

**Editor's Note:** This publication was put together during the coronavirus outbreak. Some of the articles were written before things got severely worse and will appear out of date and can't apply because of the latest orders from President Trump and Governor Cuomo. The *Stay at Home* order changes everything so we must adjust to this problem and understand everything we are used to and comfortable with just got turned upside down. Please take *special note* of Commander Todaro's article and articles from the State Adjutant, Sr. Vice and Department Surgeon. They are full of critical information for our VFW members.



## Thomas Todaro State Commander

Comrades,  
As of this writing the Department stands at 94.25%, we are down to needing 3113 members to reach our goal and bring the Department of New York in at 100% for the 2nd year in a row. This is VERY attainable as we still have until June 30th to make it. However, I don't want it to come down to the wire, but if we continue to be diligent in our efforts to contact the members who have not paid their dues in over 2 years, urge the continuous members to pay their dues and recruit new members, we should make it easily before June. I know it's been said before, but I'll say it again, if every member signed up just one new member, we would be at 100% now. We also need to contact the posts that need 10 members or less, we would pick up about a thousand members right there. Every time the new stats come out, I look at who's recruiting, so if you are on that list "Thank You" and if

— STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 4



## Harold Burke Jr. State Adjutant

Comrades,  
Spring is on the way. Has your Post submitted all the required reports? Has your Post purchased Buddy Poppies? Has your Post donated to the Commander's Special Project? If not, please complete your reports and mail them to Headquarters at 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, New York 12205. The reports may be faxed to 518-426-8904 or email them to Adjutantdny@vfwny.com.

As we prepare for many upcoming events to include Nominations of Post Officers which open in March and remain open until the Election of Post officers in April. Please remember to submit your Post election reports using the National On-Line Membership System (OMS) immediately following your Post Elections of Officers. If your Post Quartermaster does not access this system, we are suggesting that he go to the National Website and sign in

— STATE ADJUTANT, continued on page 4

### Important Update

The health and safety of our Veterans is a #1 priority of the Stratton VA Medical Center. We are taking simple safeguards to maximize safety especially during this time of flu and COVID-19 risk.

Effective March 10, 2020, the Stratton VA is temporarily **limiting Visitors and Group access** to the facility. This means **unless** you are presenting to receive care, we are asking you to stay home. If you are planning a personalized visit to a hospitalized Veteran, please contact the Veteran's healthcare team **first**. This precautionary measure will help protect the **50 Veterans** who call the **Stratton VA Home** and the **35,000 Veterans** that visit the Stratton VA annually for their healthcare needs. We continue to monitor the situation and re-assess risk in partnership with the CDC and NYS Department of Health.

We recognize the inconvenience, thank you for your continued support for our Veterans and your help in providing them the safest, healthiest outcome for their healthcare.

### Any Questions call your Primary Care Team or our Telephone Call Center 1-888-838-7890

- ◆ As a reminder, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

## 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](http://WWW.VFWNY.COM). Publications are 8.5"x11" 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. Send JPG/PNG/PDF images with corresponding captions. E-mail 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](mailto: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.

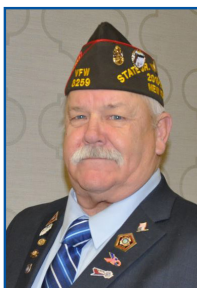
If you are using regular mail, send the items to CITadmin, P.O. Box 116, Carlisle, NY 12031.

### \*\* GRAPHIC DESIGN

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## Tom Howard

State Sr. Vice Commander

As we start to wind down the year, we are getting ready to go to Washington DC for the conference.

We still have a lot of work to do with elections coming up, then district conventions which means a lot of traveling and seeing lots of nice people. After that we have to get ready for the State Convention in June. First, we have to shake the trees to find members, we are looking for 3100 more for 100% and I know we can do it. Make sure all the posts get their reports in so they can get white hats; and if you don't get one, have your documentation to back you up. So, with that said Good Luck.

