


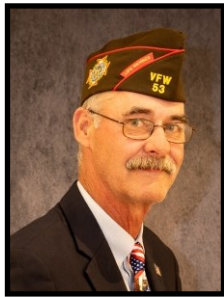
# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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

July, August, September 2024

Volume 43 Issue 1



**Daniel Kell**  
**STATE COMMANDER**



Greetings Comrades,

With the new year beginning and Fall Conference upon us in October, the districts and the posts have a lot going on. Districts have started holding their meetings, membership drives and goals for the year. I am looking forward to attending the district meetings and visiting posts within your district.

Membership will be a challenge again this year, with a little effort we can get to our incoming Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt's goal of 102% in the Department by the end of June 2025. In September I put out an incentive for the districts that meet 100% in membership by 1 May 2024 and 102% in membership by 30 June 2024 as follow:

I ask and need every Membership Chairman in the District communicate with their Posts and advice our State Membership PSC Michael Burke of any membership drives their Districts are having throughout this issuing year, this will allow the Department to aid the District Membership Chairmans with the required material and assistance they will need to have a successful membership drive. Let's continue to build and strengthen our organization to help get our National Membership back over a million members so our voice on Capital Hill will be stronger to fight for our Veterans rights and benefits they deserve.

**State Commander continued on page 2**



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



Comrades,

Department Headquarters is off to a very successful start to our new administrative year. We continue to strive for excellence in providing administrative and operational support to our Department, Districts, Posts, and most importantly our membership.

**State Adjutant continued on page 2**



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



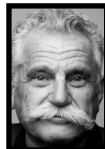
Comrades,

As Officers transition into new positions, many have discovered there is more obligations than they originally thought. So, I will endeavor to remind each of some of the procedures, requirements and suggestions of officers at each level.

**Quartermaster continued on page 3**



**Jody Treadway**  
**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.

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### \*\* ARTICLES:

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

### \*\*SUBMISSION & FORMAT:

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

### \*\* EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

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

[JTreadway@VFWNY.com](mailto:JTreadway@VFWNY.com). They become the sole property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of New York.

### \*\* DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES:

Is established by the State Adjutant.

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

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

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

Legislation is also a main priority. As everyone knows, we have reinstated going back to Capitol Hill to speak to our Legislators, Assemblyman, Senators and Congressman and will continue to move forward this ensuing year to push our Legislative goals, which is a key to taking care of our veterans who earned they fought for.

Community Service Reports, Inspections, Quarterly reports, and District All-American Dashboard reporting. We need to continue to get with and educate our posts on the importance of reporting this information to the Department of New York and ensure they are entering their program information in the Dashboard for 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.

Inspections, I am asking all the District Commanders to assign and train 3 Inspectors in their District to get all the Inspections done by 28 February 2025. Last year the districts did a great job on getting majority of their posts inspected by 31 December 2023. This year with the cutoff date of 28 February 2025, each district should be able to complete and be accepted by the department to the goal of 100% inspected. There are still Posts within the Department to date that currently still have not been Inspected.

As we all know, the National Convention is right around the corner in July. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in Comradeship.

Daniel L. Kell

Department of New York State Commander

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

As we enter the second quarter of our administrative year it is essential that all Posts are entering their Program activity on the National Programs Dashboard (formerly the All-American Dashboard). Entering your Post Program information on the Dashboard allows the Department and the National organization to accurately capture statistical information on all Program activity. The dashboard is an efficient way for the Department, its Districts, and its Posts to track progress toward achieving All-American status for the membership year. Adjutants have the primary responsibility to submit entries on the Programs Dashboard, but additional authority is granted to respective Commanders, Sr. Vice Commanders, Jr. Vice Commanders, and Quartermasters at every level.

Department Headquarters is continuing our efforts to

**State Adjutant continued on page 4**

**Quartermaster continued from page 1****ACH payments:**

National headquarters will not send checks to, Departments, Districts, and/or Posts anymore. They (National) will hold the funds until an ACH form (properly completed) has been submitted. At the present time there are several Posts within the Department of New York who have not sent in a form. Recently, 2 Posts were notified they have combined funds of over \$2,000.00 waiting for an ACH form. Last year I sent notices to each post that did not submit a form. I will attempt to obtain a list and remind the Posts again of this requirement. If you change banks, or merge, a new ACH will be required.

At the Department level we are encouraging Posts and individuals of this option. It is easier, cheaper and not a payment has been lost or misplaced. By using ACH your money is in your bank account in days, rather than weeks. At some point we will probably do the same as National, hold funds until a form is received. Why? Simple the costs of time, to send a check, costs of paper, envelopes and Postage.

**Unclaimed Funds:**

Let's talk about those posts which have money sitting with the NY State Comptroller's office of **Unclaimed Funds**, there are almost 13, Posts and Auxiliaries with money sitting there waiting for the entity to file a form and claim it. In the past we have sent notices to each post and or auxiliary. Several Post Auxiliaries have closed and the Department Auxiliary Officers have been notified. By looking into those posts which have gone defunct, I have recovered over \$100,000.00 for the Department. A few weeks ago, I filed for funds from 3 more posts which went defunct. If a post does not want to recover their money, please send me a letter which has been signed and notarized and I will claim the money for the department.

**Disposition of Post Real Estate and Downsizing:**

Our Department, like each Department in the VFW is losing Posts and some posts which have property are downsizing. **I DO NOT WANT YOUR REAL ESTATE.** The department has a protocol for properly disposing of real property. Please send an email to our Adjutant, and Bob, will send a copy to you. The entire process is so each and every member of the post is properly notified and also, so the property is sold at a fair market value. Understand, no member or family member of a not for profit may gain 1 penny from the sale. The sale of property is big business. Some items needed: 1. An attorney; 2. A Real Estate agent, 3. Proper notification of members; 4. Proper notification of the District and Department; 5. Some laws in the State of New York require specific requirements if disposal of a significant portion of the assets of a Not-for-Profit entity. What can

be done? Contact an attorney who is knowledgeable about disposal of not-for-profit property. Hire a Real Estate agent who is also knowledgeable of these types of sales. We have had several parcels which required extensive paperwork due to state requirements. Please call if you need assistance.

