



April, May, June 2022

Volume 40 Issue 4



Peter Pennelle
STATE COMMANDER



Comrades,

As we begin a new VFW year, I would like to thank each of you for the honor of being your VFW Commander in this great state of New York. To those of you who are new in your elected or appointed positions – congratulations. For those of you who serving another year – thank you for all your hard work last year and I ask that you please reach out and share your advice and experience with your fellow comrades.

The Department has expanded the number of Department sponsored OTI sessions offered this year so more posts officers can attend. This training will help you fulfill the obligations of your position. The training will be held in Albany, Binghamton and Fairport, NY during the months August and September. I strongly encourage all Commanders, Quartermasters, Adjutants, Trustees and Service Officers to make plans to attend one of these sessions. Please see the Department's website www.vfwny.com for all the details. If your post is looking to make All-State this year, your Quartermaster, Adjutant and one (1) Trustee must attend a Department or a District OTI in order to qualify for All-State. Last year there were over 20 posts who would have made All-State in the Commander's Membership program if they had met the Department's OTI

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Robert Mitchell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

Congratulations to all our incoming 2022-2023 Officers! We enjoyed a successful State Convention at the Albany Marriott in June that included a testimonial dinner and the opportunity to recognize and honor our Public Servant

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Daniel McMahon
STATE QUARTERMASTER



The 2022 Conventions are now finished and the financial activities for 2022-2023 fiscal year have begun. As I have regularly repeat messages, **ALL NEW QUARTERMASTERS** need to file a **8822-B** form with the IRS. This is an Internal Revenue requirement. This form may be found on the IRS, VFW.org and VFWNY.com web sites. At this time of the year, we need to plan for the upcoming year. A budget for your organization

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Jody Treadway
Co-Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Barbara Bishop
State Photographer



New York State Overseas Veteran

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

****PUBLICATIONS:**

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

**** ARTICLES:**

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

****SUBMISSION & FORMAT:**

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. Email articles and pictures as attachments with sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the emails. Submissions from other sources must have complete credits such as publication name, address and dates published.

**** EDITORIAL POLICY:**

Inappropriate, demeaning, unduly critical articles and/or statements will not be published. Article length, inaccuracies, composition and other miscellaneous errors and/or mistakes may be edited.

Although every effort is made to maintain an honorable and accurate publication, the Department of New York and/or its staff, editor and other publication participants are not responsible for the content, views, and/or positions of any articles/submissions.

**** ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO:**

JTreadway@VFWNY.com. They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.

**** DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES:**

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

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

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

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requirement. Do not let this happen to your post this year. Make plans to attend an OTI session.

Speaking of membership – the VFW does not exist without members. This year I am asking each member to not only go out and find a new member but also to work to bring back members who have not renewed their dues for the past year or two. Michael Burke, PSC is this year's State Membership Team Chairman and Marlene Roll, PSC is Chairman of the Female Veteran Team. Look for information from both of these Chairmen on how we can increase membership and make the Department of New York VFW better and stronger.

I wish you all a great VFW year!

Peter Pennelle

State Commander

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Award recipients that performed above and beyond their peers by placing the safety and welfare of others above their own. It also afforded us the opportunity to recognize our Scout of the Year and both our Voice of Democracy and our Patriot Pen first place winners.

Department Headquarters will soon be undergoing renovations to include the addition of 232 square feet of new office space. All preliminary architectural phases of the project have been completed. We are currently in the construction phase soliciting competitive bids from builders. The new office space will initially be utilized to accommodate our Albany Department Service Officers that are currently displaced from the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center due to renovations. The addition will also provide office space that will be available to visiting Department Officers and Chairman.

This year the Department will again stress the importance for Posts to report their Community Service via the online "members only" portal available on the Department Website (www.vfwny.com). To access the "members only" section use your membership number as your login and your last name as your password. We were successful this past year getting our Posts away from the "old fashioned" paper forms that were sent to Department Headquarters and manually processed. Community Service is a primary justification for the VFW's tax-exempt status and as such, reporting this statistical information is critical to our organization. Membership is a priority again this year and Commander Pennelle appreciates your efforts in recruiting new members. It is equally important that we work hard to retain our current members. Every member we can recruit or retain will contribute to the overall success and strength of our Department and the VFW.

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell



Daniel Kell
SR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades;

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

As the new year begins we need to continue to communicate with each other, continue our mission on recruiting new members, reinstating members and let them know we are a family oriented organization that not only supports our veterans but our communities as well, we need to continue to work together to make a difference and build membership to include all generation. As we all know our Department goal is to be at and above 100% in membership each year to continue to stay strong and keep our voice to help push Legislative Goals set forth by National Headquarters and get the benefits we deserve.

Department of New York OTI Program 2022 has been set and department has sent out the notices to the Posts and District Commanders: (1st OTI Program will be on 13 August 2022 - location Albany Marriott, Albany, NY, 2nd OTI Program 2022 will be on 27 August 2022 - location Doubletree by Hilton, Bingham, NY and 3rd OTI Program 2022 - location Woodcliff Hotel, Fairport, NY). Any questions on OTI please do not hesitate to give me a call at (716) 485-3647.

I would like to thank the membership and the Department officers for their support this past year and looking forward to visiting with the Districts and posts throughout my travels this year.