With all that necessary information, that is most likely redundant and useless because of the coronavirus given out, we are in a predicament. A "No Travel for VFW Business" order has been issued by the State Commander. President Trump and Governor Cuomo have issued very strict orders to STAY HOME, so do that.

As the Commander Todaro and the State Adjutant have stated in their articles, we will contact you so let's cooperate and be flexible during this woeful time, so limit the calls to HQ and the Adjutant. Department Officers are communicating via E-mail, skype, messaging and other means during this dilemma. You will be informed, we will get through this, especially if we work together.

**Tom Howard**  
Sr. Vice Commander



## Brenda Serena

State Surgeon

Welcome Comrades,

We will soon be entering the Spring and the VFW convention seasons. I always felt this was the busiest time as a VFW Commander, at any level, as I would be attempting to ensure the post(s) had completed all their required tasks by April 30th. It can be a stressful time for anyone. As Department Surgeon, I will be busy traveling to the VA Medical Centers down state. I have already made arrangement for several of them with the hope that all will be toured prior to April 30th. Remember District Commanders, if I am traveling to your District, I expect you and/or your representative and District Surgeon to be in attendance and to contact your local VA Medical Center Public Affairs Officer to arrange the tour. In addition, I would like to visit the New York State Veterans Home in your area.

Now on to more medical issues. The Coronavirus outbreak in China is being monitored by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The official name for the illness caused by the coronavirus is COVID-19. Cases have been identified in the US. The VA has activated its Emergency Management Coordination Cell (EMCC) and is implementing an aggressive and collaborative public health response to protect and care for Veterans. Currently there is no vaccine to prevent the COVID-19 infection and no medication to treat it. The CDC believes the symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure. The symptoms are fever, cough and shortness of breath and have either recently returned from China or have direct exposure to others diagnosed with COVID-19. Call before visiting your local VA medical center to seek care. Tell them about your recent travels and your symptoms. As with any viruses or bacteria illnesses take the following precautions:

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An easy way to mark the time is to hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice while scrubbing.
2. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
5. Stay home when you are sick or becoming sick.

— STATE SURGEON, continued on page 3

— *STATE SURGEON, continued from page 2*

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue (not your hands) and throw the tissue in the trash.

Since the last Overseas Veteran, I received the newest Shingles vaccine, I was informed of the side effects: flu like symptoms: fever, nausea, headache, chills, achiness, pain at the injection site. The day I received the injection I was fine, the next day I woke up and felt like a truck hit me. I was in bed basically for 20 hours, with



all the side effects. The next day I was almost back to normal. This newest inoculation for shingles has two medicines mixed together and two doses are given 2 to 6 months apart. Not everyone gets the side effects and if you think of the outcome of not having shingles compared to the 2 to 3 days of side effects, I'll take the side effects. If you are over 50, you should

go to your Primary health care provider to receive this vaccination.

In my last article I mentioned the Veterans Administration has VA News that you can receive weekly by email. It offers information for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors. You can sign up at [www.VA.gov/VetResources](http://www.VA.gov/VetResources). A recent publication highlighted Herbicide Tests and Storage sites outside of Vietnam. The Department of Defense gave the VA a list of the sites and storage in and out of the United States. Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during their service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits including an Agent Orange Registry health exam, health care, and disability compensations for diseases associated with exposure.

In September 2019, I had the honor of swearing in my 18 year old grandson, Jakob Bathrick into the US Marine Corps at the Niagara Falls Air Force Reserve MEPS. I was present at his graduation from Parris Island, SC in December and he recently completed infantry school. The tradition of serving in the military continues in my family.

If anyone has any concerns or questions do not hesitate to contact me.

**Brenda J Serena, BSN, RN**  
Department Surgeon

## Patriot's Pen Report

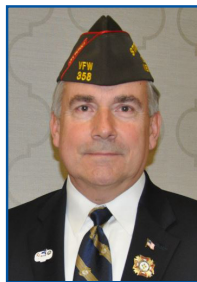
Hello Comrades,

I would like to thank all the Posts and Auxiliaries who took the time to hold a Patriots Pen competition. All nine Districts had a finalist and they were judged on a Department level, on January 4, 2020.