Enjoy the fall weather!

Daniel McMahon  
Quartermaster  
[dcmahon@vfwny.com](mailto:dcmahon@vfwny.com)  
518 414-2605



**James MacArthur**  
**SR. VICE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

It's that time of year the air is changing the leaves are turning to beautiful colors and fall is here. I want to thank all of you for having the confidence in me and electing me Sr. Vice Commander of the Department, I certainly take this responsibility seriously and will work for all of our comrades as we move forward in this new year.

As I am writing this article we have just finished the Department's OTI and I believe it was a great success, we had one hundred and fifty comrades in attendance I want to thank everyone that attended, and also thank the instructors who did a great job, I have reviewed the critique sheets and there were some great comments and also suggestions that I will try and incorporate into next year's class. As this is the only OTI the Department will be providing this year it is now time for each District to hold their own OTI class and get all of our comrades up to date on how we operate and all the programs that are available for our Posts too be involved in.

It is also that time of year comrades that our District meetings start happening and I have been assigned to quite a few and it will be great to get out and see comrades that I have not met in the past. As you know it's a new year and membership is always one of our most important goals and this year 102% is

***Sr. Vice Commander continued on page 4***

**State Adjutant continued from page 2**

ensure that all Posts that have ceremonial rifles issued by the Department of the Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) are compliant with their reporting requirements. Posts that have ceremonial rifles issued by TACOM are required to perform a 100% inventory of all the ceremonial rifles every three (3) years for as long as you retain them. This reporting requirement has historically been fulfilled through the submission of the Ceremonial Rifle Inventory form, which you may still choose to use, however TACOM has transitioned to an online certification process to fulfill this requirement. TACOM will initially send an electronic message to the current email address they have on file for the Post that will include a link to the Post's "organizational assets" along with an access code. Once you access your assets, the Post will be able to certify each rifle that is on loan. If there are any discrepancies, missing rifles, replacements required, the Post will be able to access that as well.

Yours is Comradeship,  
Robert J. Mitchell  
State Adjutant

**Sr. Vice Commander continued from page 3**

the goal and I realize it is a big goal but if we work hard and recruit, we can reach that 102%. I have one last subject I would like to bring up I am a Vietnam Vet so this goes out to my fellow Vietnam Vets I believe you can remember when we came home from war and joined the VFW, we were the young guys and our suggestions and ideas weren't always taken seriously by the World War II vets and Korean War Vets one of the phrases used was we have always done it this way well my fellow Vietnam Vets now we are becoming the old soldiers and if we are going to need the younger veterans to keep this great organization moving forward so let's embrace them listen to them and continue to move forward, remember no one does more for veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Comrades if you have any special events happening and you would like me to attend and I'm available I would love to. Comrades thank you for all that you do and your dedication to VFW.

Yours in Comradeship,  
James Mac Arthur  
Sr. Vice Commander  
Department of New York



## John Sanford

### JR. VICE COMMANDER



Comrades,

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Jr. Vice Commander.

I attended the National Convention in Louisville, Ky., I was suffering with Stenosis of the lower back and double Sciatica that knocked me out. I did manage to attend the first 2 days and the 4th day. I would like to thank Matty Fletcher, Commander Kell, Bob Mitchell for seeing that I got to the V.A. Hospital in KY. Especially, Mattie for assisting me at the VA hospital. A note to Colin Anderson I believe that we have the very best Services Officers and they should serve as a model as to what Services Officers are. If you have not already heard we have an agreement with the City of N.Y. that will give us 3 additional Service Officers by the end of the This year with an additional 3 in the Spring.

Over the past few years, we have lost many Posts and for most of these losses it was for the lack of Election Reposts and internal fighting. Comrades we must keep our post Officers and Members informed and engaged and take a personal interest in all Post matters. Don't over work your members have two or three members working each program. Provide guidance to those that don't understand, and as a leader provide the encouragement and a helping hand. I do believe that if we compete within ourselves on the Post level and doing better than we did the previous in our Programs and Membership to improve every aspect of our Post You will be successful and where your Post is successful so is your District, and the Department of New York will be successful, and in all of that we all can take pride in a successful Year. Remember it's not about Me it's about Us.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Jack Sanford  
Jr. Vice Commander  
Department of New York





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



Greetings!

Fall is upon us and hope everyone had an exciting summer. Before I provide you an update on what is happening on the National front from my Council interactions, I want to have everyone think about membership and what you can do now before the winter season hits us. There are a number of local events occurring in many of your communities right now such as flea markets, home shows and Octoberfest events. Get out there while the weather is good and set up those tables to make a connection with those veterans visiting those fall events. We are now three and one half months into the new VFW year and before long June will be upon us. Let's get the momentum going now and not struggle near the end. National Commander Lipphardt's goal remains at 102%!

Since the National and Department Conventions the only notable actions of the National Council of Administration (NC of A) were the September 3-7, 2024 NC of A workshop and meeting held in Kansas City which I attended.

A comprehensive workshop was conducted to finalize the proposed 2024-25 National Budget as well as bring to the NC of A a number of motions for approval.

The Quartermaster General made the following motions at the NC of A on Saturday, September 7, 2024 all of which were approved:

1. Adopt the budget for FY 2024-25
2. Approve expenditures of \$2,600,000 for building repairs and improvements.
3. Adjustments of salary brackets by 3.6%
4. Approve the appointment of Phil Maughan from the Big 10 Conference to the VFW Retirement Board for a 5-year term beginning in March 2025.

The VFW Publications Department is experimenting with the issuance of digital issues of the VFW Magazine in combination with mailing of the publication which would eliminate costs for printing, mailing and paper.

VFW National is in the process of developing and aiming to launch a new campaign in the next fiscal year. The objective is to generate awareness and connect with 18-65-year-olds who have an interest and connection with the military or veterans. The

four main goals of the program: broad awareness, advocacy, drive veterans to VFW Accredited Representatives and recruit new members. More will be forthcoming.

