



NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



January, February, March 2022

Volume 40 Issue 3



Michael Hoag
STATE COMMANDER



Hopefully, you're a member of a post or leader of a post that is interested in being an ALL STATE and/or ALL-AMERICAN POST.

To me, being a good leader means wanting to be amongst the very best. In our military lives, a standard was set, and we strived to meet or exceed that standard. It should be no different within the VFW world. Each year, standards are set that many, unfortunately not all, try to achieve. If you're one those who don't care to, stop reading this article here.

First, let me say that we, at Department Headquarters are on your side. WE want you to be successful and will assist you in any way within our abilities. It's easier, and better to ask questions now than to be contacting us after to ask why you didn't make it.

As you are aware, All American is a National recognition, set up by the National Commander. This is monitored at the National Headquarters and you can monitor your progress by looking at the ALL AMERICAN DASHBOARD found at vfw.org.

The All State award was set by me with the assistance of Membership Chairperson Gene Ratigliano. This can be tracked at VFWNY.COM and looking under programs / memstats. You will

STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 2



Robert Mitchell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

Thank you to all that participated in a very successful Spring Conference in Binghamton, New York! We were very fortunate to have our Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic attend this year and take part in our conference. It also provided us with the opportunity to recognize his

STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 3



Daniel McMahon
STATE QUARTERMASTER



With the end of the Spring Conference, around the corner will be County, District and the Department conventions. Along with these conventions will be new officers. While all positions require training, let us focus on the financial positions, of Quartermaster and Trustees. Online at both Department and National web sites are documents for each position. These can and should be

QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 3



Jody Treadway
Associate Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Jason Hoag
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
Associate Editor NYSOV
Department of New York VFW
69 Sand Creek Rd.
Albany, NY 12205

STATE COMMANDER, *continued from page 1*

also be able to find the entire national and state programs written out, which can be read and/or printed out.

Without listing the various criteria's here as they are available there, let me explain how we, at HQ's may be of assistance to your efforts.

Review these documents as described. Determine if you, at this juncture in the year (June 30th is final cut off) (May 1st for convention presentation), will be able to meet or exceed the standard. Determine the items you have already achieved and which you haven't. Ask yourself if you have a clear vision as to how to achieve the ones you haven't. At this point, if you're not sure, it's time to call HQ's and ask for clarification. It may be that you need help in how to report things you have already done, or what you need to do to meet the standard. If it's the fact you need to get to 100% membership, sorry, that's on you.

As your Department Commander, I am doing the same thing. With your help, we have achieved all our goals except membership. We need just over 2000 to meet our 100%goal and with you continuing your efforts, helps all.

Looking forward to placing your ALL STATE Cover on you at the Department convention and possibly getting your ALL AMERICAN cap at the National convention.

Michael Hoag



Peter Pennelle
SR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

We are well into what is turning out to be a very successful year for the Department. Membership continues to be a priority this year and with a strong finish, 100% membership is well within our reach. As you know, membership is vital to our organization and we must work both individually and as a team to recruit new members. We must also make a strong effort to retain our current members and Posts must have a successful strategy for retention. If you currently have members that are not participating in Post activities, contact them and stay in touch with them! Ask them to get involved with the Post. Members who feel like they are part of the organization will more than likely participate in Post activities and are more likely to renew their dues or become a life

Sr. Vice Commander, continued on page 3

STATE ADJUTANT, *continued from page 1*

leadership and honor him with a banquet dinner. A special thank you to Binghamton area Posts 1449 and 478 for hosting the State Commander's "Good Will Tour" during Spring Conference weekend where members throughout the Department could gather and meet the Commander-in-Chief, State Commander and Department Officers.

Our Program Chairman have been doing an outstanding job this year and all provided excellent and very informative reports at the conference. We also received a very encouraging membership report advising that we are having a terrific membership year and with a final push we can attain 100% in membership for the Department. To help us get there, effective January 1, 2022, National instituted a new/reinstated Membership Grant initiative for VFW Posts. Every VFW Post that signs up a new or reinstated member and submits full membership dues will receive a rebate of up to \$30.00 based on the type of membership submitted.

As we approach the fourth quarter of the year be sure to reference the Department Memstats database to ensure that you have satisfied all the minimum requirements for the State Commander's Membership Program for All-State consideration. Also be sure that you are up to date on the All-American Dashboard to satisfy the requirements for the All-American Program. Both these Programs are designed to recognize exceptional leadership at all levels.

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell

QUARTERMASTER, *continued from page 1*

downloaded for reference during the term of office. For the quartermaster, there are several training documents and each year there is a Quartermaster Guide with the current years information for use during the year. There are forms and examples to look at and use. There are videos in the national web site for the QM to review.

For the trustees, there is a publication to use as a guide for the proper review of the entity's finances. There are forms to use for accurate review of the QM and Adjutants books and records.

Quartermaster, *continued*

Every entity which has a not-for-profit status, **MUST** file a 990 annually. If your Post, County Council or District is on a calendar year, begin to file today. If your Post, County Council or District is on the VFW fiscal year, July 1 thru June 30th you need to begin to gather the documentation for filing. Just a couple of notes on 990's, First, the 990 is not a tax return, rather a report of financial activities. Second, every 990 is open to inspection by anyone who wishes view it. This means anyone, Post members, Auxiliary members and/or anyone from the public. Refusing to show anyone a 990, it is a Federal violation, not a Department of New York or VFW violation. If you go online to start filing a 990 and you cannot locate your information, it might be because someone in your organization did not file for 3 years. **THERE IS NO WARNING TO ALERT YOU THERE WAS NOT A 990 FILED FOR 3 YEARS, IT IS AUTOMATIC.** Reestablishing the organization's not for profit status is expensive, time consuming and mountains of paperwork.

Thank you,

Daniel McMahon
Quartermaster
Department of New York VFW
dmcMahon@vfwny.com
518-414-2605

Sr. Vice Commander, *continued from page 2*

member.

If your Post has not been inspected, please contact your District Commander and request that your Post is Inspected. Inspections are designed to ensure that Posts are operating in a manner that is consistent with our National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. Our District inspection teams are there to assist you if you are having any difficulties. As a reminder, consideration for a Post All-State Award requires that your Post be inspected prior to April 30, 2022 and that your Inspection Report is received and approved by the Department prior to May 3, 2022.

Yours in Comradeship,

Peter Pennelle



Daniel Kell
JR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades;

We are almost at the end of the year and the State Convention is just around the corner. With a little more effort in upcoming months on membership continue to work on re-instating those members that haven't paid their dues, getting those annual members to pay their dues and continue working hard on membership drives recruiting new members who are eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We need to continue to work together get into our communities and make a difference and build our membership to include all generations. The Department of New York has a great chance in meeting their goals and attaining 100% in membership again for the Department of New York.

