

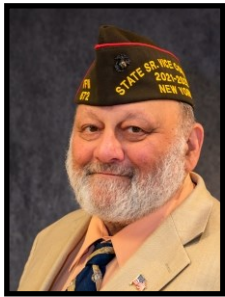
# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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




January, February, March 2023

Volume 41 Issue 3



**Peter Pennelle**  
**STATE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

With the Spring Conference behind us, every post should be busy with the election of new officers for 2023-2024. Please make sure that once your post's election is held that your Quartermaster enters it on National's OMS system, so your election report is recorded. It is especially important that all the information entered for the post and officers is accurate since the addresses, phone numbers and emails listed on your election report are used to communicate with them. Incorrect information hinders the Department's ability to communicate in a timely manner.

As we come into the homestretch for this year and prepare for the State Convention, please take a moment to make sure that your post can fully participate in the elections. In order to vote at the Convention a post must be in good standing which means that you have filed a 2023-24 Election Report by May 31, 2023, submitted Quarterly Trustee Reports for September 2022, December 2022 and March 2023, and paid their delegate registration fee of \$10.00 for each delegate attending 15 days prior to the Convention.

Only registered delegates from Posts in good standing, Department Officers, Past State Commanders and Past Commanders-in-Chiefs from the Department of New York will be eligible to vote at the convention.

**State Commander continued on page 2**



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



Comrades,

As we enter the final quarter of our administrative year, I would encourage you to utilize the Department "Memstats" database to evaluate where your Post stands statistically. This database is a valuable resource that is available

**State Adjutant continued on page 2**



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



Comrades,

First I on behalf of my family would like to thank everyone for your cards and words on the passing of my wife Susanne.

This is very important for Posts planning on Capital Post improvements.

Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program (VNCP)  
- UPDATE ON APPLICATION DUE DATE

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

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

1st of March, June, September, and December.

**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**

Convention packets will be in the mail shortly and all the Convention information will be posted on the Department's website.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2023 State Convention June 8-11, 2023 at the Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY.

Peter Pennelle  
State Commander

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

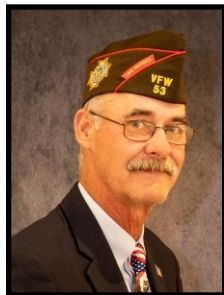
to assist you in your efforts to track your membership percentages, confirm you reporting requirements and aid you in your efforts to meet Post minimum requirements for Department All-State Program consideration. I would also encourage you to also utilize the National "All-American" Dashboard to record your Post's National Reporting requirements and progress toward achieving National All-American for the 2022-2023 membership year. The Department's All-State and National's All-American Programs exist to recognize exceptional leadership, teamwork, and accomplishments in membership growth and VFW core programs.

As a reminder and in accordance with our National Bylaws its time again for Post-election of officers. Nominations of Post Officers open in March and Post Officers shall be elected in April. It is imperative that Post Quartermasters immediately file a Post-election report in the National Online Membership System (OMS) following elections. The OMS System allows Post Quartermasters the opportunity to report the Post's newly elected and appointed officers efficiently and effectively. It is important that all Post Election Reports be completed in OMS even if there are no changes in the elected or appointed officers for the ensuing year. When completing the Post-election report be sure to include all pertinent member information to include address, telephone contact numbers and email addresses. Failure to complete a timely Post election report could result in the Commander-in-Chief to suspend and eventually revoke a Post Charter.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Bob Mitchell  
State Adjutant



Memorial Day  
May 29, 2023



**Daniel Kell**  
**SR. VICE COMMANDER**



**Leslie Crossett**  
**JR. VICE COMMANDER**



Greetings Comrades;

It has been a busy 3 months to start off the new year with Department Mid-Winter Conference in January, Legislative Conference in Washington DC in March and our Department Spring Conference coming up at the end of March. I would like to take this time to thank our Department of New York Legislative team for the hard work and dedication in going around and talking with our Representatives during the Legislative Conference on our Legislative Priorities.

Membership is coming along but we are making progress, with a little more effort we can get to the Commander-in-Chiefs Tim Borland's goal of 102% in the Department by the end of June, Currently Department of New York stands at 95.74, we are a little less than 2% lower than last year at this time. There are a lot of great membership drives going on in the Districts and at the Posts to get new members, especially the newer generation to join the VFW ranks. Let's keep up the good work, finish the year strong and continue to help our Commander achieve 102% membership for the Department of New York.

Community Service Reports, Inspections and Quarterly reports looking at the Dashboard we still have a lot of reporting that needs to be submitted. Let's work and get with our posts within their District and help them get their reports submitted. District All-American Dashboard reporting, get with your Posts 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.

