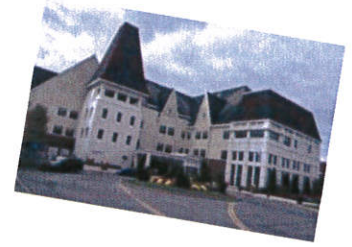




STATE COMMANDER'S SPECIAL PROJECT



Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

Background: This year, State Commander Peter Pennelle has chosen to support Maria Fareri Children's Hospital which is a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth)

The WMCHealth is an advanced care pediatric hospital for the New York Hudson Valley region and Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is part of the Valhalla, NY campus of WMCHealth along with Westchester Medical Center and the Behavioral Health Center.

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital was built through the efforts of hundreds of parents, medical professionals, and community leaders, including Brenda and John Fareri who lost their 13-year old daughter, Maria, to rabies in 1995. After Maria died, her parents learned that Maria had made a special wish as part of her school project – for the health and well-being of all the children in the world. Guided by Maria's wish, the Fareri family helped lead the design and creation of Maria Fareri Children's Hospital as a “family-centered” hospital. It is the only hospital in the United States named after a child.

**Department Special Project Chairman: Joel Vanik
585-968-3515
jdv67pirate@yahoo.com**

Donations should be made out to: Department of NY VFW

**Mailed to: Department of NY VFW
69 Sand Creek Road
Albany, NY 12205**