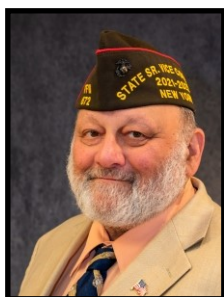




October, November, December 2022

Volume 41 Issue 2



**Peter Pennelle**  
**STATE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

As 2022 winds down, we are now halfway through this VFW year. This year is off to a great start with the formation of two new Districts, three Department sponsored OTI sessions and four district sponsored sessions. We were very fortunate to have Commander-in-Chief Borland visit New York State and participate in our first ever Fort Drum membership recruiting event. It was a successful visit. The Department's recruiting efforts are paying off. We are at 89.930% of the way to meeting our 100% membership goal for this year which is 36,960. If every comrade recruited just one member to join the VFW, our posts would not only increase in size but be stronger because there is strength in numbers. Each member who recruits a new member will earn the Commander-in-Chief's special "1 member" pin in recognition of their recruiting efforts.

As we enter into the holiday season and wintertime, I want to ask that you to make an effort to look out for your fellow veteran. This is the time of year when we are spending more time indoors. Help keep each other healthy by getting your flu shot, a pneumonia shot, and staying current with your COVID boosters. Be sure to check on each other to make sure your fellow veteran is not in distress due to weather conditions, the holidays or being emotionally

**State Commander continued on page 2**



**Robert Mitchell**  
**STATE ADJUTANT**



Comrades,

As we approach the Holidays, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Department for what is turning out to be a very successful administrative year. State Commander

**State Adjutant continued on page 2**



**Daniel McMahon**  
**STATE QUARTERMASTER**



Happy New Year to All,

Continuing our Christmas practice, Sue and I will be donating the costs of Christmas cards and postage to the Commander's Special Project and a local charity in Grand Island, NY.

I have recently appointed Adjutant Bob Mitchell as Assistant Department Quartermaster. The reasons for this appointment are Bob and I have worked together since we were appointed and

**Quartermaster continued on page 4**



**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](http://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](mailto: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  
Co-editor NYSOV  
Department of New York VFW  
69 Sand Creek Rd.  
Albany, NY 12205

### **State Commander continued from page 1**

overwhelmed. As we always say "The VFW is here so you don't have to go it alone"

I would like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year!

Yours in comradeship

Peter Pennelle

State Commander

### **State Adjutant continued from page 1**

Pennelle has directed some very positive changes in the Department. Changes that we will continue to enjoy for years to come. One of the most significant changes is the addition of much needed office space at Department Headquarters. The addition of 233 square feet will provide us with the capability to conduct larger committee meetings at our Headquarters facility thus saving the expense of holding the meetings in area hotels. Construction started in early December and is expected to last from four to six weeks. We hope to have the construction completed by the Mid-Winter Council of Administration meeting in January so we can provide a final comprehensive report and close out this project.

The Department achieved another milestone this year with the addition of two new Districts. Congratulations to Luke Magliaro, our new District 10 Commander and Jeff Molitor, our new District 11 Commander. Congratulations as well to Neil Jordan for taking over as Commander of District 1. This was a lengthy and involved process that took a lot of perseverance and patience!

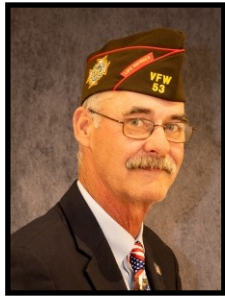
As a reminder, Department Headquarters will discontinue accepting "paper" Community Service Reports as of January 1, 2023. All Community Service Reports will be required to be submitted via the Department Website portal. If you have any difficulties entering your reports, please contact Department Community Service Chairperson Madison Fletcher or Department Headquarters staff for assistance.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and a very happy and peaceful New Year!

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell

State Adjutant



**Daniel Kell**  
**SR. VICE COMMANDER**



Greetings Comrades,

With the holiday season being here hope, everyone is prepared for the winter, be safe on your travels and the slippery conditions that will come. This is the time of year where we spend time with our Comrades, family, and friends.