The following were judges for the competition: A teacher Crystal Uerz, RIT graduate Daniel Uerz, Seneca County Manager Mitch Rowe, and a representative from Assemblyman Brian Kolbs office Jake Chard.

My full report will be read at the Spring Conference March 20-22, 2020.

**Wayne Campbell**  
Chairman



## Bob Mitchell

**State Inspector**

Comrades,

We are well into our Inspection year and we are making good progress on our goal to have each and every Post in the Department of New York inspected. I would like to commend our District Inspection teams for completing very thorough and excellent Post Inspections! As you know, it is our duty to ensure that all our Posts in the Department of New York are operating in a manner that is consistent with our Department and National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. It is also imperative that our inspection process safeguards the financial integrity of our Posts and most importantly, protects the interests of our membership!

If your Post has not yet been contacted by a District Inspection team member and scheduled for an Inspection, I would encourage you to reach out to your District Commander and request that your Post be inspected. I am confident that it will be a very constructive and rewarding event. As a reminder, consideration for a Post All-State award requires that your Post be inspected prior to April 30, 2020 and that your Inspection Report is received and approved by the Department prior to May 1, 2020.

As District 3 Commander I want to thank our District Post Leadership for making this a very enjoyable and exciting year for me. I appreciate all the invitations to your events and I am doing my best to make as many as I can. I also appreciate your efforts to increase and retain our membership. As you are well aware, our membership is a priority again this year and I appreciate all you are doing to not only reach out and obtain new members but to also ensure that we are retaining our current members.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Bob Mitchell**

**State Inspector/District 3 Commander**



## Mike Webster

**Veterans & Military Support Programs**

After my trip to the National Convention in Orlando, where I picked up \$1200.00 worth of Veterans and Military Support Pins, I went on to my District and Department's Fall Conference meetings, leaving pins along the way. As last year went this year was a repeat. The pins were gone and the check for \$1200.00 was sent to National. According to National there are only three Departments that peak at \$1200.00, the most requested, and New York is one of them. I wish to thank all of you who participated.

Sports Clips ended their fundraising campaign for "Help a Hero Scholarships" on Veterans Day and I was looking forward to their Check Presentation in December. They donated \$1.25 million. This past summer they surpassed \$6.4 million in scholarships for Veterans. Burger King's fundraising campaign ran through November. They have been supporting UnMet Needs since 2007. Thank both of them if you can. Burger King has donated millions

— *VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT, continued on page 4*

— *STATE COMMANDER, continued from page 1*

you are not, we need your help. Every District Commander has been sent the unpaid lists and by now these should have been distributed to all of your Post Commanders. We have even broken them down by zip code to make it easier, so let's get out there and get the job done and put NY over the top again this year. Posts should also be reviewing their rosters to make sure that the none of the officers are expiring during their term as they will be removed by National and not be able to hold another position for the remainder of the administrative year.

The Department Convention is still a concern. President Trump and Governor Cuomo have outlined all the limitations and the biggest one is to just stay home. So, if that order is still in effect on May 1st, I will take appropriate action and issue the necessary orders for the State of New York VFW. Currently ALL meetings and activities of the State of New York VFW are canceled. I have ordered that all state officers will not travel. Any necessary meetings or conferences will be held by phone, skype, or other internet options with no meetings having more than one person will be held at any location. I don't know how to make that any clearer. As stated, a decision on the State Convention will be made on or about May 1st.

