

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



August/September 2007

"We honor our warriors because they are brave and because by seeing death on the battlefield they come to respect the greatness of life."
-Winnebago Elder

Volume 27, Issue 2

Robert Barnhart Commander



L-R Dennis Heberling, Batavia VA Director; James Longendyke, PSC; Department Commander Robert Barnhart; Dr. Terri F. Julian, Combat PTSD Clinical Director; Department Senior Vice Commander Jack Haight and Dave Young in the "Bean Bag Room" at the Batavia PTSD Clinic. Dave donated thousands of dollars' worth of photo art of his own to the clinic during a VFW visit.

I have some important and exciting news regarding membership.

1) Three of our four women recruiters were able to attend National's Recruitment Training Seminar in Kansas City in September. Marlene Roll, Sharon Flynn, and Barbara Bishop all felt this was a worthwhile training. I took a trip out there myself to see what went on.

2) While I was in Kansas City I had a meeting with Adjutant General Gunner Kent to inquire about the feasibility of obtaining funds from National to expand our current recruiting program - particularly to accommodate National's special area of recruitment, that of women and younger war veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. I was advised to send them a grant request explaining what we wanted and for what purposes. Our State

COMMANDER, continued on page 2

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. PSC, Quartermaster

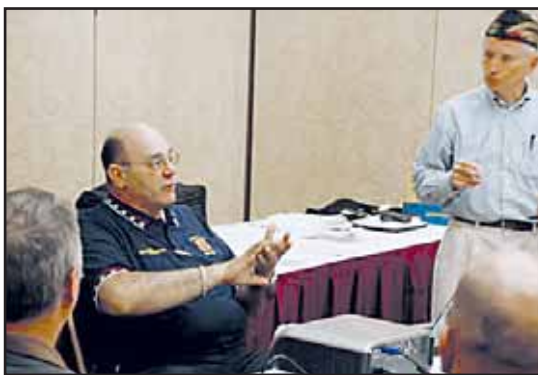
Comrades,

The Fall Conference 2007 was very exciting and informative for those who attended. As promised I arranged for representatives from the New York State Racing and Wagering Board to make presentations to the VFW Membership and Ladies Auxiliary on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. They discussed the many aspects and rules governing Bell Jar, Bingo and gaming as they pertain to the VFW. Both of the scheduled presentations were very well attended and the information provided was well received by an overflowing crowd.

Department Budget Chairman Ray Schultheis, CPA, and I made presentations on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning that covered the new IRS Tax Form 990N requirements, which are effective in 2008. The 990N form is specifically for non-profit organizations that have an annual gross income of less than \$25,000. These meetings were attended by a very large number of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members. Many more attended than were expected. We apologize to anyone who could not get into the meeting room. Since the information is in such high demand, I have arranged for an Internal Revenue Service Field Representative to make a presentation on this topic at the legislative conference. The presentation will be on Saturday afternoon,

February 23, 2008, scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. We have made provisions to accommodate 200 attendees at this session. Commander Barnhart has promised not to schedule any conflicting presentations during this time period. This seminar will be open to all VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members. If you have any specific questions relative to the 990N form or filing that you would like the IRS representative to address, please forward them

QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 3



L-R: Department Quartermaster PST Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. and Ray Schultheis, Budget Chairman, explain Internal Revenue Service forms to the membership in attendance of a workshop on the form #990N, and other Post financial issues.

Jack L. Haight Senior Vice Commander

It's hard to believe, but this VFW year is already more than 25% over. Commanders, your programs should be well underway if you are working for a white hat. Please refer to the Commander's Manual.

I know that increasing membership is one item that you hear frequently. If we don't get a larger amount of members, programs may have to be cut.

Please help the Department Commander by getting new members. They are out there, many just waiting to be asked. If you need help with your membership programs, contact any member of the Membership Team or one of the National Recruiters.

It is near that time of the year to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays.



R-L: Senior Vice Commander Jack Haight, Norah Mastro, PSC Al Klein, Chief of Staff Jack Veazy. It appears to be quite painful to have a flower pinned on, but why did Al's keep coming off or have to be readjusted? And by the same person?

Allan E. Davenport Junior Vice Commander

We have been working hard on many problems thus far this year. Our Post members not getting along is the biggest problem; remember, we are all here because we served in harm's way. We should all try to get on track and become the comrades we pledged to be and not bring all these problems to our state headquarters when most are personality conflicts.

To all reading this, you should make sure that your Quartermaster and Commander do their job and get in the Elec-

tion Reports and the Registration to the National Convention by the end of April every single year. If you don't, you may lose the Post you belong to as National Headquarters no longer wants to spend the time and money to fix this problem at a later date. We are getting most Posts to conform; but next year, let's make this problem go away. In case you may not realize it, you don't have to go to the Convention; but you have to register one delegate. It's like paying dues for your Post. It's mandated by our organization.

Thank you, and let's get going to improve our Posts and get them back where we were.



L-R: Junior Vice Commander Allan Davenport, Surgeon William "DOC" Schmitz, and Chaplain Rev. Edward R.P. Kane, all set to go to the banquet.

Photographer:

John Brunato



State Editor:

William "Doc" Schmitz

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New York State Overseas Veteran

USPS 507-710
ISSN# 0199 2724

The official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Albany NY, 12204-2527 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The New York State Overseas Veteran, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY. Phone: 1-518-463-7427.

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Photographer: John Brunato

2007-2008 State Officers

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Robert Barnhart
Sr. Vice Commander:
Jack Haight
Jr. Vice Commander:
Allan Davenport
Judge Advocate:
Phillip Schiffman, PSC
Surgeon:
William "Doc" Schmitz
Quartermaster:
Harold Burke, Jr.
Adjutant:
Art Koch III, PSC
Chaplain:
Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
State Chief of Staff:
Jack Veazy
Inspector:
Ed Basset
Patriotic Instructor:
Harold "Mick" Learor

POLICY

Published four times annually by the Department of New York. One dollar of each member's annual dues, paid to a VFW Post in New York State is used for a year's subscription to the Overseas Veteran. Cost to non-members - \$2.00; widows of VFW members - \$1.00, payable in advance to the Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2527.

The views expressed herein are those of the writers and, unless otherwise stated, do not reflect the positions of NYSOV or its staff.

All members and other interested parties are encouraged to submit articles, opinions, letters to the Editor, or any other copy of pictures for publication on subjects relevant to veterans' issues and concerns. *New York State Overseas Veteran* reserves the right to edit material for length or grammar and to reject any material that is deemed not to meet current editorial needs.

Deadlines for submitting copy is 30 days before the designated months of publication. Published four times a year in Jan./Feb., April/May, June/July, Aug./Sept. at American Graphics & Design, 3380 S. 108th Street Greenfield, Milwaukee, WI 53227, by the Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Mail editorial content to:
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Graphic Design & Layout:
American Graphics & Design, Inc.
www.agad.com
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POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, send form 3579 to: New York Overseas Veteran, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.



Tom Todaro Buffalo Service Officer

Herbicide Exposure Presumption Extended to USS Ingersoll Crewmembers

The USS Ingersoll (DD 652) operated as a Navy destroyer gunship providing fire support for military ground operations along the Vietnam coast during 1965. In addition to coastal duty, the USS Ingersoll traveled up the Saigon River on October 24th and 25th of 1965 to fire on enemy bases. C&P Service has reviewed the ship's deck logs, located at the National Archives and records Administration, and confirmed this service in the "inland waterways" of Vietnam. As a result, the presumption of herbicide exposure, as described in 38 CFR 3.307(a)(6)(i), should be extended to any crewmember who served aboard ship during October of 1965. This presumption is authorized by M21-1MR section IV, ii.2.C.10b. Regional offices should reevaluate any disability claim based on herbicide exposure from one of these veterans that has been denied.

Clothing Allowance Payments

Clothing allowance may be paid to a vet-

eran who has a service-connected disability or a disability that requires he or she wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears out or tears clothing. A service-connected anatomical loss or loss or use of a hand or foot is presumed to require the use of a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears out the clothing. The clothing allowance may also be paid if the veteran uses, for a service-connected skin condition, medication prescribed by a physician which causes irreparable damage to the veteran's outer garments. A skin condition requiring use of medication is not considered static, and a redetermination is required each year.

The application form for the clothing allowance is *VA Form 10-8678 Application for Annual Clothing Allowance*. However, any communication from a veteran describing the device or medication used and requesting payment of the clothing allowance is considered a claim for this benefit.

Annual clothing allowance claims should

be sent to the VA Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic of jurisdiction, for the attention of the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service.

To be eligible for the 2007 clothing allowance, the veteran must be found to meet the eligibility requirements on August 1, 2007. At the end of July 2007 computer-generated letter/applications are issued to veterans whose records are set to require annual redetermination of clothing allowance eligibility.

The 2007 clothing allowance payments for veterans who have been authorized recurring payments and for others whose awards are input on or before the last processing cycle of August will be issued on September 1. Checks for clothing allowance awards input after the last processing cycle of August will be issued in about seven to ten days after the award is authorized.

The 2007 clothing allowance is \$662.00. Veterans who are receiving their compensation payments by direct deposit will receive the clothing allowance payment by direct deposit.