Membership is coming along but we are making progress, with a little more effort we can get to the Commander-in-Chiefs Tim Borland's goal of 92% in the Department by the end of December. There are a lot of great membership drives going on in the Districts and at the Posts to get new members, especially the newer generation to join the VFW ranks. Let's keep up the good work and continue to help our Commander achieve 100% membership for the Department of New York. As we all should know our Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland as part of this year's membership incentive has come out with a "One Member Pin" sending a message that "Every Veteran Counts". Any member who recruits one new member will receive a special One New Member Recruiting Pin.

For those Comrades that could receive an appointment to attend the National Convention this upcoming year, our National Commander-in-Chief will not approve that appointment if that Comrade fails to recruit or re-instate one new member, in other words all names sent in by Department for appointment must have recruited or reinstated at least one new member to be approved for that appointment.

Community Service Reports, Inspections and Quarterly reports looking at the Dashboard we still have a lot of reporting that needs to be submitted. Let's work and get with our posts within their District and help them get their reports submitted.

I want to take this time and wish everyone A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours in Comradeship;

Daniel L. Kell

Department of New York Sr, vice Commander



**Leslie Crossett**  
**JR. VICE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

I hate to repeat myself, but I feel I must, again I encourage every Post AND Auxiliary in the State to immediately apply for a **\$1000 Community Support Grant**. Check with your membership and ask who in the community would appreciate some unexpected financial support. Is there an animal shelter nearby that needs help? What about a charity in the area that collects school supplies for needy kids? How about a senior center? All you need to do is identify a non-profit within 25 miles of your Post and you can provide that organization with up to \$2000. Or, since every Post and Auxiliary can apply individually, the Post can support one charity while the Auxiliary helps another.

A Heartfelt thanks goes out to Lewis County Memorial Post 6912 who hosted the 4th District Commanders Dinner this past November. It was a great evening with a superb roast beef dinner, with many current and past Department Officers present.

I was invited to be a score keeper for the 4th District Patriots Pen and VOD judging recently held at Lewis County Post 6912 (I can't seem to stay away from that Post) District 4 seems to have very good program participation of their twenty two Posts.



**Jr Vice Commander continued on page 5**



**Quartermaster continued from page 1**

elected to our positions respectively. Every financial transaction which goes through the office, Bob has full knowledge and full hands on the entire finances already, in his position as Department Adjutant.

I have been in contact with our investment advisor and with the rollercoaster market we have made some changes to stabilize our investments. Bill Schwappacher advises each and every member with investments should contact their personal agent and go over their individual portfolio.

This year, the NYS Division Veterans Services announces a program to assist our Posts with Capital improvements. this is a mere overview of the program in January 2023 there will be a seminar covering the program and assistance on how to proceed. I will ask the Department to publicize this date when it becomes available. This will be a chance to do some capital improvements on your posts which without the posts may not be able to afford these improvements.

**NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF VETERANS' SERVICES VETERANS' NONPROFIT CAPITAL PROGRAM REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (RGA)**

*To maintain a fair and open process all questions regarding this RGA must be submitted to [grants@veterans.ny.gov](mailto:grants@veterans.ny.gov). It is a violation of the New York State Procurement Lobbying Law to directly contact personnel at DVS or its affiliates regarding this RGA prior to the announcement of the grant awards.*

**This is the overview of the project.**

*In order to effectively address the continuing need for quality veteran services, New York State is providing \$5 million in Grant funds to nonprofit veterans' organizations to make capital improvements to facilities that serve veterans. The Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program ("VNCP") was established within the 2022-2023 NYS Budget.*

VNCP will be administered by the New York State Division of Veterans' Services (DVS) and is expected to be highly competitive. Veterans' organizations are strongly encouraged to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for additional information prior to applying. Additionally, there will be a webinar that will outline the Application process as well as the opportunity to submit questions (see Section 7) which will be posted for all prospective Applicants on Grants Reform Gateway to review

prior to the Application due date of March 31, 2023.

We are at the halfway point in the VFW year. With this in mind, it is time to begin to evaluate where your Post is and begin the task of looking for qualified candidates for the 2022-2023 VFW Year.

