



NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



July, August, September 2023—Early Edition

Volume 42 Issue 1



Daniel Kell
STATE COMMANDER



Greetings Comrades,

With the year beginning and the Department of New York moving forward, my "Motto" this year is "Command and Control", Let's make it happen. With communication and teamwork between both the Department of New York, VFW, and Department of New York Auxiliary we can accomplish our mission in our organization with everyone working together, communicating, and pitching in to accomplish all our goals set forth by our National Commander-In-Chief Duane Sarmiento.

We are off to a great start in Membership this year, currently Department of New York is at 82.58% as of September 21, 2023 working towards our goal of achieving 102% by 30 June 2024. On this note, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has issued a challenge to all the Department Commanders with a Department Membership Challenge and will award the Department of New York \$2,750 for each of the following membership goals for a total of \$11,000. These funds if the goals are met will be added to the Department Membership Budget and will be available to assist the Department, District and Posts with their recruiting events:

1. 88% Membership by November 1, 2023 - \$2750.00
2. 95% Membership by February 1, 2024 - \$2750.00

State Commander continued on page 2



Robert Mitchell
STATE ADJUTANT



Comrades,

As we enter the second quarter of our administrative year it is imperative that all Posts and Districts start entering your Program activity on the All-American Dashboard. District and Post

State Adjutant continued on page 3



Daniel McMahon
STATE QUARTERMASTER



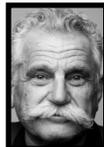
Comrades,

Too many Posts are losing their charters for unnecessary reasons. Recently a Post lost their charter due to inaccurate information. If anyone gives you information about closing, selling and/or merging, and it doesn't seem right, call Department headquarters and get the correct information. If your post has internal issues, consult with your district commander

Quartermaster continued on page 4



Jody Treadway
Co-Editor



Richard Tibbetts
State Historian



Barbara Bishop
State Photographer



New York State Overseas Veteran

The official publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York, 69 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205.

**PUBLICATIONS:

Overseas Veteran is published four times annually by the Department of New York in July/August/September; October/November/December; January/February/March and April/May/June. All publications are digital format online and available on the VFWNY web site WWW.VFWNY.COM. Publications are 8.5" X 11" for individual printing capability.

** ARTICLES:

Articles: Any and all articles involving and/or including Veterans of Foreign Wars, its members, member communities, awards and activities are welcome.

**SUBMISSION & FORMAT:

Please prepare all articles in Microsoft Word (version 2003 or newer) or plain text. Email articles and pictures as attachments with sender's name, address and phone number in the base of the emails. Submissions from other sources must have complete credits such as publication name, address and dates published.

** EDITORIAL POLICY:

Inappropriate, demeaning, unduly critical articles and/or statements will not be published. Article length, inaccuracies, composition and other miscellaneous errors and/or mistakes may be edited.

Although every effort is made to maintain an honorable and accurate publication, the Department of New York and/or its staff, editor and other publication participants are not responsible for the content, views, and/or positions of any articles/submissions.

** ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES MUST BE E-MAILED TO:

JTreadway@VFWNY.com. They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.

** DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES:

Is established by the State Adjutant.

If you are using regular mail, send the items to:

Jody Treadway
Co-editor NYSOV
Department of New York VFW
69 Sand Creek Rd.
Albany, NY 12205

State Commander continued from page 1

3. 99% Membership by May 31, 2024 - \$2750.00

4. 102% Membership by June 30, 2024 - \$2750.00

With our Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento Motto: "Meet the Challenge" the Department of New York can achieve these goals set forth above.

Many Districts have been conducting a lot of Membership Drives and having a lot of success in bringing in new members to our organization and increasing our numbers in strength for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We also want to not forget reinstatements for those comrades that have not paid their dues. We want to reach out to them and try to get them reinstated back in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I cannot stress enough to all the Membership Chairman in the District, communicate and advise our State Membership PSC Michael Burke of any membership drives their Districts are having throughout the year, again, this will allow the Department to aid the District Membership Chairmen with the required material and assistance they will need to have a successful membership drive. The hard work the District and Posts are putting forward in the Membership drives they are conducting is showing in our stats to date to reach our goal of 102%.

Community Service Reports, Inspections, Quarterly reports, and District All-American Dashboard reporting: Inspections, as all the District Commanders know my goal this year is to have all the Inspections of the District and Posts completed by 31 December 2023. This can be accomplished, knowing that posts in the districts are spread out, each District should have more than one Inspector to complete the Inspections in their District to accomplish our goal and the Department be at 100% Inspected, to include those Posts that have not been Inspected in years.

Let's remind our Posts on the importance of reporting information to the Department of New York and ensure they are entering their program information on the All-American Dashboard for Community Service, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teachers so National will have accurate statistical information on Program activity and the Posts getting credit. Also, District Adjutants completing their entries as well on the All-American Dashboard.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Fall Conference in Albany on 6, 7 October 2023. Let's "Make it Happen" and "Meet the Challenge", work together as a team and communicate from the Department level down to the District, Post as well as our Auxiliary to have a successful year.