Nominations and Elections, with Post Elections coming up for the ensuing year, District Commanders lets ensure we get those Post-Election Reports submitted on the National website by 1 June 2023.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in Albany in June.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Daniel L. Kell  
Department of New York Sr, Vice Commander

Comrades,

It has been a another busy time period between the last Overseas Veterans Newsletter. I will list some of the things I have done since that newsletter.

The Department's Midwinter Conference was held on January 20, 2023 at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road.

In December the annual Trees for Troops was hosted by VFW Post 1896 was a happy time as always.

District 4 held their OTI at the Rome Post 2246 which was very well attended.

I was able to attend the Eastern States Conference in Manchester, NH where our past State Commander Marlene Roll was elected Jr. Vice Chairman of the organization. Congratulations to Marlene!

I have been on the road these past months visiting posts and districts. On January 15,2023 I was at the District 3 Information Meeting at Post 8692. Newark Post 2823 hosted the District 8 Meeting on February 12, 2023 and the following week I was at the District 7 meeting at Batavia Post 1602.

March 5-9, 2023 the Department officers were in Washington DC visiting our Congressmen to talk about Legislative matter involving the State of New York and how it affects the VFW. We listened to the VFW National Commander address our lawmakers on VFW affairs and how it affects our organization.

I attended the District 5 meeting in Hornell on March 26, 2023.

I had enjoyed visiting the different Districts to see old friends and making new ones while listing to what is happening within the districts whether it is good or a problem that needs to be solved.

Make sure that all your Post's paperwork is in and complete so your Post is in good standing with the department. This includes a

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



**Quartermaster continued from page 1**

Please be advised that the Governor has extended the application deadline for the Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program (VNCP) Grant. The new deadline for applications is now June 30, 2023.

*"In order to effectively address the continuing need for quality veteran services, New York State is providing \$5 million in Grant funds to nonprofit veterans' organizations to make capital improvements to facilities that serve veterans. The Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program ("VNCP") was established within the 2022-2023 NYS Budget. VNCP will be administered by the New York State Division of Veterans' Services (DVS) and is expected to be highly competitive. Veterans' organizations are strongly encouraged to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for additional information prior to applying. Additionally, there will be a recording that will outline the Application process as well as the opportunity to submit questions (see Section 7) which will be posted for all prospective Applicants on Grants Reform Gateway to review prior to the **Application due date of June 30, 2023.**"*

Please find the attached hyperlinks to the New York State Grants Gateway that will provide you with further information on the Veterans Nonprofit Capital Program (VNCP) Grant:

<https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/apply-grant>

[https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants\\_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportals.aspx?NavItem1=3](https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportals.aspx?NavItem1=3)

As a side note on above, on the department's website [www.vfwny.com](http://www.vfwny.com) there is a video to assist in completing an application.

I have noticed many posts and districts do not put the date of the election at the top of the report. Please include this item when submitting election reports. This is important when there is a mid-year election to replace an officer. Everyone would have access to the latest copy of your election report.

With the ongoing Post elections, it is important to pass important information to each officer's successor. Some but not all information to pass on: By-Laws/manual of procedure, Manuals for the various officers, Commander, Quartermaster etc. Where information is found online, [VFW.org](http://VFW.org), [VFWNY.com](http://VFWNY.com). Where the Post finances are kept. Have the signature cards

updated as soon as possible. Trustees should complete a complete Trustees report for the incoming Officers. Are there Credit/debit cards? If so, get them updated for the new year. Remind incoming officer of the meeting requirements for Post, district, Department and National.

Once again, I must remind each Post of the IRS requirement to file a 990 report of activity. Failure to file for 3 years, your status as a not for profit is automatically revoked and any and all income is taxable as well as any Post property.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Daniel B. McMahon  
Quartermaster

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

current election report for the Post, trustee reports filed with the Department, Quartermaster bonded and the Post should not be in arrears.

Don't forget that our Department election is coming up at the State Convention in June and remember to register your delegates to vote.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Leslie Crossett  
Jr. Vice Commander

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW**  
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<https://www.facebook.com/DEPTNYVFW>



## Thomas Todaro PSC

**DIRECTOR OF  
VETERANS SERVICES**



Comrades,

Have you recently been contacted by a company aggressively seeking to legally represent you in filing presumptive VA claims authorized by the [PACT Act](#)? If so, be wary as the company might be seeking a portion of your VA benefits.



Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 (PACT Act) represents the biggest expansion of Veteran benefits in history, and many Veterans may be eligible to receive compensation for their service. The PACT Act adds 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension, with the expansion of presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure by including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure.

While this legislation brings great promise to Veterans, it's also a monumental opportunity for fraud. VA has received multiple reports of unaccredited law firms or companies targeting Veterans to offer their services to file claims for presumptive conditions. Unaccredited law firms and companies are reaching out to help for a fee as high as 40% of the Veteran's retroactive payment and 40% of the Veteran's first year of entitlement payments.

VA is committed to help protect Veterans from predatory entities, by educating Veterans, their families, and all partners about the types of activity and tactics being used against them.