Members, of each Post at their annual election, are responsible to elect officers and as such, should elect officers who, will protect its members, its interests and the assets of the post. The by-laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars spell out duties and responsibilities for each officer. However, most Posts elect the trustees as ***an afterthought***. ***"There is nothing to this job!"*** **Does this sound familiar???** In-fact, the task of post trustee, is the most important position in your Post. Trustees **not** responsible the Commander, and **not** to the Quartermaster, but to the **members of the Post**. Their signature on the trustees report indicate to the membership they have done their job with the intensity and exactness necessary to protect the Posts interests and assets as they would do for their own home. There is information online for the trustees to Complete their tasks. **DO NOT RELY ON THE QUARTERMASTER TO COMPLETE TRUSTEE REPORTS.** The first line of offense for trustees is the information online. Read, learn, ask questions and look to the district officers for direction. Look for information at: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) or [www.vfwny.com](http://www.vfwny.com).

We will discuss the Voucher Program at the winter C of A. Anyone receiving a VOUCHER, must stay at the Host hotel, unless sold out and then the alternate site. If you stay someplace else, you are on your own. While we are at the meetings, general sessions, turn the vouchers into the chairperson or at the general session bring them to me. Have the Sgt-at-Arms bring them up front. Please do not hand them to me as I am getting into my car after the completion of the event.

The IRS uses electronic methods of tracking each person and or entity who should file tax returns and or 990 reports each year. If you do not complete, file and have accepted a 990 for 3 years, the IRS automatically suspends your not-for-profit status. you must reapply for that status. If you have any questions, please, contact a tax consultant for direction.

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

Thank you,  
Daniel B. McMahon  
Quartermaster  
Department of New York  
[dmcmahon@vfwny.com](mailto:dmcmahon@vfwny.com)  
518-414-2605



## Thomas Todaro PSC

**DIRECTOR OF  
VETERANS SERVICES**



Comrades,

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has received nearly 113,000 new disability compensation claims for benefits created by the landmark toxic exposure law signed in August, pushing the VA to aggressively search for new hires to handle the influx of veterans into the system.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Tuesday that claims applications this month were 19% higher than October 2021, with the VA receiving 1,000 more claims a day than it usually does, requiring the department to take steps to recruit additional health and benefits personnel and offer incentives to retain current employees.

"With the promise of so many more veterans coming to VA for care under these provisions, we need aggressively to hire the people who will deliver the benefits," McDonough said during a press conference in Washington, D.C.

The department began accepting claims for illnesses deemed as linked to military service by the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT, Act in August after the legislation was signed by President Joe Biden.

The illnesses include 23 respiratory illnesses and cancer tied to exposure to burn pits and other air pollution from the Persian Gulf War and post-9/11 conflicts; radiation-related illnesses for veterans who participated in certain cleanup operations in the 1960s and 1970s; and hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, or MGUS, for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Under VA policy, veterans with one of these illnesses must submit evidence they served in an area and are eligible for benefits, but they don't have to send medical evidence that their condition was service-related, effectively speeding up processing times.

While the VA is accepting PACT Act-related claims now, it will not begin processing them until January -- a provision in the law that gave the department time to hire additional personnel to review the claims.

According to McDonough, the VA is now processing roughly 7,500 claims a day and has reached as many as 7,900 in a single day, a figure he described as a "new normal."

Yours in Comradeship,  
Thomas Todaro  
PSC/Director



### ***Jr. Vice Commander continued from page 3***

Community Service Reports, The submission of these reports has picked up greatly since last year. It is a very simple process, but some Posts are forgetting to post an amount (\$\$) donated. Dollars Spent/Donated: This is the total amount of money that you raised, spent, or donated. The key word here is "Donated". If you donate the use of your hall or meeting room the amount you donated is the value of the use of those rooms. For more information about Community Service reporting check out this source, <http://vfwny.org/uploads/documents/2021-22/ProgramReportingManual2021.pdf>

Yours in Comradeship,  
Leslie Crossett

### **DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW**

**69 SAND CREEK RD  
ALBANY, NY 12205**

581-463-7427

581-454-8904 (fax)

[www.vfwny.com](http://www.vfwny.com)

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



**Gene Ratigliano**  
**PSC**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
**MEMBER**



Greetings from your National Council Member!