National Veteran Service representatives at the workshop outlined their continuing program to fight loan sharks who continue to prey on our veterans.

The VFW is still pursuing new presumptives under the Pact Act and pushing for continued transparency.

The Veterans Administration had until September 20, 2024 to certify that the VA has the funding to pay veteran benefits – a need of some \$3 billion.

During the July 27, 2024, NVSAC meeting a change to the VFW Manual of Procedure, Section 218 was proposed to the committee that would redefine the duties of the Post Service Officer. This change provides Post Service Officers with an updated job description that focuses on providing information regarding local benefits and services rather than federal benefits assistance.

Department Veteran Service Grants provides restricted grants to the VFW Departments. The budget is partially funded by the Veterans Service Fund, which is a restricted fund that is used to subsidize the cost of the NVS Grant Program and the Service Officer Training. Starting in 2023-24 VFW started a process to bring grant support to a level that meets a baseline of providing the salary to support at least one independent full-time employee capable of providing complete claims service to VFW claimants at each VA Regional Office and two overseas Departments. This total grant level increase of \$484,000 will be phased in over six years. Based on this plan, grants were increased by \$93,000 for 2023-24, and they are being increased by an additional \$89,000 for 2024-25.

There are some planned changes in the Burger King

***National Council Member continued on page 6***

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**National Council Member continued from page 5**

fundraising program for Un-Met Needs. Instead of the program being used for small grants to veterans, the funds will now be used to help support the grants the VFW National Headquarters provides to VFW Department Headquarters.

The Service Officer Training & Support budget is being increased as National plans on purchasing computers for the Department Service Officers during the year.

National will continue with the inspection of Departments in 2024-25 with 10 projected for the year with two being virtual inspections due to the cost of travel (Europe and Pacific Areas).

Some discussion is being held to modify the National VOD Program parade of winners as a result of some incidents that could have put the National organization in jeopardy and liability issues.

Some changes are being contemplated for the annual Department VOD Parade of Winners in Washington D.C. The reasoning behind considering this change is that events have occurred during the visit by the students and sponsors which could have resulted in major liability issues for the National organization.

Consideration is being given to eliminating the parade of winners in DC and replacing this event with National funding the attendance of all First-Place winners to Valley Forge. By doing this National would be relieved of any liability issues associated with the attendance of the students at the VFW sponsored event. It was reported that some 75% of the students coming to the DC Parade of winners had already been to the city as part of their 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 5<sup>th</sup> grade class visit or a family vacation. More to follow.

Yours in Comradeship,

**Gene Ratigliano**

Gene Ratigliano

National Council Member



**Colin Anderson**  
**DIRECTOR VETERANS SERVICES**



Comrades,

As you may be aware of, the role of the Post Service Officer has changed. The following is from our National Veterans Service director. Note the term Post Service Officer also applies to the District Service Officer.

“With the advent of modern technologies such as

virtual appointments and videoconferencing, our accredited representatives can provide professional representation regardless of location, eliminating the necessity for Post Service Officers (PSOs) to provide advice on Federal benefits at the Post level. Consequently, as a result of the changes adopted by the Council of Administration during the 2024 VFW National Convention, the following changes to Section 218 (12), VFW Manual of Procedure are effective immediately:

The Post Service Officer shall advise members of the Post, their family members and survivors of **benefits and services that are available in the local community** such as homeless services, employment opportunities, and companies that offer discounted goods or services to veterans.

*\*(The PSO will advise/assist with benefits that are available in their community. They are not accredited and therefore not authorized to provide advice, prepare, or submit claims for VA or other Federal benefits.)*

**The Post Service Officer shall direct individuals seeking Federal benefits assistance to the Department Service Officer.**

*\*(Advice and/or assistance with VA or other Federal benefits are the responsibility of the DSO and their accredited staff. PSOs will refer these requests for assistance directly to the DSO to ensure veterans receive the advice and service they deserve from our accredited representatives who are aware of current laws and trends.)*

The work of a Post Service Officer shall be performed in accordance with the instructions contained in the **VFW Guide for Post Service Officers** under the general supervision of the Post Commander. The Post Service Officer shall perform other duties as may be incident to the office and as may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of this organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

*\*(No significant change to this section, although changes will be made to the VFW Guide for Post Service Officers to reflect the new duties of the PSO. A revised PSO guide is currently being developed and will be distributed promptly upon completion.)*

The intention is not to increase the workload for DSOs and their staff, nor do we expect such an increase, but to ensure that veterans receive timely and accurate guidance regarding the VA and Federal benefits they have rightfully earned through

**Director Veterans Services continued on page 7**



**Ben Thompson,**  
**PSC**  
**JUDGE ADVOCATE**



Comrades,

A leader is not necessarily someone in a leadership position, like a manager. You can be a manager without being a true leader. Instead, a leader can motivate and inspire others to do their best. Are you a good leader? Leaders must have clearly defined goals. Only with goals in mind can you be sure you are motivating your team for success. The goals should be S.M.A.R.T., meaning they are: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Based. If you can make goals that fit this mantra, you are on the right track toward being a good leader. Do you have a clear vision for your organization? Have you set goals for your membership and communicated these goals to your members?

How can you make your vision clear to your members? The answer lies in strong communication. Being able to communicate not only your vision, goals, and expectations for your members is crucial to being a good leader. People generally rise to the occasion when they know what is expected of them and will be inspired to reach for that vision.

Another sign that you are a good leader is that you have members that trusts each other. Trust within a team does not happen by accident. It takes strategic leadership to grow a membership that is honest and open with one another. If you want to build trust within your membership, start by being an honest and trustworthy person yourself. Set up a system where you can get feedback from your members and be responsive to that feedback. Show that you value honesty and the opinions of others, and soon you will have a membership that works from a position of trust.