To avoid being a victim of these schemes, here are some helpful tips to remember: Apply directly to VA. You may submit your application securely [online](#) via VA.GOV or in person at any regional office. You may file your claim directly with VA, and VA will help you gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply. Do not agree to pay an unaccredited individual or organization a percentage of your disability compensation payment or retroactive entitlement. If you need help filing a claim, there are [accredited representatives](#) to assist you.

- **Be cautious of aggressive law firms or companies.** Firms may use frequent communications (phone, text, and media messages) to establish a sense of urgency.
- **Be cautious of for-profit companies that use VA's name.** They may alter their name to create a false association with VA and establish legitimacy. Examples include a website such as VAclaimsassistance.com that incorporates VA into its name.
- **Review all legally binding documents thoroughly.** Never sign a blank form someone else will fill out later or give them full discretion to act on your behalf. See the contents before you sign and keep a copy for yourself.
- **Be wary of media advertisements regarding legal representation for presumptive VA claims.** Companies advertising legal services may be predatory and financially motivated to obtain your VA benefits.

If a company or individual is projecting misinformation or has questionable business practices regarding VA entitlements, file a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](#) and the [Better Business Bureau](#).

To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General ([OIG Hotline \(va.gov\)](#)).

Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to [va.gov/PACT](#) or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information.

By protecting Veterans' benefits against fraudulent activity, you can help honor their service and sacrifice.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Thomas Todaro, PSC



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



Greetings from your National Council Member!

I just returned from a very exciting National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and the presentations of the annual awards for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. It was rewarding to see each of those students being recognized getting their scholarship awards and in particular, the outstanding first place winners in the reading of the winning essays. The future looks bright with the talent that was exhibited by these top winners.

VFW National Commander Timothy Borland testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The VFW delivered its top legislative priorities of 'claim sharks,' fixing concurrent receipt, combating veteran suicide, and awarding the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to troops deployed to Europe deterring Russian aggression. Commander-in-Chief Borland stated during the testimony, "Companies that prey upon veterans and blatantly disregard congressional oversight authority should be held accountable, period!" This was the first time since 202 that the VFW was allowed to fully participate in person at the special joint hearing. Some 400 VFW and Auxiliary members were in attendance at the hearing.

As a member of the National Time and Place Committee recommendations were made to the National Council of Administration for upcoming National Convention sites. As approved by the Council for 2027, the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was selected which will be held July 31 – Aug 5, 2027 and for 2028, the Council approved the City of San Antonio, Texas which will be held Aug 5 – 10, 2028.

The Life Membership Board of Trustees approved the following payout for 2023-24:

Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.50 for each life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National).

Plan D - A total payout of \$9.54 for each life member (\$3.18 to each Post, Department and National).

Plan E - A total payout of \$21.36 for each life member (\$7.12 to each Post, Department and National).

As of this writing the Department of New York is at 95.53% and needing 1,650 more members in pay status to reach 100% in membership. We have three- and one-half months to reach our goal. Now is the time to make that push to finish the year at 100%

It is also a good time to review the requirements of the Commander's All-State Program as well as the National Commander's Program if you are looking to become an All-State or All-American Post. The membership program requirements are on the Department of NY website at [www.vfwny.org](http://www.vfwny.org). As we near the end of the membership year MemStats will be updated accordingly.

Nominations for elective office are now being held in the month of March and concluding with the elections in April. To preclude any issues as we move into the new year let's ensure that Post election reports are prepared accurately and entered in the On-Line Membership System (OMS). Additionally, take the time to review the officers who are being elected or appointed and ensure that their dues are paid if they are not currently life members. If you find that an elected or appointed officer has not paid their dues for the upcoming year, have them pay their dues immediately. As I write this article there are currently 15 officers whose membership will expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> and 29 who will expire on April 30<sup>th</sup>. During the year we had officers who were unpaid and had to vacate their office for the remainder of this administrative year. Let's keep that from happening this coming year. Have them pay their dues up front.

If you are planning on attending this year's National Convention in Phoenix, AZ July 22 -27, 2023, now is the time to get those reservations made. Information is posted on the National website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

As I continue to remind, look to your District Commander for assistance if you need it. If there is any way the Department can assist, please do not hesitate to contact the State Adjutant Bob Mitchell or me by phone or e-mail. Keep up the good work that you do!

Yours in Comradeship,

*Gene Ratigliano*

Gene Ratigliano  
 National Council Member





**Ben Thompson**  
**JUDGE ADVOCATE**



Comrades,

It is now that time of year when we elect Post and District officers for the ensuing VFW year. All Post and District Commanders should familiarize themselves with National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure sections that pertain to their respective levels.

For Post Commanders it would be:

- Sec.215 – Eligibility to Office.
- Sec 216 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees.
- Sec 217 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office
- Sec 218 – Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligations.
- Sec 222 – Delegates, District Conventions & Meetings, Department and National Conventions.