Remember in order for your Post to be eligible for Department All State Awards,

The Posts have to continue to work on all required reports (Trustee Reports, Community Service Reports, Inspections and Quartermaster OTI) that have to be submitted and posted on the Dashboard, slowly but surely the posts are getting them submitted. With Post Elections coming up for the ensuing year lets ensure we get those Post -Election Reports submitted on the National website by 1 June 2022.

I continue to attend District meetings; I want to thank the posts and the Districts for their Hospitality in making my visit welcomed and to include the Posts I visited with their respective District.

In closing I would like to congratulate Marc Garduno from the great state of Delaware in being elected as National Quartermaster General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Yours in Comradeship;

Daniel L. Kell

Department of New York Jr, Vice Commander

Remember...

Post Inspections for this year must take place prior to April 30, 2022 and must be approved by the Department no later than May 3, 2022!



Thomas Todaro,
PSC
DIRECTOR OF VETERAN
SERVICES



Comrades,

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) will change its disability ratings criteria for mental health conditions, sleep apnea and tinnitus, part of a major overhaul of the review process to ensure that compensation matches veterans' medical conditions and needs, department officials say. The VA plans to update its Schedule for Rating Disabilities -- its guide for determining how it evaluates and provides benefits for service-connected disabilities -- for [mental health](#) conditions, to include their impact on veterans' lives, and abolish the "0%" disability rating for any service-connected mental health diagnosis in favor of a 10% minimum, [according to a notice published Tuesday in the Federal Register](#).

For tinnitus, the department will get rid of its stand-alone rating and consider the condition a symptom of whatever underlying disease is its cause.

As for sleep apnea, ratings will be assessed based on the effectiveness of treatment and the condition's impact on "earning impairment," [according to the notice](#).

Previously, most conditions were assessed on the number and severity of symptoms, but VA officials said the consideration of lost wages or productivity is needed to ensure that the department compensates veterans appropriately. Officials say the changes, which would go into effect after a period for the public to comment and a final version is published, likely will result in higher disability ratings for veterans with mental health conditions, but fewer qualifying for disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea.

Veterans already receiving disability for these conditions will not see their ratings downgraded by any changes, officials said.

"Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition in these body systems will not have their disability rating impacted when the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities is updated," Thomas Murphy, acting VA undersecretary for benefits, said in a press release.

SERVICE OFFICER, *continued on page 5*

SERVICE OFFICER, continued from page 4

Assessing disabilities by the impact they have on

earning capacity will allow the department to "more accurately compensate [veterans] for their service-connected disabilities, officials said in the Tuesday press release.

"Updating the rating schedule allows veterans to receive decisions based on the most current medical knowledge relating to their condition," Murphy said.

Under the proposal for mental health conditions, the VA will consider a condition's impact on cognition, relationships and ability to complete tasks, care for oneself and perform activities necessary for functioning daily.

Citing studies that showed the current VA disability rating system does not adequately provide compensation to make up for earnings lost if a veteran misses work or can't work as the result of a service-related mental health condition, the department plans to adopt the new criteria to "more accurately capture the occupational impairment caused by mental disabilities and provide more adequate compensation," according to the notice.

The new criteria also will be used to assess disability ratings for eating disorders, which currently are outlined in a separate part of the disability ratings schedule.

Officials said an overhaul of the system is underway because the disability ratings evaluation schedule has been updated piecemeal since it was first created in 1945.

To date, the VA has completed updating 10 of the 14 sections of the schedule; the proposed changes to mental health and the section that covers tinnitus and sleep apnea make up half of the remaining.

VA officials said the changes made to the criteria reflect modern medicine and a better understanding of how diagnoses and treatments affect veterans' lives.

Speaking with reporters during a press conference Monday, a VA benefits official noted that when overhauling the section on musculoskeletal injuries, the department shortened the time period for veterans to receive disability payments following a hip replacement from 12 months to four.

"We looked at more recent medical studies ... and found that the time somebody is off of work after having that surgery is closer to three months ... so we made a revision to that portion," the official said.

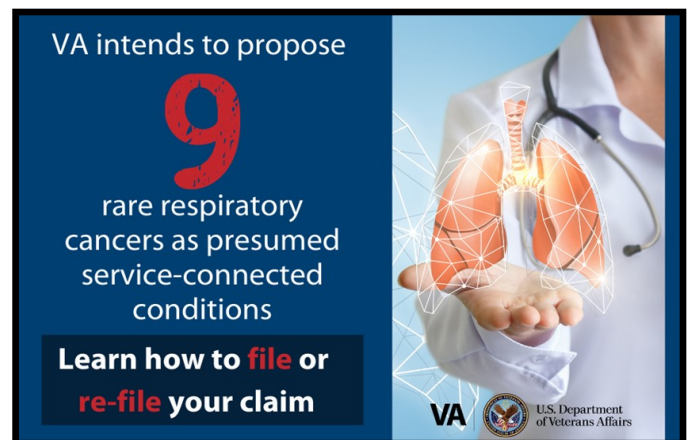
SERVICE OFFICER, continued

The VA is seeking public comment on the proposed changes to the ratings schedule

through the Federal Register. After the comment period closes April 18, the department will review them and draft a final version, to include the dates the changes will go into effect.

Once the changes are made, veterans who believe their ratings should be upgraded based on the new criteria should file a claim, the official said. "We anticipate seeing higher evaluations for mental health conditions," the official said.

Regards,
Tom Todaro
Director



Comrades,

The Department of Veterans Affairs will propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of [presumed service-connected disabilities](#) in relation to military environmental exposure to particulate matter.

When the proposal becomes final, dependents, survivors, and Veterans who had claims previously denied for any of the below respiratory cancers would be encouraged to file a [supplemental claim](#) for benefits.

- Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the larynx;
- SCC of the trachea;
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea;
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung;
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung;
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung;
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung and;

VA ARTICLE, continues on page 6

VA ARTICLE, *continued from page 5*

Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.

Any Veteran who had one of these cancers manifest to a degree of 0% or more at any time during or after separation would become eligible for service-connection.

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process. The publication date of the federal register will occur in the coming weeks.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility.

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

If you are a Veteran who has been diagnosed with one of these conditions, but have not filed a claim, please notify VA of your [intent to file a claim](#).

Regards,
Thomas Todaro
Director/PSC



Gene Ratigliano
PSC
MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN



Comrades:

As of this writing the Department of New York is at 95.02% and needing 2,018 more members in pay status to reach 100% in membership. We have three and one half months or 96 days to reach our goal.

It is time to turn up the heat and become aggressive in reaching out to our unpaid members as well as looking out in your communities to see what events you can participate in to reach out for new members. Our Commander is counting on

you to bring it home. Let's not disappoint him. Commander Hoag has had an outstanding year and has done much to support you and your posts. Now it's payback time and he needs you to work a little harder to get to that 100%.

