

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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William "Doc" Schmitz State Commander



"Communication and Education Begins"

For years I have listened to many stories from many members of Posts having many problems, such as theft, not going by the by-laws, etc.

The resounding cry was: "We need to educate them on the by-laws and how to do these inspections." "Someone needs to do something, that's why we elected you."

The best form of communication is direct face-to-face. In the past we offered OTI locally, through the state at the district level, and even a state level OTI. Attendance was for the most part the same people, with a few new members, over and over again. Members would say, "If we only could get these other members to attend we could help

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 4

Members would say "their leadership wasn't doing their job, the Trustees should have picked up on it, on the inspection they weren't bonded, someone should done something, their inspectors and Trustees didn't know what they were doing, etc."

Marlene Roll Sr. Vice Commander



The Closing Date- TBD

I want to share with you the history of a fraternal organization comprised of American veterans linked through their experiences of war.

They had come together in camaraderie and it lead to other positive reasons, like maintaining connection with each other, networking and giving veterans a voice.

This group of veterans grew into hundreds of post all across America and having a mission that included supporting voting rights, promoting patriotic education, helping to establish national holidays, lobbying Congress to establish veterans' pension and became very strong in supporting political candidates. This well recognized advocacy group enjoyed growth with posts in every state and some over-seas. They even became a political power to the point that presidential candidates couldn't get nominated until they had the endorsement of this veterans group. Five presidents between 1869 and 1897 owe their nominations and subsequent elections to them. They had well attended "Encampments" or conventions at both the state and national levels were presidential nominees were known to have attended.

Does any of this sound familiar?? Let me finish their story...

—SR. VICE, continued on page 7

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr. State Judge Advocate



Comrades,

As we near the State Convention it is my duty as Judge Advocate to bring to your attention the following requirements of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure as

National By-Law - Sec. 213—Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions.

Any Post in arrears for any financial obligations to County Council (if applicable), District, Department and National for fees, dues, poppy money, supply money, failing to have the office of Quartermaster properly bonded in accordance with Section 703, failing to ensure that the Post is properly insured in accordance with Section 709, failing to submit properly completed quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit, Post Election Report for the ensuing year, or other obligations, shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings (if applicable), District, Department and

—JUDGE ADVOCATE, continued on page 6

it relates to Arrearages, Deficiencies and Omissions. The Post Commander is to ensure that all obligations of the Post are completed and submitted to the County Council, District, Department and National as required by Section 213 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure:

Photographer:



John Brunato



Editor:



Don Mackey

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Officer's Messages

Dear VFW Members

70th D-Day Anniversary in Normandy, France

WINNERS-VOD Essay Contest

Ed Morneauult, Against All Odds

Service Officer Raffle

Scholarship Program Winners

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/Sept., Oct./Nov./Dec., Jan./Feb./Mar. and April/May/June. All publications are digital format online and available on the VFWNY web site WWW.VFWNY.COM. Publications are 8.5" x 11" for individual printing capability. 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 and widows of VFW members: \$10.00; payable in advance to Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

** ARTICLES:

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including the 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. JPG/JPEG is the only picture format accepted and captions are appropriate. E-mail all articles and pictures as attachments with the sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the e-mail. 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 article(s)/submissions.

**** ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO: CITadmin@VFWNY.com. They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.**

** DEADLINE:

Deadline: Articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month...July, October, January and April.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to CITadmin, P.O. Box 116, Carlisle, NY 12031.

** GRAPHIC DESIGN



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Dennis Sullivan Jr. Vice Commander



Comrades,

It has been a busy past couple of months traveling around our great State of New York. Commander Doc Schmidt has been sending his officers to all the District

meetings to let the comrades know about all the programs that the Veterans of Foreign Wars run. I was very much surprised to learn that many post commanders had no knowledge of the Commander's Special project, which is Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen. We also have a Teacher award, Public Service award which includes Law Enforcement, Firefighters and Emergency Service, and we run Scout Awards. It is so important to attend District meetings to learn and pass the information on to your post.

If more information is needed in your post, the Department is there to give the help you need.