Yours in Comradeship;

Daniel L. Kell
Department of New York Sr. Vice Commander



Leslie Crossett
JR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

I want to express my sincere thanks to one and all for all your support and belief in me. We are an American family and we rise or fall together as one nation and as one people. Winning an election has never been an easy task. You have to put so much effort into winning an election. You have to travel a lot and also have to meet so many wonderful new people. Thank you for your support. I vow that I will not take this position lightly, and I am well aware of the responsibility that you have given me. I'm hoping that with your assistance, I can guarantee that we all have a great time and that any and all complaints are immediately remedied.

The Posts have to continue to work on all required reports. There is no reason that Trustee Reports cannot be submitted in a timely manner, we are only asking for four reports a year, the same is true for Community Service Reports the Department of NY made this one of the easiest reports to be submitted. I continue to attend District meetings; I want to thank the Posts and the Districts for their hospitality.

Yours in Comradeship;

Leslie Crossett
Jr. Vice Commander

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW

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www.vfwny.com

<https://www.facebook.com/DEPTNYVFW>

<https://www.instagram.com/deptnyvfw/>



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will help when planning expenditures for the balance of the year.

990's, make sure whoever is responsible for filing it, does so on time. If you go 3 years without filing a 990, you're not for profit status is **automatically revoked**. The commanders are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring 990's and all official documents are filed in a timely manner.

Where does the Department of New York stand financially? We, as everyone with investments are suffering at this point. With our diverse financial investment program in place, we are not as bad as other investors. A full report will be provided at the fall conference.

At a recent Department Adjutants and Quartermaster Association meeting we are finding the issues we are facing in the Department of New York are not unique. Most other departments are seeing the same failures of filing reports, signatures missing and numbers are not adding up. The members of Posts, County Councils, Districts and Departments need to participate in the organization to ensure the rules are equally applied and enforced. It is time for Trustees to begin the 4th (Fiscal year) quarters trustee's report. This report to the members of the Posts, etc. will provide a peek at the complete financial picture.

There will be some Life members purged from the rolls this year. So, beware when the life members are again counted for in the memstats report. Look over the members and if you find one or more members in your Posts were eliminated and remain alive, contact National Headquarters, membership for reinstatement.

One final note, if you feel there is or are misleading financial activities in your Post, speak

-up at a meeting. Have the issues addressed. Motions may be made to require the commander to be accountable to the members on all matters within a post.

If you need or wish to discuss items of importance I am available.

**HAVE YOU REPLACED YOURSELF TODAY?
PLEASE RECRUIT ONE VETERAN FOR THE
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**

Thank you,

Daniel B. McMahon
Quartermaster
Department of NY VFW
dmcMahon@vfwny.com
518-414-2605

**NEW YORK'S
DISTRICT COMMANDERS
2022-23**

DISTRICT 1

Luke Magliaro, Jr Post 1582

DISTRICT 2

Elisabeth Gessel Post 9215

DISTRICT 3

Harold Patchen Post 420

DISTRICT 4

Joseph Martel Post 7227

DISTRICT 5

Paul Hrynio Post 7872

DISTRICT 6

Marcello Rotunda Post 53

DISTRICT 7

Roger Cordle Post 2535

DISTRICT 8

Cleson Becker Post 1323

DISTRICT 9

John Holt Post 6338



Thomas Todaro PSC

**DIRECTOR OF
VETERANS SERVICES**



Some People May Face Reduced Social Security Benefits

Social Security benefits are on the rise. The 2022 cost-of-living hike was nearly 6%, and there's no sign inflation is slowing down.

In other words, Social Security may now be making up a larger part of your [retirement income strategy](#) or playing a bigger role in your retirement income plan.

Ideally, guaranteed income streams like Social Security, [military retirement](#), pensions and income annuities can cover your core expenses in retirement. So this type of increase is good news, especially if inflation fades. In the end, it's all about relative purchasing power.

What you don't want is a not-so-good surprise. There are two Social Security rules that might provide just that: the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.

These rules could come into play if you or your [spouse](#) receive pensions from work where they did not pay Social Security taxes.

Let's [look before you leap](#) and examine these two rules a little closer.

Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). This rule affects the Social Security retirement and disability benefits of folks who receive pensions from work for which they didn't pay Social Security taxes. Federal workers under the old Civil Service Retirement System and workers in some public-

school systems are prime examples. In these cases, the Social Security Administration could modify your benefit calculation, resulting in a smaller Social Security payout.

You can read the details on the Social Security website or by checking out [Social Security Publication 05-10045](#). On the positive side, if you have 30 years of what are called substantial earnings, the rule won't affect your Social Security. If you've got at least 20, the impact on Social Security is lessened.

Government Pension Offset (GPO). This rule also targets recipients of non-covered pensions, but it affects benefits they might receive based on their spouse's earnings record. It reduces or eliminates the benefits received as a spouse, widow or widower -- cutting them by two-thirds of the amount of the non-covered pension. For example, a \$1,000 pension from a job where Social Security taxes were not paid would reduce any Social Security benefits received as a spouse by \$667. This could be a game changer if your survivor income plan relies heavily on Social Security benefits that might not be available. It is detailed in [Social Security Publication 05-10007](#).