I will continue to forward what prospects I have in the Department At Large pool as well as those prior members and relocated members who may be in the vicinity of your posts. All you need to do is send me the zip codes for your area and I will send what I can find for you. If you have already done so you do not need to send them again.

Now is the time to review the requirements of the Commander's All-State Program as well as the National Commander's Program if you are looking to become an All-American Post. The membership program requirements are on the Department of NY website at www.vfwny.org. As we near the end of the membership year MemStats will be updated accordingly.

There are still two very important incentive awards in play this membership year. National's Membership Grant Program is still going strong.

For every new to the VFW Life Member and/or an Reinstated Annual to Life with full Life Member payment the Post will receive \$30.00

For new/or Reinstated Annual to Life with Life Installment plan the Post will receive \$20.00

New to VFW Annual member the Post will receive \$20.00

Reinstated Annual member the Post will receive \$10.00

The 2nd incentive is the Department Commander's Special Drawing for a Henry VFW Tribute Rifle which will be given away at the State Convention in June. For every new or reinstated member a comrade recruits, he or she will receive one ticket in the drawing for the Henry Tribute Rifle. For example, if a comrade recruits 15 new or reinstated members, that individual would receive three entries in the drawing, etc.

As I mentioned to you in our last newsletter, look to your District Commander for assistance. If there is any way the Department can assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail and we will direct that assistance to you if feasible at ejr@vfwny.com or 518-885-9666. Continue to do the good work you do in your communities and spread the word on who you are and what the VFW does for its veterans and your communities.

Yours in Comradeship,
Gene Ratigliano
Gene Ratigliano
Membership Chairman



William Hughes

VOD CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

The judging was completed in January per the rules and procedures for the Voice of Democracy. Thank you to all nine districts who forwarded great essays and the accompanying audio components for this contest, and a big thank you for the assembled Judges from diverse and accomplished backgrounds. The following is the complete list of winners from the Department of New York:

1. Daniela Mare DIST 1 Post 9486
14 11th Street
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779, Sachem
North High School
2. Joshua Farrell DIST 9 Post 1418
811 Lake Shore Rd, W. Chazy, NY 12992.
Chazy Central School
3. Mary Quinn DIST 7 Post 2535
3295 Hopkins Rd., Amherst, NY 14228
Mount St. Mary Academy
4. Katherine Pullaro DIST 2 Post 7765
61 Jefferson Rd., Red Hook, NY 12571, Red
Hook High School
5. Anthony LaSage DIST 4 Post 7227
114 Pike St., Brownville NY, 13615 General
Brown JSHS
6. Aidan Rosettie DIST 3 Post 420
25 Fenimore Place, Wilton NY 12831
Saratoga Springs High School
7. Lauren Coleman DIST 5 Post 369
232 Elm St., N. Syracuse 13212 North
Syracuse High School
8. Benjamin Brol DIST 6 Post 9487
3284 Bakerstand Rd., Franklinville NY,
Franklinville Jr/Sr High School
9. Aidian Webster DIST 8 Post 8649
3414 N Plum Pt. Rd., Himrod NY 14842,
Dundee Central School

You may listen now to all the winners from each

Department by going to the following link for a truly uplifting experience. [\(1\) #vod - Explore | Facebook](#)

Please take note of this important procedural change, I want to send the most accurate report possible to the Department, this really begins with the POST ADJUDANT making a complete entry into the All-American Dashboard system. This way the number of students participating, the number of students advancing to District and the money spent at the Post level is all there for the DISTRICT report. So, this process really begins at the Post level with the Post chair and the Post Adjutant getting those figures into the system. As the Department Chair, I cannot input these entries into the system. This system is quite simple and there is a tutorial on the VFW National website with clear information.

For the second year in a row, the VFW virtually hosted its Parade of Winners award show, sponsored by [Twisted X](#), live on Facebook. The event featured the 53 national VFW Department (state) winners, along with a virtual message from the Twisted X CEO and president, Prasad Reddy.

VFW National Commander Fritz Mihelcic and VFW Auxiliary President Jean Hamil presented Voice of Democracy first place winner from the Department of New York, Daniela Mare with her \$30,000 first place award. Streaming live from the iconic Statue of Liberty in New York, New York, Daniela Mare, a junior at Sachem High School North in Lake Ronkonkoma, New York, was sponsored by VFW Post 9486; Al Defrancis Post Commander; John Mauro VOD Post Chairman and its Auxiliary in Centereach, New York.

Thank you to all my VFW Comrades who do all the volunteer work in the trenches and all those throughout the process who made this so special and a big Congratulations to Daniela and her family.



Respectfully

William Hughes

Dept. VOD Chairman



Raymond Thies
SERVICE OFFICERS
JOURNAL AD CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

I am happy to report that as of March 21 the Journal ADs raised \$2,880 for our Service Officers. I wish that it had been more as it has been in the past but considering the medical and financial time that we have gone through it is a great move forward.

The closing date for receipt of ADs was Monday, March 07 however we continued to receive ADs beyond that and were able to include them in the Journal. As of March 21, out of 344 posts in the state we have 40 ADs in the Journal; 33 of them are from a combination of individual posts, county councils, districts or individual VFW members. There are also 8 ADs from our post auxiliary's or in combination with the auxiliary and post. As far as where the ADs came from, except for one district from which no ADs came, the ADs were evenly spread throughout the state.

I want to remind our posts that their relief funds that are usually funded by Buddy Poppy distribution can be used for Service Officer support, Commanders Special Project and other veterans in need programs.

Commander, I want to thank you for allowing me to help support our very professional Department Service Officers in the excellent work that they do in obtaining the benefits that all veterans and their family members have earned and deserve. I also want to thank our department office staff, Jody Treadway and Amanda Comstock, for their help in creating and putting the Journal together.

Raymond Thies Post 8692
Service Officer Journal Chairman



Sean Dion
SERVICE OFFICERS
RAFFLE CHAIRMAN



Donors and winners of the Service Officer Raffle,

As the chair of this year's raffle, I would first like to thank Commander Hoag for the appointment of this position. I had a wonderful time reaching out to the different Posts throughout the state, and the best part, stand up and give money away!

An important part of this program is the maintaining of the list of past donors, as well as reaching out for new. This year, I am extremely thankful for the leadership of Commander Hoag, Gene Ratigliano, Bob Mitchell, and the office staff at Headquarters; Jodi Treadway, and Amanda Comstock for their time spent creating labels and stuffing envelopes. My job was much easier to manage with their help.

Our prize list totaled over \$4,000 this year and we sold more than \$8,000 in tickets! I would like to extend a warm THANK YOU for your generosity.

Below is a list of this year's winners. Congratulations, and to those who chose to donate their winnings, thank you again!!!