Yours in Comradeship,

Daniel L. Kell

Department of New York State Commander



State Adjutant continued from page 1

entries on the Dashboard are critical to ensure that the National Organization has accurate statistical information on our Department's Program activity. It is the primary responsibility of the Adjutant to make entries on the Dashboard, but authority is granted to the Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and Quartermaster to make the entry as well. Please review the Commander-in-Chief's membership Program for further requirements to meet the All-American Membership Program for the 2023-2024 year. The All-American Membership Program is designed to recognize exceptional leadership and accomplishments in membership growth and VFW core Programs.

As you know, effective July 1, 2023, National increased the cost of the traditional "Legacy" Buddy Poppy. Unfortunately, the Department had to pass this increase in cost along to the Posts that purchase the Poppies. Starting October 1, 2023, National has introduced a new lower cost alternative to the traditional Poppy, the "Tin Tab" Poppy. The Department has revised the Buddy Poppy Order Form, which now includes both the traditional "Legacy Poppies and the new "Tin Tab" Poppies. A Buddy Poppy order form has been included in this month's edition of the OSV for your convenience, it is also available on the Department Website. National has represented that the quality of the "Legacy" Poppy has significantly improved, and all Buddy Poppy orders will be shipped within ten days of receipt of the order!

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell

State Adjutant

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW

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ALBANY, NY 12205**

581-463-7427

581-454-8904 (fax)

www.vfwny.com

www.facebook.com/VFWNewYork



Leslie Crossett
SR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

So far this has been a very busy summer for me, my VFW year started with the National Convention in Phoenix, Az. Then I was assigned to visit Batavia VA Hospital District 7 picnic. Visited with Patients and staff. I visited patients on a floor. I enjoyed the whole day talking to all the Veterans. Three OTI,s one in Albany and one in Binghamton and one at Batavia Post 1602. Very well attended. Good reviews.

September was even more busy with the 4th District Commanders/Presidents homecoming at Yorkville Post 6001 on 10 Sept. Along with visiting some of the Districts around our State, I joined with the District 4 recruiting team at the Woodsman's Field Days in Boonville, NY, they had a very good turnout, the officials estimated

the crowd at about twelve thousand for the three-day event. I helped to recruit a recently retired husband and wife.



Darwin Clemens, Commander Post 6530 Camden, Leslie Crossett, Dept St Vice Commander, Daniel Martin Commander Post 6912 Lowville.

Again, in Boonville I participated in the annual District 4 POW/MIA remembrance ceremony.

Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 5

NEW BUDDY POPPY FORM

Buddy Poppy Order Form

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Traditional Poppies

1000 Poppies- \$330.00

500 Poppies- \$165.00

(Must be ordered in multiples of 500)

***NEW* Tin Tab Poppies**

1000 Poppies- \$200.00

500 Poppies- \$100.00

(Must be ordered in multiples of 500)



Shipping & Handling

(Based on National- effective through 8-31-24)

\$100.01 to \$200.00 \$15.95

\$200.01 to \$300.00 \$29.95

\$300.01 to \$400.00 \$34.95

\$400.01 to \$500.00 \$39.95

\$500.01 & Over \$69.95

Post #/ Quartermaster Name

Quartermaster Member ID

Shipping Address:

(Poppies cannot be shipped to a P.O. Box)

of Traditional Poppies/ Cost

\$

of Tin Tab Poppies/ Cost

\$

Shipping & Handling

\$

Total:

\$

X

(Quartermaster Signature)

Payment:

Credit Card

Check

Credit Card

If you purchase Buddy Poppies with a credit card, you can mail or email the form:

To: adjutantdny@vfwny.com

Cc: acomstock@vfwny.com

Mail Form & Check to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars

69 Sand Creek Rd

Albany, NY 12205

*Name

*Phone:

*Billing Address:
(Same as Shipping Address)

*Credit Card Number:

*Exp. Date

*CRV Code on Back
(3 Digit Code)

*Email:
(Email Receipt Requested)

*** 3.00% Convenience Fee For Credit Card Processing***

HQ Use Only

Check #/ Transaction ID:

Invoice #:

Posted:

Quartermaster continued from page 1

and then department headquarters for a correct way to proceed. You may need to contact the local police and file a complaint.

Let's chat about the Post trustees. Your trustees are probably the most important officers in your Post. The department OTI's are and have provided training for post trustees. At the next regular meeting or at a specially called meeting, the trustees report their findings to the body of the Post. If there are any issues with the audit, those issues need to be addressed at the meeting and resolved. After signatures, the post Commander forwards a copy of the report to department headquarters.

If the Post has a canteen, the quartermaster is responsible for those funds and the trustees have the responsibility to audit those records as well.