In addition, create an environment that fosters compassion and empathy. People who know they will be treated with compassion aren't afraid to express concerns or worries, and this will help you address potential issues before they grow into problems that may hurt your team's effectiveness. Being open and honest with your members will cause them to trust you. It will also give you a more human feeling as their leader. People want to work for leaders they relate to, and openness in your communication will foster that feeling. However, this also means you are willing to have difficult

**Judge Advocate continued on page 11**



I would like to ask our membership to provide me with the names and contact information for anyone they know who is currently deployed to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, or Djibouti. I 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. I need the following information as soon as possible and no later than November 25<sup>th</sup>, so we can contact them prior to the Christmas Tree sendoff.

NAME  
UNIT NAME & NUMBER  
APO ADDRESS  
EMAIL ADDRESS

**(WE MUST HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS)**

**Director Veterans Services continued from page 6**

their service to our Nation. We anticipate a reduction in improperly prepared forms and decreased confusion among veterans if they have received advice from a PSO who is not fully informed of or in touch with the latest VA regulations. This may also eliminate the need for DSOs to train PSOs, thereby allowing more time to focus on assisting veterans with their claims.

These changes are designed to uphold our motto: "No One Does More for Veterans." By creating a local network of support, we will ensure that veterans receive essential guidance and life advice from local experts, and that VA benefits advice and assistance are provided by our highly trained, professional, and accredited benefits advocates."

For the post and district service officers, please become subject matter experts on the services

available locally (to include state resources) to our comrades and their families. This may be as simple as what stores offer a veteran's discount or could be more complex as to what housing is available to Guide" is available online from the national VFW a homeless veteran. The updated "Post Service Officer

**Director Veterans Services continued on Page 11**



**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 **twenty first** 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  
119-26 204<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
ST. ALBANS, NY 11412

Or donate online via ZELLE to [phpm1896@verizon.net](mailto:phpm1896@verizon.net).

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 29, 2024.**

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

Thank you in advance for your support.





*Fall Conference  
Albany Marriott  
October 11-12, 2024*





*STOP 22  
WALK  
October 12, 2024  
Albany Marriott*



**Judge Advocate continued from 7**

conversations when needed. Being candid when problems arise shows that you are a good leader.

Good leaders inspire others, foster innovation, encourage new ideas and support risk-taking.

So now the question is, are you a good leader? It's never too late to learn and make changes if necessary.

As always, I am only an email or telephone call away if you need me.

Ben Thompson, PSC  
Judge Advocate

**Director Veterans Services continued on Page 11**

website at <https://vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits>. Our accredited service officers are available for your assistance and to represent at the federal level.

Yours in Comradeship

Colin Anderson

Director, Veteran Services



**Luke Magliaro, Jr.**  
**CHIEF-OF-STAFF**



Comrades,

As I begin my article for this edition of the Department of NY VFW Overseas Veteran, I must say that I am honored to have served in various State VFW appointed offices beginning with State Commander Mel Garrett in 1982, through most recent with State Commander's Mike Hoag, Peter Pennelle, and our current State Commander Dan Kell as his State Chief of Staff, in addition to serving as Commander of both District 1 and District 10.

As Chief of Staff, I am called upon to visit Posts throughout the Department, representing the State Commander from delivering accolades to a Post, their Commander, Post Officer's or an

**Chief of Staff continued on page 12**



**Art Scheuneman**  
**NATIONAL HOME**  
**CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

On January 7, 2025, the VFW National Home will turn 100 years old. In acknowledgement of this milestone in the history of the VFW National Home, the following commemorative events will take place:

January 7, 2025—Birthday Celebration

February 8, 2025—Gala Celebration

March 7, 2025—Pollett House Dedication

June 28, 2025—VFW National Home Community Celebration

August 9-14, 2025—Celebrations at VFW National Convention

For further information and details on these celebratory events, visit the VFW National Home website at <https://vfwnationalhome.org>

With deep appreciation, a "Shout Out" of Thanks to all of those who have and continue to assist the VFW National Home in its mission.

Celebrate this momentous occasion with your support through participating in one or more of the following:

1. Send a Birthday Card and enclose a gift to: VFW National Home 3573 S Waverly Rd Eaton Rapids MI 48827 Please send cards prior to January 2025. Each card will be displayed at the VFW National Home for all to view.
2. Become a VFW National Home Centennial Member by printing, completing, and mailing the enclosed application. For an online application visit: <https://vfwnationalhome.org> Centennial Members will receive:
  - Exclusive Centennial Pin
  - 10% Off souvenirs and Apparel
  - Reduce Guest Lodging Rate
  - Exclusive Member-only Apparel
3. Purchase a VFW National Home Centennial Garden Brick. For an online application visit: <https://vfwnationalhome.org>
4. Become a Hometown Hero contributor. For details, visit: <https://vfwnationalhome.org>
5. Participate in the VFW National Home Star Donor Program. This program recognizes the support of the VFW National Home through contributions during the fiscal year. Cumulative donations given directly to the VFW National Home will be tracked from July 1 to June 30 of each year. Those that reach Star Donor status are awarded a plaque that will be mailed shortly after

**National Home Chairman continued on page 12**

**National Home Chairman continued from page 11**

June 30. Star Donor giving levels are: • Bronze Star Donor \$500-\$999 • Silver Star Donor \$ 1,000-\$1,999 • Gold Star Donor \$2,000 - \$4,9999 • Platinum Star Donor \$ 5,000 or more

6. Choose and purchase item/s on the VFW National Home's Amazon Wish list.

7. Sponsor a theme "Fundraiser" and contribute the proceeds to the VFW National Home. Thank You in advance for celebrating and helping to continue a legacy of hope, help, and healing to Veteran families in crisis.

Loyally,

Art Scheuneman,  
National Home Trustee  
District 2 2019-2025  
VFW Department of NY  
National Home Chairman  
[wdstock44@yahoo.co](mailto:wdstock44@yahoo.co)  
585-689-5975

**Chief-of-Staff continued from page 11**

individual member, or maybe just to provide guidance and direction, or to oversee a District Meeting to evaluate the progress of the District and unfortunately, sometimes to lead or be a part of a committee regarding more serious situations.