COMMANDER, continued from page 1

Quartermaster Hal Burke very diligently created such a grant request, and it was forwarded to National. I received a call the following week with an award of \$7,800. This money is for the purchase of several laptop computers to be used for Power Point presentations during recruitment seminars and also tracking of new members. The additional funds would also offset the expenses for newspaper, radio, and TV ads for recruitment.

3) I had the pleasure of installing a new Post for the Fighting 69th Infantry on Lexington Avenue in Manhattan. They have been named as The Fighting 69th Post #12069. We have 70+ members and still recruiting. Many of these members will be deployed this January - some for the third tour of duty. I was very impressed with their excitement to nurture this newly organized Post. Special thanks goes to Membership Chairmen Ron Bush, Ken Rain, Jan Milles, District Commander Verl Ringgenberg, State Surgeon Doc Schmitz, and Father Kane. Without this team's efforts, this venture would not have been successful.

4) We've had a very serious problem with veterans who are not eligible to belong to the VFW. It is very important that upon application to the VFW the Investigating Committee make a valid determination of eligibility before a member is accepted into the VFW. We are finding more ineligible members that are holding officer positions and have to be removed according to the Bylaws of the organization. So, the answer is to properly check their eligibility upon application to the organization.

Service Officer Program Funding:

We have an extremely important issue that I need your help with. Each year \$400,000 of the money received from dues payments goes to the expenses of operating our Service Officer Program, which is not enough. The small amount that we received from National each year will be terminated next year. We have three offices throughout the state with a total of eight employees working to assist veterans and their claims, and we've been struggling every year to keep them open and have Service Officers available for our veterans. WE NEED MORE FUNDS. I have met with NYS Senior Budget Analyst

Tom Laliberte to request funding in the amount of \$500,000 to be included in the State Budget starting in 2008 to support our Veterans Service Officer Program. I need you to write letters to your Senators and Assemblymen to encourage them to support the introduction of this funding into the annual NYS Budget. There is a sample letter included in this newspaper. If you should receive any request of proof of our non-profit status after writing your letter please direct them to our State Adjutant Art Koch, who will provide them with the requested information. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT TASK FOR YOU TO DO.

Gold Chevron Ball Journal and Raffle

Taking into consideration the issue mentioned above of more funding needed to operate the Service Officer Program, it is important that you support the upcoming Gold Chevron Ball Journal and Raffle as their proceeds go directly to this program. I appeal to you to solicit at least two full pages in the ad journal. (Remember those vendors/businesses that you deal with on a continual basis, i.e. bear/liquor distributors, banks, etc.). Also try to sell the raffle chances to the membership, family and friends. Let's make this the best year yet to help the Service Officer Program.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving, blessed Holiday Season and joyful New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference in Albany in February.

Yours in comradeship,
Bob Barnhart

Sample Letter:

Date

Name, Assemblyman/Senator
1234 Street Address
Any Town, New York 11111

Dear Assemblyman/Senator,

I am one of your constituents and a combat veteran who has protected and served this great nation. On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of New York, I am requesting that you support the

introduction of funding into the New York State Annual Budget to support our Veterans' Service Officer Program. Our Department Commander Robert Barnhart has met with the New York State Senior Budget Analyst to request funding in the amount of \$500,000 to be included annually beginning with the 2008 State Budget.

The Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has been assisting veterans, their widows and dependent children in the state of New York since our inception in 1920. We currently operate three offices in New York located in Buffalo, Manhattan and Syracuse. Among our staff are one Senior Service Officer, two Department Service Officers and one Claims Consultant. All of the above employees are certified and duly accredited with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to assist and represent claimants in all matters that pertain to issues before this agency. As mandated by Congress, we not only represent VFW members but anyone who desires our representation in these matters.

We are further committed to advising and training our Post Service Officers in the proper methods of assisting persons in their local area. Among the issues we deal with are health care, disabilities as a result of service, education, death and burial just to mention a few.

Our beneficial programs are not purely limited to veterans or troops. Additionally we consistently extend our efforts to abate hunger, homelessness and disease.

I seek your personal support of \$500,000 for the VFW Service Officer Program, which we are proposing to be added to the 2008 State Budget.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity (documentation provided upon request), will be directed to the VFW Department of New York.

Thank you for considering our request so that we can continue helping those who need compassionate intervention in our beloved state.

Sincerely,

Your Name, VFW Post
Address

Wilbur A. Gray

State Bowling Chairman

The 3rd Annual Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars Mixed Bowling Tournament will be hosted by Geneva Post 2670 and its Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries.

Your Tournament Director for 2008 is Allan Fox and Co-Director for Ladies Auxiliary is Gloria Riccione.

All events will be held at the Sunset Lanes in Waterloo.

Dates of the Tournament are: April 19th and 20th, April 26th and 27th, May 3rd and May 4th.

Times for doubles and singles are 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on each Satur-

day. Team events will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on each Sunday.

This will be the 60th Anniversary for the Department of New York Bowling Tournament.

The Geneva Post and its Auxiliaries are putting together an excellent program for all bowlers and their guests.

To be eligible to bowl, you must be a paid up 2008 member.

See you in the spring.

Respectfully submitted
Wilbur A. Gray
 State Bowling Chairman

Harold "Mick" Leavor

Patriotic Instructor

Fly Your Flag and Support Our Troops

VA Clarifies Policy on Flag-Folding Recitations; '13-Fold' Ceremony, Other Scripts Approved

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2007 – To ensure burial services at the 125 national cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reflect the wishes of veterans and their families, VA officials have clarified the Department's policy about recitations made while the U.S. flag is folded at the gravesite of a veteran.

"Honoring the burial wishes of veterans is one of the highest commitments for the men and women of VA," said William F. Tuerk, VA's under secretary for Memorial Affairs. "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones."

Traditional gravesite military funeral honors include the silent folding and presentation of an American flag, a 21-gun rifle salute, and the playing of "Taps."

The clarification includes the following:

- Volunteer honor guards are authorized to read the so-called "13-fold" flag recitation or any comparable script;
- Survivors of the deceased need to provide material and request it be read by the volunteer honor guards; and
- Volunteer honor guards will accept requests for recitations that reflect any or no religious traditions, on an equal basis.
- Veterans with a discharge other than

dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a national cemetery.

Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker.

"Displaying Your Flag"

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day [half staff]
 December 7th, 2007

Christmas Day
 December 25th, 2007

New Year's Day
 January 1st, 2008

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 3rd Monday in January 2008

Lincoln's Birthday
 February 12th, 2008

President's Day
 3rd Monday in February 2008

*"From Our Family to Yours
 Have a Safe and Happy Holidays"*

Mick & Chris

Fred P. Schwally

Buddy Poppy Chairman

To: Fall 2007 Conference Delegates

Last year Department of New York distributed over 532,500 Buddy Poppies, which was more than 2005 but far short of the 2007 goal of 650,000.

With a New Year started 650,000 will, once again, be the goal for Department of New York Buddy Poppy distribution.

Over 117,000 Buddy Poppies have been ordered to date for Veterans Day by 74 Posts out of 544 Posts throughout Department of New York as of September 28th, 2007, which is the highest for Fall Conference since 2003.

Last year 165,000 Buddy Poppies were ordered for Veterans Day, which is only 48,000 short with a month remaining. If 70 more Posts order 1,000 Buddy Poppies, we could exceed Veterans Day orders by 22,000, which would help attain our goals for 2008.

Remember the time to order Buddy Poppies for Veterans Day is now with a cost of \$130.00 per 2,000. Orders must be processed through Department of New York, VFW.

If your Post goal for 2008 is a white hat, do not allow purchase of Buddy Poppies prevent you from achieving your goal. Acquiring Buddy Poppies could be your first step in acquiring a white hat. Order soon and help achieve Department of New York Buddy Poppy goal of 650,000.

Any Post requiring a "Certificate of Insurance" in order to distribute Buddy Poppies, may acquire such form by contacting Department of New York at no charge.

Fred Schwally
 Department of New York
 Buddy Poppy Chairman

Michael Spellman

Youth Activities

Department of New York – Patriot's Pen Contest

This year the national organization sent out to each Post Quartermaster, packets called "It's About Service," which contains the VFW Programs Chairman's Guide 2007-2008. In this packet are all the forms and information you will need to run the Patriot's Pen Contest, or you can go online to www.vfw.org for the same information. Post chairmen need to copy and provide Patriot's Pen student brochures with each student directly, or through the teacher or youth leader. This student brochure with completed entry form, their essay, and a photograph is all a student needs to participate. This year's 2007-2008 theme is: Why I Am an American Patriot.

All student entries are due at the Post level by November 1, 2007. Your Post judging should be done by November 15, 2007, and you need to pass on your winners to your District Chairman. The District judging

should be completed by December 3, 2007, and you need to pass your District winner to your Department Chairman. The Department judging will be held at the Malsan-Jones VFW Post 7393 during the week of December 17, 2007.

District Chairmen: The District winners' materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman are:

- 1.) District winner's completed official entry form
- 2.) District winner's typed essay
- 3.) District winner's photograph (clear, close-up of head and shoulders)

Please send your district winner's information to: Michael Spellman, 18 Seventh Street, Yorkville, NY 13495.

If you have any questions in regards to this contest, please feel free to call me or leave a message at 315-736-2456.