After consulting with our investment people concerning the continued rollercoaster market, I have been assured we are in a stable condition. As we are not selling anything, the fluctuating market has no great impact on our portfolio. What are the important sides of the investments are the dividends we are receiving, and they are doing well.

The next Overseas Veteran will be after the holidays. As in past years, I will be splitting the money I would normally spend on Christmas cards and Postage to the commander's special project and the Neighbors Foundation in Grand Island.

Thank you,

Daniel B. McMahon
Quartermaster
Department of NY VFW
dmcmahon@vfwny.com
518-414-2605



James MacArthur JR. VICE COMMANDER



Well, I'm going to start off with hello fellow veterans!

And now let me explain, I have been busy attending meetings at headquarters and now this month I will start attending District meetings. I attended all three OTI classes this summer. As part of OTI we hand out critique sheets that myself, Sr. Vice Crossett and the commander look over to see what changes if any can be made to improve our classes. While looking at one of those critique sheets one of our veterans suggested that we get into the 21st century and stop using the communist word Comrade. So, I looked up the word comrade and it does have a connection with communism but it is also used in many fraternal organizations as a word you would use when greeting a friend, so as not to drag this issue on I will leave it at that and if you have an opinion on this subject you can email me at jmacarthur@vfwny.com.

This past weekend I attended the Commanders homecoming in Silver Creek. Next up on the 6th and 7th of October is the Fall Conference and the following week I leave for Kansas City for Jr. Vice training. When I get back from Kansas City, I will be going to Fort Drum for a recruiting event. I leave from there to go to Atlantic City for the Eastern States Conference and on October 28th I will attend the Commanders dinner at the Lowville post.

So, as you can see, I have a pretty busy month coming up, but as your Jr. Vice Commander it is what I do and love to do in supporting our veterans and the Department of New York. In closing remember membership is one of our biggest priorities so that our voices are heard in Washington D.C. Our representatives down there don't get up in the morning look in the mirror and say we need to do this for our veterans; we need to let them know what we need and deserve for what we have done for our country. I thank each and every one of you for your support.

James MacArthur
 Jr. Vice Commander
 Dept. of New York



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Retired service members at District 4 POW/ MIA Ceremony



District 4 POW/ MIA Ceremony was well attended and included Patrick VanEtten, Department Sergeant at Arms, Joseph Hubbart, 4th District Sr. Vice Commander, and Leslie Crossett Department Sr. Vice Commander.

I attended the 6th District meeting in Silver Creek Post 6472 on September 16, 2023.

I was honored to be a guest of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 944, Utica at their annual Gold Star



Mother's Day Ceremony and dinner, this group honored over twelve Gold Star families

from the greater Utica Area.

I will continue to ask Post Officers to please complete your Community Service Reports via the Department Website, this has to be one of the easiest reports to complete, Department website has all the instructions for this report.

Yours in Comradship
Les Crossett
Sr. Vice Commander



2024 Department of New York VFW Oral History Project

To remain engaged with all Department of New York VFW members, our upcoming campaign will compile a unique Oral History archive, uniting New York VFW members across generations, professions, geography, and life experiences.

We are working with our trusted partner Publishing Concepts, Inc. to help collect stories from as many members as possible and produce the

2024 Department of New York VFW Oral History Project.

By Sharing your memories, you'll ensure that the rich history of New York VFW will be preserved for generations to come.

PCI will be contacting you by postcard via mail, asking you to participate and updating your contact information. You will have the ability to have your picture and military history published without any requirement to purchase any product offered by PCI. Your information will not be sold or shared.

Thanks for your participation!

If you have any questions concerning this project, contact the State Adjutant at

Adjutantdny@vfwny.com

518-463-7427



Commander's
Homecoming
September 23, 2023





Thomas Todaro PSC

**DIRECTOR OF
VETERANS SERVICES**



Comrades,

The Justice Department and the Department of the Navy (DON) today announced the finalization and publication of a voluntary process, called the “Elective Option,” to help veterans and others more quickly resolve qualifying claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) of 2022. This option supplements other processes currently available under the CLJA, which remain in place.



The CLJA is a provision of the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, which was signed into law on Aug. 10, 2022. The CLJA allows those who file claims and lawsuits to potentially recover for injuries caused by exposure to contaminated water at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune from mid-1953 through 1987.

Established jointly by the Justice Department and DON, the new Elective Option provides a framework for the DON to resolve certain CLJA claims quickly, equitably and transparently. In order to be eligible for the Elective Option, a claimant must first submit an administrative claim to the DON. To date, more than 93,000 CLJA claims have been filed with the DON.

The Elective Option allows the DON to focus its review on a few key aspects of a CLJA claim, such as the type of injury alleged and the amount of time a claimant worked or resided at Camp Lejeune. Narrowing the scope of the review

enables faster validation and, ultimately, extension of settlement offers. The Elective Option provides similar settlement offers to claimants with similar exposures and injuries with similar evidence of causation.