In the end, you might not be able to avoid WEP or GPO, but you should understand how you or your spouse might be affected and plan accordingly. Visit the Social Security website or search the referenced publications for more information.

Yours in Comradeship;

Tom Todaro
PSC/Director



Colin Anderson SERVICE OFFICER



Survivor Benefits and Planning

One of the things I have ran across as a service officer is the assumption that the veteran's spouse or family will automatically get VA benefits. One of the misconceptions is the surviving spouse will get 50% of the veteran's VA disability compensation if the veteran passes

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away. It is true the spouse and possibly family members may be eligible for VA benefits, it is not automatic. The following is to assist veterans and their families to prepare.

Survivors' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a benefit for the surviving spouse of a veteran who passed away from a service-connected condition. Generally, if one of the rated conditions aligns with the cause of death (to include secondary or tertiary causes) the benefit will be granted. If the veteran's cause of death hasn't been rated by the VA but can be tied to their service e.g., ischemic heart disease for a Vietnam vet which is a presumptive condition for Agent orange exposure it will be granted albeit with more documentation. The financial compensation for DIC is not based on the veteran's percentage. A veteran rated at 10% collecting \$152 a month or one rated at 100% getting \$3517 monthly doesn't change the rate for the surviving spouse (currently \$1437 per month).

There is also Survivors Pension which is a tax-free benefit payable by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to a low-income, unremarried surviving spouse and unmarried dependent child(ren) of a deceased wartime Veteran. To be eligible for this benefit, the claimant must be the eligible surviving spouse and/or child(ren) of a deceased wartime Veteran, who meets specific income and net worth requirements. Children may be eligible if they are any of the following: Under the age of 18. Between the ages of 18 and 23 and enrolled in a VA-approved educational/training institution. Permanently incapable of self-support prior to the age of 18.

As many of you are aware, some claims are taking a very long time to be finalized. Three new presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure were added in January 2021. We received several new claims and previously denied ones were reopened by the VA. This created another backlog, and many have been awaiting a final decision for over a year. What happens if the veteran passes away prior to the decision? There is a thing called substitution. Substitution allows a person eligible for accrued benefits to substitute a deceased beneficiary on a pending claim or appeal. The substitute claimant may submit evidence in support of the pending claim or appeal for potential accrued benefits. The

spouse or eligible beneficiary will keep the claim open for the VA to eventually adjudicate and receive any payments that would have been due the veteran (if filed within one year of the veteran's death). If you have a condition that is service connected or a presumptive condition, file a claim. If you are concerned it won't get finalized in time due to health or age it may still benefit your family.

A couple of recommendations I have that will assist in your planning and help ease your family through a difficult time. Firstly, make sure they know where your DD 214 is. I can't count how many times I have been asked "how do I get my husband's or father's DD 214?". If you don't have it, it probably won't be on file at your VFW post but may be on file your county or town clerk's office if you went there after separation or bought a house and got some form of break on your taxes. If not, it can take a long time to have one reissued by the National Records Center.

Secondly, if you have worked with a service officer from one of the veterans' organizations, let your family know. We can assist with getting any benefits that are due. We represent surviving spouses just as we did the veteran in filing claims and dealing with the VA. If we represented the veteran, we would have access to their file, and this will ease the process for DIC etc.

This is not an in-depth guide but an overview. If you or your family need assistance with any benefits or understanding the things that may be available, please contact us, the service officers are happy to help.

Yours in Comradeship,

Colin Anderson

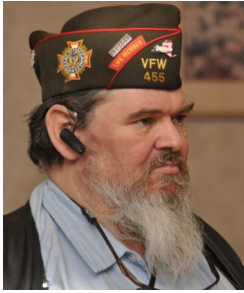
OTI TRAINING REGISTRATION

**Albany—Saturday August 13, 2022
Albany Marriott**

**Binghamton—Saturday August 27, 2022
Doubletree by Hilton**

**Rochester—Saturday September 10, 2022
Woodcliff Hotel**

**Registration forms are included in the
newsletter**



Richard Gales

STATE BUDDY POPPY CHAIRMAN



Greetings Comrades, Auxiliary and members,

I would like to thank Past Commander Mike Hoag for his appointment and would like to Commander Pennelle for this appointment.

The good news is that we surpassed last year's Buddy Poppy order. This year the Department of New York has 139 post order 239,000 Buddy Poppies.

This is a lot better than the couple of years, with COVID and Logistic problems with the orders being delivered in a timely manner, but it is going in the right direction.

Congratulations to Sullivan County, District 2 for 100% participation in Buddy Poppies purchased. Every post in Sullivan County ordered Buddy Poppies and I extend my gratitude for their Participation.

Congratulation on the following post for their order of over 5,000 Buddy Poppies:

District 8		
Post 8495	5,000	
District 7		
Post 4823	6,000	
District 6		
Post 5861	5,000	Erie County
District 3		
Post 8692	5,000	Albany County
District 1		
Post 7727	5,000	Nassau County
Post 7763	5,000	Nassau County
Post 2936	8,000	Suffolk County
Post 5350	9,000	Suffolk County
Post 1384	15,000	Nassau County
District 1	80,000	Total Poppies

Our Department Goal again this year is 500,000 Buddy Poppies. Please remember that each post needs to order a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Gales PDC
Department Buddy Poppy Chair



Ronald Sorrentino

SERVICE OFFICERS JOURNAL AD CHAIR



The 2022-2023 Service Officer Journal and Raffle letter and tickets will be coming out soon. As in the past years your generosity for this program has made it a successful campaign. Let's us not forget the purpose of Journal and Raffle is to support our VFW Service Officers. The Service Officers have aided our Veterans in obtaining the entitlements they deserve by fast tracking claims applications through the VA system. Their Counseling with our Veterans ensures claim forms are filed correctly, The Service Officer does not stop with filing of our claims but will keep us updated on the progress of the claim.