We have not had a National Council of Administration Meeting (C of A) since last reporting to you and things have been relatively quiet since then.

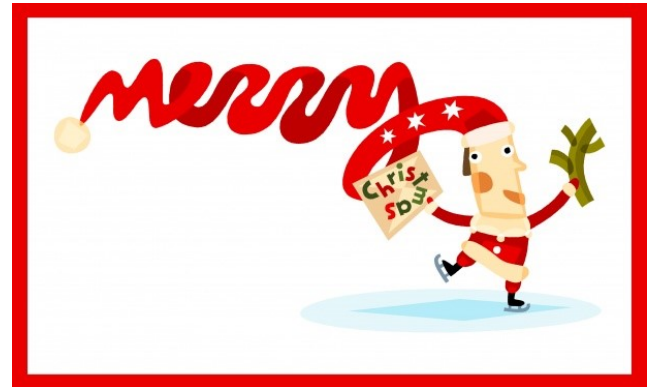
As we roll into December, Commander-in-Chief Borland wants to make sure we do not have a slowdown in our recruiting and retention efforts and has announced a new membership incentive for the month of December. Posts will receive a grant of \$10 per member deposited via ACH into their respective Post account for each NEW and REINSTATED member. Departments will also receive this \$10 grant for members-at-large who are submitted with recruiter credit attached.

If you are a veteran enrolled in VA health care, you can now receive the toxic exposure screening at VA medical centers and clinics across the country. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you will be eligible for the screening once you complete the enrollment process. These screenings will become a regular part of your medical appointments and, if you believe that you experienced toxic exposure during your military service, you will be connected to support and resources.

Please be advised: An individual identifying himself by the name of Patrick Roth is sending targeted messages containing inciteful language to leadership at VFW Departments, Posts and potentially, Districts. Please do not engage in any correspondence with Roth. Simply delete his message(s) and block him from further communication.

On the legislative front, the VFW currently supports 175 bills; and opposes one bill pending before the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Administrative Operations at National is engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 22 administrative actions and seven membership eligibility challenges. There are 53 Posts under suspension and one Post charter revocations and



completed two pursuant to Sections 209 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,774 chartered Posts.

Our next National C of A will be in early March when I head out to Washington, DC for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Awards during the Legislative Conference scheduled for 3-8 March 2022.

Until my next report, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!

Yours in Comradeship,

**Gene Ratigliano**

Gene Ratigliano

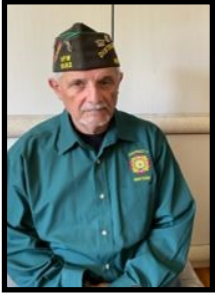
National Council Member

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

State Commander Pennelle has appointed a State Steering Committee to meet with and interview all prospective candidates that intend to run for elected Department office in the upcoming year. The State Steering Committee will be conducting initial interviews prior to the Mid-Winter Council of Administration meeting on January 20, 2023, at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY.

If your respective District has a candidate that plans to run for elected Department office, please ensure that they submit a letter to the State Adjutant advising of their intentions. The candidate should also contact State Steering Committee Chairman Robert Barnhart at (914) 388-1425 to schedule an interview.





**Ronald Sorrentino**  
**SERVICE OFFICERS**  
**JOURNAL AD CHAIR**



*Merry Christmas to all our Veterans*

*And*

*Happy and Healthy New Year*

I want to thank you ALL for the support you have given to the Service Officer Raffle donation. As once again prepare for the annual Raffle and Journal Ad. I hope you will show support by placing an Ad in the Journal. You have till March 13, 2023, to get the Ad to Department office. The Raffle tickets will be available soon and as before I hope you will purchase them. The proceeds from the Journal Ad and Raffle tickets go to supporting our Service Officers, in the work they do every day to help our veterans in getting the necessary forms and documents to substantiate their disability claim applications are correct with all the required information to ensure the VA will not reject them due to errors. I know I have said this many times, we need to acknowledge the duties of our Services Officers.

So, with all that said let's have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to ALL!