Post Election Report forms have been mailed to Post Quartermasters with instructions that they complete the form online through the Online Membership System (OMS) or they can complete the form and return directly to National Headquarters immediately following the election of Post Officers but not later than June 1. Avoid having your Post Charter being suspended by ensuring the Post Election Report is filed on time.

For District Commanders it would be:

- Sec 403 – Regular, Special and Committee Meetings; Convention; Quorum; Authorized Attendees.
- Sec 415 – Eligibility to Office.
- Sec 416 – Elected and Appointed Officers; Chairmen and Committees
- Sec 417 – Nomination, Election, Installation and Term of Office
- Sec 418 – Officers: Duties and Obligations

**Judge Advocate continued on page 8**



**Ronald Sorrentino**  
**SERVICE OFFICERS  
JOURNAL AD CHAIR**



*thank you!*

First and foremost, I would like to say **Thank You** to all Comrades, Posts and Auxiliaries who have donated to the Service Officer raffle, purchased Raffle Tickets, or placed an Ad in the Journal. This year's program has been so great we can only say **Thank You**. We are so grateful to all who have participated in the Service Office Raffle and Journal. Without your generous support, we would be unable to raise the additional funds needed to continue the service provided by our Servicicers Offices, the work as you know is essential in counseling our Veterans so they can receive the benefits they need. I was asked by Sr. Vice Commander Danial Kell to Chair the Service Office program once again, I graciously accepted the Chairmanship. We can only hope to have another great Program. In closing I would like to congratulate all the winners in the raffle.

*thank you!*

*Ronald Sorrentino*

Ronald Sorrentino  
Veterans Service Officer Journal  
& Raffle Chairman

Reminder -

March Trustee Reports are now due  
to Department

Election Reports must be filed in

OMS by May 31, 2023

**Judge Advocate continued from page 7**

## Sec 421 - Voting

A properly completed District Election Report shall be submitted to National Headquarters prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

To all the Past Commanders at the Department, District and Post levels, remember it is our responsibility to assist our officers with all the counsel and experience we gained during our term of office.

Let's all work together to finish this year on a high note and have a banner 2023 - 2024 VFW year.

To the incoming officers, I am only a phone call or email away if I can be of assistance to you.

Good luck and remember, we are One Team.

Yours in Comradeship.

Ben Thompson, PCS



**Art Scheuneman**  
**NATIONAL HOME**  
**PROGRAM CHAIR**



## VFW National Home Mission Statement

**The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.**

Do you know that during the year of 2025, the VFW National Home will be celebrating our 100-year anniversary? We are in the planning stages for the kickoff beginning January 7th, 2025, with a promotional event each month. One of the biggest celebrations at the National Home campus will be during the month of June 2025. Another big month celebration will be held at the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio in 2025.

You may have noticed that I have omitted the name that we have been accustomed to be known as "VFW National Home for Children." We are not going away. We are in the process of rebranding. The name that we were originally incorporated under and going forward will be known as "The VFW National Home or N.H." Also, coming will be changes to our logo. To keep up to date on what's happening at the National Home. Join us on District 2 -VFW National Home Face Book Page at [www.facebook.com/groups/747630310428865](https://www.facebook.com/groups/747630310428865).

During the October Annual Life Membership Meeting, the National Home had a ribbon cutting of the new on campus Veterans and Family Resource Center. We are now looking at providing a fully accredited VFW Service Office. VFW National Home Art Scheuneman District 2 Trustee 2019 - 2025, Department of New York National Home Program Chairman



**Residences:** The National Home now has 35 of 42 houses occupied, with 17 residing veteran families and 18 residing legacy families. One family recently completed their program and has relocated to Georgia. Two families that recently entered the program are from NC & Mass. There are two families entering into the program and they are from VA. & Wisc. Believe it or not, there is also a family from New York residing at the National Home Campus. Out of six applications, five are awaiting approval based on the National Home requirements. To start the online application, visit: <https://vfnationalhome.org/get-help/#form>

**Early Education Center:** The Early Education Center has 15 children enrolled. Of those attending, 3 children are receiving outside services for speech therapy and 3 children are being evaluated for occupational Therapy.

**Facilities and Grounds:**

- Tuck point and cleaned the ducts in the NY #1



house making it ready for a new family to move in once they are approved.

- Creating expense projections for all homes and other non-sponsored buildings on the National Home Campus.
- Lift gate was put on the second Ram 4X4 plow truck along with having the Cootie graphics applied.