Thanks again,

Sean Dion

List of Winners

\$300.00 prize winner:

Wayne Campbell

\$100.00 prize winners:

Tracy Damato Levittown, NY

It's time to start planning your ad for
placement in the

State Convention Journal

June 9-12, 2022

Albany Marriott

Albany NY

WINNERS, continued on page 9

WINNERS, *continued from page 8*

Robin Richmond	Forestville, NY
Post 7763	Massapequa, NY
Post 672 Aux	Brewster, NY
Post 6338	Gouverneur, NY
Post 7062	Altamont, NY
Post 1400	Watertown, NY
Alice Vanik	Cuba, NY
Lynn Loga	South Glens Falls, NY
Post 6251 Aux	Cheektowaga, NY
Post 7289	Pulaski, NY
Post 7289 Aux	Pulaski, NY
Post 2940	Lancaster, NY
Post 9487 Aux	Franklinville, NY
Post 885 Aux	College Point, NY
Post 1231	Canton, NY
District 6 Aux	
Post 420 Aux	Saratoga Springs, NY
Andy Veiga Jr.	Flushing, NY
Post 8259 Aux	Stittville, NY
Stanley Board	West Valley, NY
Post 6912	Lowville, NY
Post 6169	Queensbury, NY
Post 9257 Aux	Patterson, NY
Post 1400 Aux	Watertown, NY
Post 4660	Burnt Hills, NY
Kelly Horrigan	Argyle, NY
Post 6764 Aux	Westfield, NY
Jeff Platt	Gouverneur, NY
Howie Goldsmith	Monticello, NY
James MacArthur	Millerton, NY
Post 9008	Millbrook, NY
Post 2522	Cherry Creek, NY
Post 161 Aux	Port Jervis, NY
James McNally	Jamestown, NY
Post 7227	Carthage, NY
Fr. Edward Kane	Brooklyn, NY
Michael Hoag	Glens Falls, NY

\$50.00 prize winner:

Post 7227 Carthage, NY

Thank you to everyone who supported the Service Officers Raffle which helps to support our Service Officers who are here for all the veterans of New York State.

Please Note

The Department of New York VFW
will be closed
Friday April 15
Through
Monday April 18

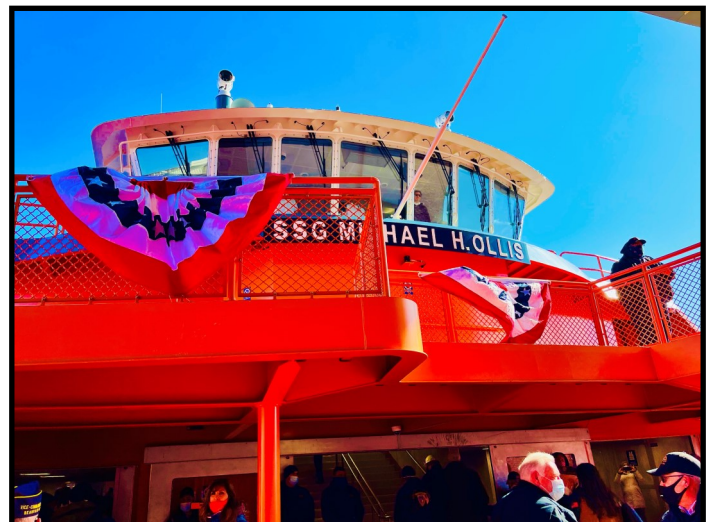
The dedication of the Staten Island Ferry SSG Michael Ollis

On February 14, 2022 the newest Staten Island ferry was dedicated in honor of SSG. Michael Ollis who was born in New Dorm, Staten Island. Along with his parents—Robert and Linda Ollis members of VFW 9587 the SSG. Michael Ollis Post, American Legion Posts 126 and 1320 of Staten Island, dignitaries and officials of New York City, New York State Government and Congress and veterans gathered for a pre-launch press conference, launch and maiden voyage.

Michael was deployed to Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light). Unfortunately, Michael was Killed in Action on 28 August 2013 by giving up his own life by protecting a Polish soldier and his fellow soldiers during an attack by a suicide bomber at their Forward Operating Base (FOB Ghazni).

His awards and decorations are the Army Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously awarded on 2 December 2012), Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, and various awards and decorations. There is a foundation in his honor called the SSG Michael Ollis Freedom Foundation at <http://www.ssgollis.org/>

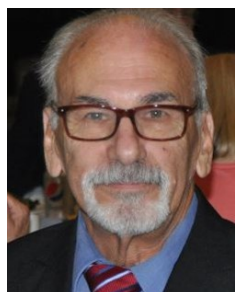
Jesse Figueroa
VFW Post 8160
Brooklyn



BUDDY POPPY ORDERS

Did you know that so far this year the Department of New York VFW ordered a total of

**201,000
Buddy Poppies**



Gary Wasserman

Military Assistance
Program Chairman



Comrades,

As we are entering the spring season, I would like to remind everyone of all of the MAP programs. The Adopt a Unit program is very important. Your post can adopt and support a unit by providing them with needed items. For more information on how your post can adopt a unit please go to National's website. The VFW unmet program offers assistance to military families. This allows us to offer a hand when needed. There is also the Sports Clips program which offers scholarships to Veterans.

Here is what the MAP programs have done this February.

MAP: Adopt a Unit- 7 grants

Unmet Needs: 36 grants, \$37,371.62

VFW Sports Clips: 10 Scholarships, \$27,219.00

In February a total of 10,307 veterans, military members and their families were supported through VMS programs.

Don't forget to donate at least \$100.00 to VMS by June 30, 2022 to qualify for All- American.

Gary Wasserman
NYS-Map Chairman



Gene Ratigliano
PSC
National Council
Member



Comrades,

Since my last report to you I attended the Washington Legislative Conference where a workshop and formal C of A was held and National Commander Mihalczic gave his testimony to the Senate and House Committee on Veteran's affairs which was very well received.

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

Quartermaster General Anderson discussed VFW staffing indicating that the National organization had experienced very high turnover during the past two years. There are currently 15 vacant positions and it has become necessary to pay new employees above the minimum salary in order to compete with other employers looking for good talent. Final recommendations regarding salaries will be made as the budget is put together for 2022-23.

In order to eliminate future interest rate risk on the Employee Pension Plan the Retirement Plan Board is looking at a strategy called Liability Driven Investing or LDI, in which the assets of the pension plan are invested in fixed income securities to match the potential liabilities of the plan. LDI will be phased in over the next year or two if not sooner. To get an aggressive start National desired to contribute \$2 million to the pension plan for the current year in the hopes of reducing risk and volatility in the assets. **A motion was made and passed the next day at the C of A to contribute \$2 million to the Retirement Fund as the VFW National Headquarters Plan contribution for the current year 2021-22.**

Jim Lierz who serves as the employee representative, one of five appointed by the C of A to the Retirement Board term expired on February 28, 2022. An election was held by the employees and Jim was selected to serve another 5 year term. The C of A reappointed Jim for another 5 Year term.