Michael Spellman
 Department Youth Activities

QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

to me prior to January 10, 2008 at my e-mail address qmnnyvfw@msn.com, the Department Fax 518-426-8904 or by snail mail to Department Headquarters, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Post Quartermasters, please take the opportunity to acquire a copy of the 2008 National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures. Article II POSTS was changed significantly by the delegates at the 2007 National Convention. Section 215 (5) Duty of quartermaster has many changes specific to banking and accountability of the quartermaster that you should be aware of. Additionally, Section II contains changes in responsibilities for all of the Post officers.

Commander Barnhart asked that I chair the Service Officer Raffle, once again, this year; and with your help, we can make this the most successful Raffle to date. I am so very proud of the comrades and Ladies Auxiliary members for donating the \$2,150 in prizes and would like to thank them for their generosity. Commander Bob donated the tickets for the Raffle. With these donations, all of the proceeds will go directly to the Service Officers' fund. Our goal is to raise at least \$25,000 from the raffle. DONATIONS: \$5.00 PER TICKET OR SIX TICKETS FOR \$25.00, OR 24 tickets for \$100.00. The Drawing for the prizes will be held at the Gold Chevron Ball, Sunday, February 24, 2008 immediately following dinner.

If you would like to make a donation to the Service Officers Fund, please send your donation to the Department of NY VFW, Attn: Quartermaster, 1004 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

By the time you receive this newsletter, each Department Officer, Past State Commander, District Commander, County Council Commander, Post Commander and Department Chairpersons will have received Service Officer Raffle Tickets and Journal Ad forms. We need each Comrade to purchase or sell the tickets they have received for this raffle. The funds from the Service Officers Raf-

file and the Journal Ads are to be used for our Service Officer Program exclusively. Thank you for supporting this important program that helps our veterans.

The Department of New York continues to enjoy financial stability. I say this cautiously as we move into the New Year. At the risk of repeating myself, we are not out of the woods, and our financial stability can quickly regress if we do not work at increasing our membership. We have many new Veterans becoming eligible each day. Those returning Veterans that we have contacted during our recruitment efforts are anxious to join with us as we work to maintain their entitlements. As stated previously, the larger our membership, the greater our income. The membership as of June 30, 2007 was 78,663, a loss of 4,082 members last year, which equates to approximately \$35,000 in lost revenue last year. Since 1996 the Department membership has declined by 27,297 members, which in one year equates to \$232,000 lost in revenue. With an additional \$232,000 in the Department budget, we could fulfill the many requests that we receive from our Comrades, which include additional help in the Service Offices, reopening our Albany Service Office and similar programs.

I, once again, issue my challenge to each member of the Department of New York to recruit one new active member today, and we will double our membership this year. This will bring an infusion of new members into the organization and funding for those requested program improvements.

LET'S GET-ER-DONE.

Have a safe, Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am in Headquarters each Tuesday and Friday.

Sincerely,
 Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr.
 PSC, State Quartermaster



William "Doc" Schmitz
Surgeon

House Calls

What have I been up to so far this year, LOTS! Mileage 5,297.69. Visited two vet centers, six VA Hospitals, four VA clinics, two State Veterans homes, two VA health fairs, six membership drives, 22 VFW Post visits, five speaking engagements, attended 24 veterans health related meetings and referred about 25 vets to our service officers. If you attended the Fall Conference in Albany, we had a mini health fair, Albany VA blood pressure clinic, American Cancer Society with an info table, and the Bath VA with an info table for benefit and health info. The

Eastern States Conference in Albany will have Albany VA in with another blood pressure clinic and informational table, which as well received by the membership. Guess who's coming to the Legislative Conference in Albany? The VA has agreed to send in Dr. Terri F. Julian, Director of the Clinic at the Batavia VA who will be available for questions on PTSD and possibly give a talk on it.

Health care is an ongoing issue, like health everyone has it, and to have none is not a good thing so WE have to work on it. Through my travels I have found

many opportunities for VFW members to get involved in the health process. Has your Post, Council, or District adopted a local VA facility, clinic, or vet center? Do you just send them a donation and that should be enough? Your VAVS Rep takes care of it? What I have found – I call, introduce myself, make an appointment for a tour and to meet with the Director and their Rep, get dressed up, which includes my VFW hat, and go do it. What happens? I was astounded, they are very excited to meet with me and are happy to see that a VSO

is taking the time to visit with them. This simple act of paying attention to those that are charged with taking care of us and ours, causes doors to open wider. Yup, they know me so when I call with a concern, NOT A COMPLAINT, or need some help, they rush to the issue at hand. You, too, could entertain a more active role if you choose – go in and make yourself known. If you haven't donated to the Department Emergency Relief Fund, please do so. Send your check to Department Headquarters.

Have a happy healthy holiday, DOC.

Department Service Officer Raffle

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code : _____
 Phone: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code : _____
 Phone: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code : _____
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Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code : _____
 Phone: _____

October 2007

Comrade,

The Department of New York fully funds three Service Offices, Buffalo, Syracuse and New York City. The Buffalo Regional Service Office is staffed by Tom Todaro, Service Officer; Connie Williams, Claims Consultant and Susan Darveaux Administrative Assistant. The Syracuse Office is staffed by Jim Vinsonhaler, Senior Service Officer and Lynn Maxon Administrative Assistant. Our New York City Regional Service Office is staffed by Nickal Culbert, Service Officer; and Ann Marie Benard, Administrative Assistant. These offices provide services to those who have served, those who have returned and those currently serving in our country's armed forces.

The cost to properly staff and maintain these offices so that the staff can provide these important services to our veterans is approximately \$300,000 per year. The Department of New York is fortunate in that we do not pay for office space, heat and lights and telephone for these offices. The cost to the Department is the salaries for our staff and supplies required to maintain the operations. The funding for these employees and supplies comes from our dues and the annual Service Officers Journal and Raffle.

We thank those who so generously donated the \$2,150 Prizes for this raffle. \$500 Louis W. Oppenheim Post 1019, \$250 In Memory of Neil "Cuddles" Connolly – The Connolly Family, \$200 In Memory of "A Few Good Men" – Anonymous, \$100 In Memory of Warren Barnhart – State Commander Robert and Karen Barnhart, \$100 In Memory of Jonathan Looters – Jack and Charlotte

Haight, \$100 In Memory of Harold M. Burke, Sr. – PSC Hal and Carol Burke, \$100 In Memory of Art Koch Jr. – PSC Art and Brenda Koch, \$100 In Memory of Jack Longendyke - PSC Jim and Mary Longendyke, \$100 In Memory of Ralph Fields, KIA WWII – Jim and Paul M. Fields, \$100 In Memory of Lyle Yonge, MIA, Korea – Cindy and Skip Campbell, \$100 In Memory of Robert G. Choquette, KIA, Vietnam – William "Doc" Schmitz, \$100 In Memory of James A. Bassett – Edward Bassett, \$100 In Memory of Frank Leavor – Harold and Christine Leavor, \$100 In Memory of James Reape – Jane Reape, \$100 For God and County – Karl Rohde and Charlie Miller.

DONATIONS: \$5.00 PER TICKET OR 6 TICKETS FOR \$25.00

Enclosed are six tickets for the Service Officer's Raffle; we ask for your support. Please send us \$25 along with the completed ticket stubs.

Make all checks payable to the Department of New York VFW and send all returns to **Department of New York, "Service Officers" 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204**

The drawing will be at the Legislative Conference on Sunday evening February 24, 2008 immediately following dinner.

If additional tickets are required please contact the undersigned.

On behalf of our Department Service Officers and the Veterans that they serve, our sincere thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Hal
Hal Burke, Jr., PSC, Raffle Chairman.
 State Quartermaster.
 518-463-7427

Thank You

To the Comrades and Sisters of the Department of New York,
 I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You for all the phone calls, prayers, words of encouragement and acts of kindness this past year. It has been a year that I will never forget. I also would like to say a big Thanks to Don Doell for being such a wonderful Commander; you are truly a "Big Fan" of the Ladies Auxiliary. To all of the line officers, PSCs, office personnel, comrades, Thank You for every thing you have done this past year to help better the relationship between the Department of New York VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. To Donna, Mike and Dennis, I can't say enough for all the help you have me last year.

With love and friendship,
Maretha L. Ferens, PDP

Karl Rohde, PSC
Legislative Chairman

Legislative Goals 2007-2008
Tentative

Expansion of Health Care:

Nursing home facilities, assisted living facilities and in-home care increases are needed to keep pace with both our aging veterans' population and the almost quantum leap in the numbers severely disabled veterans from our most recent wars.

Homeless Veterans:

There have been conflicting headlines regarding the issue of homeless veterans. Whatever the number, the needs of these individuals are unique. Efforts must be made to address the chronically homeless, the hardest population to assist. However, local and state agencies that deal with homeless must be adequately trained and educated to the special needs of homeless veterans.

Veterans' Real Property Tax Exemption:

Legislation must be passed to enhance and expand this entitlement. A program such as the "Star Program" that impacts the tax bill on town, county and school taxes must be enacted to help those members of society who have made extraordinary sacrifices for our nation.