**Marketing:**

- Monthly Zoom Meetings has shown a steady increase in attendance.
- Planning for 100-year anniversary of the National Home.
- Securing funds for high-speed internet service.
- Promotion of various donation venues. An example:

**Help Our Future Shine As Bright As Our Past and Present By Becoming a Home Front Hero**



Want to make a consistent and lasting difference in the lives of military and veteran families? You can start today by committing to a monthly contribution to the VFW National Home. Please become a Home Front Hero and help ensure the seamless and consistent delivery of programs and services to our families, which include housing, counseling, tutoring, life skills, daycare, and more.

-It's easy – Choose to have your monthly gift paid automatically from your credit card or checking/savings account.

-It's flexible – You determine the amount of your monthly donation. Email us to increase, decrease or suspend your gift at any time.

-It's eco-friendly – Save trees by choosing paperless, automatic processing of donations.

-It saves money – Save the cost of a stamp with every gift you make.

**\*\*Important Information For National Home Life Members! \*\***

The VFW National Home's Board of Trustees has approved the use of electronic voting beginning with the 2022 Trustee District election. National Home Life Members must



have an email and/or a mobile phone number on record in order to vote. Members can provide this information to the National Home by visiting [www.vfwnationalhome.org/](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org/) contact and completing the form for Life Members. Any questions regarding the election can be directed to [info@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:info@vfwnationalhome.org).

**Take a moment now to update your contact information.**

I am looking forward to your participation in the VFW National Home present and future endeavors as we prepare to celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary of National Home. Together, we will continue to fulfill the VFW National Home Mission Statement: **The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.**

Loyally,

Art Scheuneman  
 District 2 Trustee 2019 - 2025,  
 National Home Program Chairman

**NOTICE**

THERE HAVE BEEN  
 CHANGES TO THE  
 BUDDY POPPY  
 PROGRAM  
 PLEASE SEE  
 THE UPDATED  
 BUDDY POPPY FORM  
 ON PAGE 20  
 AND ON OUR  
 WEBSITE



**Elisabeth Gessel**  
**SAFETY CHAIR**



Comrades,

As we close out our year for nominations and awards, I am happy to congratulate the following individuals who have received the DNY State Public Servant Award:

- Firefighter – Alfred Magnatta (Out of District 2)
- Police Officer – Angela McGovern (Out of District 3)
- EMT – Brandon Smith (Out of District 2)
- Dispatcher – Jason DiSalvo (Out of District 2)

While we had double the amount of participation compared to last year, only 3 of our Districts participated.

I would like to remind everyone that we have 2 of the largest Police Departments in the country within our State... NYPD and NY State Police. We received no nominations for members of these organizations. I am 100% confident that there plenty of individuals that are worthy of your posts' nomination within these two groups of hero's. Additionally, we received 0 nominations for any members of FDNY for fighter or EMT.

**Congratulations to our winners!**

We can do better next year and I fully expect that we will.

Yours in Comradeship  
Elisabeth Gessel  
District 2 Commander



**William Moore**  
**VOD CHAIR**



Comrades,

Thank you to all the VFW Posts for participating and submitting your entries this

2022-23 year.

This year's topic was **"WHY IS THE VETERAN IMPORTANT?"**

Statewide we had 34 Posts, 11 Auxiliaries, and 588 students participate. This resulted in 37 Post winners advancing to district contests with finally 8 out of 9 districts moving forward to the state level contest. 1 district did not participate in the state contest. 8 participants competing to produce 1 NYS Voice of Democracy winner. Awards and monies given for placing 1-4<sup>th</sup> Place.

Our NYS winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Olivia G. Wolber                      District #1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Oliver J. Tupper                      District #6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Madison M. Anderson              District # 8
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Adriana S. King                      District # 2
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place: Izabella J. Vredenburg              District # 4
- 6<sup>th</sup> Place: Benjamin R. Jewell                District # 3
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place: Abigail M. Goncalves              District # 5
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place: Wynter Jarus                        District #9

Scholarships and Awards expended were \$6425.00 with additional monies expended totaling \$834.00.

Districts totaled \$1350.00 in scholarships and awards and additional expenses totaled \$390.00.

Please remember moving forward to know as commanders who is appointed your designated VOD Chairman, review the contest requirements and submission materials, and the contest deadlines on all contest levels. Much time was additionally spent to have a successful contest this year. If we are not able to assist students in this journey, we let them down in having them participate in such a wonderful scholarship program.

**Congratulations!**

Yours in Comradeship.  
William C. Moore  
VOD Chair



## Colin Anderson

### SERVICE OFFICER



Comrades,

As most of you are aware the PACT Act was signed into law 10 August 2022. The VFW was one of the leading advocates to get this passed. Since that time, the VFW has started a web page [www.pactactinfo.org](http://www.pactactinfo.org) to assist Veterans in getting information and representation with filing claims with the VA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has also made a push for Veterans to receive the benefits they are entitled to [www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits](http://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits). The VA has started "town hall" meetings and outreach sessions.

The VA has reached out to the service organizations to support the outreach. I have participated in some as well as our VSOs in Albany. These are potential recruiting venues. Active recruiting maybe discouraged by the organizers but passive recruiting at the very least should be done.