So, when the letter for the Journal and Raffle ticket arrives at your Post be generous and support our VFW Servicers Officer.

Ronald Sorrentino



Joel Vanik

STATE SPECIAL PROJECTS



I would like to start with a thank you to Commander Pennelle for this Chairmanship. This is a reminder to everyone that the Commander's Special Project is Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, located in Valhalla NY. The Hospital does excellent work with pediatric oncology, neo-natal ICU and many more Departments that will be discussed as the year progresses.

All donations will be sent to the Department Quartermaster at Department Headquarters and earmarked for special project. There are 14 County Councils in New York State that must be dissolved by Jan. 1st 2023 and I don't think that there is a better cause to donate some of their money to than this. However, let's not forget that our Posts should go forward and raise funds also.

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So, I asked that all of us get behind Commander Pennelle to make this a banner year for donations to his special project Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

Joel Vanik
Special Project Chairman
(cell)585-610-8626
e-mail: j7071vn@yahoo.com



Gene Ratigliano
PSC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEMBER



Greetings!

It is impossible to believe but we are again beginning a new VFW year. I have very little to report since my last article to you. National has been very involved in closing out the year and coordinating with the National Membership Department to get all those well-deserved awards out to the Posts, Districts and Departments who worked so hard to increase VFW membership this past year.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the newly elected officers at the Post, District and Department level. Take your position and responsibilities seriously. Review the requirements of your office and take action accordingly. Attend Officer Training (OTI) at your earliest opportunity. Things change. You will learn something at every training event. Make sure you know what has to be done. It is your guidance, informed knowledge and leadership that will make your Post, District and our Department successful in all endeavors.

I am preparing to head to the National Convention on July 15th which will be held in Kansas City again this year. The main focus of the National Council will be to pass the National budget for the 2022-23 year. I am not only heading to the Convention as your National Council member but have been assigned to the Budget and Finance Committee for this Convention.

My last communication from National which was June 17th indicated that there were 939 posts who have not filed election reports for 2022-23 with 273 still outstanding as of July 8th. The Department of NY experienced similar failures to report again this year again with some eight posts still outstanding as of this writing. Election Report filing still seems to be a recurrent problem which needs to be resolved and addressed. Posts need to do much better in meeting the deadline for report filing. Failure to do so puts a Post in jeopardy of losing their charter. It hampers the Department from compiling the information required for an annual directory and requires many manhours of work to notify all members in each post failing to submit a report to attend special meetings to address the issue and elect officers. We all know the requirement – nominate in March, elect in April. Reports should be submitted immediately following the elections. There should be no excuse.

The Veterans Administration Office of Inspector General (OIG) has issued a fraud alert regarding VA being billed for care veterans did not receive. This alert advises veterans and their representatives to help detect health care fraud by carefully reviewing benefit explanations and bills they receive from the VA. If you see potential evidence of fraud or have concerns about patient care, please contact the VA OIG office at va.gov/oig/hotline or 1-800-488-8244.

On the Legislative front the VFW currently supports 171 bills; and opposes one bill pending before the 177th Congress.

National currently has 45 posts under suspension and are engaged in 16 Article IX disciplinary actions and five member eligibility challenges.

For those attending the National Convention July 16-21, be sure to download the updated VFW Events App to ensure you have everything convention related at your fingertips. The app is available for download at both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching "VFW Events." Have a safe trip!

Yours in Comradeship,

Gene Ratigliano
Gene Ratigliano
National Council Member



Art Scheuneman

STATE NATIONAL HOME CHAIRMAN



Important Information For National Home Life Members!*

The VFW National Home for Children's Board of Trustees has approved the use of electronic voting beginning with the 2022 Trustee District election.

National Home Life Members must have an email on record in order to vote. This upcoming election will be done via email only. Members can provide their email to the National Home by visiting www.vfwnationalhome.org/contact and completing the form for Life Members. Any questions regarding the election can be directed to info@vfwnationalhome.org.

Elections will take place this year for open positions in District 6 (Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee) and the District 10 (Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) for six-year terms both ending October 2028. Look for candidate and voting information in our next edition of Home Notes.

Department of New York National Home Life Members Please update your email contact information so that you can cast your ballot for your District 2 candidate in the 2025 election.

Art Scheuneman
Department National Home Chairman
National Home Trustee District 2
Email wdstock44@yahoo.com
(585) 689-5975



Elisabeth Gessel

COMMANDER DISTRICT 2



As my first article in this publication, and having just taken over District 2, I thought that I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I served in the Army Reserves for 8 years including a 15-month deployment to Kuwait & Iraq. As MP's we did convoy escort from Southern Iraq to Baghdad and we also functioned as corrections officers. Additionally we trained the Iraqi police how to run their prisons and be corrections officers.