Service Officer Training:

There are an ever-increasing number of veterans from our current wars seeking the expertise of Service Officers. This is becoming a daunting task at all levels of government involved in providing assistance to these veterans. The long wait for receiving care is well documented. Part of the veterans' health care equation is an adequate number of Service Officers. The VFW is a Veterans Service Organization. The burden we have in funding our regional offices is equally daunting. New York should fund these regional offices and help in the training of Veteran Service Officers.

The Flag Amendment:

This issue has been a constant part of our Legislative Agenda for several years. To reiterate the flag is the very foundation of what we, as veterans, fought and died for. We must protect the American Flag at all cost. We also encourage flag and patriotic instruction in our schools, keeping God in the Pledge and further urge the state to refrain from purchasing American Flags that are not made in the USA.

Robert Walton
National Home Chairman

I attended two District meetings so far this year to promote the National Home. I plan on attending more before the Spring/Legislative Conference.

There is about \$13,000.00 in the New York Housing Fund. I would like to collect at least \$10,000.00 this year for the New York houses. They are constantly using monies for repairs and other items for the houses.

Post 1194, Potsdam asked me to mention that they donated \$450.00 that was raised from a motorcycle run.

I would like to remind everyone that we are still collecting the UPC bar code portion of the Campbell Soup labels. These will be used to purchase a new van. You can send them to me, and I will

forward them to the home; or I will take them when I go for my visit.

The Department and I received a plaque from the National Home for new life members. We had a total of 121 new life members last year. Past State Commander Don Dole was presented the plaques at the National Convention.

Last year we collected \$8,950.00 in donations for the National Home. The Department received a letter thanking us for the donation.

At present I have \$2,475.00 in donations that were mailed to me.

At this time is there anyone that has donations to be presented?

I would like to thank everyone who has donated so far this year.

Correction to Sending Holiday Cards to:

A Recovering American Christian Soldier

or

A Recovering American Jewish Soldier

or

Recovering Soldiers, Sailors and Marines at Walter Reed!

Please note and send on to your e-mail listings.

YNCS Don Harribine has verified this with the Red Cross and Walter Reed. Thank you CHIEF!

A Recovering American Soldier

I'm sure many of you will be writing cards to friends and family soon. If you can, please send an extra one (or 10, or 20) to our American military heroes who are recuperating from wounds this Christmas season.

Please enclose a short note thanking them for their service and personal sacrifice. They are the protectors of our freedom, and we must let them know how much they are appreciated.

You must have a definite point of contact so be sure you address your cards as indicated below. If more than one card is sent, enclose them in an 8x10 brown manila envelope addressed to: American Red Cross. c/o Hospital of choice.

Individual cards will be returned to the sender or if many are accumulated could be thrown out.

Individual cards will be distributed to the wards by the Red Cross.

Remember, no cards will be accepted by the mail rooms if they are addressed to: 'A Recovering American Soldier, Any soldier', 'Any Sailor' or 'Any Marine.' You must have a specific name addressed on the card.

The address for this is:
American Red Cross
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001
also

American Red Cross
c/o Bethesda Naval Hospital
8901 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20814

Please pass this information on to others that would be willing to send cards.

Source: American Red Cross at Walter Reed Army Hospital and American Red Cross Bethesda Naval Hospital

Questions: Call Red Cross at (202) 782-6362

Do not call the hospital directly. They will refer you immediately to the Red Cross

Keepers of the Story

AnnMarie McLeod

Nov. 11, 2007

The busses rolled away from the high school in an unbroken chain, and the building roared to life as it does every weekday morning. But last Friday, there was a difference. Just as the first bells summoned young men and women to class, a trickle of newcomers filed through the bank of glass doors near the music wing. Some wore denim shirts and construction boots, others crisply tailored uniforms and still others shirts and ties and tell-tale caps with VFW insignias. They gathered for coffee and waited to tell their stories.

The ceremony was short and linked generations of Americans. The student body gathered outdoors. A piper lead Navy Junior ROTC cadets to the flagpole. A young guidance counselor who served in Baghdad lead the Pledge of Allegiance. A student from the Class of 2008 dedicated a memorial. A moment of silence. And then, in classrooms, the remarkable exchange between generations.

There were stories, and laughter, and solemn remembrance. War memories and images made the past a vivid reality: World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and Iraq and Afghanistan. There was talk of those who did not return. Their names, long carved into memory, were presented with reverence to a new generation. There was silence in the confrontation of long-ago tragedy and losses suffered so recently. And there were

smiles: the stories of American soldiers saving an Iraqi woman in childbirth, of US soldiers playing ball with children in war-torn venues, of the possibilities of goodness in the midst of violence.

There were questions about the power of emotions, about Post-Traumatic Stress, about the gifts of friendship and loyalty and even the quality of media coverage. And the students voiced what they wondered. "Would you do it again? Was it worth it?"

All of this was evidence that this new generation of leaders currently housed in our school systems are keenly aware of the complexity of the world they will be entering. They are also appreciative of those who have gone before and given them the opportunity to assume that leadership in this century.

The stories slide, then, from one generation to the next with the ease of face-to-face encounter, and the students vividly recount what they heard, from whom. And the students seek out so many individuals.

"Is the guy in the blue jacket here? He's my favorite ... I want to hear what he has to say today. I want to know if ..."

"Is she here? Is she here? I want to hear that story again ..." They are juniors in high school, girls who are seeking Veronica Blandford, a World War II navy nurse. "Did you know that she met her husband in the service....? I first heard that story in fourth grade, and it's the sweetest thing I ever heard ..." Veronica Blandford died this past year, but her story will live on.



Help a Hero
Call Home

Support VFW's



Have You Seen The Department Web Site's new look?

Check it out at <http://www.vfwny.com/>. In addition to the revised membership and program information, you can now view the most current issue of *Overseas Veteran*. Take the time to check it out. We would like to thank the volunteer efforts of our new WEB Master Don Mackie, Commander of Post 5088 for the Great Job in providing the WEB Site's new look and maintaining the Department WEB Site.

Ron Bush Membership

Never before has the Department of New York been in such a need for membership as it is this year. Even though we ended September in the plus column, we must continue to seek out new members and sign them up. We just finished up a three-day roundup at the Tenth Mountain Division's headquarters in Watertown, New York. If anyone needs a energy boost, or if you are feeling down in the dumps, all you have to do is go to the main gate of Fort Drum, sign in, and go to the PX. There you will find the finest young Ladies and Gentlemen of our Armed Forces that you have ever seen. They know their mission, and they are ready, willing and able to protect the freedoms of this great country. Before I reached the PX from my vehicle, two soldiers welcomed me home, (I was wearing my Vietnam ball cap). That just blew me away. We must grow in membership to defend all Veterans' benefits including the GI Bill of Rights and full funding for the Veterans Administration, for the men and women serving to keep us safe we owe it to them. It is imperative that we given the National Commander and the National officers the clout needed to make the congress listen to our plight. The only way they will listen is if we maintain a strong membership. So in your everyday lives, remember to ask that person with the military cap on, or the person you have lunch with if he or she is eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. If they are, sign them up.

We are fast approaching that time of the year where we tend to go stagnant as far as signing up new members or getting

our continuous members to pay up. I don't know if the weather has anything to do with it or not, it probably does. We tend to honker down inside and let the snow come down. Please don't let up because of the winter months.

Did you know that a member of our Armed Forces serving now (in an eminent danger situation) is entitled to one free year of membership in our fraternal organization? It is called M.I.P. or Military Initiative Program. For more information, please contact your County or District Commander. You can also contact any of the membership recruiters or state officers.

Let's all pull together and put New York in first place for the rest of our membership year. Let's GIT-ER-DONE for the men and women of our Armed Forces.

**Ron Bush,
Past Department Commander
Membership Chairperson**



Department Membership Chairman PSC Ron Bush prepares for his Conference report. Membership is everyone's responsibility. Have you recruited a new member this year?

Jack G. Veazy Chief of Staff

As Chief of Staff, I would like to thank everyone from District #2 who helped form a new Post in New York (Post 12069) the Fighting 69th Infantry Post. Thanks for a job well done.

Also thanks to the members who worked so hard to form a new Post, but found it was not feasible at this time.

I also would like to inform you that I met with six National Deputy Chiefs of Staff at the Fall Conference and discussed work on forming or recognizing a new Post.

I have contacted the District Commanders from all Districts and have made arrangements to visit each District.

Have a safe and enjoyable Holiday.

Yours in comradeship,
Jack G. Veazy



Department Chief of Staff Jack G. Veazy and wife, Terri, taking a break before the banquet.

SUPPORT OUR SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM

Each year the Department of New York sells ads in a Journal for the Gold Chevron Ball. The monies raised are used to pay the Department Service Officers and the members of their staff. Last year gross receipts for the GCB Journal were only #12,559 with a net of just over \$10,000. This works out to less than \$23 gross from each Post. Some raised more, and a lot of you raised nothing at all.

Most of the income generated by the Journal came from ads purchased by Posts, Auxiliaries, Councils and Departments.