I recently took part in an outreach session ran by the VA that was held at the American Legion post in Amherst. Over 100 Veterans attended the event, filing claims with the VA and through reps from the NY State Division of Veterans Services. I took several new powers of attorney for Vets that wanted VFW representation. I also handed them an application and a VFW flyer to take home with them as I was not "actively" recruiting.

There are several events like this scheduled across the state this year. Our VSOs will be attending many to assist with the claims process. This would be a good opportunity for representatives from the districts to assist the VSOs and tell the VFW story to people seeking our help. In western New York, there are going to be events all around the area culminating in a two-day event in August across from Buffalo VA hospital. This will have representatives from the three areas of the

VA: health, benefits and the national cemeteries. Other service organizations and several Veterans' aid and assistance groups will be attending. From early planning it is expected to serve between 500 and 1000 veterans. This will be the last days of filing claims under the PACT Act to get the 10 August 2022 effective date. The VSOs are going to be very busy, but this is an example of a prime recruiting location.

If these are going on in your area, get involved. The VA is looking for help with the Veterans. While you may not be able to file claims for the Veterans, I am sure you know a VFW VSO that can, and our VSOs have plenty of business cards. Remember the VFW motto "No One Does More for Veterans."

Yours in Comradeship

Colin Anderson

Department Service Officer

## SAVE THE DATES

YOU DON'T

WANT TO

MISS

THIS YEAR'S

STATE CONVENTION

JUNE 8-11, 2023

ALBANY MARRIOTT

189 WOLF ROAD

ALBANY, NY

CONFERENCE PACKETS

WILL BE IN THE

MAIL SOON





PROCTOR- HOPSON POST # 1896, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
110-02 MERRICK BLVD., JAMAICA, NY 11433

January 2023

Dear Supporter,

On behalf of the Officers and Members of Proctor-Hopson Post #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US and its Auxiliary and District #1, Department of New York, VFW, I would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Proctor-Hopson Post #1896 VFW Military Family Support Center's *Holiday Cheer/Trees for Troops* program. The *Holiday Cheer/Trees for Troops* program is a joint venture between the Veterans of Foreign Wars, DHL Express, Dee's Nursery, and The American Citizens for Soldiers in Service. It is our goal to try to bring a little taste of home to our troops serving in the Persian Gulf Region during the holiday season. The support of friends like you enabled us to ship live Christmas trees with lights and ornaments and Menorahs to our troops, along with cards and gifts.

In 2023 we will be celebrating our twentieth year of sending live Christmas trees to our deployed troops. We look forward to your support in try to bring a little taste of home to our troops during the Christmas holiday and making 2023 a banner year.

Again thank you for your support and for showing our nations servicemen and women, along with their families, *you care*.

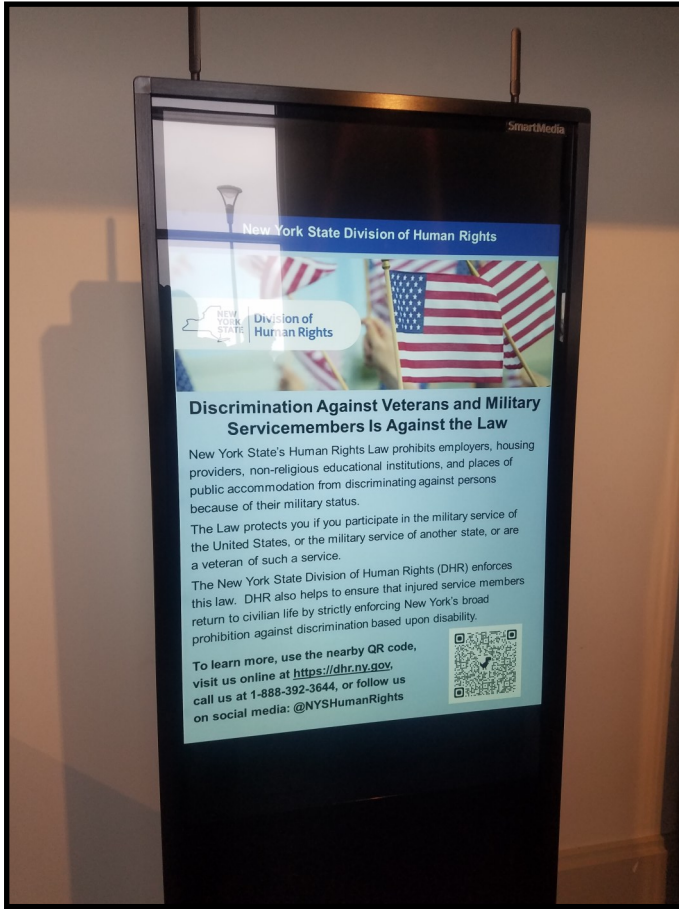
Yours truly,

Ben Thompson,  
Past State Commander  
Chairman  
Post #1896 Military Assistance Program  
[Phpm1896@verizon.net](mailto:Phpm1896@verizon.net)  
908 216-2747





# VETERANS INFORMATION KIOSKS AT NYS WELCOME CENTERS



I was personally invited to the NYS Division of Veterans Services to the unveiling of the new Veteran Information Kiosks that will be going in NYS Welcome Centers, as well as other high traffic areas, around the state.