I joined the VFW In 2009 and very quickly became the Jr Vice Commander for my Post. I was Commander for quite a few years and have most recently held the positions of Adjutant and Quartermaster.

This year our goal, like most, will be membership. Both recruiting new members and retaining existing members. DNY has an initiative for recruiting female Veterans this year. It is known that female Veterans are among the hardest to locate due to several reasons. Many complete their military service and then disappear into the masses, getting married and changing their names. The VA has many health options for Female Veterans and many probably don't know what services are available for them there.

Upcoming events we have scheduled within our district are:

- Hudson Valley Veteran Appreciation Day: 8/27/22 @ Hudson Valley Renegades Stadium. Gates open at 3pm. Patriotic pre-game Ceremony Honoring local Veterans at 5pm. Post-game fireworks. Veterans' resources & vendors on site. FREE TO ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. For tickets contact: Orange County: 845-291-2470, Dutchess County: 845-473-2500 x1307, Sullivan County: 845-794-4228, Ulster County: 845-481-4004, Clear Path for Veterans: 845-220-8398

Veteran Only Golf Outing: 11/7/2022. 7am shotgun start. \$22 per person. Blue Hill Golf Course, Pearl River (Rockland). For registration: vfw9215golf@gmail.com

V/R,

Lis Gessel
845-549-3960 (text preferred)
Commander
VFW District 2, NY



Harold Patchen

COMMANDER DISTRICT 3



Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Harold Patchen a Gold Legacy Life member of Post 420, located in Saratoga Springs. I've been a member of the VFW since January 1971.

I'm proud to announce that we were the first District in the department to reach 100% (2021-22). The credit goes to our previous commander, Marc Farmilette (2020-2022) and his membership team. Congratulations Marc.

District 3 is starting off the VFW year with our annual organizational meeting / picnic on July 10th at Post 420, Saratoga Springs. At this meeting we will begin the process of getting our post inspections underway. District Inspector Jim MacArthur is heading up this initiative. I urge all Post Commanders and Quartermasters to ensure that their 990 forms and quartermaster bonds are up to date. We also are holding a district golf outing, to aid our ways and means, on August 12th in Windham, N.Y. The golf outing chairman is Marc Farmilette, with help from members of Post 1545. Anyone wishing to play in this event or would like to purchase a tee sign, can contact Marc at marcf1545@gmail.com. District 3 will hold a recruitment event at the Schaghticoke Fair over Labor Day weekend (Friday – Monday).

I'd like to ask all Post Commanders to send me info on post and community service events that you've held OR been part of this coming year at hjp5551@gmail.com. This info will be used for future Overseas Veteran editions.

Just a little reminder—
Fourth Quarter Trustee Reports for
April, May, June 2022
Are due in Headquarters



Joseph Martel

COMMANDER DISTRICT 4



Our District Convention was held on May 1st, all but 2 Posts were in attendance. Commander Joseph Martel (Post 7227) was reelected as District Commander with Matt VanEtten (Post 6001) moving up to Sr. Vice Commander and Joseph Hubbard (Post 600) as Jr. Vice Commander. Quartermaster John Fox (Post 982) and Chaplain David Robling (Post 7227) were also reelected.

District 4 ended the VFW year looking very good on the Department MemStats. All 22 Posts were inspected, all but one Post submitted their Community Service Reports, and all but 2 Posts had their Trustee Reports accepted. We had 9 Posts with 100% or more in membership with 3 Posts receiving their White Hats.

Plans were made at the end of June for the District to have a recruiting table at the NY State Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville on Aug 19, 20, 21. The District will also be recruiting during Mountain fest to be held at Ft. Drum on Aug 31st.

District members helped out at the Department Golf Tournament held May 21st in Canastota, NY; many of the Dist. 4 Posts participated in the tournament.

Post activities are too numerous to mention, but here are some of the hi-lights. Post 982 Remsen, Wednesday night food specials, Post 2338 West Winfield Fish Fry's every Friday night and selling out, Post 4915 Herkimer Craft shows, Post 6001 Yorkville, Cans and Clams every Wednesday night, Post 6811 Verona, Wednesday Wing night, Post 6912 Lowville Wing nights, Car shows, BBQ's, Post 7227 Chicken BBQ's, Post 8259 Stittville Cans and Clams with the help of their Vol. Fire Dept., Post 9314 Old Forge, Golf Tournament.

Joseph Martel

District 4 Commander



Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420, Saratoga Springs held a very successful recruiting event at the July 4th 4-Mile Firecracker race held on Independence Day. Over 3,000 runners participated in the race. A number of veterans stopped by the tent and expressed their appreciation to Post Commander Harold Patchen and Post Quartermaster and National Council Member Gene Ratigliano. One Life Member and three Annual members were recruited with three more potential candidates indicating interest in applying for membership.



Paul Hrynio
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 5



Hello Comrades,

As the new District 5 Commander I am excited to take the position, to assist and inspire as many veterans as I can. I want to provide you a little information and background about who I am. Having joined the military in 1991, I spent 27 years in the military including 15 years in the Army and 12 years in the Airforce. During my service I held numerous jobs to include Field Artillery, Water Purification, Combat Engineer, and duty as a Drill Instructor while serving in the Army and as an Electrician while in the Airforce. I been to 10 different countries and serve on 6 deployments; In other words, I have seen my share of things and done any different jobs, which will be an asset in assisting the District. Towards the end of my military career, while I was seeking help for myself, I found that many other veterans and transitioning service members were blocked by various problems just as I was.