While I do not want to discourage purchasing of ads from within the VFW, we need to promote sales of ads to commercial advertisers. Taking money from one pocket to put it in the other seems silly. Each Post needs to reach out to those with whom they do business as well as businesses within their communities. If you have a Post home, whom do you buy your heating oil from, your canteen supplies, your insurance? Ask them to purchase an ad and go into the local grocer, auto dealer, barber-

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American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, with chartered Divisions throughout the country and over 3,400 local offices serving communities nationwide, the American Cancer Society is the largest voluntary health agency in the United States. The American Cancer Society's Capital Region, serving 13 counties, is one of 20 regions throughout New York and New Jersey that make up the Eastern division. More than 2 million Americans including close to 1,000 in the Capital Region, volunteer their time to the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society carries out its mission by focusing on four distinct priority areas: research, education, advocacy, and patient and family services.

The aid of the American Cancer Society's research program is to determine the causes of cancer and to support efforts to prevent and cure cancer. With more than \$130 million dollars committed to research in the year 2006 alone, the American Cancer Society is the largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the country, second only to the United States government in total dollars spent.

To date, the American Cancer Society has invested more than \$3 billion in cancer research and has provided grant support to



Michelle Terry, Director of Corporate Relations of the American Cancer Society is escorted into the Fall Conference to address the membership by Sgt-at-Arms Robert Wasiczko. An informational table was available for members throughout the day.

40 Nobel Prize winners early in their careers. Right now, more than \$45 million of American Cancer Society research grants are at work in New York and New Jersey.

Educating the public on the steps they can take to prevent and detect cancer is central to the American Cancer Society's goal of saving lives. More than two-thirds of all cancer deaths are preventable. The American Cancer Society works to educate Americans about the lifestyle choices that reduce cancer risk and the early detection guidelines that can help to find cancers at the earliest possible stage, when there is the greatest chance for successful treatment. The American Cancer Society's cancer prevention guidelines, such as those for breast, colorectal and prostate, are the standard used by health professionals and lay people alike.

Cancer is a political, as well as medical, social, psychological, and economic issue. Policy makers at all levels of government make decisions every day which impact the lives of more than 8 million cancer survivors, their families, and all potential cancer patients. The American Cancer Society's advocacy initiative strives to influence public policies at all levels. Through its advocacy program, the American Cancer Society educates policy makers about cancer and how it affects the individuals and families they represent.

To ease the impact of cancer on patients and their families, the American Cancer Society provides service and rehabilitation programs, as well as patient and family education and support programs. Programs such as Road to Recovery, which provides free round-trip transportation for cancer patients to doctor visits and treatments, and Reach to Recovery, which helps breast cancer patients cope with their diagnosis, treatment, and recovery, help to ease the burden.

Individuals in every part of the United States benefit from the work of the American Cancer Society. Anyone touched by cancer can call 1-800-ACS-2345, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and a real, live person - a trained cancer information specialist will help them with information and referrals and direct them to resources and volunteer opportunities in their community. No other organization provides this service.

For more information about the American Cancer Society, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit its Web site at www.cancer.org.

Edward C. Bassett State Inspector

Well, comrades, we are approaching the halfway mark of this leadership year. I hope things are going well in your neck of the woods, that is more than I can say about the number of inspections that I have received to date. Remember that these inspections are very important to have done. Once again, the two biggest problems are insufficient bonding of the Quartermaster and the filing of the 990 Form. I noticed that at the Fall Conference in Albany, the meeting room for the class on filing the 990 form was packed, standing room only. I would like to think that someone gained some knowledge and took it back to their Post and or Auxiliary. Also remember that your programs and your inspection report are part of the membership to get your white hate. Once again, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 607-937-5160 or e-mail me at

bassettbunker@earthlink.net, and I will try to answer them, if I can't, I will get an answer for you. Please have a happy and safe holiday.

In Comradeship.



Center, Department Adjutant Art Koch spotted something funny going on. Left, Department Patriotic Instructor Harold "Mick" Leavor; Right, Edward C. Bassett. State Inspector.

Post #8495 Gathers at Freedom Hill



On Memorial Day, members of Perinton Overseas Veterans VFW Post 8495 and residents of Perinton gathered on the Post's Freedom Hill to honor those citizens of our community who gave their lives for this great nation. Past Commander and Freedom co-chairman Bob Gill officiated at the ceremony, which included the Post's Honor Guard with the Rifle Squad and the playing of Taps. Five monuments, engraved with the names of the 77 Town of Perinton servicemen from the Civil War to the present were dedicated. These monuments are placed at the base of the service flags on Freedom Hill. This dedication was the result of Bob's research into the Town of Perinton records and other sources to determine those to be honored, and Bob also led the project to coordinate the production of this needed memorial.

Brewster/Southeast Honor Roll

On Sunday, September 30, hundreds of people gathered in the Village of Brewster for the unveiling and dedication of the new Brewster/Southeast Honor Roll. The Honor Roll is made up of six 4'x4' glass panels, engraved with names of over 1600 people who, while residents of the town or village, answered their nation's call to arms during time of conflict beginning in 1775 through the current war on terror. Each glass panel is backed with a 4'x4' piece of NYS blue slate and held in a 4'x6' stainless steel frame.

The Honor Roll Committee was made up of people from the community including members of Post 672, with Post 672 acting as the treasurer for the project. Post 672 Life member Denis Castelli chaired the committee and was the emcee for the dedication. Keynote speakers for the ceremony were three generations from the Folchetti Family, all of whose names appear on the monument; and all of whom are Life members of the Post. Robert Folchetti was a Cpl. when he served in the USMC in Korea. His

son, LTC (ret) John Folchetti, served with the USMC in Desert Storm; and his son, Daniel Folchetti, was a Captain in the USMC when he served in Iraq.

The monuments were covered by two large parachutes, which were lifted off by members of the Brewster Fire Department using their ladder truck.

Senator Charles Schumer also spoke during the ceremony.

I have attached one photo. It is of Post 672 Chaplain Robert Palmer looking at his name on the monument. Bob is a WW II who served in Europe.

Arthur Hanley
Commander
VFW Post 672

POW/MIA YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN!
HQ@vfwpost672.org
262 Peaceable Hill Road
Brewster, NY 10509
845-279-6969



Catherine "Cass" Fletischhauer of the Rome Post 2246 visits with Commander Bob Barnhart and President Sally Gagnon at the October 6, 2007 State Commander and President's Dinner. Cass served as an Army Nurse in Africa and Italy during WWI and explains to Commander Bob and President Sally how she helped to run Romal out of Africa.

SERVICE, continued from page 6

shop, etc. and do the same.

The only costs to the Department for the three offices of State Service Officer are the salaries and employee benefits. All other costs, rent, supplies, utilities, etc. are borne by various governmental agencies. Despite this the cost to the Department is almost \$300,000, and we need to hire more staff due to the increased help sought by the returning veterans from our latest war. To make up the shortfall the balance of the budget is taken from the general fund.

If each Post sold two full-page ads at \$80 each, we would take in almost \$95,000. Since many areas of NY are depressed and full pages might be diffi-

cult to sell, go out and sell two pages of 1/10 of a page ad at \$25 each. If each Post did that, we could take in almost \$270,000. This income would allow us to spend our general funds on other programs within the Department.

Please get out there and sell the ads. Explain to those whom you approach what the Service Officers do to help the vets. I know they will be generous; they just need to be asked.

If you have any questions or need my help, please e-mail me at hq@vfw-post672.org or call me at 914-261-4721.

Art Hanley
VFW Post 672
Gold Chevron Journal Chairman

Department of New York • Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204

Advertising Contract 2008 State VFW Veterans Service Fund

Chairperson Arthur L. Hanley

Please attach your ad to this form

Full Page Ad \$80 – 7 7/8 x 4 3/4

Half Page Ad \$60 – 3 7/8 x 4 3/4

Quarter Page Ad \$50 – 2 5/16 x 3 7/8

Eighth Page Ad \$30 – 2 5/16 x 1 7/8

Tenth page \$25 – 2 5/16 x 1 1/2

Make all checks payable to: Dept. of New York VFW

Mail to: Dept. of New York VFW, Veterans Service Fund
1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204

District # _____ Post # _____

Officer's Signature _____

Contract Date: _____

Please insert our advertisement, as indicated above, in the 2008 Yearbook of the State VFW Veterans Service Fund for which we enclose a check in the Sum of \$ _____

Closing date for ads is Jan. 25, 2008

Post #7291 at Albany VA Hospital

VFW Post #7291 and Ladies Auxiliary made a visit to the VA Hospital in Albany. A flag was donated to the Hudson Mohawk County Council from Wal-Mart in Halfmoon. It was presented at this time to Karen Haas, Volunteer Manager at the VA Hospital. Patriotic handmade bags with gifts were presented to be distributed

to the patients on Veterans Day, also books were left for their reading enjoyment.

In attendance were members of the VFW Post #7291, Commander Ron Thomas, Quartermaster Miguel Pacheco, Jr., Senior Vice Willis Johnson, along with President Mary Pacheco and Senior Vice Donna Finn from the Ladies Auxiliary.

Pictured are President of the Ladies Auxiliary Mary Pacheco; Karen Haas, Volunteer Manager at VA Hospital in Albany; Commander Ron Thomas; Quartermaster Miguel Pacheco; Senior Vice Ladies Auxiliary Donna Finn and Senior Vice Willis Johnson. All are from Post #7291 in Greenwich, New York.