By the time you receive this many of you would have been in the process of nominations within your Posts, Councils and Districts and preparing for elections. The State mandate is *Stay Home* so no Post, County Councils, Districts or State VFW meetings will be held. I will issue through the State Adjutant, appropriate options and actions we will be allowed to take after May 1. If the State lifts the current limitations, we will resume normal operations, but at this writing that doesn't appear to be an option for New York State since it is an epicenter for the coronavirus. Constantly calling the State Adjutant for information is nonproductive and will not provide any more information than already given by State and National officials through news broadcasts. Please refrain from calling us as we will inform everyone through e-mails. Be sure to read your emails from the Department of New York via the Adjutant for this information.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for being considerate and helpful during this trying time. We will get through this.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Thomas Todaro**  
State Commander

— *VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT, continued from page 3*

but the demand has been greater. In the months of July, August and September, for example, UnMet needs sent out 140 grants at a cost of \$147,880.23. Your donations are important and greatly needed.

Please make you donation today. To help the Department show participation and receive the credit due your Post, or yourself, make the check out to the "Department of NY VFW" and annotate the memo block "Veterans and Military Support Programs". Mail it to the Department of New York. I thank you in advance.

**Michael W. Webster**  
Chairman

— *STATE ADJUTANT, continued from page 1*

today as a new user and get their Quartermaster password. National would like all Election reports submitted using this system to ensure that the election report is accurately reported and distributed to the Department.

VFW Posts may change their Quartermasters this year. The IRS requires that the all new Quartermasters file IRS Form 8822-B within 60 days of taking office. This form provides the Quartermaster's current contact information and current address in the event that the IRS sends notifications and/or contacts the Quartermaster. There is a link on the Department Website to download the IRS Form 8822-B.

**POSTS THAT DO NOT HAVE BONDS WHICH CONFORM WITH SECTION 703 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS WILL FAIL THEIR INSPECTION 2020-2021. THE BONDING REQUIREMENT IS SPECIFIED IN SEC 218, 418 AND 518 OF THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS. PLEASE DO NOT BE ONE OF THOSE POSTS.**

**Sec. 703 - Bonds.**

Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these By-laws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable. The bond premium shall be paid from the funds of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department, District, County Council or Post, as the case may be, to which each officer is accountable.

The bonds of such accountable officers, in amount and as to surety, shall be approved by their respective units and held by their respective Commanders. The Commander of each unit shall be responsible for the proper and adequate bonding of all accountable officers in their unit.

With all that necessary information given we all know our current situation concerning the coronavirus. President Trump and Governor Cuomo have issued very strict orders and mandates concerning meetings. Those restrictions apply to us, the Department of New York, Posts, County Councils and Districts. State Commander Todaro has outlined the Department of New York and his position as State Commander which complies with all National and State orders and mandates. Constantly calling me for updates already given by National and State officials accomplishes nothing but taking up my time to repeat those same orders and mandates. As the Commander Todaro has stated in his article the Department of New York will communicate by e-mail through the State Adjutant all necessary orders and instructions. Please **READ your e-mails** from HQ, the State Adjutant and the State Commander. Trashing them is trashing the information you need. Why call me to repeat information already given to you. All District Commanders are expected to pass on all information, especially information concerning the coronavirus and our position and actions after May 1.

The Department Website is up and appears to be operating well. If you see areas which could be improved, please contact Don Mackey or Monica on your concern.

Sincerely,  
**Harold "Hal" Burke Jr., PJAG/PSC/PSQM**  
State Adjutant

## Service Officer Raffle

Comrades:

The tickets for the Service Officer Raffle were mailed a few weeks ago.

The work of the Department Service Officers is a key component of the VFW mission.

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.** The service officers are the tip of the spear for the one on one interactions between individual veterans and the VA.

Please purchase/sell the tickets and return the proceeds to Department Head Quarters.

In addition to the support of the Department, these dedicated service officers need and deserve our financial help to fulfill their mission of helping veterans.

Dan O'Brien

## District 9 Briefing

### That Darn Voucher

I keep hearing comrades moaning and groaning: "We have to do vouchers now?" Well yes. That's a new firm requirement from National VFW. We all have to have a voucher system.