Upon completion of my last deployment, in 2015, I was put on active-duty orders although I was still recovering from a back injury. Much of my time was spent reorganizing the electrical shop, as many of the manuals were outdated and had changed over time. When I wasn't bringing the shop up to standards, I was researching everything I could for veterans, VA benefits, tax breaks, outdoor activities in NY state or National parks, and family benefits, nothing was off limits in my research as I felt a calling to assist my fellow veterans. 27 years of experience later I realize there have been many changes along the way. These changes include so much more for veterans, things that were not included in the out-processing briefs many of us "fondly" remember. I have been able to spend a lot of time, since getting out, assisting hundreds of veterans gain the knowledge so they can lead happy, calmer, and sometimes more productive lives.

I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1995, initially qualifying based on my South Korea deployment. However, I have many more years of exposure and experience with the VFW as both my

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Commander District 5 continued from page 11

father, who is a Marine Corps veteran, and my grandfather, who served in World War II, introduced me to the VFW and a life of service early in my childhood. Honored enough to be elected as a Post Commander, I found ways to be more creative with events and partnering with other organizations to raise money for my Post. Being an active member of the VFW, and out in the community, I have found that I was able to be the face for other veterans, which has equated to finding veterans across the community that can and need our assistance, this has allowed me the added honor of explaining the that they have earned and deserve. Additionally, many of them end up joining the VFW because they are being told both what they deserve and how our organization can help then; I am happy to report that a large handful of them become active in the organization and get involved. The second thing I make sure I am cognizant of is inviting their spouse and family to join them in our mission by joining the Auxiliary; We cannot continue to act as two separate organizations if we want to grow and see success for our veterans.

As previously stated, when elected to Post Commander, I wanted to find more creative ways to engage our veterans and the community. I have been asked on several occasions "Why be more creative?". The answer is simple; If we, as the Department of New York and the Veterans of Foreign Wars want to stay alive and running into the next 100+ years, we must recruit and retain our fellow veterans. The state has made reporting easier, which shows that today's technology can help us with our mission. This also means that our Post Commanders need to be prepared to assist each other, and their line officers, in using the technology. Therefore no one generation is the focus, but rather the focus should be brining all generations into the fold by mentoring, guiding, and teaching as needed. I know many of you were out at Independence Day parades, ceremonies, and cookouts; but now that time is past us and we must start focusing, early, on the future events. Personally, I am gearing up for the New York State Fair and I assure you that District 5 will show up in force with a bigger, better, and larger presence than in years past. With the assistance of Comrade Scott Cox, and many of you within the District, I have no doubt that we can beat our mark from last year. We have 13 days and my goal, as your District Commander, is to beat the 88 new members we recruited last year so I look forward to all of your help in making this happen!

Dedication to Manlius Maggie who was a National Pen Pal during the Vietnam War.



The County VSO was able to get 17 purple heart recipient parking signs to put up through out the County





Marcello Rotunda

**Commander
District 6**



Hello Comrades:

I was invited to 4th of July celebration in Cherry Creek New York with the 6th District President Raymond Sheldon



LINDENHURST VFW POST 7279

A fire in September 2019 did extensive damage to the post. The fire ravaged the two story building and smoke and water damage ruined the rest of the building. The post lost everything. They used the insurance money to rebuild and bring the hall up to code but the contractor did not finish the job.

The post relies on the revenue from fundraising events and hall rentals and without that income the post's savings have diminished. Volunteers from various trade unions have offered their time but the skyrocketing costs of materials have delayed the rebuilding process.



Post commander Tom Kelly is flanked by members Richie Tibbetts, right, and Tom Curti.

The town of Babylon received \$27.77 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds and distributed the money to the town's three villages based on their size and needs. For Lindenhurst, the officials felt that \$380,000 should be used for the VFW building.

"When the fire happened, it not only eliminated a meeting place for the VFW but it eliminated a place for the community to have evented" said town Councilman DuWayne Gregory.

The work to be done includes ceiling, flooring and drywall installation as well as painting, Gregory said.

The town performed a site inspection in mid-June and will hire a contractor with the goal of having the building completed by Veterans Day November 11, 2022.

The village is planning a fundraiser for the post on September 4, 2022 called "Vetstock" featuring a day of bands playing at the gazebo.

2022-23 Quartermaster Bond

The rate schedule and Quartermaster bond application for the 2022-23 year is now available on the Department's website

www.vfwny.com

Under the heading of
Resources/Reports & Forms

State Convention June 9-12, 2022 Albany Marriott



June 17, 2022



Attention Post Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutants, Trustees and Service Officers

The Department of New York will be hosting three (3) Officer Training Seminars (OTIs) during the 2022-2023 year. The first OTI will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at the Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY. The second OTI will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY. The third OTI will be held on Saturday September 10, 2022 at the Woodcliff Hotel, 199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY. Registration for all OTIs will begin at 8:00 AM and the training will begin promptly at 8:45 AM. The cost of the OTI is \$35.00 per student. If needed, room reservations are available at each of the hotels at a discounted rate.