Equally important is to send in your Community Service Reports. It doesn't have to be twice a year but it can be sent in on everything you do in your post. Take credit for all the work you do. Our Community Service reports is very important to keep our post running as a non-profit organization. Also, please send in your trustee reports to the Department of New York.

Membership is the heart and soul of our organization. Each one of us must be a membership recruiter and encourage the young veterans to join.

Yours in Comradeship,
**Dennis Sullivan
Jr. Vice Commander
Department of New York**

Brian J. Duffy Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Brian J. Duffy was elected as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 23, 2014, at the VFW's 115th National Convention, held in St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Duffy served in the U.S. Air Force as a Jet Engine Mechanic on F-4 "Phantom" fighter aircraft, and later transitioned and served as a Flight Engineer on the C-141 "Starlifter" transport aircraft. He deployed in support of several campaigns, to include Grenada, Panama and Desert Shield/Storm, and among his numerous military decorations are the Air Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and Kuwait Liberation Medal. Upon returning from Grenada in 1983, he joined VFW Post 6590 in Cookstown, NJ, but later transferred his membership to VFW Post 1170 in Middletown, KY., in 1989. Following his military service, he was employed by several airlines as a Flight Engineer Instructor before joining United Parcel Service Airlines, where he rose through the ranks and would retire as Assistant Chief Pilot of UPS, after flying worldwide as an Instructor/Check Captain on the Boeing 757 and Boeing 767 aircraft.

When not in the cockpit, he enjoys playing competitive ice hockey and serving fellow veterans and military

through numerous volunteer programs with the VFW, Honor Flight, and recovering warrior projects.

In 2006, Mr. Duffy was elected Commander of the VFW Department of Kentucky, and has achieved All-American status at Post, District and State levels. His Honor Flight activities have been recognized throughout the Louisville community, to include the Kentucky Derby Festival and the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. In 2012, he was the recipient of President Obama's Volunteer Service Award, after being nominated by UPS to recognize his volunteer activities. Mr. Duffy is a VFW Gold Legacy Life Member, as well as a member of the VFW National Home for Children, the Military Order of the Cooties, the American Legion and AMVETS. He and his wife, Jean, who serves as the VFW Post 1170 Ladies Auxiliary President, reside in Louisville, and have two adult children, Tara and Andrew.



Gene Ratigliano

State Inspector



As we move past the halfway mark in this VFW year and almost reaching the three-quarter mark, many posts within the Department still have not been inspected. A review

of the Memstats reveals that a number of posts have reached or exceeded their 100% in membership but have not submitted one Trustee Report of Audit and in some cases not a single Community Activity Report as well as not having been inspected or completing an IRS 990 for the year. It seems that Post Inspectors will be hard pressed to complete their post inspections prior to the drop dead date of May 2, 2015 in order to meet the State Commander's requirements to become eligible for the All State Commander's Award and white hat. Equally critical is the completion of the Post's requirement to have their Post Service Officer trained by April 15, 2015 to meet eligibility.

Post inspections are an integral part of a posts oversight program to ensure the financial integrity of member's post assets. Quarterly review of the posts financial management processes through the use of the Trustee Report of Audit and financial bonding become part of the protection umbrella in protecting member's financial assets. Failure to complete the required Trustee Report of Audit quarterly and prepare it correctly voids in most cases any bond that may be in place because insurers of the bond will in all likelihood not pay for any loss due to the negligence caused by the failure of the Post Trustees to adequately oversee the financial assets placed in their charge.

Inspection reports received in the Department continue to be received with questions unanswered and required documentation not verified as part of the inspection process. Too many Quarterly Trustee Reports of Audit are received poorly prepared with inaccurate information, blocks left blank, bonding information and required signatures missing. Post Quartermasters who purchase pads of the Trustee Report of Audit form the VFW Store will have the detailed preparation instruction for the audit printed on the back of the form.

I will be working closely with the CIT Director to have the instructions posted to the Department website in the forms section for easy download to assist Post Trustees in the proper preparation of the audit.