What I don't understand is that most use them now, just a little less formally. Almost every VFW I visit and have asked, does an informal voucher. And just what do I mean by that, now? Well if instead of getting our hair up about a new/old requirement, you sit down and just think about it, we all are already doing it! Just not formally. A bill comes in, the quartermaster takes it and records it and gets approval from the commander to pay it. Then it's approved at the next regular meeting. The bill and payment are logged in and the check is cut.

Well guess what, you just completed a voucher system. It's just an informal one. So what do we have to do to be correct? You simply need a piece of paper to make those transactions formal. You are already logging the transaction into your Detail of Receipts and Expenditures; all you have to do is initiate a number system that shows continuity of payments and receipts of income. Some Quartermasters have even gone to the extent of creating formal vouchers to keep track – like I've done. If you want a copy of mine, my email is: [prouk@tweny.rr.com](mailto:prouk@tweny.rr.com). Ask me and I'll email you a pdf of the one my post uses.

What this does is make your job easier when it comes time to complete the monthly and quarterly trustee reports. You don't lose anything and it makes your job a heck of a lot easier to do

So the next time you hear a new/old requirement; sit down and think about it. Maybe it's not so hard after all!



*Bring Our Troops  
Home Safely!*



## IRS revises Form 1023 for Applying for Tax-Exempt Status

### *New electronic filing available to help charities*

WASHINGTON – As part of an ongoing effort to improve service for the tax-exempt community, the Internal Revenue Service has revised Form 1023 to allow electronic filing for the first time starting later this month.

To help charities apply for Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, the IRS has revised Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and its instructions.

"Filing electronically reduces errors, and we believe this will help provide a smoother application process for those seeking tax exemption," said Tammy Ripperda, Commissioner of the IRS Tax Exempt and Government Entities division. "As we've seen with the 1023-EZ, we believe this change will help with application processing time and help with our wider efforts to improve our work with the tax-exempt community."

The IRS expects the electronic Form 1023 benefits to mirror those realized when Form 1023-EZ went online in 2014. IRS statistics show the 1023-EZ improved application processing time for both the Form 1023 and 1023-EZ while maintaining similar approval and rejection rates between the two forms.

Beginning Jan. 31, 2020, applications for recognition of exemption on Form 1023 must be submitted electronically online at [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov). The IRS will provide a 90-day grace period during which it will continue to accept paper versions of Form 1023 (Rev. 12-2017).

The required user fee for Form 1023 will remain \$600 for 2020. Applicants must pay the fee through [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov) when submitting the form. Payment can be made directly from a bank account or by credit or debit card.

Updates about Form 1023 can be obtained by subscribing to Exempt Organizations Update, a free e-Newsletter from the IRS Exempt Organizations' office. EO Update provides information on tax policy, services and information that's important to tax-exempt organizations including:

- News releases from the IRS related to exempt organizations
- New forms, guidance and other publications
- Changes and additions to the IRS Charities and Nonprofits website
- Upcoming IRS training and outreach events



## New York Voice of Democracy Winner



*On Monday, March 2, 2020 the NY VOD Winner was Shalynne R. Ouellette who was sponsored by Post 1371, District 5. Commander Thomas Todaro and President Debra Casella were present with Ms. Ouellette.*

## Post 2883 Christmas Tree Donation

The State Department Headquarters staff wants to thank Arcadia Memorial Post 2883 in Newark for brightening up our Christmas Holidays with this Christmas Tree. Special thanks to Commander Harry Gajan and Trustee Timothy Sheehe.



## VFW Awards National Youth Scholarship Winners

*Nebraska high school senior takes home first place  
and a \$30,000 scholarship*

WASHINGTON (March 2, 2020) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) tonight proudly presented more than \$200,000 in scholarships and awards as it named the national winners of its 2020 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions. The awards were presented during the Parade of Winners ceremony, sponsored by Twisted X, at the VFW's annual Legislative Conference held in Washington, D.C.