Service Office Chairperson

Ronald Sorrentino



**Santa says "Do not forget the Service Office Journal Ad and Raffle tickets."**

**Merry Christmas to ALL!**



**Ron Jubis**  
**SCOUTING CHAIRMAN**



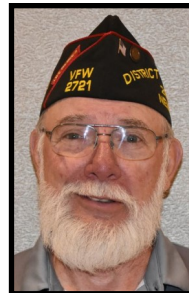
Comrades,

I am looking forward to seeing interest increase the 2022/23 VFW Scouting Program after the first of the new year. In order for us to have a successful program, VFW District and Post commanders should be contacting local scout troops with information on the scouting program. The Scouting committee goals involve contacting statewide scout coordinators, contacting television stations to post the scout program on their community calendar, sending scout information to newspapers for publication in the community.

I just want to remind Commanders that the scouting committee and myself are available to assist in any way needed.

Ron Jubis

Scouting Chairman



**Joel Vanik**  
**SPECIAL PROJECTS**  
**CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

During this special time of the year, let's not forget the children of all ages that are in need of our help. PLEASE FIND THE TIME TO DONATE TO THE COMMANDER'S PROJECT.

Maria Fareri Children Hospital needs your help. Make your check out to Dept. of New York VFW and memo to Cmdr Special Project.

Thank You,

Joel Vanik  
 Special Projects Chair



## Elisabeth Gessel

### SAFETY CHAIR



Comrades

I hope this communication finds you well and you are enjoying the season. I am reaching out to remind you all about the Safety/Public Servant Award.

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to **submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1.** The Department must select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

Attached are the instructions and the form to fill out and return to me. This is a great initiative for recognizing local heroes. Last year we did not have a good level of participation and we are hoping to change that this year. Please pass this onto your districts and posts.

Entries can be emailed to me directly or sent via snail mail to the following address:

**Lis Gessel**

**Safety Chair, DNY**

**64 Lindberg Lane**

**New City, NY 10956**

Let's make this year's entries better than last year's entries.

Additional information is also available at the following web address:

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/community-service-youth-scholarships-and-activities>

V/R,

*Lis Gessel*

845-549-3960 (text preferred)

Commander

VFW District 2, NY

## VA CLINIC OPENS IN ONEONTA

ONEONTA, NY (WKTV) - The Department of Veterans Affairs will open a VA Clinic in Oneonta this month. Upon notification of the impending expiration of the contract at the Bainbridge Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) location, VA initiated its normal federal solicitation and award process. In response to a request, an additional assessment of Veteran geographic and accessibility data was conducted to ensure maximized benefit for Veterans in the area. During this process, VA's primary consideration remained focused on its ability to effectively meet the needs of Veterans, improving access, and enhancing care while meeting federal regulations and requirements.

As a result, the Stratton VAMC is expected to open the newly relocated clinic in Oneonta at 1 Foxcare Drive, Suite # 104 on December 6. This is a move from its previous location at 109 North Main Street Bainbridge, NY.

The relocated clinic provides more and enhanced services as well as additional space for patient privacy, enabling VA the ability to implement Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) and expand services through telemedicine - doing so in an economically responsible way that maximizes taxpayer dollars.

The move also increases the accessibility of care to Veterans, providing it in a location where an overwhelming majority of Veterans reside.

Letters have been sent to every Veteran utilizing the clinic at the prior location in Bainbridge, informing them of the change of location and providing contact information for Jodeya Jackson, Stratton VAMC's Primary Care Administrative Officer at (518) 626-6561.

Submitted by John Fox

## POST BONDS

If you haven't already done so please be sure to secure a bond as required by the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, Section 703 "Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable".

**If you need to increase the amount of your Bond during the course of the year, please contact Administrative Assistant Amanda Comstock at Department Headquarters for assistance**

<https://vfwny.com/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=5852>





## Harold Patchen

### COMMANDER DISTRICT 3



Comrades -

District 3 has been busy since our last Overseas Veterans Newsletter went to press. Below is a snapshot of what's been happening.

**Membership: As of 12/5/2022 our district membership stands at 85.24 %.**

On November 19<sup>th</sup> our district had a bus trip to West Point to see the cadets defeat UConn by a score of 34-17. Everyone had a great time and many new friends were made. One post even recruited a new member on the trip. We're looking forward to another trip to West Point in 2023.