Five non-profit veterans organizations (four which are VFW posts) in upstate NY have been notified of upcoming IRS compliance audits that will be taking place over the next month or so. Whether the IRS will be visiting other posts in the state is yet to be determined but be prepared. The questions being asked on the Post Inspection Form are part and parcel to the documentation being requested by these posts as part of their compliance audits.

Notification letters being received by the selected posts are being notified to have the following documents available as part of the audit: governing instruments which include Article of Incorporation, By-Laws, Code of Regulations, copy of letter granting exemption from income tax received from the IRS, minute books showing recorded meetings of your governing body (Officers, Directors or Trustees) including committees, copy of newspapers, newsletters, brochures and other printed literature, any contracts or leases to which the post/organization was a party to and documents which explain rental contracts. In order to verify the correctness of income, gross receipts, deduction and credits books and records of the post/organization's assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements including the general ledger, annual financial statements etc. are required to be made available. Employee earnings records are also being requested.

If your post still needs to be inspected, please make arrangements at the earliest with your County Council Commander or District Commander to schedule a date to have it completed. Do not look upon the post inspection as a harbinger of doom but an opportunity to increase your knowledge of how post administrative requirements should be completed. Your inspector is one who has been around the block and should be knowledgeable to provide you the answers to many of your questions of how things should be done. If he or she does not, they know how to get the answers to your questions. Use your inspection as a training opportunity and make it a positive event, not a negative one.

Bob Barnhart

State Quartermaster



In my years as State Quartermaster I have not seen so much IRS activity involving veterans' organizations like the VFW, American Legion, Amvets and so on as I've seen

in the past year or so. For the past two or three years I have been warning posts that they should be putting their house in order or they could lose their tax exemption status because they forgot to report an activity or sale. I have been urging post officers to take their responsibilities seriously and follow the laws or suffer the consequences, but few have taken me seriously.

Even though I have reported certain VFW posts were fined thousands of dollars and/or losing their tax exempt status most thought I was crazy and making things look worse that they really were. So now we are facing a serious threat to our purpose as a veterans' organization because of so much greed and refusal to believe the warnings I have been sending out.

The IRS is conducting compliance audits at VFW and American Legion Posts all over the state. It appears the IRS has started in the western part of the state but now the word is out they have been looking at posts in the Saratoga area.

Glens Falls just had their IRS audit completed and what they looked at were quarterly bell jar filings, the percentage of the membership who were considered veterans and the review of DD-214's. I am informed the post refused to produce the DD-214's and the IRS did not peruse the issue but I am also informed the IRS is pushing the DD-214 issue with certain American Legion posts for some reason and denying some exemptions and allowances because they don't feel some recorded members qualify for membership. This is a serious issue and we need to be aware that the government is looking at our membership lists to make sure they qualify for VFW membership, which has more stringent requirements.

They may be looking for unreported business income such as the rental of halls, and other venues that the post may have and whether they are rented to members or to the public. 990's have also been in the spotlight

— *QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 7*

Dear VFW Members,

I am so hoping you can help me to reach veterans of the Korean War. I served in the Air Force during the Korean War and belong to our Korean War Veterans Post. A daughter of one of the men in our Post found 186 pristine pictures in her basement all released from the Department of Defense. They are 8x10 black and white glossy in perfect condition. She gave them to our Post Commander Roger Hill and Roger gave them to me because he thought I would like to see them. (I come from a very military family with one of my Uncles having a ship named after him.)

When I looked at all those pictures I just wanted to find the people in them and/or their families. This was almost three years ago and I only found two people one of whom was a POW.

When I sent him his picture he sent me a copy of the book he wrote about being a POW. Then a lady found her grandfather and she lives right here in Rochester, NY.

Fortunately she is a producer at WXXI-TV Station and co-director of communications for the City of Rochester. Tiana even flew the picture to Denver to give it to her grandmother. Who then had a picture all these years later of her husband? Tiana brought the project to Kodak Alaris who then scanned the photos (they wore white gloves). Every photo has a story on the back side of what the photo is about. Some (86) have the names, rank, branch and home towns (back in 1950) of the people in the picture. Then Democrat and Chronicle and USA Today joined forces to help me take it nationwide, It has been in the Navy Times, Army Times, Air Force Magazine, MOAA), Korean War Magazine and newspapers and Tiana and I have done many TV and press interviews.

