

# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



January/February/March 2021

Volume 39 Issue 4



## Michael Hoag

State Sr. Vice Commander

I will use my space in this publication as one of the ways to announce and ask for the support of all members of the Department of New York VFW, my candidacy to the High Office of Department Commander. The last two years, I have served as Department Jr. Vice and now Department Sr. Vice Commander. Prior to this

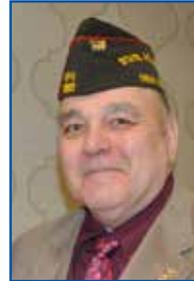
I moved through the chairs of the Hudson Mohawk Counties Council and 3rd District to Commander.

A 22-year Veteran with the Army, I served in Vietnam in 1967 thru 1968 and retired as a 1SG with several awards which include the Purple Heart and the Meritorious Service medal. I also retired from the United States Postal Service after a 33-year career.

I have set some personal goals which will include an improvement in our methods of communication within the Department. Because of the urgent need due to the pandemic and with the cooperation of the current administration, Commander Howard, Adjutant Burke, Bob Mitchell, and others, we have increased the use of Zoom meetings and training. We have also created an additional position to oversee this area.

Since its inception, Director of Media/Training, Dave Rogers has organized online Zoom trainings and provided one-on-one help to those learning the system. We have started a Department of New York VFW FACEBOOK page with Veterans joining every day. We will be improving our email system and make it easier to communicate with your District Commanders. This, as in any technology, is only the beginning.

I look forward to and hope for a better year for all, with more interactions, and one that continues to have the Department of New York strive to be the BEST!



## Harold Burke Jr.

State Adjutant

Comrades,

Spring is on the way. Has your Post submitted all the required reports? Has your Post purchased Buddy Poppies? Has your Post donated to the Commander's Special Project? If not please complete your reports and mail them to Headquarters at 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, New York 12205. The reports may also be faxed to 518-426-8904 or e-mail them to Adjutantdny@vfwny.com.

As we prepare the for many upcoming events to include Nominations of Post Officers which open in March and remain open until the Election of Post Officers in April. Please remember to submit your Post election reports using the National On-Line Membership System (OMS) immediately following your Post Election of Officers. If your Post Quartermaster does not access this system, we are suggesting that he/she go to the National Website and sign in today as a new user and get their Quartermaster password. National would like all Election

— STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 2



## Dan McMahon

State Quartermaster

While the COVID issues are continuing, a lot has been accomplished since my last article. First, the second round of Payroll Protection Program (PPP) grants were made available and the Department of New York was able to secure a second loan to help retain our full staff of employees in Headquarters and our Service Officers across the state. I need to say, thank you, to Amy DiMondugo, our Branch Manager at M&T Bank, for her assistance with the application process and the little details we often overlook. There is still money for the PPP loans(grants) available. Please, check with your financial institution for details. There are some smaller financial institutions which are not able to accomplish Small Business Administration loans or participate in these programs. A few weeks ago there was an issue (so I thought) with KeyBank. Our Bar Steward at my Post went to KeyBank for information concerning the PPP options and was told they did not have any information about these programs. I spoke with a KeyBank manager I had been dealing with some time ago and he arranged a

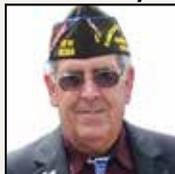
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NYSOV



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## 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/Sept., Oct./Nov./Dec., Jan./Feb./Mar. and April/May/June. All publications are digital format online and available on the VFWNY web site [WWW.VFWNY.COM](http://WWW.VFWNY.COM). Publications are 8.5"x11" for individual printing capability. One dollar of each member's annual dues, paid to a VFW Post in New York State, is used for a year's subscription to the *Overseas Veteran*. Cost to non-members and widows of VFW members: \$10.00; payable in advance to Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

### \*\* ARTICLES:

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including the 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. Send JPG/PNG/PDF images with corresponding captions. E-mail articles and pictures as attachments with the sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the e-mail. 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 article(s)/submissions.