“The Elective Option is a critical step in bringing relief to qualifying claimants impacted by the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, who will now have an avenue for receiving quick and early resolution of claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act,” said Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta. “We are grateful for the continued partnership of the Department of the Navy and federal agencies in developing and administering this framework.”

“The Elective Option presented today should be of great interest to eligible Americans who seek a streamlined process to resolve their claims,” said Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven. “We recognize this takes a whole-of-government response, and along with DOD and DOJ, we are linked with Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies to support a fair and streamlined process. We are committed to ensuring that every valid Camp Lejeune claim is resolved fairly and as expeditiously as possible.”

Within the framework, the DON can make settlement offers to qualifying claimants with diseases that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has determined are linked to the chemicals found in the water at Camp Lejeune. Award amounts are tiered, largely based on the ATSDR’s classification of the strength of the evidence linking the contamination with a particular disease and the amount of time the individual spent at Camp Lejeune.

Tier 1 Diagnoses: Claimants with diseases for which the ATSDR has substantiated evidence of causation – kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, leukemia and bladder cancer – would receive settlement offers of \$450,000, \$300,000 or \$150,000, depending on whether the claimant was exposed to Camp Lejeune water for over five years, between one and five years or between 30 and 364 days, respectively.

Tier 2 Diagnoses: Claimants with diseases to which the ATSDR has linked possible evidence of causation – multiple myeloma, Parkinson’s disease, kidney disease (end stage renal disease), systemic sclerosis/systemic scleroderma – would receive settlement offers of \$400,000, \$250,000, or \$100,000, depending on

Director of Veterans Services continued from page 7

whether the claimant was exposed to Camp Lejeune water for over five years, between one and five years or between 30 and 364 days, respectively. Claims involving death would receive an additional \$100,000.



The Elective Option supplements other mechanisms for resolving claims currently available through the normal administrative claims or litigation processes. Claimants not eligible for the Elective Option may await finalization of their administrative claim or pursue litigation and engage in any broader settlement discussions occurring through court proceedings in the Eastern District of North Carolina. The Justice Department will screen already-filed lawsuits and will extend settlement offers in qualifying cases that are similar to awards under the Elective Option.

Those interested in learning more about the Elective Option should visit www.navy.mil/clja. Individuals who think they qualify for relief under the CLJA can follow the instructions available on that site to submit a claim and provide requisite supporting documentation. There is no requirement to retain a lawyer to file a claim or subsequently pursue an expedited resolution. Claims that have already been filed with DON do not need to be refiled.

Payments under the Elective Option are not offset by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability benefits or VA medical care, and they do not impact ongoing treatment and support provided by the VA.

More information is available at www.navy.mil/clja

Yours in Comradeship,
Thomas Todaro
PSC/Director



Gene Ratigliano
PSC
NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEMBER



Greeting!

We are well into the 2023-24 VFW year with a lot of work and challenges still ahead of us. Of particular importance is membership. Yes, I know everyone continues to harp on membership but if we are going to continue to prosper, we need to grow. We need to not only grow in numbers but also in future leadership. We need to continue grooming those individuals in our posts and districts who show the willingness to lead and will perhaps be our potential leaders of the future – Post Commanders – District Commanders and Department Commanders. Those of us who are in the current positions of leadership need to look ahead for our potential replacements. If we do the right thing and guide those we recognize as potential leaders and move them in the right direction, we can ensure a cadre of qualified individuals for the future.

The National Convention is behind us. It was a great convention in Phoenix, AZ even though at times the temperature reached 118 degrees. Of all the conventions I have attended, Phoenix was one of the best in respect to logistics. The convention center was within a block of the hotels and meeting rooms very close to the entrance ways. There was a great choice of restaurants in the area which were also easy to get to. Training sessions were available for those who took it upon themselves to gain some additional knowledge in a number of areas. For those who may never have attended a National Convention, it is a worthwhile and rewarding experience and should consider attending one. As a member of the National Time and Place Committee I can report that the 2024 Convention will be in Louisville, KY with Columbus, OH in 2025, Salt Lake City, Ut in 2026, Milwaukee, WI in 2027 and San Antonio, TX in 2028.

In late August I attended the summer budget workshop for the upcoming VFW Year. An intensive workshop on the 2023-24 budget was another eyeopener in the workings of the financial

National Council Member continued on page 9

National Council Member continued from page 8

side of the National organization. Every effort was made to streamline expenses and review investment strategies to maximize income. At the C of A following the budget workshop, the 2023-24 National budget was passed by the C of A.

In addition to the budget workshop, other important departments at National provided some enlightening and interesting information during their presentations. For those who may not know, 800,000 claims have been received by the VA under the new Pact Act legislation with 70% of those claims processed by Certified Claims Officers. The average claims received by the VA are about one million per year.

The VFW is still pursuing the awarding of the Foreign Expeditionary Medal for those troops on the Eastern Flank of NATO. JCS gave reasons why it did not meet the criteria for the awarding of the medal when the proposal was presented but the VFW is still pursuing the goal of eligibility for those troops on the Eastern flank of NATO. I am sure there will be more to follow.