I am going to send you the UTube produced by Kodak Alaris and some other press releases. I don't know how to include them in this email!! A blog is being set up for me by the Democrat and Chronicle to

keep this project going.

You have no idea of the JOY brought to the families of the ones we have found. It brings the whole family together and tells them things they never knew before. One picture went to a Bombardier who flew 32 missions. They are heart-rending stories, every single one of them.

I need your help to reach the men and three women (nurses) in these photos as we are all in our 80's and time is of the essence.

All the pictures can be viewed by going on koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com when you click on it enlarges the picture and when you click again it shows you the reverse side of the picture. Kodak had an engineer do something to the scanner to accomplish that fact.

Sincerely,

Betty Perkins-Carpenter
585-586-7548 (Phone is answered Senior Fitness during the day as I am still working!!!)
bpc@senior-fitness.com

—STATE COMMANDER, from page 1

them before problems at their post get bad.” “we could teach them how to do community service reports and why we do them.” “THERE WAS NO WAY TO INSIST THAT POSTS ATTEND ANYTHING, EXCEPT DISTRICT MEETINGS,” we are told.

Finally, after years of neglect, the VFW is insisting *every* Post and District follow the by-laws by having post representation at *every* District meeting. That is a *mandatory requirement* with no exclusions! After much uproar and furor we persisted and will continue to persist and insist every post be represented at their district meetings. Now we are receiving word that many districts have every seat filled and every post attending regular district meetings. Now we see that every post is informed, no excuses, no more “I didn't know.” or “No one told me.” There are fewer calls to Headquarters about not knowing and/or understanding what is going on. Maybe now we will see results, success and accomplishments.

Now that we have the attendance we can begin to educate and communicate at District meetings. It is up to the District leadership to insure that education takes place at these meetings, and the attending members need to let them know what areas they would like

information and help on. At these meetings it will now be possible to ask direct questions and receive direct feedback. For example, “Post 9999999, you neglected to list phone numbers and addresses on your election report, please get that info for us.” And, the following posts have not done the community service reports, so we hand out pens and blank reports, and give instructions and do them right then and there.

AND...as of this month (February 2015) our State Website has on-line training segments under the Department of New York drop down menu. National also has on-line training and informational instruction that can be accessed through our website. These opportunities aren't substitutes for attending OTI but rather they are supplements, they are support opportunities helping officers and members understand their responsibilities, duties and obligations. These on-line training opportunities are ALWAYS under construction, upgrading and improvements on a regular basis as well as the addition of even more training segments as they are created. There is no excuse for “not knowing”, “not understanding”, “don't have time”, or just plain “Don't Care.”

This will strengthen our GREAT VFW on all levels, and EMPOWER our Posts and their Members. I recognize this is change, and

that can be difficult, but I have faith in our membership, and we will succeed in our quest to improve our GREAT VFW and facilitate more comradeship among our members.

Thank you for your strength and focus on our success.

William “DOC” Schmitz
NYS Department Commander 2014-15
Past VFW Department of NY Surgeon
2007-2012
VFW National Surgeon General
2010-2011

VFW DEPARTMENT
of NEW YORK

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Celebrating 70 Years Allied Victory in Europe



Pictured are World War II Veterans who celebrated the 70th D-Day Anniversary in Normandy, France last June. The French have not forgotten our men's harrowing deeds and are still celebrating their country's liberation each year on June 6th. Witnessing the appreciation shown towards our veterans is truly a sight to see - they are treated like movie stars!

These veterans were part of a group that traveled on a WWII Battlefields Tour of Europe.

They were accompanied by family and friends, and many other persons interested in the history of World War II. The group visited Paris, walked on Omaha and Utah Beach, continued on to Reims in France, paid respect at General Patton's grave in Luxembourg, and explored the Battle of the Bulge area in Belgium. In Germany

they visited the Remagen Bridge, Nuremberg, the former Dachau Concentration Camp, and Hitler's Eagles Nest in the beautiful Bavarian Alps.