This one is the four to be unveiled at the Geneva Welcome Center. The invitees were asked to give an update to what their organization is doing. I spoke on legislative and service officer issues in relation to the new kiosk.

Marlene Roll, PSC  
Women Veterans  
Chair 2022-23

2021-23 VFW Legislative Chair



## Elisabeth Gessel

**COMMANDER  
DISTRICT 2**



Comrades,

I hope this finds you all well and getting ready for Spring.

As our new officers will be taking the reins from us soon, it is of the utmost importance that they are ready for the task and up to date with what is going on within our respective districts. I wish all upcoming and prospective officers the best of luck.

Post 8691 in Washingtonville worked with AMVETS, the Auxiliary & community to put together care packages for our troops.



Post 9215 in Upper Nyack worked with the Sparkill Dominican Sisters to find a cottage for a refugee family from Afghanistan. They will also be holding a membership drive in conjunction with the District at the Palisades Mall – Saturday May 5/13/23. They will be located on the third floor by Nathans. Stop by and say hi!

District 2 Spring Convention is scheduled for Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Holiday Inn Poughkeepsie.

Make sure you check on your comrades. Not just on their physical health, but their mental health too. We need to take care of each other and that starts by checking in on our comrades and make sure they are ok. There are so many services available for mental health, and we need to make sure everyone knows about them. Let's get rid of that 22 a day statistic!

Yours in Comradeship  
Elisabeth Gessel  
District 2 Commander



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



Comrades -

I can't believe that spring has finally sprung, where has the time gone? District 3 is still lagging in membership BUT I'm sure that we'll get it together. As of this writing our membership stands at 93.3%. We need 257 more to reach our 100%. Let's make our push to be #1 again this year.

Post activities:

**Post 1545 Windham:** Held a very well received Wounded Warrior even in January. These warriors held a skiing event at a local ski slope followed by a meal put on by the post.

**Post 770 Catskill:** Held a raffle for a local deployed veteran's family. The Post raised \$2200.00 to help the family with food and expenses.

**Post 2475 Glens Falls:** Will be hosting a ham dinner for local senior citizens.

**Post 420 Saratoga Springs:** Held another very successful blood drive in January, exceeding the quota set by the American Red Cross.

**Post 270 Walton:** Donated \$100.00 to the Oxford Veterans Home. A veterans family needed help purchasing a head stone so they donated the \$105.00 needed.



**Post 3185 Delmar:** Has been involved in an ongoing project, in the town with National Grid, to honor those who served. Since 2022 their Military Tribute Banner Program has put up 101 banners around town.

As District 3 Commander, I was proud to represent the VFW (3/2/2023) for the unveiling of the Veterans Kiosk located at the Fultonville rest area (NY Thruway, mile marker 187 westbound side). These KIOSK's have already gone up in three areas and over the next few years the plan is to put them up in other rest stops along the NYS Thruway as well. These KIOSK's will give

**Commander District 3 continued on page 15**



**Joseph Martel**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 4**



Comrades,

As of this issue of the OSV District 4 has achieved something that has not happened in my memory, We has achieved 100% reporting for Trustee Reports, for Community Service Reports and all Posts have been Inspected. Congratulations to the 22 Posts in our District.

At our March 5th District meeting we had the pleasure to present our VOD/PP District awards, with several of the winners present. Looking at the National MemStats District 4 seems to be one of only three Districts participating in this program.



Thanks to the help of our Sr. Vice Commander Dan Kell we had a local District training in December with a large turnout.

Congratulations to Yorkville Post 6001 they are on their way to be an All American Post this year.

I am going to be posting here and in the next issues some of our Posts Facebook page links; here are a few for now. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/885720918151170> Dist 4

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/885720918151170>

**Commander District 4 continued on page 15**



### **Commander District 3 continued from page 14**

veterans and families information about VAs in the local areas as well as other items of interest to veterans. These will be especially useful to veterans and their families that are new to the area.



On Sunday, March 12, 2023 I had the honor and privilege to be the guest speaker at the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Auxiliary Gold Star Mothers Tea.