Budget Chairman Larry Mahar as always
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER, continued on page 11

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER, *continued from page 10*

provided an extensive explanation by item and account of how the budget is progressing for the current year. Current Unrestricted cash & investments are \$83.8 million and represents an increase of about \$5.1 million since August 2021. Sport Clips raised over \$1.5 million to support the Help-A-Hero Scholarship Program which is the largest single year amount raised for the program.

Two special items which should be of interest to you as Post Commanders and Quartermasters is the Life Member Payout for next year and the Membership Grant Program that is currently in effect.

A motion was made and approved at the C of A to authorize the following Life Membership Payouts for 2022-23 fiscal year:

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

Plan D \$16.50 for each Life Member (\$5.50 to each Post, Dept & National)

Plan E \$27.00 for each Life Member (9.00 to each Post, Dept & National)

Life Membership Plans		
	Began	Ended
Plan A	10/01/50	11/30/69
Plan B	12/01/69	10/31/76
Plan C	11/01/76	12/31/97
Plan D	01/01/98	12/31/06
Plan E	01/01/07	

In January 2022 VFW National provided Posts a grant for new and re-instated members. Although not budgeted at the beginning of the year, to keep it in place through the end of the year it could add around \$800,000 in expenses in the Membership budget. It is felt that National has the ability to absorb this cost within the current year's budget and it looks like the program is working in bringing in additional members into the VFW and will probably be extended in the future.

Lastly, which some of you already are aware, Quartermaster General Debra Anderson has retired and Assistant Quartermaster General Marc Garduno now fills that position at Headquarters.

I am due to go back to Kansas City in August for another budget and update workshop and will report to you when I return.

Yours in Comradeship,
Gene Ratigliano
 Gene Ratigliano, PSC
 National Council Member

VFW National Home

Art Scheuneman

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

A lot has happened since the last article on the National Home (NH). First off There is a new Executive Director. After a nationwide search The Executive Board presented to the full Board 20 applicants that were eventually whittled down to three. Those three were called back for second and third interviews before we finally elected our new Executive Director, Michael Wilson. Mike will lead the NH for many years to come and into the second 100 years of The National Home existence.

By now you may have noticed that I have not referred to The National Home for Children as we had known it previously. That is because we have been working on rebranding The National Home, just as the VFW National had done a few years ago. Therefore, going forward, we now will be known as The VFW National Home by dropping "for Children." We still are here for the children, but we are now focusing on assisting military, veterans and their families with children as a whole. You will see this in our new "Mission Statement."

Our new Mission Statement is, *"The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment."*

I have been appointed chairman of Facilities and Grounds and am working with the onsite Facilities and Grounds Director, Todd Marriott. I have been gathering information on building a solar farm on the NH campus. This would be large enough to meet all of our power needs for the entire campus. This project would result in a savings of 1.260 Million dollars over the course of 30 years. I am also exploring a switch to metal roofing vs asphalt shingles.

Of the two New York Houses only the New York #1 house is currently occupied. The New York #2 House has been completely redone and awaiting a larger family to move in. This is the largest house on the NH Campus at 7 bedrooms, 4 baths and is 4,700 square feet.

VFW NATIONAL HOME, *continued on page 11*

VFW NATIONAL HOME, continued from page 11
NEW YORK HOUSE #1



Here is a link for a virtual tour of the New York #2 House: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uILs7ULgp1k>
NEW YORK HOUSE #2



Donations to the NH "New York House Fund" were very sparse this past quarter. When making a donation to The National Home, in the memo line you may enter "New York House Fund." This is a restricted fund and is the only place where these funds may be used.

The NH took delivery of the first of two plow trucks just in time for the first snowfall of the season. The second plow truck, that the Cooties funded, is still being built, there was no time given for delivery. These plow trucks were made possible through your generous donations to the Plow Truck Fund. VFW Post 9545 from Illinois has purchased the new lift gate for the second truck.

Looking for the best deal on membership? If, you are not a member of The National Home, why aren't you? A Life Membership to the National Home is only \$50.00 and includes a Life

Membership pin. You may pay with check or credit card.

See the VA National Home for Children Application enclosed at the end of this newsletter.



Howard Goldsmith
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 2



Some quick notes:

The district Officer's and members would like to thank Post 170 In Poughkeepsie for hosting our Winter Meeting this past January 16th. We had 62 Post's represented at the meeting and our guest speaker Tracey Rubino from the NYS Gaming Commission gave a great presentation and led a lengthy Q & A period after her presentation. As a side note, we have started a defense fund for Harry Sherblom so he can retain legal representation as his inquisitive mind may have opened pandora box. Hopefully Tracy has a short memory.

We were also very fortunate to have as our guest NYS VFW Commander Mike Hoag in attendance. Although he insisted on being the last speaker, he still captivated the audience bringing the membership up to date on the Department Spring Conference, his special project for Homeless Veterans as well as a number of other topics.

Thanks to State Senator Skoudic and Assemblyman Skartados and the tireless efforts of Post 973 QM David McTamane in the people, paper and computer chase. The Post is close to completing the grant process for repairs desperately needed. Hopefully the funds will be awarded in time to do the repairs in time for their 100th Anniversary this September.

A reminder that all Post's should have made their nominations for Post positions this month as election should be held during the month of April. Good luck and thank you in the upcoming year for those member's that stepped up to the plate to fill the offices.

A special thank you to Sullivan County Commander Pete Carmeci, who worked endlessly in securing our location for our Spring Convention. It was quit the roller coaster ride with hotel cancellations, location changes and countless hours on the phone. Thank you, Covid-19!! Below is the location, date and times. A hard copy letter to all Posts will follow shortly after this publication comes out.

COMMANDER DISTRICT 2 continued on page 13

COMMANDER DIRTICT 2 *continued from page 12***Date: April 30, 2022**

Holiday Inn,
2170 South Road
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601
845-462-4600

We have blocked 35 rooms for Fri. & Sat. @ \$106.00 per night
When booking your room, use the code VFW
Registration for the meeting starts at 09:00
VFW & Auxiliary will meet at 10:00 sharp for our Memorial Service. The VFW meeting will start after the Service.

Being involved as an officer and Commander of District 2 for the past three years I have had the pleasure of interacting with many of District 2's Post Commander's and their member's. Below is a story of two Post's in my District that embodies and amplify the true meaning of Commander Hoag's slogan THE TIME IS NOW and the V.F.W.'s STILL SERVING as well as LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND. Great job Post 1666 and Post 9215 and those Post's that contributed.

There was no reason to change their words as their story speaks for itself. I just take pride in fact that I have been fortunate enough to be associated with such good people.

Howie Goldsmith, Cmdr.
District 2, Department of N.Y. V.F.W.