The tour was designed by WWII veteran and historian Dr. Brooks Ranney of Yankton, SD and was conducted by Rupiper Tours. This tour was immensely enjoyed by all 112 tour participants. Visiting these places where our veterans fought is a great way to grasp the significance of the Allied Victory in Europe!

**2015 TOURS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE AND AUGUST.
FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT
MRS. BROOKS RANNEY AT
605-665-3596 OR TOLL FREE AT 888-414-4177.**

Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars Announces Winners for "Voice of Democracy" Essay Contest



VFW Judging Panel: James Campion, President Columbia Greene Community College; Carol Zincio, Official Statistician; William Hallenbeck, Jr., Mayor of the City of Hudson; PVatrick M. Grattan, Chairman, Columbia County Board of Supervisors; Michael Molinski of Photographic Solutions and Deborah Simonsmeier, Dir. of Constituent Service for Senator Kathy Marchione, 43rd Senate District

Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars, Youth Development and Scholarship Chairman, Wally Zincio of Stuyvesant Falls, VFW Post 9593, announced the winners of the Department of New York VFW "Voice of Democracy" essay contest that was opened to high school students throughout New York State. The Department of New York VFW sponsors an annual oratorical essay contest that leads the winners to National finals and grand prizes. A panel of impartial judges consisting of elected officials, community leaders and local business owners were gathered at Columbia Greene Community College to listen, score essays and select the winners from around the state. Wally Zincio, Department of New York VFW Chairman, on behalf of the judging panel, is pleased to announce the following scholarship winners along with their VFW Post entries: First place Honors to Elizabeth C. Palmer entering at VFW Post 1653, Granville, NY; Second Place winner Cory Matthew Bell entering at VFW Post 300 at Saranac Lake, NY; Third place winner Katie Ashwater entering at VFW Post 374 Arcade, NY. Miss Palmer's winning essay has been advanced to the National Finals for consideration of additional accolades and awards including the Grand Prize of \$30,000. For more information of VFW Scholarships visit <http://www.vfw.org/Community/Programs>

—JUDGE ADVOCATE, continued from page 1

National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiencies.

There has been much discussion about making changes/amendments to the Department and National By-Laws. For a change or amendment to the Department or National By-Laws to be considered and voted on by the Delegates present at this year's State Convention the Resolution in proper form. Please follow the instructions provided in the Department By-Laws in regard to this matter.

Department of New York By-Laws
ARTICLE X Resolutions

Sec. 1.00 (A) All resolutions must be typewritten and submitted in triplicate, in order to receive consideration at the Department Convention. (B) Post under the jurisdiction of a County Council shall clear their resolution through their Council. (C) All resolutions to be considered by a Department Convention shall be in the hands of the State Adjutant at least fifteen (15) days prior to the convening Convention date, except resolutions proposing amendments to the By-Laws of the Department shall be delivered to the State Adjutant not later than thirty (30) days before the opening date of the Convention, and the State Adjutant shall mail a copy of all proposed amendments, at least fifteen (15) days before the Convention to all State Officers, Past State Commanders, District Commanders, County Council Commanders and Post Commanders, and unless this section is complied with no resolutions shall be considered.

Sec. 2.00 All resolutions (other than emergency) forwarded to the Department for action, from any unit, shall contain a certification signed by the Adjutant, in the following form:

*I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered and.....*adopted at a meeting of...held on the...day of..., 20....,according to an entry in the minutes of said meeting.*

Dated....., 20.

Adjutant

*(All other spaces should be filled. *Insert word "not" if required)*

Sec. 3.00 All units shall forward to State Headquarters for consideration, all resolutions introduced at its meetings by a subordinate unit, if certifying whether it was or was not adopted by the major unit, if the resolution requires action on a Department or National basis.

Sec. 3.01 No resolution may be passed, approved, or adopted at any Convention of this Department, or any meeting of the Council of Administration of this Department, unless same is limited to one subject, and said subject must be expressed in the title.

Sec. 3.02 All resolutions submitted to any meeting of a Department Convention or meeting of the Council of Administration of this Department, shall receive a number immediately upon receipt, in numerical sequence, without the addition of any fractional number.