If you are a Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant, Trustee or Service Officer at your post, this training will be essential and informative to help you succeed in your position. The OTI School will communicate important information regarding your responsibilities as an officer of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We will be keying in on Post Commander duties, Post Quartermaster Responsibilities, Post Inspections, the Department and National websites, Memstats, Trustees Report of Audit, IRS 990's, Election Reports, Quartermaster bonding and the materials that will be needed to be in compliance with the National By-Laws. We will also be incorporating training involving the Post Adjutant's responsibilities with regard to entering Post information into the All-American Dashboard. *This year's session will be a multi-room training event with Commanders, Quartermasters, Adjutants and Service Officers* as well as any other individual interested in registering and attending Officer specific training. If you have a laptop computer, you are encouraged to bring it with you to the training so you can access the National and Department Websites as they are explained.

For Commander and Quartermaster to qualify for their "White Hat" for All-State in the Commander's 2022-23 Membership Program, Post Quartermasters, Post Adjutants, and One Post Trustee MUST attend a Department or District OTI to qualify for All-State. Service Officer training is not required for All-State qualification for 2022-23; however, *Post Service Officers are still required to attend an Annual training session at either a Department or District OTI as required by the National By-Laws.*

Please complete the enclosed OTI Registration Form which may be photocopied if more are needed for each individual attending this important training session. Please forward registration forms with the appropriate registration fee to Department Headquarters, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205. Registration deadlines are indicated on the enclosed Registration Form.

Breaks will be provided and you will be on your own for lunch. **You must pre-register to attend this course.** **NO WALK-INS** will be allowed. An OTI Registration form is enclosed as well as a tentative class curriculum. We hope to see you at the training and taking advantage of the important information that will be provided.

Yours in Comradeship,
Dan Kell, Sr. Vice Commander/OTI Dean

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

69 Sand Creek Road
Albany, New York 12205-1823

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OTI PROGRAM 2022 – Albany, NY

SATURDAY- AUGUST 13, 2022

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Registration

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM Welcome/Introductions – Sr. Vice Commander Kell

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Breakout Room 1** - Service Officer Training – DSO Anderson

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Breakout Room 2** – Quartermaster & Trustee Duties and Responsibilities/Inspections – PSC Ratigliano/State Inspector Magliaro

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM **Breakout Room 1** – Adjutant Responsibilities/All American Dashboard/Community Service – Adjutant Mitchell/Media Chair Fletcher

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM **Breakout Room 2** – Use of OMS and Department Website – PSC Ratigliano

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM Lunch Break

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM Membership – PSC Michael Burke

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM Programs – Jr. Vice Crossett

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM Afternoon Break

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM Sexual Harassment Training – John Wenig

3:45 PM Q&A

General Information:

Cost \$35.00 Per Student, Maximum Students 200

All Participants Must Pre-Register to Attend – NO Walk-INS



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OFFICERS TRAINING
ALBANY MARRIOTT
189 WOLF ROAD
ALBANY, NEW YORK



DEPARTMENT OFFICER TRAINING
APPLICATION

Minimum number of students required to hold the class 50

Limited to 200 Attendees

AUGUST 13, 2022

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

APPROVED APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE VERIFICATION BY E-MAIL (if e-mail is provided)

NO REFUNDS FOR APPLICATIONS OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS

COST \$35 PER STUDENT – ONE STUDENT PER FORM

Each Student will receive a certificate of attendance for the Post Service Officer Training Class.

8:00 am to 8:45 am Sign in for Pre-Registered Students – Coffee & Pastries Served

8:45 am Class Begins

CHECK ONE OF THE CLASSES

OFFICER TRAINING CLASS

**QUARTERMASTER's
TRAINING**

Name

Your Current Officer Position

Membership Number

District

County Council

Post

Street Address/PO Box

City

State, Zip Code

Phone

CHECK #

E-Mail Address

Checks must Accompany Application
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO
& Mail all Applications and Checks to

Department of New York VFW
69 Sand Creek Road
Albany New York 12205

DO NOT MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE VERIFICATION OF YOUR APPROVED APPLICATION

ROOMS AVAILABLE @ VFW Rate of \$125 PER NIGHT – RESERVATION CUT OFF: JULY 29, 2022

Call for Reservations:

Albany Marriott

518 458-8444

189 Wolf Road

Albany, New York 12205

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 29, 2022

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OTI PROGRAM 2022 – Binghamton, NY

SATURDAY- AUGUST 27, 2022

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Registration

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM Welcome/Introductions – Sr. Vice Commander Kell

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Breakout Room 1** - Service Officer Training – DSO Anderson

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Breakout Room 2** – Quartermaster & Trustee Duties and Responsibilities/Inspections – PSC Ratigliano/State Inspector Magliaro

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM **Breakout Room 1** – Adjutant Responsibilities/All American Dashboard/Community Service – Adjutant Mitchell/Media Chair Fletcher

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM **Breakout Room 2** – Use of OMS and Department Website – PSC Ratigliano

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM Lunch Break

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM Membership – PSC Michael Burke

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM Programs – Jr. Vice Crossett

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM Afternoon Break

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM Sexual Harassment Training – John Wenig

3:45 PM Q&A

General Information:

Cost \$35.00 Per Student, Maximum Students 200

All Participants Must Pre-Register to Attend – NO Walk-INS



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OFFICERS TRAINING
DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
225 WATER STREET
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK



DEPARTMENT OFFICER TRAINING
APPLICATION

Minimum number of students required to hold the class 50

Limited to 200 Attendees

August 27, 2022

PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

APPROVED APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE VERIFICATION BY E-MAIL (if e-mail is provided)

NO REFUNDS FOR APPLICATIONS OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS

COST \$35 PER STUDENT – ONE STUDENT PER FORM

Each Student will receive a certificate of attendance for Attending the Training Class.