For those who may not have read about the change in one of the latest editions of the VFW magazine, the magazine will begin going digital and the paper edition of the magazine eventually being phased out with regard to mass distribution to all members. For those

who desire to continue receiving a paper copy of the magazine, you **MUST OPT IN** to continue receiving it. If you do not acknowledge your desire to continue getting the paper copy of the magazine you will receive it digitally if you have an email address on file. If you do not have an email on file, provide one to you Post Quartermaster who can update your contact information on the National website.

By the time you receive this edition of the Overseas Veteran Newsletter (OSV) we will be going into the Fall Conference the weekend of 6-8 October. This will be our first get-together since the Department Convention so do your best to attend and get all the up-to-date information that

will be presented.

As always, I am available to assist you if I can. Do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an e-mail (518-885-9666/mcpc4@nycap.rr.com).

Yours in Comradeship,

Gene Ratigliano

Gene Ratigliano

National Council Member

Ben Thompson needs YOUR help!

Please provide Ben with the name and contact information for anyone you know who is currently deployed to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, or Djibouti.

He will submit their information so we can try and send them a live Christmas Tree with the trimmings this year. We have been 98% successful in the past, reaching all the service members submitted by the Department.

Ben needs the following information as soon as possible so we can contact them prior to the Christmas Tree sendoff on Monday December 4, 2023.

- NAME
- UNIT NAME & NUMBER
- APO ADDRESS
- EMAIL ADDRESS (**WE MUST HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS**)

Please email the information to Ben Thompson at thompsonbl@state.gov.





**Ben Thompson,
PSC
JUDGE ADVOCATE**



Comrades,

It is recommended that officers at all levels obtain a copy of the current 2024 podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters or you can download the digital version from the National webpage for free. The 2024 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 124th National Convention.

It is the responsibility of the Commander along with the Senior and Junior Vice Commanders to enforce strict observance of the laws and usage of this organization including Post, District and Department Bylaws along with the Congressional Charter, National Bylaws, Manuel of Procedure and Ritual and all lawful orders from proper authorities. Therefore, it is also recommended that copies of the District and Department Bylaws be obtained also.

To sustain the Veterans of Foreign Wars reputation and assure its continued success, I recommend that all Post and District Commanders read the Department of New York's Code of Ethics, which can be found on the Department's webpage, and either use the Departments Code of Ethics or draft one of their own for their offices to sign. The integrity of all our officers is vital to the success of organization.

As the Department Judge Advocate, it is my duty to advise the Department Commander and the Department Council of Administration based on the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. I am also available to provide advise to any Post, District or Comrade. I am no more that an email or phone call away.

Yours in Comradeship,

Ben Thompson
Judge Advocate



**Ronald Sorrentino
SERVICE OFFICERS
JOURNAL AD CHAIR**



Comrades,

By now you should all know me. This is my second year as the Service Officer Raffle and Journal Chairman.

Last year was an extremely great year for the program. We gave out 69 prizes for the raffle. Which is why I'm here today. We are doing well this year for the raffle donation, but I know we could do better.

We all know the good work that our Servicers Officers perform for our veterans; one of the programs is the PACT Act. The Pact Act Veterans and their survivors have filed more than one million claims for toxic exposure-related benefits under the PACT Act since the law was signed on Aug. 10, 2022. VA has processed more than 551,000 of these claims, granting 77.9% of them and awarding more than \$2.2 billion in earned benefits to Veterans and survivors. The Service Officer is the one supporting Veterans and their families to address military related toxic exposure.



This program with raffle tickets and journal Ad is our way to say thanks to the service officers for all the hard work they do. We still have till November 20,2023 to get your donation to the department so we will have sufficient time for the department to get the raffle tickets out to all the Posts and Auxiliaries.

So, I am asking please support our Service Officers, and donate to the raffle and the Journal.

Ronald Sorrentino

Ronald Sorrentino
Veterans Service Officer Journal
& Raffle Chairman

It's time to plan for the Holidays!



*PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars
"VFW Military Family Support Center"
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
VFW NY DISTRICT #1
&
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR SOLDIERS IN SERVICE*

HOLIDAY CHEER

On behalf of our military personnel serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Djibouti, we are again sending Christmas Trees, lights, ornaments and Menorahs to our military personnel in harm's way at the above-mentioned locations. This will be our **twentieth** year of running our program to bring a taste of home at Christmas time by sending trees to our deployed troops and we look forward to building on the success of the previous years and making this year a banner year.

To support this program, you may fund a tree with the appropriate lights and decorations for a donation of \$25.00. You may fund as many trees as you would like. Working together, we as supporters of our military personnel can make the Christmas holiday a little more enjoyable for those fighting far away from home.

If you would like to support this program by funding a tree(s), **make your check or money order payable to:**

PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896
(MARK IN MEMO: TREES)

MAIL TO: BEN THOMPSON
119-26 204TH STREET
ST. ALBANS, NY 11412

ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1, 2023.