**\*\* ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO: [CITadmin@VFWNY.com](mailto:CITadmin@VFWNY.com). They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.**

### \*\* DEADLINE:

Deadline: Articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month...July, October, January and April.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to CITadmin, P.O. Box 116, Carlisle, NY 12031.

### \*\* GRAPHIC DESIGN



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meeting with a regional vice president, myself, my Post Quartermaster and Bob Mitchell to learn about their program. KeyBank is willing to assist any Post wishing to apply for a PPP loan. The instruction from KeyBank is to ask for the branch manager and provide them with the necessary information. Like all government programs, there is a time limit for applying. If you have a payroll and want this program to assist you to get through this very difficult period, Go to your Financial institution and ask for the branch manager.

I would like to spend some time discussing Quartermaster Monthly and Trustees Reports but there just isn't enough space here. So only a couple of notes on these issues:

The trustees are the only members to complete these reports: Not the Quartermaster and not the Adjutant or Commander. The results of these reports are presented by the Trustees to the members at a regular meeting or special one. The report is accepted by the membership and then the Trustees send a copy to Department Headquarters. The Department Adjutant receives these then they are dated and filed with all other reports for the fiscal year.

Quartermaster reports are prepared by the Quartermaster representing the financial activity for the reporting month. There is more information online at either the Department web site, [www.vfwny.com](http://www.vfwny.com) under the resources heading. there is also information online at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under training and forms. Please avail yourselves with this information. If you need or want directions, please contact either the inspector, myself or look at the by-Laws to assist you.

Thank you,  
**Daniel B. McMahon**  
**Quartermaster**  
**Department of NY VFW**  
**518-414-2605 | [dcmahon@vfwny.com](mailto:dcmahon@vfwny.com)**

### — STATE ADJUTANT, continued from page 1

reports submitted using this system as this will ensure that the election report is accurately reported and distributed to the Department.

VFW Posts may change their Quartermasters this year. The IRS requires that the all new Quartermasters file IRS Form 8822-B within 60 days of taking office. This form provides the Quartermaster's current contact information and current address in the event that the IRS send notifications and/or contact the Quartermaster. There is a link on the Department Website to download the IRS Form 8822-B.

**POSTS THAT DO NOT HAVE BONDS THAT CONFORM WITH SECTION 703 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS WILL FAIL THEIR INSPECTION 2020-2021. THE BONDING REQUIREMENT IS SPECIFIED IN SEC 218, 418 AND 518 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS. PLEASE DO NOT BE ONE OF THOSE POSTS.**

#### **Sec. 703 - Bonds**

Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.

The Department Website is up and appears to be operating well. If you see areas which could be improved, please contact Don Mackey or Monica on your concern.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-463-7427.

Sincerely,  
**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr., PJAG/PSC/PSQM**  
**State Adjutant**





## Robert Mitchell

**State Chief of Staff**

Comrades,

Despite the challenges associated with the Coronavirus pandemic, State Commander Thomas Howard is doing an outstanding job leading the Department in another successful, enjoyable, and rewarding year. Our Department

Headquarters staff is doing a great job as well supporting our daily operation and bringing a sense of normalcy to our organization. A special thanks to our State Adjutant Hal Burke for keeping us informed with his daily New York State Coronavirus email updates.

At this point in our administrative year I encourage you to evaluate where you stand statistically as a Post, Council or District. The Department website has a "Memstats" database listed under "Programs" that is an excellent resource available to assist you in your efforts to track your membership percentages and confirm that you are completing all your reporting requirements. It is also a great reference to aid you in your efforts to meet the minimum requirements for Department All-State Program consideration. As you know, the All-State Program is part of the State Commanders Membership Program designed to recognize and honor the top Posts, Councils, and Districts across the state. Earning All-State Post recognition is a true indication that you are a member of an active and successful Post that has met or exceeded all its goals.

**Yours in Comradeship**

**Bob Mitchell**

**State Chief of Staff**



## Patrick Luliucci

**State Judge Advocate**

As the Department of New York approaches the end of the 2020-2021 VFW calendar year, most posts are still struggling to make ends meet. Since mid March of 2020 the Veterans of Foreign Wars has experienced a new way of communing with Post, County, District, and Department Commanders and members.