Commander Goldsmith,

I hope this finds you well. I am writing to you to let you know about a great program that is happening in District 2.

Back in September, you sent out an email advising us of the clothing drive that Post 1666 Post Cmdr. Jim McGovern was quarterbacking for Afghanistan refugees. I have to say that this effort has been a great success.

Commander Damien Shea of Post 9215 in Upper Nyack has really taken the ball and run with it in our local community of Rockland County. He has coordinated with local Churches, schools, Mosques and individuals (via social media) with overwhelming success. I have attached several images of Damien and other members of our Post with some of the donors. Additionally, you can see the size of Damien's truck and trailer.

To date, Damien has transported 5 dump trailers totaling over 25,000 lbs. of clothing, diapers, baby items, shoes, and blankets to Ft Dix, where there are approximately 14,000 refugees right now. Commander Shea has used his own truck and trailer to transport these items. And he isn't finished. He is transporting another trailer on Wednesday 11/25/2021. As long as the donations keep coming, he will continue to make trips there. To date, we have received

donations from Islamic Center of Rockland, Good Shephard Lutheran Church in Pearl River, St Francis of Assisi of West Nyack, St Gregory Barbarigo of Garnerville, and the Rockland Police Athletic League. Post 1666 also facilitated a transport with Tree Army in the beginning. Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick also donated some bags of clothing and helped get the word out for us. The West Nyack Volunteer Fire Department allowed Damien to store his trailer there when the weather was questionable. Clarkstown Police Department assisted by putting us in touch with the Imam at the Islamic Center. WRCR a local radio station in Garnerville and News12 both ran stories about this effort.

This initiative for Damien comes on the heels of a combined effort between him and our Adjutant, Mike Tritt when they assisted in getting a gentleman named Gholam and his family out of Afghanistan. Gholam was comrade Tritt's interpreter in Afghanistan and was in danger of being killed when the US left the region because of his alliance with US troops. Below is an excerpt from Comrade Tritt's write-up of the events leading up to Gholam's evacuation. Please see in italics below.

My name is SSgt Michael Tritt USAF (2002-2008) and I am a member of VFW Post 9215. I have been working tirelessly for the past 2 months trying to get my interpreter, Gholam, and his family out of Afghanistan.

Early August 2021, his town was surrounded by the Taliban. After much convincing, he agreed to let us send him \$800 which is enough money for 4 plane tickets and 1st month's rent for a place in Kabul. Unfortunately, by the time he got tickets, his town had been overrun, the airport was closed, and he was 400 miles away from the nearest possible rescue. My last message to him was he either needs to get to Kabul, or he needs to burn all of his documents and grow his beard out to blend in. His last message to me was he was going to try to make it to another province. 36 hours later he messaged me that he was in Kabul. He arrived the same weekend US troops arrived, and it was chaos at Kabul Airport.

We tried eight to ten attempts at various gates in the airport. On his first attempt, I even talked to the ANA guard who spoke perfect English to let him in, but that was the closest he ever got. Through some contacts, we had a Marine inside the airport who was going to come to the East Gate and read his name but shortly after I sent him there, I got a flash message that shots were fired and to recall Gholam. Gholam and his family watched in horror as the Taliban showed up and executed a woman and five children in front of the East Gate.

COMMANDER DISTRICT 2 *continued on page 14*

COMMANDER DISTRICT 2 *continued from page 13*

They fled and hid in a stranger's house who fed them and let them stay the night. On our last attempt at the gates, we sent him to Abbey Gate. It was very crowded but intel said it was the best gate for getting through that day. That is the day the bomb exploded outside Abbey Gate killing hundreds of people and our US Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors. I thought I got Gholam and his family killed for the second time.

When he finally messaged me, he said the Taliban showed up and beat his wife with cables and shooed them away. This actually saved their lives. All this time I was calling and emailing every Congressman and Senator, and having friends and family do the same. I reached out to Lt. Generals I knew, operators I knew, and my VFW commander, who played a huge role in helping me find people on the ground in Kabul to help.

Eventually, I reached a guy who goes by the name "Duke" with Operation North Star who happened to know all the right people at a high enough level and he coordinated with his team on the ground to exfil Gholam and his family. Gholam had to pawn his wife's wedding ring to pay for one more night at the place they were staying. Operation North Star made multiple attempts at getting Gholam and his family out of Kabul. The bombing at Abbey Gate had killed five of their operators (Americans) that were running their bus evac routes. They had two ground teams to try to get Gholam out but due to Taliban presence they couldn't get to him. They reached out to the British SAS actively working exfil operations and they were happy to exfil him and his family but due to the sheer number of personnel they were trying to exfil it got called off twice. They finally opted for a covert extraction utilizing an Afghan Commando who volunteered to pick him up and drove him all the way to Mazar-I-Sharif an eight-to-ten-hour drive. This commando got him through thirteen Taliban check points and it was originally supposed to look like a Taliban kidnapping. This man swore to protect Gholam's family with his life until the rest of his team and people that they were trying to get out could catch up.

After weeks of moving Gholam around different safe houses, and multiple problems with keeping him on the manifest for the planes by other volunteer groups bumping him off, Duke was determined to keep him on the manifest and get him out. Gholam even stayed one night in a hotel full of Taliban sleeping on the roof and in the lobby, (third time I thought I killed him), Gholam finally made it onto the plane and landed safely in Qatar. He was able to get new clothes and toys for his kids. They had been wearing the same clothes for 2 months. It took him a few days to realize he was safe and then he broke down and cried to me. I cried with him. He is my brother. I could not

leave him behind. I am still working behind the scenes to help others who are actively being hunted by the Taliban.

These are all Americans in my eyes, they served our country with distinction, they have bled for us, lost everything for us and have been abandoned by us. All that is keeping them afloat are veterans, active duty, and volunteers that have been working tirelessly day and night. These people are working their day jobs, making calls, and messaging their Afghan friends at night, trying to keep them calm and tell them they are not forgotten. We do this so that others may live. It is my creed from my unit. Please help donate in any way you can and show the world that America does not abandon its friends, allies, and its families.

For a follow up Gholam was told in Qatar that he could not stay but was not cleared yet, but his family was. So, he had to decide whether to take his family with him wherever they were sending him, of which they told him it would not be as nice as Qatar, or send them ahead to the United States. He chose to do what was best for his family and sent them ahead to the U.S. Meanwhile he ended up going to Kosovo where his next fight to clear his name came. He spent a month in Kosovo answering questions about what he did for the US, who he was, and if he was a terrorist. Gholam was finally released after being cleared and ended up in Ft. Dix NJ to be reunited with his family.