Donation to Disabled American Veterans Chapter 166 of Batavia, NY

Cathie-Wild Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9000, Corfu, NY and its Auxiliary donated proceeds from their Poppy Program to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 166 of Batavia, New York. A check for \$1,000 was presented by VFW Post 9000 Past Commander Richard Doktor and VFW Auxiliary Past President Leilani Spring presented a check for \$500 to DAV Chapter Commander Paul Gaylord.

Money donated will be used by the DAV Chapter to support the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible van to be used in their transportation program at the VA Medical Center in Batavia, NY.

Ray Spring
Service Office
VFW Post 9000
(585) 599-3457



From left are Ray Spring; Ann Mullen (President); Leilani Spring; Gaylord; Doktor; Bob Musall (Commander); and Ed Mullen.

Canines for Combat Veterans Update



Amanda, are expecting their first child this November.

Joseph Keck with Service Dog Nolls graduated as a team in Jun 2006. Joe of Machesney Park, IL, lost his left arm while serving in Afghanistan. He is 23-year-old, an E4 Specialist and stationed at Fort Bragg. The second Veteran, Specialist Raymond Hubbard

August 2007

It is NEADS' great honor to help service men and women regain their independence ... one Assistance Dog at a time through Canines for Combat Veterans – the FIRST program to place an Assistance Dog with a disabled veteran from the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. To date there are FIVE Canine for Combat Veterans Teams.

This month, the first female Veteran Sue Downes, age 27, was teamed with Assistance Dog Lila, a yellow Lab who serves as a Walker/Service Dog. Army Specialist Sue Downes lost both of her legs below the knee in Afghanistan. Sue is from Tazewell, Tennessee and a mother of two. She and her husband, Gabe, enjoy reading and sharing in family activities.

Also this month, Army Corporal Christopher Strickland, age 21 has been teamed with Service Dog Ruthie. Christopher was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq on July 22, 2006. Both of his legs were shattered, he lost the vision in one eye, and one arm was amputated below the elbow. Christopher's Service dog Ruthie, a yellow Lab will serve as a Walker/Service Dog. Christopher is a resident of Waterford, Connecticut and plans to attend the Police Academy. He and his wife,

of Darien, WI, graduated in March 2006 with his Service Dog Dace. The first to graduate from the program was Sergeant Roland Paquette of San Antonio, TX, with Service Dog Rainbow in October 2006.

NEADS' dogs serve as Walker Dogs when the veterans are ambulatory and walking with their prosthetics. They provide balance when walking, going up and



Check out the loving dog loving his vet!

down stairs, and getting up from a sitting or fallen position. When the veterans remove their prosthetics and transfer to wheelchairs, the dogs go into service mode. They assist by picking up dropped articles, retrieving items and turning lights on and off. NEADS also trains Hearing Dogs for veterans who have hearing losses. They alert their human partners to sounds such as door bells, alarm clocks and smoke detectors.

To date, all Canine for Combat Veteran Teams were trained through the NEADS Prison PUP Partnership. NEADS trainers with the help of inmates customize the training of dogs to fit the specific needs of disabled individuals like Sue Downes, Christopher Strickland, Joe Keck, Roland Paquette, and Raymond Hubbard.

NEADS/Dogs for Deaf & Disabled Americans enable individuals of all ages to regain their independence with the help of an Assistance Dog. More than 1000 NEADS Assistance Dog Teams are working in over 30 states. A prototype Walker Dog harness is currently in pilot use. NEADS goal is to increase the number of Assistance Dog placements to meet the needs of our current waiting list as well as the wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

NEADS receives no federal or state aid and is not a United Way agency. Support for the program comes from individuals, foundations, corporations, workplace campaigns, and service organizations.

www.neads.org

Let Ryan Insurance be the Insurance Agency of Choice for your Local VFW

Ryan Insurance is able to offer VFW Posts throughout New York State a consistent program with competitive rates. Our program is available to Posts either owning or renting their location. Ryan Insurance is familiar with the operations of a Post and therefore is able to handle the Risk Management needs of each and every Post.

Benefits of doing business with Ryan Insurance include :

- Cost Containment Recommendations
- Competitive Pricing Alternatives
- Dedicated Service Personnel
- 24-hour access through phone, fax & email
- Toll Free Number

"Efficiency accompanied by courtesy ... No question left unanswered no task left undone."
M. Whitman, Client

Two examples of how Ryan Insurance can save you money.

	VFW #1	VFW #2
Current Premium	\$9,348.69	\$7,259.83
<u>Our Premium</u>	<u>\$7,306.88</u>	<u>\$5,013.78</u>
Premium Savings	\$2,041.81	\$2,246.05
Percentage Savings	22%	31%

*Based on recent comparison quotes performed on two VFW Posts

Please contact Diane LeFever for your no-cost insurance coverage evaluation

Ryan Insurance
Robert J. Ryan, Inc. – A subsidiary of Ulster Savings

Robert J. Ryan, Inc.
180 Schwenk Drive
PO Box 3995
Kingston, NY 12402
Phone 1-800-724-7463 Ext 3919
Fax (845) 943-6949
dlefever@ryaninsurance.com



Post #3083 Held Fundraiser

On August 31, 2007, the Lowerre Post 3083, VFW hosted a fundraiser and cake bake for the family of Samantha Conaly, a six-year-old girl who went through a kidney transplant at age 17

months. The bake raised \$500.00 and was a success.

William S. Vance
Past Post Commander



L to R: Past Post Commander Bill Vance, Barbara Petula (C.O.T.A. – Organizer, Children's Organ Transplant Association); Pat Connory (bake organizer) and Mary O'Neil, Assistant.

District 6 OTI Training

The 6th District held its OTI Training on Saturday the 8th of September 2007 at the Gowanda VFW Post #5007. There was a great turnout from all the counties with 35 comrades attending the classes. Mick Leavor was asked to be the first 6th District OTI Dean by District Commander Nick Frederes. The classes were held

from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. with pizza and soda provided by the District for lunch. The majority of the comrades attending thought the classes were excellent, and they would like to have them again next year in this manner.

Mick Leavor OTI Dean 2007



Left to right: Dave Czarnecki, Membership; Ed Sitek, Quartermaster; Robert Seagrave, PSC, Meeting Procedure; Nick Federes, District 6 Commander; Mick Leavor, OTI Dean; Tom Todaro, Jr., State Service Officer, Service Officers Training and Information; and Butch Clarkson also with Membership.



Saluting the Flag Update 01:

Please take note, the following article appeared in the RAO Bulletin.

S1877, introduced by Senator Inhofe of Oklahoma, to amend Title 4, United States Code, to prescribe those members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform may render the military salute during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the flag. The bill was sent to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. The Committee, to date, has not set the bill for review. They have a huge backlog of issues currently under consideration. The staff reports that the concern with this bill is that there is no way to determine when people are in civilian clothes who is and

who is not a veteran. The staff also said that there currently is in the law an appropriate method for rendering honors and that is to place one's hand over one's heart. It is not known at this point whether or not this bill will become law, but it is expected to be mired in legal wrangling and constitutional law review for quite some time. The Air Force Association (AFA) in the interim is suggesting that veterans render honors in a way they deem appropriate. If the situation warrants, place your hand over your heart – if you'd rather salute, do that. No law is going to change the way you feel about rendering honors. You earned the privilege to do as you choose. [Source: AFA Update 17 Oct 07 ++]

Veterans Helping Veterans

The Cattaraugus-Allegany County Council and its Ladies Auxiliary held its annual Bath VA Hospital chicken barbeque. Two hundred chicken halves were graciously sponsored by Alstrom Power, Inc., Air Pre-

heater Co. and Richardson and Stout Insurance Agency. The checks for the chicken were personally handed over by Mr. Steve Stout, Wellsville VFW Post 3530's Insurance Agent, Steve Brokers.



From left to right, Front row: Harold "Mick" Leavor, Post 9487 State Patriotic Instructor; Terry Perry, Post 2721 Commander; Roy Bonham, Post 2530 Commander; 6th District Junior Vice Commander Stan Board, Post #8734 Commander. Back row: Dale Scurr, Post #9487 Commander; holding the jug of Secret Sauce, Russ Nunamaker, Post #2721; and Joel Vanick, Post #2721 Quartermaster.

Post #7393 Held Dedication



Malsan-Jones Post 7393 New York Mills held a dedication of a VFW sign donated to them by VFW Post 368 Utica – the sign is about 70-years-old. The dedication was made in the memory of comrade Bob Woody who spent three years getting Post 368 to donate the sign to us. Commander Ken Hunter stated, everybody at the Post wished that Bob was there for the dedication, but we know he was looking down on us with thumbs up. Committee Bob Szarek, Joe Pal and Ed Luczko.

Post #8647 Installs Commander and President



District 6 Commander Nick Frederes from Falconer, New York, is installing Commander Paul Holt-house from Lake Chautauqua Memorial. Post 8647 Veterans of Foreign Wars from Mayville, New York, for the 2007-2008 year.

We are also proud of our Ladies Auxiliary President Fae Damico who was President of the Year in Group 8, and she has served several times as President of her local Auxiliary, Past Chautauqua County and Past District 6 President. We are very proud of her accomplishments. She received this recognition at the NYS Department 2007 Convention.



Centereach members Come Through for Their Post

Commander Dennis Sullivan Post #4927 Centereach would like to render a PERSONAL THANKS to all the members and Auxiliary that helped with the renovations.