The Department of New York the "ZOOM" and "Conference Call" network to bring us all together as one group to hold various meetings.

Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments are encouraged to hold in-house meetings if at all possible, using all means of protection against the COVID-19 virus, and not violating any government mandates. As combat veterans, we all know what has to be done to defend and protect ourselves and others from this hideous and dangerous disease. At the same time we must continue to complete all VFW programs and reports on time. This has not been changed due to the virus.

We must also be diligent in membership recruiting - this is a big one. If you have noticed quite a number of posts in our Department, as well as other Departments are closing their doors. It's the same story, we're getting too old to do anything. There's only one thing to do about that - don't get "OLD". We must stick together not only when times get hard, but all of the time, and help each other stand strong. "We can and will get through this."

Thank you for your service, and GOD Bless,

**Pat Luliucci**

**State Judge Advocate**



## Daniel Kell

**State Surgeon**

I have been in continued contact with the VA Hospitals and Veteran Nursing homes on a periodic basis. On each of the VA Websites, information is updated periodically on the COVID-19 status: currently the VA has tested 2,764,777 veterans and employees for COVID-19 of which the VA has diagnosed 222,715 with COVID-19 as of 19 February 2021, this report is updated weekly on the VA website.

We are seeing a decline of COVID-19 cases in certain areas of New York and we need to continue to do the following:

- (1) Use of masks to help slow down the spread of COVID-19 and observing social distancing 6 feet in public
- (2) Wash your hands often
- (3) Avoid close contact
- (4) Cover coughs and sneezes
- (5) Clean and disinfect frequently used spaces

We need to continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the Governor's mandates and Department of New York. Information on Covid-19 continues to be passed down on a daily basis by Department of New York to be shared on to the posts in the Districts.

Covid-19 Virus Vaccines is being distrusted and our VA Hospitals are doing a great job taking care of our veterans and employees by contacting them and setting up times to provide them their COVID-19 vaccination. As of 19 February, 2001 the VA has administered 1,375,695 veterans and employees with the vaccination.

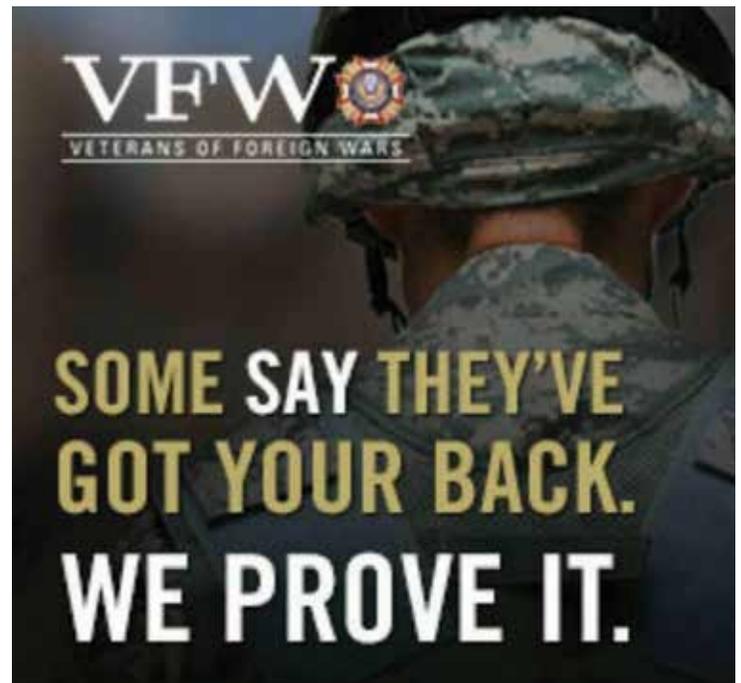
Our National Surgeon, Renee Simpson, continues to hold virtual Zoom meetings on the 1st Saturday of each month with all the Department Surgeons to discuss issues and concerns while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and how we can better serve our Comrades, veterans and families.

As we continue to battle COVID-19 let's continue to be safe and keep healthy!!