For additional information: (718) 527-6532 or phpm1896@verizon.net

Thank you in advance for your support.



Matthew VanEtten

Patriot's Pen Chair



Comrades,

This year's Patriot's Pen essay competition is in full swing with a theme of "How are you inspired by America".

This competition gives young men and women in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade the opportunity to express their views. In doing so they will join upwards of 70,000 students around the nation competing for a grand prize of \$5000.

As your Patriot Pen Chairman I urge you to reach out to your local schools with in your community and promote this program as much as possible. I believe that our programs are a core component of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the more we promote them the more it will help us on every level. Last year the Department of New York had 1,019 students participating and gave out over \$18,000 in monetary awards given throughout the state at various levels of this organization.

The deadline for entries must be received at the Post by October 31, 2023. Any questions please reach out and good luck to all this year.

Matthew VanEtten
Patriot's Pen Chairman



William Moore

VOD CHAIR



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY 2023-2024

THEME: "WHAT ARE THE GREATEST ATTRIBUTES OF OUR DEMOCRACY"

Open to students' grades 9-12, enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools or home study programs. not eligible are foreign exchange students, students 20 or over, previous VOD 1st place state winners, GED or

ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE:

STUDENTS

ORIGINAL 3-5 MINUTE AUDIO ESSAY ON A FLASH DRIVE, OR CD

TYPED ESSAY

COMPLETED ENTRY FORM:

PARTICIPANT AND PARENTAL SECTIONS MUST BE SIGNED

** Computer sent video clips and computer application submissions and printed essay are not allowed.

POSTS

All POST information MUST BE SIGNED AND FILLED IN on the application including:

Number Of Students Participating

Number Of Winners Advancing,

\$ Dollar Amount of Post/Aux Scholarships Awarded + Post/Aux \$ Dollar Additional Expenses (Banquet, Plaques, Pins) On Entry Form

DISTRICTS

Additionally, districts need to include district prize money awarded and post monies awarded.

NEW YORK STATE COMPETITION

Send entries to:

Bill Moore, PDC

10 Rokeby Road Red Hook, NY 12571

BY DECEMBER 20, 2023

Any questions I can be contacted at:

Home phone 845-758-8175 or email wmoore@hvc.rr.com

NYS JUDGING of entries from the districts will be held on DECEMBER 30, 2023, at 1PM

At the Red Hook VFW POST # 7765, Red Hook, NY 12571

1ST PRIZE \$2500 State Winner

2ND PRIZE \$1500 State Winner

3RD PRIZE \$1000 State Winner

4TH PRIZE \$500 State Winner

GRAND PRIZE \$35,000 NATIONAL WINNER

JUDGING CRITERIA

ORIGINALITY -35 POINTS- Treatment of theme showing imagination and human interest.

VOD Chair continued on page 16



Pat Iuliucci

POW/MIA CHAIR



Comrades,

September 15th was National POW-MIA Remembrance Day. On this day, the Federal Government flies the American flag at half-staff, from sunrise to sunset, on all government buildings. I hope that all of our comrades have taken a moment of silence to show our deepest sympathy for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Today as of September 25, 2023, there are still more than 81,000 American service members whose remains have not been recovered. WWII – 72,200; Korea – 7,497; Vietnam – 1,579; the Cold War – 126; the Gulf War – 5; El Dorado Canyon – 1, as long as there is one service member still unaccounted for, the mission of DPAA will continue to search and recover the remains of our missing and be returned home for a proper military burial. Every day of the year, we must continue to promote and bring awareness to the importance of the POW/MIA issues in our communities and with our Legislators by setting up



the Missing Man Table, not only at our post but with the permission of our local businesses to set one up at their establishment.

Recently Accounted For are being returned home for a Military Funeral and Burial are three servicemembers from WWII. PVT. Wing O. Hom, missing in action during WWII, was accounted for April 6, 2023. In February 1944, Hom was assigned to Company B, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. On February 2nd Hom went missing in action

when his unit engaged in defensive fighting against German Forces near the town of Cisterna di Latina, Italy. His body was not recovered and the Germans never reported him a prisoner of war. The War Department issued a finding of death on February 3, 1945. Pvt. Hom will be buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn New York on October 11, 2023, at 1100 hrs.

Army Sgt. Bernard J. Sweeney Jr, 22, of Waterbury Connecticut, killed during WWII, was accounted for June 14, 2021. In December 1944, Sweeney was assigned to Company I, 330th Infantry regiment, 83 Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in a battle with German forces near Strass, Germany, in the Hurtgen area. Between 1946 and 1950 searches took place but were unable to recover or identify Sweeney's remains. He was declared non-recoverable in November 1951. Sweeney will be buried with Military Honors on October 10, 2023, at Calverton National Cemetery in Riverhead, NY.