**Post 770 (Catskill)** Participated in funeral services for two post members. One who may have been their last WWII veteran. Held a Veterans Day service and took left over food to the wife of a post member deployed to North Africa.

**Post 1498 (Clifton Park)** supplied an Honor Guard for the town of Halfmoon Veterans Day Recognition program. On November 10<sup>th</sup> provided an Honor Guard for the Veterans Day Observance at Shenendehowa Central School. After the ceremony they went into history classes to speak about their time in the service. Partnering with Haband Corp. they delivered winter clothes to the Albany VA. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year they've done this, providing \$12000 - 13000 of new winter clothes. Their goal is to see no veteran leave the VA without winter clothing.

**Post 420 (Saratoga Springs)** Held their quarterly Red Cross blood drive in October achieving their quota. Veterans Day services were held at both Maplewood Cemetery and at their post home. Approximately 80 people attended these events and the meal afterwards.

**Post 1653 (Grafton)** Held a Flag retirement ceremony for over 100 flags. Post Commander Klaus tells me that there were many tired arms from all the saluting. Job well done comrades.

**Commander District 3 continued on page 11**



## Joseph Martel

### COMMANDER DISTRICT 4



Comrades,

District 4 with the help and generosity of Lewis County Memorial Post 6912 had the privilege of hosting a dinner in honor of our Department Commander Peter Pennelle. Also honored was Department Auxiliary President Lisa Raplee.

Other officers present were Dan Kell, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander, Les Crossett, Dept. Jr. Vice Commander, Dan McMahon Dept. Quartermaster, and past Department Commanders Tom Howard and Robert Barnhart.



**Head table at Commanders Dinner with Officers**



**Commander Pennelle addresses the gathering**

**Commander District 4 continued on page 11**



## Marcello Rotunda

### COMMANDER DISTRICT 6



Hello Comrades:

Post 53 took part in the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Park in Jamestown, NY with the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America on November 11, 2022.



Happy Holidays to all!

Marcello Rotunda

District 6 Commander



## Luke Magliaro, Jr.

### COMMANDER DISTRICT 10



Comrades,

As 2022 comes to an end and we reflect on the first six months of our term of office since the Department Convention, a lot sure has happened. District 1 which was once comprised of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, has been divided into 3 Districts, eliminating all the County Councils. Brooklyn and Queens will now be known as District 1, under the Command of Neil Jordan. Nassau County Council will now be known as District 10, under my Command, with Suffolk County Council now known as District 11, with Jeffrey Molitor serving as Commander. Although now independent Districts, the camaraderie and working relationship as in the past, having the Aims and Ideals of our Veterans first and foremost, will continue to prevail amongst the new Districts.

We wish to thank State Commander Pennelle, State Adjutant Bob Mitchell and the Department of New York Council of Administration for having the confidence in us and approving our request to become new Districts, in particular, District 10.

We have had many successful programs, events and accomplishments to this point and expect to continue to exceed our goals and objective as we strive for All-State and All-American District status. Post reporting, including Community Service, Post Inspections and Trustee Reports are on target. Buddy Poppy Programs went very well this year as did Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entries. We are proud to be unveiling a new Afghanistan War Veterans Memorial being erected at Eisenhower Park in Nassau County. We have been very active with Veterans Legislation, working directly with many Town and County legislators as well as State Assembly, Senate and Congressional legislators and are continually working with our neighboring Districts to unify our legislative goals and objective.

***District 10 Commander continued on page 12***



**Commander District 3 continued from page 9**

**Post 7337 (Castleton)** On short notice Post 7337 opened their post on 11/26, 11/30 and 12/3 to collect toy for The Anchor Food Pantry in Castleton. Even with such short notice and minimal advertising, they received a tabletop full of toys. When called by people who wanted to donate but were unable to get the post, members went to their homes to pick up their donations.



**Post 6196 (Queensbury)** Conducts a monthly free luncheon for veterans. Recently, in honor of Veterans Day, 6196 was given winter jackets for veterans who needed a winter coat. Several hundred coats were given out to veterans, in appreciation for their service to our great country.