There he finally got to meet Damien our VFW Post 9215 Commander who was instrumental in helping Gholam get out since day 1 and continues to help out by reaching out to our local Rockland Community to donate to those in need and delivering these donations personally in his own vehicle, that is sponsored by Operation North Star. Through the combined efforts of Duke and Damien, Gholam would never be here today, receiving the clothing donations from my local community, and I would be writing a different story with a different ending. Gholam's is one of thousands out there, successful ones, and unfortunately there are ten times that of unsuccessful ones that veterans like me, Damien, Duke, still continue to fight for every day. But we must also enjoy every victory we can as we have changed the lives of those we have saved and that must be celebrated as we come upon the holidays. I have a lot to be thankful for, and right now it's having served with great people like Damien and Duke, and to continue serving with them when the call came.

STATE CONVENTION

JUNE 9-12 ,2022

ALBANY MARRIOTT

ALBANY, NY

BULLET POINTS FROM NATIONAL ON VA HOSPITAL CLOSINGS

- The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Process rolled out its first recommendations last week. This is just the initial set of recommendations. Nothing is final yet.
- This is the beginning of a multi-year process that will include: Detailed market assessments for every VA market; Public Hearings at numerous locations around the country; and I Presidential approval plan, that has to be agreed upon by Congress.
- The goal of the AIR process is to help VA build a healthcare network with the right facilities, in the right places, to provide the right care for all veterans.
- VA's aging infrastructure needs to be addressed in order to provide world-class for the men and women who served this great nation.
- While some areas may see facilities close, others will see new VA facilities open up. This is designed to make sure the care is centered around where veterans live.
- Overall, the initial AIR report recommends expanding more than 80 new VA facilities across the US.
- New York will see some facilities be proposed to close such as the Manhattan and Brooklyn VA. But in Albany there is a proposed new VA Medical Center. In Buffalo there is a proposed new VA Medical Center. On Long Island there is a proposed super CBOC to help take some of the workload from the existing Northport VA Medical Center.
- Some CBOCs are proposed to close, but only to be replaced with Multi Specialty CBOCs
- The VFW is determined to review and monitor the initial recommendations extremely carefully. We will be providing our official feedback where necessary. And we will make sure VA continues to fulfill its promise to our nation by caring for those who served our country.

RALLY TO KEEP STATEN ISLAND VA HOSPITAL OPEN

Staten Island veterans and local electives rallied outside of the Staten Island VA Clinic, to speak out against the closing and realigning of their health care within the VA.





Marc Farmilette
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 3



District 3 Commander Marc Farmilette visited VFW Post 770 in Catskill, NY to present the post with their Golden Anniversary Award from VFW National and a Special Anniversary Certificate from District 3 NY. Awards were presented to Commander Nicole Borgen on December 18, 2021, at the post's business meeting. Congratulations to Post 770 for their contributions to Veterans and the Community for the past 100 years.



Post 6001, Yorkville recently partnered with the Military Order of the Purple Heart chapter 409 and visited veterans at the New York State Veterans Home, Oxford, NY. Post members got to play bingo with the veterans and in some cases their wives also. Before they left the VFW and MOPH members presented gift cards to many of the veterans.



Joseph Martel
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 4



Comrades,

Officers and members of District 4 enjoyed and very informative Department Spring Conference, noteworthy was the Parliamentarian presentation by National Parliamentarian Joshua Schreck and the Dashboard-Community Service reporting by our Adjutant Robert Mitchell.

District 4 will hold their 2022 Convention on May 1st at Dionne Rumble Post 7227, Carthage.

District 4 was saddened earlier this year by the sudden death of our Past District Commander Ronald Bambury.

Post 7227 in Carthage, NY has been hosting membership drives at the Ft. Drum PX and offering free memberships to all with proper documents, to help with the membership costs the Post has had a series of chicken BBQ's . Post



members keeping an eye on the BBQ

Post 7227 was notified at the spring conference that their VOD winner placed in the top three in the Department judging.

Post 2338 in West Winfield hosted a Vietnam Veterans Commemoration ceremony.

COMMANDER DISTRICT 4, continued on page 18



COMMANDER DISTRICT 4, continued from page 16

District 4 Jr. Vice Matt VanEtten attended. The oldest Vietnam Veteran, Lt. Col, retired, George McMillan cut our welcome home cake.



Photo, #2 Lt.Col, retired, George McMillan, left, Post 2338 Commander Diane Schoonover, right. The event was headed Commander Diane Schoonover and Service Officer Aaron Conklin. Commander Diane is the first female veteran to be an officer in Post 2338, she followed her father George Hazard as Post Commander



Past Post Commander, left George Hazard, Post Commander Diane Schoonover, right

At the spring conference it was announced that the Law Enforcement Officer of the year winner was New York State Trooper Joshua Cox, Trooper Cox was nominated by Barben-Jones Post 1400 of Watertown for his efforts saving a 90-year-old woman from choking to death.



Left Mrs. June Wight, Trooper Cox, right

Many of the Posts in District are now offering food specials at their canteens. Items include Wing nights, BBQ's Fish Fries, and weekly or daily specials, with most advertising on their Facebook pages. Posts are reporting excellent sales. Be sure to check Facebook for a Post near you.



Scott Cox
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 5



Since our last article many posts have been very busy recruiting and retaining members. Posts within the district have also been hosting a variety of different events to engage with the communities they reside in. Some of the events have been breakfasts, dinners and a few holiday events.

A few months ago our district was sad to learn of the untimely passing of Past District Commander Alan Wood. Several members of the district went and paid respects to PDC Wood and his family.

The Spring Conference just wrapped up and was very informative and successful. Our district had the pleasure of escorting the Commander in Chief

COMMANDER DISTRICT 5, continued on page 19

District 5 Centurion Salute to Veterans



**SAVE THE DATE
AND REGISTER FOR**

**The State Commander's
Save Our Veterans
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**MAY 20, 2022 AT 9:00 AM
TOWN OF COLONIE GOLF COURSE**

**MAY 21, 2022 AT 10:00 AM
CASOLWOOD GOLF COURSE
Visit our website for more information
WWW.VFWNY.COM**



COMMANDER DISTRICT 5, continued from page 19

Fritz Mihelcic to a few of our posts. Post 1449 and Post 478 did an amazing of not only giving the CIC a tour but also had refreshments out for the entire escorting party. We are continuing to do funerals for our comrades who have passed.

Saying goodbye is never easy. On a more positive note we also have been doing centurion salute for veterans who turn 100 years old or more. I hope until next time you, your family friends and posts stay safe and healthy

Scott Cox

District 5 Commander



Roger Cordle
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 7



On Saturday, March 19, 2022, the annual LEPRECHAUN 5K was hosted by VFW Post 2535 and their Auxiliary Unit. A special thanks to Mayor Michelle Roman, our Lockport Police Department and the entire community for their continuous support. This event would not be possible without the support of our Comrades and Auxiliary members. Thank you for all the prizes that were donated. A special thanks to Post CMDR Roger Cordle, USA. A job well done!