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Albert W. Stahl was assigned to the 329th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 93rd Bombardment Group (Heavy), 9th Air Force. On August 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator bomber in which Stahl was the navigator, was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and crash during Operation TIDAL WAVE, the largest bombing mission against the oil fields and refineries at Ploiesti, north of Bucharest, Romania. His remains were not identified following the war. In 2017, DPAA began exhuming unknowns believed to be associated with unaccounted- for airmen from Operation TIDAL WAVE. These remains were sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for examination and identification. Stahl will be buried in Kenmore, New York in the Spring of 2024. I will keep you posted on burial information as it becomes available. You may also call the Army Casualty Office for inquiries at (800) 892-2490.

You can always reach me on my cell:(516) 668-7383 or email: pi4usamck@yahoo.com

Yours in comradeship,
Pat Iuliucci
POW/MIA Chair

Has your Post been bonded for this year?

Forms can be found at:

<https://vfwny.com/uploads/documents/2023-2024/23-24OfficerBond.pdf>

VOD Chair continued from page 16

CONTENT -35 POINTS – Clear idea expression in an organized manner. Develop theme using transitions to move smoothly to one idea to another.

DELIVERY -35 POINTS- Speak in a clear, credible manner.

des,

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS WILL BE MADE FOLLOWING THE COMPETITIONS TO THE PARTICIPANT AND TO THE POST /DISTRICT COMMANDERS BY VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CHAIRMAN BILL MOORE, PDC.

William C. Moore, PDC
 NYS Voice of Democracy Chairman.
 Red Hook VFW Post # 7765

**Commander Pennelle's
 Special Project**



2023-24 State Commander Dan Kell, second from right, visited Maria Fareri Children's Hospital (MFCH) in Valhalla NY, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, along with former Commander Peter Pennelle (second from left) and DNY Adjutant Bob Mitchell, right, to present additional gifts for the Pediatric Art Therapy program. This project, having raised \$32,000 last year, was the Special Project of Commander Pennelle. Accepting the generous gifts were Nicole Lucas, EVP of Pediatric Nursing and Dr. Michael H. Gewitz, Physician-in-Chief of MFCH. Commander Kell has pledged to continue the project during his administration.



**Harold Patchen
 COMMANDER
 DISTRICT 3**



Comrades,

District 3 has been very active in recruitment since this VFW year began on July 1st. As of September 26th we have accumulated 550 manhours recruiting. Our recruiting efforts began on July 4th with the Firecracker 4 Miler held in Saratoga Springs. I was able to personally recruit 2 USMC recruiters. District 3 also held recruiting events at the Saratoga County, Altamont and Columbia County Fairs. On September 11th I assisted Clifton Park – Halfmoon Post 1498 with a recruiting event at Van Patten Golf Course for the 7th Annual Malta

Veterans Appreciation Program. At each of these event's VOD, Patriot Pen and Scout of the Year forms were given out and explained to both the student and parents. Post 358 Commander Leroy Bresette and I had the pleasure of having our picture taken with one of the Saratoga County Fair Dairy Princesses and



her mom.

District 3 Commander Patchen and Quartermaster Jim Haas are ready to recruit at the Altamont Fair.

Other recruiting events were held by Windham Post 1545, Gurtler Bros. Post 420, Clifton Park-Halfmoon Post 1498, Post 7466

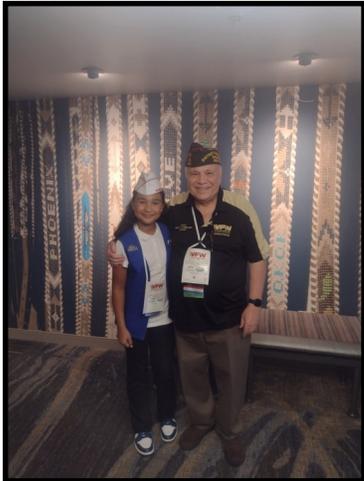


District Commander 3 continued on page 15

District Commander 3 continued from page 14

Poestenkill, Post 7337 Castleton and Post 770 in Catskill.

This year I was able to attend my first but definitely not my last, VFW National Convention in Phoenix, AZ. I encourage anyone who has never attend one, to do so if the opportunity presents itself. I am amazed at how much there was to learn from different seminars I attended. It also gave me the opportunity to meet members from other states, the Pacific Areas and Europe.



I had the opportunity to meet and speak with our National Home Poppy Child Layla and her parents while riding the elevator. Talking with Layla made me realize just how important it is for us to not only keep the kids and their families in our prayers but to support the National Home as our finances will permit. I hope to eventually get an

opportunity to visit the home. I am proud to be a life member of the National Home for Children.

In Comradeship,
Harold Patchen
District 3 Commander



Matthew VanEtten
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 4



Greetings to all,

This year District 4 has been very busy and productive. I want to first start of with membership. All post within the District has had a great start to the year gaining and retaining members but the job is far from complete and it is a personal goal of mine to have all our post reach 100%. The District has made membership a priority having 3 different recruiting events so far.