**Yours in Comradeship**

**Daniel L. Kell**

**Department of New York Surgeon**





**Mike Webster**  
**Veterans & Military Support Programs**

COVID-19 is still with us and the needs of our troops, veterans and their families remain. The month of January was a good example. There were 38 UnMet Needs grants awarded totaling \$43,077.34 and two (2) MAP/AAU grants awarded with 1587 in attendance. The

total number of veterans, military members and their families supported was 9,047.

The VMS Team at National continues to ask for our support and we really do need to respond. Our donations do make a difference. Donations can now be made through the new VMS Donation Link: <https://heros.vfw.org/page22950/donate/1>. For All-American, please direct your Post to the All American Dashboard to make their donations. The link is under your name once on the dashboard. Just click on the VMS donation button and it will give you the option to donate for your Post/District and Department. If you wish you can still make out your check to the Department and put "V & MSP" on the memo line. Do not forget "Burger King" and "Sports Clips".

**The Pins:** I would appreciate your assistance in making them disappear. I still have around \$600.00 worth of unsold (2020-21 pins on hand. Please send me your request today; **Gold \$20, Silver \$10 and Bronze \$5.** From you I will need a check, made out and mailed to me, Michael W. Webster. My Address is 2475 State Hwy. 58, Edwards, NY 13635; my phone 315-322-3912 and my e-mail is [mwwebster41@hotmail.com](mailto:mwwebster41@hotmail.com). In Florida my address is P.O. Box 582, Summerfield, FL 34492-0582 and my phone is 352-203-4543. For receiving mail my cutoff for Florida is 1 April. As always, I thank you in advance.

I have an assistant this year and he is Bob Ryan, P.O. Box 245, Tilson, NY 12486. His phone and e-mail are 845-658-7574 and [bobuscgr@aol.com](mailto:bobuscgr@aol.com). He is working on the pins with me so you may contact him.

Michael W. Webster/Chairman



**Obituary for Walter M. Zincio**



Walter M. Zincio, passed away at his home in Stockport on February 28, 2021. Walter was surrounded by his loved ones as he transitioned into the afterlife. Walter was born in Brooklyn, NY to John and Helen Zincio who later relocated to Columbia County. Walter attended Germantown Central School and joined the Army in 1965 at the age of 20. A year later, he married the love of his life Carol. Walter served his country in Vietnam as a Crew Chief in

the Aviation Division. After his Army service, he went on to become a welder by trade, and retired as a dock builder for Local 1556.

Walter had a great passion for the outdoors and was an avid hunter, who enjoyed the bounty of the land for many years. His other passion was the Buffalo Bills. He was a diehard fan who enjoyed many games at the stadium. Walter volunteered at the VA Hospital in Albany and drove many Veterans to their appointments. He was famous for his macaroni and cheese, and his recipe will remain a secret.

Walter is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Carol. Also surviving are three children, William Zincio and his wife Kera, Curt Zincio and his wife Ellen, and Stephanie Fronczak and her husband William. Walter has six grandchildren whom he loved dearly, Abby, Chase, Briella and Isabelle Zincio, and ASarah and Alex Fronczak. Also surviving are his sister Susan LoGuidice and her husband Tony, and brother Michael Zincio and his wife Maria.

**Over and out to all friends and family.**

Funeral services at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home are Thursday March 4, at 10:00am. Visitation hours at the funeral home are Wednesday from 3:00-7:00pm. Interment will be in Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to VA Stratton Voluntary Service 113 Holland Ave. Albany, NY 12208.



A friend of mine passed recently. Wally Zincio touched my life briefly but profoundly, and I will miss him but his influence on me will never pass. He was a captive of a relentless illness that finally caused his body to succumb, and he moved from this earth to a better place. The obituary can only encapsulate a microcosm of the man he was and list only a few of those who loved him dearly. In his brief time with us he touched our lives in special ways, affecting each person in a special way, that only Wally could. His smile was captivating and contagious, his wisdom extraordinary and he commanded a special understanding of his fellow veterans that was an asset to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and every veteran he held out his hand to.