Taking the old stage apart.

Bill Michaelis, 84 years-old and Matty O'Reilly, 83-years-old, both World Wars II veterans, worked everyday. I worked them to the bones.



Post #6534 Makes Donation

The members of the Highland, VFW Post 6534 have, once again, had the pleasure of donating the sum of \$300.00 for the benefit of the Saint Jude Children's Hospital, Judeathon, conducted at the Poughkeepsie Galleria, Center Court, this past Sunday.

The VFW members were able to raise

the money by conducting a raffle with the cooperation of their local community and generous merchants.

Carmine Iadarola, Sr.
Public Relations Officer
VFW Post 6534



From left: WRWD D.J. Cody Allen, Jack Ballachio, VFW Commander Bobby Rhodes, John Fasano, Arthur Tumbelson, and WRWD radio announcer and moderator Tommy Lee Walker.

Post #400 VFW in Farmingville New York



Members of Farmingville Post 400 of the VFW participated in an award ceremony at Stony Brook Nursing Home for Veterans on Long Island, New York. From left to right: Jimmy Sweetman, Senior Vice Commander; Sid Lynn, Post Commander; and Robert Guagliardo, Post Public Relations Officer.

POST TO POST

Post #4927 – CENTEREACH – Commander Dennis Sullivan announced a new roof, air conditioning/heating unit, electrical work and ceiling tiles in the works. PSC Don Doell is Quartermaster of the Post, can't keep a good man down.

POST #9587 – STATEN ISLAND – Commander Santo A. Seriloani, Harvey G. and John W. whoever they are got a thanks for grounds keeping. Ben Aliberti is a great cook and has been feeding VFW members after meetings.

POST #420 – SARATOGA SPRINGS – Very good idea! Placing "unlocatable member" in the paper.

MORRIS D. VAUGN, JR., anyone know where he's at, he hasn't paid his dues! Nice pictures in your paper. "Doc" wishes he had some for the Department paper. Hint! Hint!

POST #672 – BREWSTER – Denis Castelli, Chairman of the memorial recognized in his organization of members at the dedication of a new monument, the entire community participated. This is an excellent online paper.

POST #5253 – ALBERTSON – Commander Vincent Demartino mentions many important points of interest in his article, VA offering Shingles vaccinations, stand down, a special compensation for retirees with combat-related problems.

DISTRICT #8 – Commander Allan Fox recognized all members who have taken on additional responsibilities at the District and

Department levels. Comrade Sharon Flynn is charged on promoting recruitment of our female veterans. District O.T.I. was a great success. Nice, concise, informative new letter, Commander Fox.

NORTH SHORE POST – Commander Ernie Russo, Sr. working with Homeland Security for a flagpole transponder to aid in a national catastrophe. Is short of 100% membership.

POST #8697 – MAYVILLE – Commander Paul Holthouse thanks Don and Bonnie Skellie for organizing a golf tournament that raised \$3,500 for the local food pantry. Newsletter mentioning local active duty personnel. Mmt Daniel L. Culbreth, Jr. will be in a war zone on his birthday 22 November.

POST #5491 – MAHOPAC – Commander Charlie Monte recognizes Service Officer Ben Boccia. The Post has its own baseball team. Men's Auxiliary President Rich Sochor and the men are quite active at the Post.

POST #375 – YONKERS – Happy Birthday Wilfredo Vega, Robert Bianco, Timothy McCarthy, Peter Schiffer. Get well soon John F. Krankus and Larry Lavin.

POST #3670 – GENEVA – Celebrated its 75th year. District #8 Commander Alan Fox was in a wonderful newspaper article. Al also is editor of the Post paper, good choice in editors, Commander Dale Mosher.

POST #6196 – QUEENSBURG – Commander William

Barwell took over after the Commander resigned.

SIDNEY KRAVETZ is a life member of a Rochester Post, he is a volunteer at the Bath, Batavia, and Canandaigua VAs, one good WWII Vet serving other vets.

POST #202 – Kevin Bradley won a life membership. Hosting an election day Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, partnering with other VSOs for Veterans Day functions.

POST #307 – PATCHEN-BRIGGS This inner city Post has closed the building's doors, but the Post and membership is alive and well.

POST #8160 – BROOKLYN – Celebrating its 61st Anniversary, Commander Ralph Gonzalez.

POST #6194 – Receives National Recognition Award for its VOD program. Submitted by Joseph S. Ferrazza, Youth Activities Chairman.

POST #5298 – Laurelton – Commander Leroy A. Barnes – Renovation of the Post home underway. Jesse Murray, P.C.C. spearheading fix it groups.

POST #557 – BEMUS POINT – Sr. Vice Ron Thompson had something to do with a band for Harbor Night? Chili Cook-off, Gun Raffle, Veterans Day and a tailgate party all on deck.

POST #2307 – LYNBROOK – Commander Patrick Cordone is going to be a Father. A thanks to Tony Longo for his Post article. Happy Birthday, Tom Boggs, Joe Pitella, and Ronald Krut.

large stack of tickets from Colgate University for Football games. The following was part of Commander Alan Galster's article, and I didn't know this. The VFW became a government-chartered non-profit organization by an act of the United States Congress in 1936; as such, it receives no funding from United States tax receipts and is supported by charitable donations. The first VFW was founded in Columbus, OHIO in 1899. The current VFW was first formed in 1914 from the merger of two prior veteran organizations, which both arose in 1899: The American Veterans of Foreign Service (formed for veterans of the Spanish-American War) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (formed for veterans of the Philippines War).

POST #8692 – ALBANY – Color Guard members Robert Gore, Robert LaDuke, Harold De Freest, Tony Audi, Jim Haas, Mike Allen and Ellen Allen.

POST #348 – SALT CITY – Annual Veterans Breakfast, Halloween Party for Kids, one for big kids, all Sunday have something scheduled to eat.

POST #982 – REMSEN – Carl Roberts and some pals get the electric problems fixed.

POST #2813 – WOODSIDE – John Dooley getting recognized as the oldest member WWII Vet. Commander Sisco and Bob Shaw were tops on the Poppy Drive.

POST #478 – BINGHAMTON – Organizing packages for over-

seas veterans. Commander Wayne Oakley has a turkey raffle going on, vets parties, work parties. Membership drive by Bob Page, Service Officer.

POST #4787 – WHITESTONE – Commander William Costello announcing Lt. Susan Lopez will be going to Afghanistan soon, nothing like qualifying for the VFW twice. Andy Sich is maintaining the Post Web site.

POST #4927 CENTEREACH – Commander Dennis Sullivan new roof and air conditioning, cooling tiles. A special thanks to Mary Michaelis, Carol Ferrell and Camilla O'Reilly who furnished breakfast and lunch for the workers. New members Bill Teller, and William Cook. Commander Dennis Sullivan, "a personal thanks to his fellow Post comrades for being there every day.

POST #9249 – GRAND ISLAND – Working with Pizza Hut on a fundraiser. Idea persons in the Post: Jack and Joanne Thompson, Bill Seekluna, Mike Cuttini, Steve Demarco, Lori and Nancy Dede.

POST #2976 – RIVERHEAD – Football Parties and Chicken BBQ, Children's Parties. Commander Gene McSherry.

DISTRICT #3 – Commander Arnie Anderson promoting communication with the compiling of e-mail addresses. Encouraging the proper channels for problems at Posts. You got a problem call the Commander for guidance.

Past Commanders' 59th Annual Dinner in Jamestown Post #53



From Left to Right: Tom Todaro, John Rishell, Nick Federes, Ken Furlow, Oke Lindell, Commander Robert Barnhart, Dan Kell, Gerald Olson, Joseph Cala, M.J. Rotunda, James McNally, PSC and George Smith, PSC.

VA Improves Missed Opportunities

In an effort to assist veterans with receiving the timely care that they deserve, VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo has taken on the "Missed Opportunity Project." A missed opportunity is the chance that a "miss" occurs to provide outpatient care for veterans. This may occur when one of three things happen:

- The veteran does not keep his/her clinic appointment, which is referred to as a "no-show."
- The veteran cancels the appointment after the appointment date and time.
- The provider (such as the physician or nurse practitioner) cancels the appointment after the appointment date and time.

"No-Shows" for appointments comprise the largest portion of missed opportunities. Unfortunately, this has a negative impact since the time slot for that appointment could have been used by another veteran.

A number of strategies have been implemented in an effort to remind patients to keep their appointments. Some of these include: (a) increasing the available clinic time, (b) making it easier to cancel an appointment by phone when necessary and (c) displaying informational posters in all clinic settings. Strong efforts are being placed on the concept called "Patient Cen-

tered Scheduling." Through this strategy, the veteran is involved in setting the appointment date and time for his/her convenience. This concept varies from the previous practice of mailing the veteran an appointment date and time with no regard for personal preference. In addition, "live" pre-appointment telephone calls are made to remind the patient of the upcoming appointment. This also allows the veteran the opportunity to cancel the appointment if necessary.