The first being held in Rome, NY at their annual Honor America Days, the second being held in Boonville, NY spending three days at the Woodsman Field days, and the third being held In Lowville, NY at the annual Heinz/Kraft Cream Cheese Festival. I would like to thank the District Membership Chairman Joseph Hubbard and everyone that helped at each of these events, without your help and commitment these would not have been successful.

September 15th Boonville Post 5538 hosted District 4's annual POW/MIA Recognition ceremony.

September 23rd I was joined by Dept of New York Sr. Vice Commander Les Crossett in attending a Gold Star Families day dinner hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 944. It was an honor and humbling to be a part of that special occasion.

We still have a full schedule ahead of us. We are gearing up for the Dept fall conference and our first District meeting the weekend following. I and my inspection team will be out visiting all of our posts in the near future and I look forward to meeting with all the posts' leadership new and old, together we will succeed. I look forward to attending the State Commander's Testimonial dinner being held in Lowville October 28th.

Yours in Comradeship,
Matthew VanEtten
Commander District 4





Don't forget to Like and Follow the
Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars



@VFWNEWYORK



Marcello Rotunda
COMMANDER
DISTRICT 6



Hello Comrades,

I attended honoring Agent Orange Veterans the Silver Rose ceremony at Post 6533 Randolph, New York. I also attended 2 membership drives.



6th District Commander Marcello Rotunda Post 53 and David Harrington Post 416 at Galleria Mall in Buffalo, NY



Marcello Rotunda, Colin Anderson and Norm Machelor man the table at a recruiting event.

Yours in Comradeship,
Marcello Rotunda
District 6 Commander

BUFFALO SERVICE OFFICERS IN ACTION



Thomas Todaro, PSC, Director Veterans Service ;Service Officer Norm Machelor and Service Officer Colin Anderson at Galleria Mall, Buffalo, NY

In partnership with VBAs Outreach Transition and Economic Development (OTED) office, the Buffalo Regional Office held an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) event at the Walden Galleria. Day One had 15 speakers discussing topics ranging from women’s wellness, caregiver support, PACT Act and VA services.

Day Two, over 20 Veteran stakeholders providing information on their services. Throughout the 2-day event, VBA provided a Claims Clinic which resulted in 199 intent to files and 79 applications with our VHA partners who provided over 195 toxic exposure screenings! Overall, over 600 Veterans, families and caregivers attended this event.





Jeffery Molitor Commander District 11



Comrades,

District 11 just keeps getting better with age! In our first year of existence, we have been selected as an All-American District! This group effort, with many Posts, stepping up to increase our membership in the final days. The Posts have been busy with Independence Day, Jordan's

softball team and attending the monthly NOA Ceremony at Calverton Cemetery.

We now have a VFW Auxiliary; welcome to Madam President Anne Anderson, who was officially sworn in in September. We look forward to working with you.

Our Cooties Pup Tent 65 are looking forward to our visit to the LI Veterans home to deliver blankets and sundry items.

We look forward to another successful year. Congratulations to our New State Commander, Dan Kell, and his staff.



Veteran 5K Run, the 22-a-day PTSD Awareness Challenge, many Patriot Day remembrance ceremonies, and helping our Eagle/Gold Scouts and Naval Sea Cadets with their projects.

Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas holidays are right around the corner, and District 11 will continue to put the pedal to the medal!

To say that I am proud to be the District 11 Commander is truly an understatement.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jeffery T. Molitor

District 11 Commander 2022-2024



Our Posts ensure that our families participate in functions by having family days.

Our Riders support the 5th Annual Richie Run, escorting the National USA Patriots Amputee



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VFW Membership Mail-In Application

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

PLEASE ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ Social Security #: _____

SERVICE INFORMATION Army Marine Corps Navy Air Force Coast Guard Space Force

Eligibility (choose all that apply)

- WWII Afghanistan Combat Action Ribbon SSBN Deterrent Patrol Insignia
- Korean War Iraq Expeditionary Medal Imminent Danger/
- Vietnam Korean Service (7/1/49 to present) Occupation Medal Hostile Fire Pay
- Persian Gulf War Kosovo Inherent Resolve Other: _____

Dates of Service: _____ to _____ Service Location: _____

Name of Campaign Ribbon or Medal: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (please select one)

- ANNUAL (\$45.00)
 - Please bill me annually for my membership.
 - I would like to enroll in the Automatic Payment Plan.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (one-time)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (installment plan)

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of Dec. 31st	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		initial payment	11 payments of
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00	\$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$15.45

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

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

PAYMENT INFORMATION Check/Money Order Mastercard VISA Discover AMEX

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Amount to be charged: \$ _____
(if using Life Membership installment plan, amount is \$45.00)

VERIFICATION & SIGNATURE

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Mail form to: Membership Department, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
Questions? Call (888) JOIN-VFW (888-564-6839) or email us at membership@vfw.org