We shared some history in our Vietnam service, he was a Crew Chief-Door Gunner, and I was an Avionics Specialist-Door Gunner. We spent many hours on the infamous Huey which implanted many memories, good and bad to our lives forever.

May God Bless you my friend and may God's Huey carry you to His arms.



Ovr-N-Out Wally, from your friend Don M.





## District 4 Briefing

**James Brooks, District 4  
Commander**

Post operations are somewhat back to normal in the 4th District. Posts in Clinton, Yorkville and West Winfield are reporting good turnouts for their Friday fish fry's.

All Post inspections have been completed with no major problems.

The ZOOM training that is available on the Department website has proven to be very helpful to the District and to a few of our Posts.

On a sad note our District Surgeon and Post 5538, Boonville, NY, Trustee Robert Gape was injured and his house was completely destroyed in a house fire on Tuesday night Feb 16th 2021.

Post 7220, Middleville, NY has submitted the name of Past District Commander Leslie Crossett for the District to consider at our May convention for the position of Department Surgeon.



## District 9 Briefing

**Patrick Rourk, District 9 Commander**

District #9 is proud to report ALL inspections have been completed and accepted by the Department of New York including all Post 990's. Great Job District #9; way to lead by example!

Many Posts have been forced to close due to Covid-19 Virus exposures and the economic losses have impacted everyone, but we here in the North Country have not lost a Post to this Virus. Perhaps here in the North Country we are used to hardship and adversity.

District 9 OTI on Feb 20th, 2021 was a great success; there were 11 individuals for Service Officer instruction provided by Colin Anderson and 23 for Quartermaster training instruction provided by PSC Gene Ratigliano. Both classes were well taught and many in attendance commented on the OTI via Zoom.

Thanks to the Department of NY for providing such outstanding instructors. This is a testament to hard work and dedication of individuals willing to sacrifice time from their weekend to teach or attend VFW training.

On behalf of the District 9 leadership, I would like to thank all of you for your continued dedication and perseverance during the challenging VFW year. Keep up the good work.

**For the good of the VFW**

**David M. Pearson**

**Commander District 9**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.**

**Department of New York**



## Patriot's Pen Report

Hello Comrades,

I would like to thank all of the Posts and Auxiliaries who took the time to hold a Patriots Pen competition. This year was not easy, but you came through.

All 9 Districts had a finalist and they were judged at Department level on January 9, 2021.

I can't stress enough that the rules must be followed. One was disqualified because their name was on the essay. The National Organization will follow the rules to a T.

The following were judges for the competition: A teacher Crystal Uerz, RIT graduate Daniel Uerz, Past Department President Cindy Campbell.

First Place winner is: District 7

Second place winner is District 9

Third place winner is District 3

All others tied for fourth



**Wayne Campbell**

**Department Patriots Pen Chairman**

## Post 1615



VFW Post 1615 CDR John Antonucci presented South Orangetown Middle School student Olivia Ryan with a medal, certificate and cash award for her winning entry in the annual VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest.

Read more on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Thank You School Counselors For making this event such a great success!

**John Antonucci**

**VFW Post 1615 Commander**



**Department of New York  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States**

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

## VFW Post 2913 (Patchogue, NY) named first ever #stillserving VFW Post of the Month



VFW Post 2913 in Patchogue has always looked for ways to connect with the community beyond the normal programs that the VFW does, so it was no question when the pandemic hit that they needed to reach out more than ever. CMDR Rogers recalled that his normal 4-5 calls a month for assistance turned to 3-4 a day as the lockdowns started. Knowing what isolation could do, not only mentally but also physically, members of VFW Post 2913 took to a daily ZOOM giving veterans not just in New York, but across the country a chance to connect with each other and civilians in what was called "Coffee with a Veteran". This was an extension of their quarterly Coffee with a Veteran they held at a local coffee shop connecting local veterans with the community, to get a better understanding of the challenge's veterans face readjusting to life after service.



A few months into the daily Zoom calls led the post members and others who joined on the daily ZOOM calls to continue the Americanism Program Veterans in the Classroom through Google Meet with students in Hawthorn Middle School in Queens. The students had a unique chance to meet with not just local veterans, but also veterans throughout the VFW in several states.