Having held the Office of Chief of Staff, State Inspector, District Commander of 2 Districts as well as being a Department OTI Instructor, I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the great Department of New York, meeting many great comrades along the way. I hope at some point in time I was able to assist you and your Post in some way. Be it assisting you with filing a 990, a Trustee Report, or answering questions you may have had regarding the day-to-day operations of the VFW. I promise, to continue to stand by my offer to assist you and give guidance and direction in any way I can.

As we kick off our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the VFW term under State Commander Kell, I am with hopes your Post has had success thus far with all your VFW programs, events, community service, membership drives, fund raising events and services held in honor of our comrades. By now all Posts should have secured their Post Quartermaster Bonds, E990's, submitted Trustee Reports for period ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, and already have your Trustee Report for period ending September 30, ready to be submitted. Post Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen programs should also be underway by

now. If your Post does not already have approved By-Laws adopted for the Post, I encourage using the template online at either the Department of New York website or the National Website as your guide and follow the process to get them submitted and approved by Department and National. As always, I highly recommend logging on the Department and National Websites often, as there is so much valuable information available, including Mem-Stats, VFW news, Chairman Guides and much more.

In closing, I would like to congratulate all those comrades from the various Posts throughout the Department of New York for being appointed as a National Deputy Chief of Staff or National Assistant Inspector General. I also want to congratulate all the Post and District Commander's that achieved All-State and/or All-American status.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, but together we can and will get it done. Let's get behind State Commander Kell and achieve 102% in Membership!

Yours in Comradeship,

Luke A. Magliaro, Jr.  
Chief of Staff  
Department of New York



**Ronald Sorrentino**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

The 2024-2025 VFW year has started as of July 1, 2024. So far as of this article the department Community Activity is 4,896 volunteer hours total dollars donated \$ 126,283 for a total to date of \$ 290,243. The donation dollar amount in 2023-2024 was \$ 1,325,634. The total for 2023-2024 was \$ 2,993,777. So far this year 2024-2025 District 10 is in first place with a total of \$ 47,209.89, followed by district 3 with \$ 40,799.27. In third place is district 11 with \$ 30,332.53. I just want to thank all the comrades for last year, and let's continue in 2024-2025 with topping last year's total.

**As I state in every article**

On reporting of community service, you must remember that the VFW year goes from 1 July - 30 June, to have your reports count it must show that the activity happened within the 1 July - 30 June time frame. When submitting your report make sure the

**Community Services Chairman continued on page 14**



# VFW NATIONAL HOME

## CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss		Name:	
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP Code:	
Date of birth:	*Email:	*Mobile Phone:	
<b>Membership Type:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> NH Membership Upgrade <b>Member number</b> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)			

### VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION

(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of VFW Post _____ in the Department of _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of VFW Auxiliary _____ in the Department of VFW Auxiliary _____

### RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: _____ Art Scheuneman	Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number: _____ 4823
--------------------------------------	--

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

<b>Apply online at:</b> <a href="http://www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership">www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership</a>	One-time membership fee \$100	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed and made payable to <b>VFW National Home</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Charge my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Name on card:	Card number:	
Signature:	Expiration date:	Security code:

### CENTENNIAL LIFE MEMBERS



You can become a part of this special program by upgrading your existing membership or becoming a new member. As a Centennial Life Member, you'll receive a special centennial membership pin and membership card that will allow you to display your affiliation with pride. Plus, you'll enjoy discounts on souvenirs and apparel that are not available to regular members.

The Centennial Life Membership program is only available until 12/31/2025, so upgrade your existing membership or become a new member today!

\*These fields are required for electronic voting.



Scan to buy your membership online!

**NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN**

**Community Services Chairman continued from page 12**

description is more than a one-word explanation, one word is not a description, also make sure the miles, number of members, and dollars spent/donated are entered.

*Ronald Sorrentino*

Ronald Sorrentino  
Community Activity Chairman



This year marks the beginning of VFW’s celebration of its 125th anniversary. Founded on Sept. 29, 1899, VFW has made a legacy in the lives of veterans and their families – it is a legacy that endures.

As the nation’s oldest combat veterans organization, VFW has many opportunities this year for its members to recognize this momentous occasion.

All VFW Posts are invited to be the catalyst to get their communities involved in commemorating the contributions of all veterans and their family members to our country during this anniversary year. In accepting this invitation to become a VFW 125th Anniversary Commemorative Community Service Post, such VFW Posts will receive due recognition.

Additionally, Posts are asked to encourage the communities to study the history of this era to help ensure a safer and better tomorrow.

Also at this anniversary site, check out the VFW Destination Posts section. As part of the celebration, VFW Magazine is featuring 125 Posts throughout the year. These VFW Posts are active in the communities and are located in destination locations.

To become a VFW 125th Anniversary Commemorative Community Service Post, visit [vfw125.org](http://vfw125.org).

Community Service Post, visit [vfw125.org](http://vfw125.org).



**Michael Burke,  
PSC  
MEMBERSHIP  
CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

I would like to thank Commander Kell for the appointment of State Membership Chairman for the year 2024-2025 and I look forward to reaching 102%. To recap a little from last year, the Department reached 100.90% because of all the hard work and dedication from every Post who contributed and I thank you for that.

This year will be just as much a challenge to reach 102%, which we no doubted can do. We still need all Districts and Posts to recruit, retain and do reinstatements to achieve this goal.

When recruiting first go for the Lifetime Membership then the Annual Membership. Be sure to mention the program that we have where you can make installment payments for your life membership.

Our goal this year is to make 102% by April 30, 2025. While June 30, 2025, is the cutoff date, this gives us an additional 2 months to reach our goal.

Good luck to all Districts and Posts.