8:00 am to 8:45 am Sign in for Pre-Registered Students – Coffee & Pastries Served.

8:45 am Class Begins

CHECK ONE OF THE CLASSES

OFFICER TRAINING CLASS

**QUARTERMASTER's
TRAINING**

Name

Your Current Officer Position

Membership Number

District

County Council

Post

Street Address/PO Box

City

State, Zip Code

Phone

CHECK #

E-Mail Address

Checks must Accompany Application
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO
& Mail all Applications and Checks to

Department of New York VFW
69 Sand Creek Road
Albany New York 12205

DO NOT MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE VERIFICATION OF YOUR APPROVED APPLICATION

ROOMS AVAILABLE @ VFW Rate of \$125 PER NIGHT – RESERVATION CUT OFF: August 17, 2022

Call for Reservations:

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
225 Water Street
Binghamton, New York 13901

607-722-7575

REGISTRATION DEADLINE- AUGUST 17, 2022

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OTI PROGRAM 2022 – Rochester, NY

SATURDAY- SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Registration

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM Welcome/Introductions – Sr. Vice Commander Kell

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Breakout Room 1** - Service Officer Training – DSO Anderson

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Breakout Room 2** – Quartermaster & Trustee Duties and Responsibilities/Inspections – PSC Ratigliano/State Inspector Magliaro

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM **Breakout Room 1** – Adjutant Responsibilities/All American Dashboard/Community Service – Adjutant Mitchell/Media Chair Fletcher

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM **Breakout Room 2** – Use of OMS and Department Website – PSC Ratigliano

11:30 AM - 12:45 PM Lunch Break

12:45 PM - 2:15 PM Membership – PSC Michael Burke

2:15 PM – 2:45 PM Programs – Jr. Vice Crossett

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM Afternoon Break

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM Sexual Harassment Training – John Wenig

3:45 PM Q&A

General Information:

Cost \$35.00 Per Student, Maximum Students 200

All Participants Must Pre-Register to Attend – NO Walk-INS



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OFFICERS TRAINING
WOODCLIFF HOTEL
199 WOODCLIFF DRIVE
FAIRPORT, NEW YORK



DEPARTMENT OFFICER TRAINING
APPLICATION

Minimum number of students required to hold the class 50

Limited to 200 Attendees

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY

APPROVED APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE VERIFICATION BY E-MAIL (if e-mail is provided)

NO REFUNDS FOR APPLICATIONS OF ACCEPTED STUDENTS

COST \$35 PER STUDENT – ONE STUDENT PER FORM

Each Student will receive a certificate of attendance for Attending the Training Class.

8:00 am to 8:45 am Sign in for Pre-Registered Students – Coffee & Pastries Served.

8:45 am Class Begins

CHECK ONE OF THE CLASSES

OFFICER TRAINING CLASS

**QUARTERMASTER's
TRAINING**

Name

Your Current Officer Position

Membership Number

District

County Council

Post

Street Address/PO Box

City

State, Zip Code

Phone

CHECK #

E-Mail Address

Checks must Accompany Application
MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO
& Mail all Applications and Checks to

Department of New York VFW
69 Sand Creek Road
Albany New York 12205

DO NOT MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS UNTIL YOU RECEIVE VERIFICATION OF YOUR APPROVED APPLICATION

ROOMS AVAILABLE @ VFW Rate of \$209 PER NIGHT – RESERVATION CUT OFF: SEPT 2, 2022

Call for Reservations: Woodcliff Hotel 585 381-4000
199 Woodcliff Drive
Fairport, New York 14450

REGISTRATION DEADLINE – SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VFW Membership Mail-In Application

☐ Yes! I want to join the VFW as a member-at-large and continue serving my country, my community and my fellow man.

PLEASE ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Last

First

M.I.

Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

E-mail:

Phone:

Birthdate:

Social Security #:

SERVICE INFORMATION

☐ Army

☐ Marine Corps

☐ Navy

☐ Air Force

☐ Coast Guard

☐ Space Force

Eligibility (choose all that apply)

☐ WWII

☐ Afghanistan

☐ Combat Action Ribbon

☐ SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia

☐ Korean War

☐ Iraq

☐ Expeditionary Medal

☐ Imminent Danger/

☐ Vietnam

☐ Korean Service (7/1/49 to present)

☐ Occupation Medal

Hostile Fire Pay

☐ Persian Gulf War

☐ Kosovo

☐ Inherent Resolve

☐ Other: _____

Dates of Service: _____ to _____

Service Location: _____

Name of Campaign Ribbon or Medal: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please select one)

☐ ANNUAL (\$45.00)

☐ Please bill me annually for my membership.

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

☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (one-time)

☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (installment plan)

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of Dec. 31 st

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.VFW.YETS (1.833.839.8387) 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