Our next District 3 meeting (informational) will be held at **1:00 PM** on **Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>** at **Colonie Post 8692**.

In Comradeship,  
Harold Patchen  
District 3 Commander  
Dept. of N.Y. VFW

**Commander District 4 continued from page 9**

We were also surprised with the attendance of National VFW Auxiliary President Jane Reape who came unofficially as a representative of Post 7227 Auxiliary Carthage, NY her home Post. An enjoyable Roast Beef dinner was served by the crew of Post 6912, Dan Martin Commander.



Post 7227, Carthage, New York took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Humana & VFW's Stop 22 Initiative to bring community awareness to veteran suicide. This year there was over 14 Posts and Auxiliaries participate along with the Stop-22 event that took place at the Fall Conference.



District Commander Martel along with District Chaplin Robling and community members across Fort Drum and the North Country gathered Nov 10<sup>th</sup> at Ft. Drum Memorial Park for the annual Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremony. (Photo by Mike Strasser, Ft Drum Garrison Public Affairs)



By the time this newsletter reaches you all Posts in the District will have been inspected, just about all Posts have submitted their Community Service Reports and Trustee Reports.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Joseph Martel  
District 4 Commander





**District 10 Commander continued from page 10**

As the previous District 1 Commander and now the District 10 Commander, I am thankful and proud of our Posts, and as the District 10 Commander, I am committed to ensuring we will continue with our core values of taking care of our fellow veterans and their families. God Bless and have a wonderful holiday with Best of Wishes for the New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Luke A. Magliaro, Jr.  
Commander – District 10

**Jeffrey Molitor**

**Commander  
District 11**



Comrades,

Moving from a County to a District has been an easier transition than expected. We have. Many knowledgeable people in District 11 helped pave the way to a successful transition and the Department gave us an easy path to help make us successful, a team effort all the way!

Speaking of a team effort, that's what we have in District 11. We had our first District meeting in November, with elections and an installation. Thank you to Past State Commander Don Doell for installing the 2022-2023 team of District 11.



Here in Suffolk County, NY, the VFW is on the march. Since September, our Posts have done

various events ranging from 9/11 to Pearl Harbor remembrances, to Golf Tournament and Turkey trots to raise money for veterans, Widows, and Orphans. Our mission to 'honor the dead by helping the living' has never been stronger. Our District has been distributing Poppies and holding recruitment tables throughout their communities.



**Post 2937 Renaming ceremony**

Our District has given as we do every year to the Proctor Hopson Post 1896 in conjunction with DHL Express and Dees' Nursery will be sending trees plus lights, decorations, menorahs, and holiday cards to our troops serving overseas. The "Holiday Cheer" event spearheaded by Past State Commander Ben Thompson continues to be a success due to the hard work of our comrades.



To say that I am proud to be the District Eleven Commander is truly an understatement.

Yours in Comradeship,

Jeffery T. Molitor

District 11 Commander 2022-2023





Albany County

Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy led a Honor a Living Veteran ceremony Thursday at Crossgates Mall, Guilderland. From left, veterans James J. Haas, Sr., an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, Leo J. Falconio, a Navy veteran, and the Albany County American Legion vice commander, and Michael G. Breslin, who led a Fourth Infantry Division company in Vietnam, were honored for their military service.

## TREES FOR TROOPS

December 5, 2022





## What is Blackberry Smoke?

Formed in 2000, Blackberry Smoke is an American Southern rock band from Atlanta, GA. They are currently on tour and played The State Theater of Ithaca on December 9<sup>th</sup> and Webster Hall in New York City on December 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be donating a portion of the proceeds from their fan meet and greet sessions to our Commander's Special Project. James Brooks Post 600 and members of District 4 represented the Department of New York VFW at the December 9<sup>th</sup> performance.



Adjutant Robert Mitchell and Past State Commander Gene Ratigliano were on hand for the concert in New York City on December 10<sup>th</sup>.



## POST 5350

VFW Post 5350 had its annual 5k run/walk Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, it was a great



success due to our committed VFW members and volunteers in our community, the race was supported by Tate's Bakery, Hampton Coffee, Westhampton Beach Library, Westhampton Brewery, Westhampton Beach Fire and Ambulance and many participants.