Michael Burke, PCS  
Membership Chairman

Patriot Pen &  
Voice of Democracy  
Entries  
Are due no later than  
October 31, 2024  
At the Post level



**Ronald Sorrentino**  
**SERVICE OFFICER**  
**JOURNAL AD**  
**CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

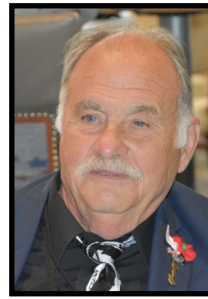
By now you should have received the Fall Conference package. As you look through the package you will find a letter from me on donating to the Service Officer Raffle. This will be my third year as the Chairman for this program. In the past two years we have done very well, and I thank everyone for their donations. So, let's make this year another great one. As I have stated in the past, we all know that our Service Officers are here to help all our Veterans in obtaining entitlements, they do this by helping veterans with filing claim forms and following up the processes of the claim. Now it's our time to help the Service Officers with your donation to the raffle to help them with their job. I hope that all the District Commanders will contact their Post and ask them to please, (if they could) donate to this worthy program. The Donations for the Service Officers Raffle must be at Headquarters by November 20, 2024, this to insure we have sufficient time to process and mail out the raffle tickets. Later you will also be receiving a letter for Journal Ads, and Raffle ticket as well. So, let's make this year's Service Officers Raffle and Journal Ad a successful year.



*Ronald Sorrentino*

Ronald Sorrentino

Veterans Service Officer Journal & Raffle Chairman



**Pat Iuliucci**  
**POW/MIA**  
**CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

Washington – The Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U S Army Air Force 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Francis F. Callahan 22, of Staten Island, New York killed during WW II, was accounted for June 20, 2024.

In spring 1944, Callahan was assigned to the 732<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Squadron, 453<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Bomb Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the European Theatre. On April 8<sup>th</sup> Callahan the navigator on board a B-24 "Liberator" Little Joe, was killed in action when his plane was shot down by enemy fighter aircraft fire while on a bombing mission to Brunswick, Germany. Airmen on board other aircrafts flying in formation with Little Joe did not report seeing any crewmembers exiting the aircraft before it crashed in the vicinity of Salzwedel. The crash site could not be located by Allied forces during the war, and the remains of all ten crew members including Callahan were unaccounted for following the war and the remains of all ten crew members including Callahan, were unaccounted for following the war. Beginning in 1946, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC), the organization that searched and recovered fallen American personnel in the European Theatre, began investigating the numerous bomber losses in the Salzwedel and Wistedt areas of Germany. German forces had maintained accurate documentation of American aircraft shoot-downs, with several reports indicating B-24s crashing in the area. However, AGRC was unable to associate any KU reports with Little Joe and investigators were unable to locate any crash or burial sites associated with the loss.

In 2015, an independent research group, Missing Allied Crew Research Team, contacted DPAA historians with new information related to a possible crash site near Wistedt, Germany. Interviews with elderly local residents indicated there were two crash sites, but only one was recovered by American forces following the war. Investigators located the second crash site and were able to recover various pieces of a wreckage. Possible osseous remains were also located and transferred to the DPAA laboratory for analysis and identification. At the same time, no matches could be made with any Unknowns and further investigations were scheduled. Between 2021 and 2023, DPAA investigators returned to the crash site and continued excavations and recoveries. By the end of November 2023, all evidence, including possible osseous remains

**POW/MIA continued on page 16**

**POW/MIA continued from page 15**

and possible life support equipment, had been recovered and returned to DPAA laboratory. To identify Callahan's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological and dental analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis. Callahan's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherlands, along with others still missing from WW II. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate that he has been accounted for. Callahan will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, on a date that has yet to be determined.

Still unaccounted for: WWII - 72,012; Korea - 7,455; Vietnam - 1,574; Cold War - 126; Gulf War - 6.

Take a moment in every day to remember those that are still missing and held as prisoners of war.

In Comradeship,  
Pat Iuliucci  
POW/MIA Chairman



**John Pieprzak**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 1**



Greetings comrades,

I hope this letter finds all in good health. This is my second go at this newsletter so hopefully it will be better. We are off and running, well, maybe limping, with all the knee and hip issues. How can you tell if the members in your meeting are awake? When someone says, "All rise", or the gavel raps, and a collective moan and curses under the members breath are heard. Well, pain means you are still with us, so let's move on...

- June 5-9: I attended the NY State convention in Albany.
- July 14: I hosted a Flag Day event for a local school at my Post. Children were given Flags and proper Flag etiquette, and folding was taught.
- July 30: I met with Steve Cohen, VP of the Brooklyn Cyclones to go over details for the upcoming Military Appreciation Game on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are allowing us to set up a table for the first District 1 recruiting drive for the year.

- August 10: I acted as chauffeur for my Posts Auxiliary taking them up to their OTI in Binghamton.
- August 22: Brooklyn Cyclones "Military Appreciation Night" and Recruiting drive. Attendance for the game overall was very low. From the VFW the showing was also small.
- September 7-8: Our Post threw a "Back to School Drive" that was coordinated with other neighborhood organizations. All supplies were dropped off to two of our local schools.
- September 11: We held our annual Patriots Day ceremony at our Post for our neighborhood to remember the 23rd anniversary of that day.
- September 12: I held a wake call for a comrade, Gilberto Rosa Jr. in New Jersey. Our member passed away of a massive heart attack one month before his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was an OEF & OIF (x2) veteran.
- September 28: Post 5806 mourned and celebrated the memory of an Auxiliary member, Eric Rivera, who passed away from cancer at the age of forty-four. A ceremony and dinner were held for both post and family members.
- September 29: I accompanied the Department of NY Auxiliary Sr. Vice President to a Gold Star Mothers & Family luncheon at the Levittown/Island Trees Post 9592. This annual event remembers men killed in action from the post and the community.
- October 6: I presided over an in-house memorial ceremony for our member Gilberto Rosa Jr. for those members that could not make the trip to NJ on September 12.
- October 11-12: I will be attending the Department of New York Fall Conference in Albany.

As always, our community and veteran's programs are the necessity, that is who we are. But we need members to do it. Fall is upon us. Events are shifting to indoors. Watch for flyers for bingos, craft fairs, night at the races, karaoke, school events for your kids or grands, etc. from other organizations. It is good to visit other events and make friends. Wear your vet gear and keep an eye out for others wearing it. If you see it, it doesn't cost anything to ask the question, "Are you a member?" It could cost a good possible member if you don't.