Posts, County Councils and Districts time for change. If you have no By-Laws or have not updated your respective By-Laws within the last 10 year it is time to do so. Why? These have been many changes to the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure which effect the operation of our Great organization at all levels. For those who are developing their By-Laws for the first time we have a template located on the Department WEB Site under the Department of New York Tab, Forms, and scroll all the way down to By-Law Template.

We would like to remind you each year the State Commander receives letters of concerns or complaints regarding issues within various posts throughout the State. While we are sure all of the concern or complaints are sincere and valid, there is a chain of command that must be followed before these letters reach Department Headquarters. The National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure Article IX provide instruction for those issues that result in disciplinary action. Post-level concerns or complaints begin by presenting the problem at a Post meeting. If after presenting the issue to the Post membership no resolution can be reached, follow the steps outlined in Article IX. It is impossible to address the influx of letters received at Department Headquarters if the correct procedures are not followed. Following the steps outlined in Article IX should bring the issue to the appropriate level of the VFW for resolution.

PLEASE NOTE: *A letter of concern or complaint sent directly to national headquarters will not speed up the process. it actually slows it down. national forwards all complaints back to the department for review and appropriate action thus delaying the process even more. national observes the chain of command and expects all vfw entities to do the same.*

Once again, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as the State Judge Advocate.

If I can ever be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-545-6378.

Sincerely,

Hal
Harold "Hal" Burke Jr.,
PSC/PSQM/PNJAG,
State Judge Advocate



DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

SERVICE OFFICER RAFFLE



SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1—

Unfortunately their mission became ill defined and they floundered, almost to the point of disappearing, with many departments and local posts ceasing to exist. Recognizing the situation they were in, there was a revival under new leadership that renewed their growth, but this lasted for only so long because the membership eligibility had been narrow and over time the members were dying or were no longer able to participate in activities leaving no choice for posts but to consolidate or disband all together. They ceased to exist when the last member died.

Do you know who I am telling you about? Are you thinking this my story of the VFW? There are a lot of similarities, but the truth is it is the history of the Grand Army Republic or G.A.R. They were a very early on veterans' advocacy group that existed from 1866 to 1956 – a total of just 90 years. They peaked in membership in 1890 (about a third into their existence) and experienced a rather steady decline shortly afterward.

The truth is that the VFW started in 1899, and had modeled themselves after the G.A.R in terms of posts, departments and national level structure. At that time our mission ran close to what the G.A.R was doing and both existed side by side for 57 years. Unfortunately the similarities don't end there.

	<u>G.A.R</u>	<u>V.F.W.</u>
Veteran Based	Yes	Yes
Developed Post, State & National Levels	Yes	Yes
Patriotic Education & Programs	Yes	Yes
Lobbied Congress	Yes	Yes
Fought for Veterans Benefits	Pension	Comp./Education
Presidential Endorsements	Yes	Yes
Peak Membership/ Steady Decline	1890/Yes	2002/Yes
Stopped Presidential Endorsement	1897	2011(PAC)

We do have some differences: While the G.A.R. had narrow membership eligibility of just Civil War veterans, the V.F.W. has a wide membership eligibility of all wars. The V.F.W.'s problem is narrow-mindedness...with the inability to accept new members because of age, gender, and ethnicity or the inability to accept change for the betterment of the organization or even the

unwillingness to be out doing community activities, whether due to age or complacency are all contributing factors to ensuring our closing date. While I realize that it is certainly not true in every post, the ones that this does apply to outweigh the ones that it does not. Before you proclaim "Not my post!" ask yourself a few questions:

Who is the newest member of your post? Have you seen them in the last year?

What was your last community activity? Do you participate?

Who was the last veteran or family of a veteran you helped directly? How long ago?

Who is the youngest member of your post? If they are in their 70s, 80s or 90s, why?

We do have one other difference...we have not closed with the death of our last member, but mathematically we are not far from it.

G.A.R.	START 1866	PEAK 1890	GONE 1956
V.F.W.	START 1899	PEAK 2002	GONE TBD

Our peak membership was 2.1 million. From 2002 to 2014(22 years in time) we lost 800,000 members = 36,363/yr.