*Warmest thoughts and Best Wishes  
For a wonderful Holiday Season  
and a very Happy New Year*

*Commander Peter Pennelle*

*Sr. Vice Dan Kell Jr. Vice Leslie Crossett*

*Adj. Bob Mitchell QM Dan McMahon*

*Office Staff: Gene, Amanda, Don & Jody*



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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

#### PLEASE ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Last

First

M.I.

Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

E-mail:

Phone:

Birthdate:

Social Security #:

#### SERVICE INFORMATION

☐ Army

☐ Marine Corps

☐ Navy

☐ Air Force

☐ Coast Guard

☐ Space Force

Eligibility (choose all that apply)

☐ WWII

☐ Afghanistan

☐ Combat Action Ribbon

☐ SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia

☐ Korean War

☐ Iraq

☐ Expeditionary Medal

☐ Imminent Danger/

☐ Vietnam

☐ Korean Service (7/1/49 to present)

☐ Occupation Medal

Hostile Fire Pay

☐ Persian Gulf War

☐ Kosovo

☐ Inherent Resolve

☐ Other:

Dates of Service:

to

Service Location:

Name of Campaign Ribbon or Medal:

#### MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please select one)

☐ ANNUAL (\$45.00)

☐ Please bill me annually for my membership.

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

☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (one-time)

☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP (installment plan)

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

#### LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of Dec. 31st

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN

initial payment

11 payments of

THROUGH AGE 30

\$425.00

\$45.00

\$38.64

31-40

\$410.00

\$45.00

\$37.27

41-50

\$375.00

\$45.00

\$34.09

51-60

\$335.00

\$45.00

\$30.45

61-70

\$290.00

\$45.00

\$26.36

71-80

\$225.00

\$45.00

\$20.45

81 AND OVER

\$170.00

\$45.00

\$15.45

Automatic Payment Plan Terms and Conditions: You authorize the VFW to initiate electronic debit entries or affect a charge by any other commercially accepted practice to your account set forth above for the payment of dues reflected on this application. You understand such charges may be made within 2-3 business days of payment due date. For installment payments, charges will be made on or around the 1st or the 15th day of the month. This authorization will remain in full force until VFW has received notification from you of its termination or upon completion of the installment payments. Annual dues are subject to change. By completing this authorization, you acknowledge that you will only receive notice when the payment would differ by more than \$10.00 from the most recent payment. Contact VFW Member Services at 1.833.VFWYETS (1.833.838.8387) or write VFW Member Services, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 316, Kansas City, MO 64111 to inquire about or cancel a payment, or to report problems such as bank closures, lost or stolen account numbers, closed accounts, or unauthorized transactions. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time ten business days prior to the scheduled payment date. If you are unaware of the charge date for your account, please contact VFW. If a payment is returned by your financial institution (e.g., due to insufficient funds, incorrect account information, closed account, etc.) the VFW will contact you at the address we have on file, explain why the payment could not be processed, and provide alternate payment options. The privilege of making payments under this agreement may be revoked by VFW if any item is not paid upon presentation. You may have additional rights and responsibilities under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.

The VFW life membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a life membership by making an initial payment of \$45.00 and (11) monthly payments. The member will be issued an annual membership card at the time of enrollment. A permanent life membership card will be issued upon the completion of payments. The life membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the year in which the application is submitted. Delinquencies of 31-120 days can be corrected through make up payment(s) or plan end date pushed forward. Member will be dropped from the installment plan after 120 days delinquent and all monthly payments made to date will be applied to future years annual dues.

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Check/Money Order

☐ Mastercard

☐ VISA

☐ Discover

☐ AMEX

Card Number:

Expiration Date:

Cardholder's Name:

Amount to be charged: \$

(if using Life Membership installment plan, amount is \$45.00)

#### VERIFICATION & SIGNATURE

I attest that by forwarding this application that I have confirmed my eligibility for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to verify my eligibility for membership.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Mail form to: Membership Department, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

Questions? Call (888) JOIN-VFW (888-564-6839) or email us at membership@vfw.org