This was a unique experience for the students and the veterans, as these Middle School students were introduced to veterans from various backgrounds, and branches of service. It also allowed members of the VFW who normally would not be able to participate in Veterans in the Classroom due to work obligations a chance to participate without having to take a day off of work, instead merely changing their lunch or break time to accommodate the program. The program would run for 6 weeks long introducing different students and teachers to veterans from different eras in the military sharing stories and answering questions based on the lessons the students were learning. The program has led to more veterans being invited back to the school for talks about military service, assistance with lessons in Business, Finance, and Art. The post would also continue to connect with the Sea Cadets and Scouts, helping with their program, training, and providing a space for the Scouts to meet.



Through the next couple of months, the post continued to do their programs and assist the local community with much needed assistance, including helping the Suffolk County Council provide 6500 face masks to local veterans at the Northport VA, Long Island State Veterans Home and through veteran outreach with Island Harvest and Long Island Cares. They would provide assistance at food banks from helping to pack boxes for standdowns, to collecting and distributing over 3500 lbs. of food to local veterans. They also helped provide information about CoVID testing and resources. When the demand for Blood grew, the post partnered with New York Blood Center to host a Blood Drive at the Post, collecting blood from 34 people, and plasma for another 15 people. All while helping veterans find resources such as assistance for housing and assistance paying bills. To help local families the post would also join together with Grace Church and Harmony Café to provide two soup kitchen grab and go's at the Post.





When the cold weather started to take a toll on local veterans, and the resources for coats, hats, scarves and gloves became limited due to the necessity for new materials as a precaution due to COVID Pandemic, the post partnered with Home Depot, Angles of Long Island, the State Senator and General Needs to provide 200 brand new coats, hats, scarves and 350 pairs of gloves for local veterans. They would also collect over 1200 lbs. of toiletry and household products for local veteran families and United Veterans Beacon House. As well participating in a Drive-Up Halloween program at a local Middle School, and Toys for Tots collection.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



The post would continue to not only help veterans with resources they would ensure that events that were sure to be cancelled due to concerns of COVID 19 would go on using social media and live streaming to bring safe events like Memorial Day, Veterans Day to the community. The post also took time to ensure that it thanked the community and post members for all their hard work and dedication to the mission of “No One Does More for Veterans” by hosting a ZOOM Live Stream of their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, joined on ZOOM by National CIC Hal Roesch and local officials.

**GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.**



Understanding that troops overseas continued to need assistance and support, the post would ship 15 care packages to 5 different units in Iraq, Africa, Poland, South Korea, and Afghanistan, providing them with much needed comfort items to help ease their deployments to remote areas with little access to the PX.



In Nov as the need for Social Media and Zoom training became high demand for the VFW, CMDR Rogers was named the State Chair for Media Training and Events. He would establish introduction

to ZOOM and Social Media for the Dept, helping districts across the state get assistance with understanding ZOOM and using Social Media. CMDR Rogers offers these classes twice a month via ZOOM to all members of the Dept VFW and Aux. Information can be found on the Dept of New York VFW website.



As food insecurities grew on Long Island due to the pandemic, the post discovered that some veterans stuck at home were left out in the cold when it came to getting resources in the community due to the growing demand and at times limited supplies. While some veterans were able to get food, older and disabled veterans were lacking much needed cooked meals, so Commander Rogers started cooking for those homebound veterans.

Some of them wanted to learn more about cooking, so the Commander took to social media again and started “Cooking with a Veteran” on YouTube. Weekly the Commander would come live on Facebook sharing cooking tips and some of his favorite recipes while cooking for homebound veterans. Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> month of recording, the members and auxiliary recently brought “Cooking with a Veteran” to the Post cooking 65 meals for local first responders at the Police, Fire Fighters and Ambulance Company of Patchogue, as well as for Long Island Against Domestic Violence in an event called “Show the Love”. Providing Valentines meals to those first responders, and women in the shelter. The post is planning more events like this, to be able to raise money to support food banks and other programs in the community that support veterans.