Current membership is 1.3 million. If we continue at the same rate of loss (like the G.A.R. did) we could be closing the V.F.W. in 35 years = **2049**.

I don't think the masses understand the urgency of our situation!!!

Of course, we are not a "last man standing" organization and the ages of some of our members are only in their 20s (if they stay), so the variable in all of this is **US!!**

Are we going to change enough to be relevant to the newest generation of veterans, not in the future, but **NOW!**

Are we willing to listen to what they see as their V.F.W. and help them obtain that goal to ensure the V.F.W. for decades to come or are you satisfied with what **you** got out of this organization and are willing to contribute to the 2049 Closing Date?

I, for one, am in it for the long haul...will you be joining me?

In Comradeship, hopefully for a long time,

Marlene Roll

Sr. Vice Commander

—QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 3

for several years and the IRS is hammering away at veteran's posts to comply or sacrifice their tax exempt status. More than one post has ignored my warnings or made excuses for not filing as usual and are paying a steep price for their arrogance.

When the tax exempt status is lost it costs posts a fortune in donations and other revenues and is almost impossible to get that status back. From that point on every penny is taxed and there is no room for error after that making a post's existence almost impossible.

Posts general files are reviewed as well in a usual two-day audit process. Whether each auditor is looking at the same items

or not has not been determined and each auditor is a different person so they may all have a different agenda when they visit. With that in mind every aspect of post income and record keeping must be in order and up-to-date. Excuses like not having the time, I'm a volunteer, or we didn't know just don't wash with the IRS, they are out for your ass...ets and nothing will make them back off.

My goal has always been to keep posts informed and up to date with governmental requirements and rules. Ignoring the issues doesn't make them go away, it just makes things so much worse. Searching out those thieves that would steal from veterans has been a non-stop job since being the State

Quartermaster and it appears there is little I can do to stem the tide of destruction of those determined to use their posts as their personal bank accounts.

When officers take the oath of office they are admonished to follow the by-laws and the laws of the country. Taking that oath for granted is the downfall of so many posts and officers I've started to lose count. More than one greedy officer is serving time in prison and jail today because they assumed the post monies belonged to them and felt they were above the law or shielded from it. Being a VFW entity doesn't shield anyone, we are all responsible for our actions and we are accountable to the government and our members for everything we do.



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Ed Morneault, Against All Odds

*Posted in Featured, Veterans & Military
 By Editor On December 12, 2014*

The definition of courage is the quality of spirit in the face of trying circumstance.

By Judy Reed
 Center for Military Education

Many adult learners returning to college for a degree struggle to strike the right balance between home, work, and study. On that point, Excelsior College student and Marine veteran Ed Morneault is similar to millions of other post-traditional students.

The definition of courage however, is quality of spirit in the face of trying circumstance. And in that respect, Ed Morneault is an inspiration. For he is currently facing his greatest battle – the failure of his kidneys – in a way few others could.

Three times every week Ed, a facilities manager at Aberdeen Proving Ground, leaves his job to head across town to a local hospital to undergo dialysis. It is this treatment and the challenges associated with it that first led him to seek out distance learning. There was simply no other way for him to balance it all and achieve his educational goals.

Yet, against all odds, Ed earned a bachelor's degree in 2013 from Excelsior, citing the extensive transfer credit from American Council on Education-approved military training for helping to lower costs and move him closer to his goals. (Ed came to Excelsior with seven transcripts!)

While conferral was a proud moment, Ed understood it for what it was – a milestone, not the end of the journey itself. To give back to his fellow veterans and others aspiring to be more, he needed a graduate degree. So, in 2013 Ed enrolled in the MBA program at Excelsior with plans to one day



become a college professor.

He's on the right path. Over the past year, Ed has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Ed has also taken on the role of counseling three new veteran students on time management, education benefits, study skills, and more as a veteran mentor through an innovative new initiative within the Center for Military Education. He's also become the patient advocate at his dialysis unit, helping to answer questions and represent the needs of those undergoing treatment.

