right), alongside Betty Jean Biedrzycki (left) and John Biedrzycki II (right), present the 2026 John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award to Colin Anderson during the 127th VFW National Convention on July 28, 2026, in Reno, Nevada. "Colin Anderson's commitment to veterans is evident in every aspect of his work," said VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore. "Colin has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of veterans and their families. His accomplishments reflect the very best of the VFW's National Veterans Service program and we are proud to recognize him with this well-deserved honor."

As director of Veterans Service for the Department of New York, Anderson oversees the Department's service officer program across Albany, Buffalo and New York City while leading initiatives that have significantly expanded access to VA benefits and services. Under his leadership, the Department of New York partnered with the New York City Department of Veterans Services to establish the Vallone Veterans Initiative, an effort that dramatically increased the availability of accredited service officers for New York City veterans. He also spearheaded an expansion of the program that more than doubled the number of VFW Accredited Service Officers serving the city and laid the groundwork to assist more than 200,000 underserved veterans.

Beyond expanding services, his leadership has contributed to a substantial increase in claims filed on behalf of New York veterans while helping secure millions of dollars in benefits for veterans and their families. Anderson also played a key role in developing legislation supporting New York's 100% property tax exemption for qualifying service-connected disabled veterans. His efforts exemplify the VFW's mission of ensuring no veteran navigates the benefits system alone.

Anderson is a Bronze Legacy Life member at John W. Tiffany VFW Post 53 in Jamestown, New York.

VFW National press release July 28, 2026

Don't Miss Out at The Fall Conference



**AVAILABLE AT THE FALL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM**

ALBANY MARRIOTT

**PLEASE BRING YOUR VA CARD OR
MEDICAL INSURANCE CARD**



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS**



**OF THE UNITED STATES
AND**

VFW AUXILIARIES

THEY MARCHED FOR US...WE

WALK FOR THEM!

In Support of Veteran Suicide Awareness

\$1.00 Registration fee going to Commander's Special Projects
to Assist in Suicide Prevention and Post Awards



STOP 22 WALK-A-THON

*at the Department of NY Fall Conference
Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY
Saturday, September 19, 2026 – 3:30 PM*



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



@VFWNEWYORK



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

☐ 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