All of the appointments, calls, no-shows and cancellations are monitored on a daily basis by Clinic Manager Cynthia Roche, RN and Director Michael Finegan. The "daily dashboard" as it is called gives a snapshot of the previous day's activities in the outpatient clinic areas. It has proven to be a useful tool for all clinic employees to monitor what takes place in their areas on a daily basis. Cynthia Roche, Nurse manager stated, "It has been rewarding to witness the surprised reactions of our veterans when we offer them a choice and take their time into consideration when scheduling an appointment." The "Missed Opportunity Project" is just one example of the latest endeavors to provide veterans with the highest quality of health care and services they so deserve!

VA COLA 2007 Update 03

Military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation will increase by 3.3% on 1 DEC, marking an annual cost-of-living adjustment that is both less than expected and smaller than last year's 4.1% increase. The 3.3% increase will first appear in January checks. For the second straight year, it is larger than JAN increase in military basic pay, which will be just 2.2%. The main reason the retirement COLA is below 4% is that energy prices and transportation costs have dropped in the last three months, according to statistics provided by the U.S. Labor's Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which compiles consumer prices. In the past year, some consumer costs have risen by more than 4%. Health care costs increased an average of 4.2% and housing costs jumped by 4.1%, according to the BLS. Food price, on the other hand, rose by just 2.5%. At the same time, transportation costs have dropped by 3.2% from a year ago and overall energy costs have declined by 4.3%.

Annual increases in military and federal civilian retired pay and military survivor benefits are automatic, linked by

law to the increase in Social Security benefits. All the benefits are tied to a comparison of consumer prices from the last three months of each fiscal year, which ends on 30 SEP, to the same period of the previous fiscal year. Veterans' disability benefits, veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors and veterans' pensions do not automatically increase. But Congress passed and President Bush signed a bill guaranteeing they would get the same 1 DEC increase. Military pay raises also are approved only by an act of Congress, but that is not the reason why the 1 JAN basic pay increase will be less than the retirement adjustment. Military and federal civilian pay raises are computed by law to keep pace with private-sector wage growth, not with inflation. Often, such as in 2002 through 2005, this results in military raises that are larger than retirement increases. But the 1 JAN 06 military raise and now the coming 1 JAN 07 military increase will be lower because private-sector wage growth has been lower than inflation. [Source: NavyTimes Rick Maze article 18 Oct 06]

Camp Lejeune Water Study Registry

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS – Former residents and employees of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., can now register at the official Marine Corps water study website for notification and information purposes regarding past drinking water contamination.

The web registration is a tool intended to assist the Marine Corps in obtaining current addresses of Marines, dependents and civilians that lived or worked at Camp Lejeune prior to 1987. Once registered, at the official site <http://www.usmc.mil/camplejeune/clbwatersurveyinfo.nsf>, the Marine Corps will be able to send individuals updates regarding the study by letter mail or e-mail.

While the Marine Corps has obtained some personnel records of former residents and workers, many records are incomplete. We need all interested parties to register to ensure that our notification effort is as complete as possible.

Taking care of Marines, sailors, and their families is a top priority for the

Marine Corps. The Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Marines Corps are committed to reaching all former residents that may have been exposed to unregulated chemicals in the base drinking water between 1957 and 1987.

The Marine Corps fully supports the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry's ongoing health study to determine whether exposure to these chemicals can be linked to any increased health risks. At the completion of the study in mid-2008, the Marine Corps will announce the results in conjunction with ATSDR.

We encourage former base residents to register on-line or contact the Camp Lejeune Water Study Call Center for assistance or additional information. The Call Center staff can be reached at 877-261-9782, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., or by email at clwater@usmc.mil.

For more information regarding the health study, contact the ATSDR information line at 888-422-8737.

Unmet Needs Update of Eligibility

Eligibility for the Unmet Needs Program has been extended to service members and veterans of every branch of service, including the Guard and Reserve, who have an Honorable or General Discharge from the military within the past 36 months. This is a change from the previous 12 month limit, and is made to better assist veterans who are adjusting to civilian life or do not initially recognize a financial hardship due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or other military-related stressors until several years after discharge from the military.

Additionally, the grant limit has been updated from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per applicant. Wal-Mart gift card limit remains \$500, with one card available per applicant.

All other eligibility requirements remain, such as the financial emergency must be military related, the result of a medical emergency or death of the service member or his/her dependent, or a natural disaster. Unmet Needs can also assist with an unexpected expense for a basic life need such as home, vehicle or appliance repairs. Assistance is not provided when the financial emergency is a result of civil or legal misconduct, or due to misappropriation of funds. Applicants with these situations will be provided with resource information and referrals to other agencies. The applicant must be the service member, or be currently listed or eligible to be listed as a dependent of the service member under DEERS.

Applicants can receive funds only once every 18 months; all grants are paid directly to the creditor and not to the applicant. All grants awarded by a VFW State Department

or representative must be pre-approved with the National Office prior to payment. The National Office can then reimburse the State Department for payments on eligible expenses up to the grant limit.

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Housing expenses – mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance.
- Vehicle expenses – payments, insurance, repairs.
- Utilities, including the primary phone.
- Food & incidentals.
- Children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses.
- Medical bills, prescriptions & eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.
- Appliance repair.

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Credit cards, Military charge/debt cards, retail store credit cards.
- Personal, Student or Payday loans.
- Negative Bank accounts.
- Cable, Internet, or Secondary Phone.
- Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures and expenses.
- Taxes – property or otherwise.
- Child support or alimony.
- IRS or military debt, or debt owned to a friend/family member.
- Legal or Educational expenses.
- Furniture, electronic equipment and vehicle rentals.
- Reimbursements for items already paid for.
- Bills obviously due to excessive use or personal mismanagement.
- Bankruptcy.

Oh, Deer

Be cautious in late fall, the most dangerous season for deer-vehicle crashes.

Deer migrate and breed in the fall, upping the number of collisions. Follow these safety tips:

- When you see a deer on the road, slow down and sound your horn with one long blast. If it's safe to do so, stop and let the animal cross.
- If a deer leaps into your path, brake firmly and come to a controlled stop.

It's safer to strike the animal than to swerve into oncoming traffic or lose control of your vehicle.

- If you see one deer, assume that more are nearby. Deer are most active near dawn and dusk.
- Always wear your safety belt to help prevent injuries in case of a car-deer crash.

VAMC-Buffalo

The VFW and the VAWNYHS at Buffalo share a commitment to better serve the needs of our growing population of women veterans. One collaborative team effort focuses on improving access to Veterans' Benefits. VFW VSO Connie Williams receives referrals from Faith Hoffman, LCSW-(Women Veterans' Program Manager) to provide confidential advocacy and claims processing. Ms. Williams is available to meet with female veterans in the Women's Wellness Center toward reducing the anxiety around disclosure. Ms. Hoffman is available, as well, to provide counseling and guidance through the claims process while connecting the veteran with all appropriate VA services. This collaboration supports our goal of providing continuity of care for our women veterans.



L-R: Tom Todaro, Connie Williams, Faith Hoffman, and Lindsey Meagher.



Senior Vice Commander Jack Haight and wife, Charlotte, looking good for the banquet.



Commander's wife, Karen Barnhart, giving free nutritional advice to someone with their mouth full.



Happy and proud donors to the National Home.



Dutchess CC Commander Sakima A. G. Brown, and Post 170 Commander Michael Burke take a break between meetings.



Department Photographer John Brunato gets his picture taken.



Marlean Roll, Post Commander #7967 Alden, and Department Membership Team addresses the Conference on recruitment of women veterans.



L-R: PSC Bernard Thompson and PSC Karl Rohde, Legislative Chairman, discuss plans for the upcoming legislative agenda.



Post #4927 Commander Denis Sullivan puts the arm on Department Auxiliary President Sally Gagnon.



PSC James McNally caught the boys having just a bit too much fun; who looks guilty?



Many members brought checks for the Commander's Special Project, "Fisher House." If you want to help bring a check or send it to the Department.



L-R: VAVS Rep Stephen Nefleberg, Senior Service Officer PSC James Vinsonhaler, and Eugene "Bud" Lembke, Veterans Service Vice Chairman hosted a Service Officer/VAVS class at the Fall Conference.



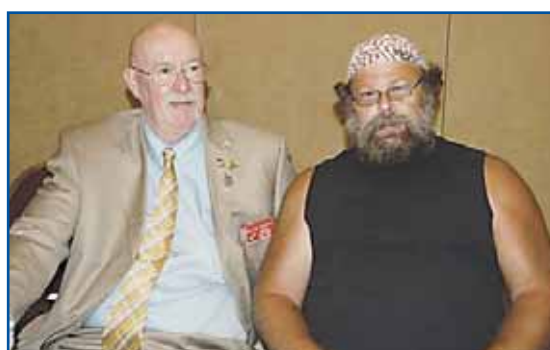
Post #672 Brewster and Post #5913 Wappingers Falls are well represented, and they enjoy their work.



Just a nice shot.



Life Member Carl Haneline representing the Bath VA is escorted to the podium by Assistant Sgt-At-Arms Antonio Sirvent.



R-L: Department Surgeon William "Doc" Schmitz and Post #2530 Commander Roy Bonham discuss the new Wellsville VA Clinic.



Department Judge Advocate PSC Philip Schiffman has a healthy drink at the Fall Conference.



L-R: Ted Daley representing the Teamsters Union makes a BIG donation to Commander Barnhart's Special Project, "Fisher House," John F. Gwizdak Past Commander-in-Chief.