Semper Fi.

Loyally Yours,  
John Pieprzak  
District 1 Commander





**Sharon Waddell**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 2**



Comrades,

District 2 is off to a slow start due to a complete change of leadership positions, but we are picking up speed. Focus this year are the basics to help posts succeed: membership, training, reporting, and communications.

To reach 100% membership our district needs 875; to reach the 102% goal we need 884. This may sound tough, but with the size of our district this is doable! Congratulations to Post 12033, SSGT Chris Engeldrum Post in New York City; they are off to a great start with 9 new members, the most in the state!

Officer Training was offered on October 5<sup>th</sup>; twenty-six officers were trained. If there is enough interest and posts want to achieve All-State, we will offer another session.



We will also be offering training on programs, reporting, and officer duties using Zoom; while this won't count towards the All-State award it will help posts be successful.

Upcoming Events:

Winter Conference: Saturday, Feb 8, 2025, location TBD

Spring Convention: Saturday, 17 May, location TBD

Yours in Comradeship,  
Sharon Waddell  
District 2 Commander



**Harold Patchen**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 3**



Comrades,

District 3 has been active with recruiting events and getting a head start on our inspections. One District recruiting event, was held August 28<sup>th</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Columbia County Fair. Poppies drew kids and their parents to our table, allowing us to ask the question "are you a veteran". We picked up 5 new members for our district, gave out a number of VOD, Patriot Pen, Teachers Award and Community Servant Award application forms. One freshman, from a Schenectady County School and I had quite a conversation about the VOD program. It turns out she wants to be a JAG lawyer in the USAF, after attending the Air Force Academy. I would suggest, to any District Commander who has an opportunity to recruit at a county fair does so.

I was invited, by Post 8692, to help out with a recruiting event in Albany at the MVP Arena. It was advertised as Red, White and Brew Veterans Concert. We enjoyed some good country music, didn't get any new members but did hand out VFW membership information as well as literature (VOD, Patriot Pen, Teachers and Public Servant awards). The VFW did get quite a bit of facetime and answered a number of questions.



Jim Haas and I got to go to the meet and greet for Daryl Worley. Jim later was on stage with members of other veteran organizations. A good day was had by all.

**Commander District 3 continued on page 18**

**Commander District 3 continued from page 17**

Although mainly focusing on recruiting events, so far, we haven't forgotten inspections. Our inspection team has been out there, with a goal to be 100% inspected by the new year. We've got some really good inspectors and have added a couple more who are training with qualified inspectors. IRS-990's are coming along fine. Our District OTI is being held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Gurtler Bros. Post 420 in Saratoga Springs.

A new event this year, for our district anyway, is our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual District 3 Chili Cook off. Every Post that would like to can hold a contest at their respective posts. Each posts 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners will then move onto the District Finals. The "Finals" will be held at one of the participating posts most central to the entrants. Melissa Heusdens (Sr. Vice Commander Post 9593) is chairing this event.

On Monday October 7<sup>th</sup> Albany County held their monthly "Honor a Veteran" program. The veteran honored for October was John Haas Jr, the father of present Department Surgeon, PDC, District QM Jim Haas. Jim's dad served in the Pacific Theater of

Operations in WWII, in the area known as the CBI or China - Burma-India the "HUMP" area. Jim spoke about his dad growing up,



his military service and his love of family and hard work ethic.



Commander Dan Kell and myself at Post 8692 in memory of John Haas Jr.



Jim Haas with Town of Colonie Supervisor Peter Crummey

In Comradeship,  
Harold Patchen  
District 3 Commander



After the ceremony the flag presented to Jim, that flew over the capital building, was raised by State

Remember to renew your Bond!  
The Officer (Quartermaster) Bond Application for the 2024-2025 VFW year is now available on the Department's website:  
<https://vfwny.com/uploads/documents/2024-2025/24-25BondOfficer.pdf>



# Matthew Vanetten

**COMMANDER  
DISTRICT 4**



Greetings,

District 4 was shocked and saddened with the passing of our Past District Commander Leslie Crossett. Les had been a very active VFW member for well over the past 10 years, his loss had a very sobering effect on our current District Officers. A District Scout of the Year Fund has been setup in his memory. Photo of Leslie Crossett enjoying a meal at Camden Post 6530.



District Officers again this year spent three days manning a Recruiting booth at the New York Woodsman's Filed Days at the Boonville, NY Fairgrounds. Robert Lott, Post 5538, Boonville, Quartermaster mans the VFW table.



Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 944 presenting VFW Yorkville Post 6001 with a Plaque, Certificate, T-Shirts, and mugs for their sponsorship in their Patriot Run/Walk.



Matt VanEtten Post Adj. and District 4 Commander, Patrick VanEtten Post Commander and Dept. Sgt. At Arms, Tom Buono Post QM and President of VVA Chapter 944.



District Officers joined with members of Rome Post 2246 for their annual observance of POW/MIA Day on a beautiful warm day, there was a very good turnout of local residents and City and State Officials. NY Senator Joe Griffo with Rome Post 2246 Honor Guard.

District Officers also attended the annual Gold Star Mothers and Family Day Observance.

**Commander District 4 continued on page 20**

**Commander District 4 continued from page 19**



Charles Spain, Past District 7 Commander Department of the Pacific and Patrick VanEtten, Dept of NY Sgt at Arms.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Matthew Vanetten  
District 4 Commander

Darlene Baker Department President and National President Brenda Bryant at Buffalo VA Hospital.



Visiting the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park—home of the USS The Sullivans.



**Marcello Rotunda  
COMMANDER  
DISTRICT 6**



Comrades,

District 6 had the honor of hosting Darlene Baker Department President and National President Brenda Bryant as they visited the Buffalo VA Hospital and the Buffalo Naval Park.