Ed has overcome tremendous odds to be where he is today, while excelling both academically and professionally, and still finding the time to impact the lives of others. To learn more about the Veteran Mentorship Program as a mentee or a mentor go to: <http://veterans.excelsior.edu/vet-to-vet-wisdom/mentorship-program/>

Are you ready to work toward your degree goal? Request a pre-evaluation review of your credits toward an associate or bachelor's degree provide your unofficial military and civilian credits all in one email to Jreed@excelsior.edu or all in one fax 518-608-8142 and on the cover page or subject line state, "Pre-eval ReviewNYVFW" courtesy of the veteran education partnership with Department of New York. For more information go to: <http://www.excelsior.edu/web/partners/vfw-new-york>

Military Advanced Education Recognizes Excelsior College for 8th Consecutive Year

*Posted in Featured, Veterans & Military
 By Mike Leszczinski*

For the eighth consecutive year, Military Advanced Education (MAE) has named Excelsior College a top "military friendly" school.

Now in its eighth year of publishing the Guide, MAE was the first publication to launch a reference tool of this type. This year, institutes were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services. Each school's performance rating by category is represented by an easy-to-recognize dashboard. This enables prospective students to quickly target schools that follow best practices in military education, and then put these in context with other academic or career considerations.

Excelsior is home to over 38,000 currently enrolled students, including more than 16,000 who are either active duty or of veteran status. In addition, 34 percent of Excelsior's 2013-2014 graduating class were members of the U.S. military. Excelsior's Center for Military Education offers a range of advising and support services, including the Lt. Col. Bryant A. Murray Veterans Center.

"We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers when advising service members about their educational opportunities," said Kelly Fodel, MAE's editor. "We used strict criteria to individually evaluate the submissions of respondents, and we had a record number of schools participating this year."

The guide is available online at www.mae-kmi.com.

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Let's make this another successful fund drive this year and continue to embrace our motto, "VFW - NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". Please make your checks or M.O. payable to Dept of NY VFW and mail your ticket stubs, payment and ad book order form to Department of NY VFW, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

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Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship Program Winners



L to R: DEPT NY LAVFW President Irene Rhode, District 3 Commander Don Essenter, VOD 3rd Place Hannah Katz, Past District 3 Commander Donald Thorne, Jr. (Patriot's Pen Chairman), Patriot's Pen 3rd Place Matthew Zawitowski, 1st Place VOD Elizabeth Palmer, 2nd Place VOD Carl Salvatore, 2nd Place Patriot's Pen Maxwell Hales, Past District 3 Commander Arnie Anderson (VOD Chairman), District 3 LAVFW President Denise White and Past District 3 Commander & Master of Ceremonies Gene Ratigliano. 1st Place Patriot's Pen Hannah Brewer and District 3 Outstanding Citizenship Award winners not pictured.

District 3 honored its selectees in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Scholarship Program winners at its annual Gold Chevron Ball held at the Queensbury Hotel, Queensbury, NY on Saturday, February 7, 2014. Following a short introduction by the Gold Chevron Ball Chairman, District 3 Jr. Vice Commander Michael Hoag introduced the honored guests at the head table which included District 3 Commander Donald Essenter and his wife Lynda, District 3 President

Denise White, Department of NY LAVFW President Irene Rohde and her husband Past Department Commander Karl Rohde, District 3 Chaplain Robbie Robinson and District 3 LAVFW Chaplain Lillian Phinney and Master of Ceremonies and Department Representative Past District 3 Commander Gene Ratigliano and his wife Jean.

District 3 VOD Chairman Arnie Anderson, PDC and Patriot's Pen Chairman Donald Thorne, Jr., PDC,

presented the honorees their awards. Awardees for Voice of Democracy were, 1st Place Elizabeth Palmer, 2nd Place Carl Salvatore and 3rd Place Hannah Katz. In the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest the awardees were 1st Place Hannah Brewer, 2nd Place Maxwell Hales and 3rd Place Zawitowski. PDC Ratigliano had the honor of presenting the Outstanding Citizenship Award to James Campnell of Adirondack VFW Post 2475, Glens Falls, NY.



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