A Special to thanks to VFW State CMDR Mike Hoag USA - Retired Past District CMDR Ray Pierce, USMC Comrade Caquan L. Palmer USA

Abe Zino
Sr. Vice




Pennington-Moye Post 9251

Brighton Town Supervisor presents Pennington-Moye Post 9251's Buffalo Soldier presentation Team with a proclamation for support given over the years.



Post 9251 participated in a Trick or Trunk event with several community organization which provided blood pressure checks, covid tests, FBI child safety kits and lots of safe sweets for kids.





585-667-0660

EXERCISE EXPRESS, VFW 9251, ROC WITH WISH & SAVE ROCHESTER INC. PRESENT

FREE THANKSGIVING MEALS

Dinner includes Turkey, Dressing, Carrots,
Mac & Cheese, rice, and beans

Thursday, November 18th, 2021
200 West Ave 3:00 PM

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED


HOME OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS
PRESENTATION TEAM

PENNINGTON MOYE POST #9251


VFW

OFFICERS OF FOREIGN WARS


JUDICIAL PROCESS COMMISSION



Save Rochester



Women's Initiative
Supporting Health



**EXERCISE
EXPRESS**

In November Pennington-Moye Post 9251 partnered with Exercise Express to provide turkey dinner for local veterans. City policemen delivered meals to shut ins.



membership often decades ago in the jungles of Vietnam, and battlefields around the globe in service of the stars and stripes, the flag of our country.

One such individual, Richard J. Vinet a Canadian volunteered and joined the US Army and served as part of the medical corps during 1966-1967 in Vietnam. He is a proud Veteran, a comrade and a man who continues serving today by helping Veterans obtain benefits and other services earned through their service.

Edward C. Seymour Post #1231 Canton NY, to our knowledge is the first Post in the Department of NY to enroll a Canadian citizen in our organization. At his first Post meeting, and upon receiving his life membership courtesy of the Post membership, he was deeply moved. It took over 50 years to right this wrong, but he holds no ill will. His words "I'm proud to be part of this Post, and to be with my brothers and sister Veterans."

The photograph below depicts Members of the Edward C. Seymour Post #1231 and Richard. J. Vinet the newest Life member of our Post. Welcome home brother.



David Pearson
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 9



Comrades,

District 9 Commander Pearson, Department Commander Hoag, Department Adjutant Mitchell, and the VFW National Organization collaborated to draft a letter regarding the legislative change to the VFW National Manual of Procedure and By-Laws of eligibility requirements (citizenship) to become a member of the VFW.

This letter is being distributed in Canada, where it is estimated thousands of Canadians who have served in the armed forces of the US reside. These individuals earned the right of



Respectfully

For the good of the VFW
David M. Pearson
Commander District 9
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Department of New York

John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813 presents Youth Essay Awards in Woodside.

Past Commander Marvin Jeffcoat presented Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Awards at St. Sebastian's Catholic Academy in Woodside. This year's award ceremony was held on Friday December 3, 2021, in the auditorium of St. Sebastian School 39-76 58 Street Woodside NY 11377. Ms. Michelle Picarello St. Sebastian's Principal led the assembly in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to kick off this year's ceremony. St. Sebastian's hosts this academic awards ceremony annually each December.

This year's contestants are as follows:

John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813, 2021 Patriots Pen Essay Contest Winners!

1st Place: Kayla Carney- St. Sebastian's Catholic Academy \$100.00

2nd Place: [Alexis P. Murray](#)- St. Sebastian's Catholic Academy \$50.00

3rd Place: Maeve C. Donahue- St. Sebastian's Catholic Academy \$50.00

John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813, 2021 Voice of Democracy Essay Contest Winners!

1st Place: Nataly A. Rojas- William Cullen Bryant High School \$100.00

The essays are judged by the Auxiliary of the John V. Daniels Jr. VFW Post No. 2813 and other community leaders. Our judges took on the arduous task of grading over 15 well written essays. It is safe to say the judges worked as hard as the children in this endeavor. On behalf of Post Commander Paul DuBois congratulations and thank you to all of our contestants and judges.



Left to right Patriots Pen Chairman, Marvin Jeffcoat, PDC, Alexis P. Murray, Maeve C. Donahue, and Kayla Carney.

Opening Ceremony of VFW Post 4662's new Post and Vet 2 Vet Center in Warwick, N.Y. that took place on December 17, 2021.



NYS Senator Martucci presenting his proclamation to Post Cmdr. Jose Morales, Orange County's Director of Veterans Services Christian Farrell, Dept. of N.Y. District 2 Cmdr. Howie Goldsmith and Post 4662 Sr. Vice Carmine Garritano



HALL OF PAST STATE COMMANDERS



Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420 in Saratoga Springs and District 3 have partnered with VFW Vietnam Veteran and Founding Executive Director Bob Nevins and his Alliance 180 Program which is an experience in a new direction in the fight against the effect of trauma in the fight to eliminate veteran suicide. With the stresses of the recent pandemic Alliance 180 is also assisting First Responders with this remarkable program.

For more than a decade Bob Nevins, Melody Squier and Janelle Huggard have been working together to successfully reveal the power of a horse-to-human interaction by providing transformative equine experiences for veterans living with the effects of trauma.

At a recent District 3 meeting Bob provided the members with a video of how Alliance 180 helped one special veteran overcome his effect of trauma by providing a transformational equine experience. When veterans experience trauma, the autonomic nervous system responds in a way that can be described as a "short circuit" often causing the person to shut down and become detached and closed off laying the groundwork for possible

veteran suicide.

Alliance 180 is a three day program which provides peer-to-peer interaction, private accommodations and classroom training to learn the language of the horse and an eventual round-pen interaction as the final culminating event.

Bob's program has shown remarkable results with over 800 veterans having gone through the program. Alliance 180 provides the three day experience at no cost to the veteran.

Alliance 180 is committed to preventing suicide and reducing the effect of trauma for fellow Veterans and First Responders. There is confidentiality and consistency throughout the experience maintaining the highest level of integrity that always places its mission above all else.

If you would like to join the fight or become part of the program reach out to Bob to learn more about Alliance 180 at 518-744-3600 or e-mail at bob@alliance180.org.



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss	Name:	
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Date of birth:	Email:	Phone:
Membership Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (<i>not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (<i>must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary member is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.</i>)		

VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION

(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of VFW Post _____ in the Department of _____ VFW
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of VFW Auxiliary _____ in the Department of _____ VFW Auxiliary

RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: Art Scheuneman <i>NY State National Home Chairman</i>	Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number: 4823
--	---

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please allow 3-4 weeks for your membership certificate, card and other information to be sent. You can also apply online at: www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership	One time membership fee and Life Member pin \$50	\$ 50.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to VFW National Home for Children <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Name on card:	Card number:	
Signature:	Expiration date:	

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honors our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.



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