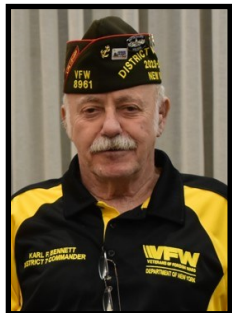
District 6 President Dee Ippolito and I attended the Vehicles for Vets and First Responders event hosted by Basil Chevrolet of Buffalo.

Yours In Comradeship,  
Marcello J. Rotunda  
6th District Commander



Here I am with District President Dee Ippolito and





**Karl Bennett**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 7**



**Jack Stein**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 10**



Comrades,

On August 14th I had the pleasure of hosting State Commander Daniel Kell as he attended the Batavia VA Veterans picnic organized by VFWNY District 7 & the VA staff. State Surgeon Jim Haas was also in attendance.



Yours In Comradeship,  
Karl Bennett  
7th District Commander

Comrades,

Luke Magliaro Jr. PDC, State Chief of Staff, and I attended the press conference in support of the Tunnel to Towers Project. Island Park's Long Beach Motor Inn to transform into a sanctuary for disabled veterans in 2026. Tunnel to Towers will tear down the existing structure and build a new 42-unit apartment complex. The new facility, to be completed in 2026, will offer more than just housing. It will feature on-site support services for Veteran residents, including job training, benefits assistance, education assistance, financial budget management, legal advocacy, medical care access, mental health support, and PTSD counseling plus addiction treatment.



Pictured Jack Stein, District 10 Commander, Mathew Mahoney Executive Vice President Tunnel to Towers Luke Magliaro Jr. PDC, State Chief of Staff.

**STOP 22**  
**Entries are due to the**  
**Department by**  
**November 13, 2024**

*District 10 Commander continued on page 22*

**District 10 Commander continued from page 21**

The project was announced September 16th at a news conference led by County Executive Bruce Blakeman in Mineola. The partnership with Nassau County, local officials, and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, is a beacon of hope for Island Park, which has long grappled with the vacant property's troubled history.



District 10 Commander Jack Stein was recognized by The Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor, Joseph Saladino, and the Oyster Bay Town Board for achieving the position of District Commander and for his volunteering at Both Northport Veterans Hospital and Stony Brook Veterans State Home.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Jack Stein  
District 10 Commander

We were also in attendance at the Michael Murphy run around Lake Ronkonkama honoring and supporting the foundation named for this US Navy SEAL and Medal of Honor recipient KIA in Afghanistan. In addition to the Dashun Briggs Run USAF, killed in the crash of Jolly 51 and the Jordan Hearter run, USMC, killed in action and posthumously award the Navy Cross. We also had several Posts participate in the kayak crossing of Long Island Sound from Bridgeport Connecticut to Port Jefferson NY, in support of bringing awareness and actions to address the 22 a day Veteran suicide crisis. This crossing was extremely difficult due to the heavy sea conditions and strong easterly wind, but we the VFW District 11 prevailed along with other supporters. In addition, we were supported by other VFW members who were present at the finish and also had a great presence at the event. Cootie Pup Tent #65 held a Christmas in July dinner and made plans to increase our good works throughout the district.

We also made our presence know at many Poppy and recruiting tables throughout the County including the two day Riverhead Polish Fair. In July we were asked if we could host Senator Kristen Gillibrand to give information regarding legislation endorsed by VFW National regarding blast injuries and TBI inflicted upon our veterans, and we held that media event.

In addition to our district newsletters and calling posts which are essential and augment other VFW news sources, we have introduced a monthly Commander's corner to address pertinent issues and addressing a particular topic. Our District meeting was held on September 24<sup>th</sup>. With good attendance and Jr. Vice Jack Stanford was also present. We are pleased that Posts are working all our core programs in addition to numerous other Veteran and Community activities and Post have been encouraged to submit all these activities in their Community Service Reports.

We are looking forward to our OTI to be held on October 20<sup>th</sup>, and if you are interested you must preregister.

Respectfully Submitted,  
William M. Hughes, Jr.  
Commander



**William Hughes**  
**Commander**  
**District 11**



Comrades,

We are proud to report that we in District 11 are working hard to maintain our "All American" status. The summer season provides great opportunities to promote and recruit and we encouraged all our Posts to show up at the many additional venues offered during this season. We had several Posts attend a Poppy distribution and informational booth at our LI Ducks minor league baseball park and engaged hundreds entering the stadium.



**Gurtler Brothers VFW Post Life Member To Receive Congressional Gold Medal**

Vietnam veteran, VFW Life Member and Alliance 180 founder Bob Nevins will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor a civilian can receive, following the signing of the Dustoff Crews of Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act by President Joe Biden.



Nevins was a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War, enlisting when he was 19 and serving until he was 23. He was part of the Dustoff crews, which evacuated wounded soldiers and aided those under attack. The crews evacuated nearly 90,000 wounded soldiers, allied forces and civilians during the war. Bob during his service was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Purple Heart and the Soldier's Medal among many more awards during his service.



Following his military service Bob turned his experiences as a veteran into helping other veterans and first responders by establishing the Alliance 180 Program, an out of the box equine program to assist those individuals who have suffered severe trauma. Alliance 180 provides peer-to-peer support for veterans and first responders using horses with the goal of preventing suicide.

Following the award of the medal, the medal will go to the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum near San Antonio, Texas where it will be placed on display.

The E.M.W Rademacher VFW Post 5861, and the Elma Conservation Club sponsored a Fishing Derby. Veterans from all over Western New



York, including the Buffalo VA, Batavia VA, and Chautauqua VA come to experience a day of fishing and camaraderie. Festivities include fishing in the morning and lunch in the afternoon that includes hotdogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings. This facility is great for the Vets as the pond is stocked with Game Fish and is Handicap accessible.



# STOP 22 WALK-A-THON FRANCIS E. HIBBARD POST 4658 SEPTEMBER 22, 2024





# STOP-22 WALK-A-THON DAYTON-SOEHIKE-OHLHORST POST 5350 AND RAYNOR COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL





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



**@VFWNEWYORK**



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