Shruthi Kumar, a high school senior from Marian High School in Omaha, Nebraska, was

named the first place winner and presented with the \$30,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship award during this evening's ceremony where she delivered her winning essay on this year's theme, "What Makes America Great." Kumar was sponsored by VFW Post 1581 in Omaha, Nebraska.



Second place winner Rachel Perry, a senior sponsored by VFW Post 7239 and its Auxiliary in Acushnet, Massachusetts, was awarded the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship, while Dallin Christensen, a junior sponsored by VFW Post 1481 and its Auxiliary in Ogden, Utah, was named the third place winner and awarded the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship. All other state winners received no less than a \$1,000 college scholarship. See the complete list of 2020 Voice of Democracy national winners.

"The more than \$200,000 awarded tonight makes a grand total of \$3 million presented at the national, state and local levels of our competitions, and I know will help ensure the doors of opportunity are opened wide for this talented group of young people," said VFW National Commander William "Doc" Schmitz. "Even after 73 years, the VFW remains committed to ensuring America's youth develop a strong sense of patriotism and civic duty to become the great leaders our future will need, because who knows, in the room tonight could be a future Supreme Court justice, senator, or even our future president of the United States of America."

In addition to taking home a college scholarship, the VFW surprised all of the Voice of Democracy state winners when it announced they would also receive a new laptop, courtesy of Dell. Aron Waisman, Dell senior manager of business development, and Chris Pringle, Dell strategic account manager, were on hand to make the announcement.

Also present at last night's ceremony was the 2020 Patriot's Pen first place winner, Ruby Howe. Sponsored by VFW Post 334 and its Auxiliary in Lake Orion, Michigan, Howe received the all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she accepted a \$5,000 award and delivered her winning essay.

The Patriot's Pen second place winner, Casseus Rhodes, sponsored by VFW Post 7968 in Apache Junction, Arizona, will receive a \$4,000 award, while third place winner Rei Borges, sponsored by VFW Post 11367 in Mary Esther, Florida, will receive a \$3,500 award.

## Shoe Donation to Homeless Veterans Across Long Island

This week, local business owner, Dr. Steven Brook from Country Foot Care, is working with VFW Post 2913 and has donated a little over 400 pairs of shoes valued at a total of \$56,000 for Post 2319 to disperse to homeless veterans across Long Island. This is our posts second year running this program alongside Dr. Brook and a total of 900 pairs of quality shoes have been given to veterans in need. The shoes are being given to veterans around Long Island with the help of the United Veterans Beacon House. Without the support of business owners like Dr. Brook, the VFW would not be able to provide such impactful services to Long Island Veterans. A large part of the donation came from Apex Foot Health which donated their overstock of new shoes, boots, sneakers, and sandals still in their boxes.

VFW Post 2913 got started working with Dr. Brook when he visited our VFW Post after reading about work we needed to have done to fix up the post. Dr. Brook would go on to donate a new stove and a new tv for our hall. He was so eager and excited to help veterans, he suggested beginning this program to make sure homeless veterans gained quality footwear. Since then we have continued to work closely with Dr. Brook to make this vision a reality. Dr. Brook's

generosity goes further than even he knows as just this last year when a community kitchen had to close down due to problems in the building, the organization was able to use the post and our new stove to cook meals for over 300 people in the community for their annual Christmas Dinner.

Dr. Brook is eager to take on a few more projects with us including helping provide shoes for Amputee Veterans and helping to provide equipment to veteran foot programs at the VA.

"We love our community partners who come out and give support to our veterans" - CMDR Rogers

Commander Dave Rogers, Quartermaster George Egan, Member Pete Palamidis, Jr. Vice Commander Scott McKendrick and friend to the VFW Serenity Heart helped move the shoes to Beacon house. It took 4 cars and 2 trips to make this happen. 400 pairs of shoes are more than you think. The staff at Beacon House were very grateful for the donation, saying that this is probably the largest single item donation they ever received. Volunteers at Beacon house were helpful - it took 5 of them to help us and they were still finding places to put them all when we left.