It's hard to even imagine what these ladies went through and continue to go through. The Gold Star Mothers were very thankful and appreciated this annual event put on by our District 3 Auxiliary. I'd like to give a special THANK YOU to Ballston Spa Post 358 Auxiliary and President Tom Jones for hosting this event. I'd be remiss if I didn't give a **BIG THANK YOU** to Carol Mitchell who invited me to speak and for her help putting my speech together. I was at the post for another meeting the day before the tea and saw just how hard the Auxiliary from Post 358 worked getting things ready. Much time, effort and thought went into this event a success. OUTSTANDING JOB Post 358 Auxiliary.

Our District 3 Gold Chevron Awards Dinner was held on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn, Clifton Park, N.Y. We started the day with the VFW mandatory meeting at 9:00 AM, the Auxiliary was scheduled to begin at noon. We ended the day with a dinner honoring our District VOD and Patriot Pen winners as well as the Department Teacher of the year (2020).

I'd like to mention that the Blue Star

Mothers will be holding their annual golf outing on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> at Colonie Golf Course. Let's try and get at least a couple of foursomes for this event. If you want to get up a foursome or two you can contact me at [HJP5551@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HJP5551@GMAIL.COM) and I'll see to it that you get the information needed.

While on the subject of Golf, the Department of N.Y. VFW is holding our annual outing the following Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Again, at the Colonie Golf Course. See your Post commander for information or contact me at [HJP5551@gmail.com](mailto:HJP5551@gmail.com) or Jim MacArthur at [jmackancramhwy@gmail.com](mailto:jmackancramhwy@gmail.com). I hope that District 3 will be well represented. Post 420 will have at least one foursome (myself, Gene Ratigliano, Jim Barnes and one more player). This outing is always a good time, especially for those of us who can relate to the tag duffer.

In Comradeship,  
Harold Patchen  
District 3 Commander  
Dept. of N.Y. VFW

### **Commander's Golf Tournament**

May 19—21, 2023

All proceeds to benefit

The Commander's Special Project

See our website

For full details

### **Commander District 4 continued from page 14**

Post 6530 Camden, NY

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost2338> Post 2338 West Winfield, NY

<https://www.facebook.com/VeronaVFW6811> Post 6811 Verona, NY

From the reports I have been receiving, all the Posts that had Lenten Fish Fry's and Corned Beef dinners for St Patrick's Day did very well with many selling out.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Joseph Martel  
District 4 Commander



**Marcello  
Rotunda**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 6**



**Abe Zino**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 7**



Hello Comrades,

It was my honor as the County Commander to present the award to Patriot Pen winner from Post 53 John W. Tiffany and the award from Chautauqua County council.



Yours in Comradeship,  
Marcello Rotunda  
District 6 Commander

Comrades,

Comrade John Louis Milliken, 81, of Stafford, VA passed away on Saturday, February 25, 2023. John was a **life member of VFW** and he



attended several military and veteran's functions since his retirement. According to his grandson CJ, John was a true patriot. He always liked to say the Pledge of Allegiance and give a prayer at all his veteran's meetings. As the Commander for VFW District 7, and a former member of the VFW in Virginia, I got to know John very well and I was able to travel to Quantico, Virginia for his memorial and funeral service. The honor guard was provided by The United States Navy at the Quantico National Cemetery on March 8, 2023.

John graduated from Ordway High School in Rocky Ford, Colorado. He enlisted in the Navy in 1959 and retired in 1989 as Navy Command Master Chief Petty Officer. John earned an Associate Degree from Virginia Beach Community College, bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, and a Master's Degree from Chapman University. He worked as a civilian for the US Army at the First Personnel Command in Heidelberg, Germany and he then returned to the United States in 2001 as the Director of the Military Support Office at Fort A P Hill. In total John served on **9 Navy Ships, 2 aircraft squadrons, and 4 major shore commands**. He worked for the US Army as a civilian for 20 years until his retirement. John had a total combined Military/Federal service of more that **50 Years**.

John was an avid reader, stamp collector, gardener, and a wrestling fan. He was an active member of many organizations such as The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Tincan Sailor Association, The United States Navy Memorial, AARP, AMAC, The American Philatelist Society, Warrenton Coin and Stamp Club, and he was a Master Mason of the Edward Cann Daylight Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was a distinguished Toastmaster, made the Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and has been to all continents except Antarctica.

John leaves behind: a wife, several children, grandchildren and three dogs.

Abe Zino  
Commander District 7





# Jeffrey Molitor

**Commander  
District 11**



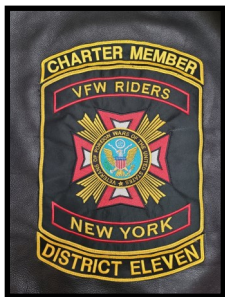
Comrades,

Now that we got a few months under our belt, District 11 has been moving in the right direction. During the last quarter, several Posts have taken the initiative and have given away Turkeys and Hams during the holiday season to the Veteran community. We have been strong supporters of the Wreaths across America Program at both Calverton and LI national Cemetery here on the Island. Working with our partners that range from the Scouts. Blue/Gold Star families, Legionnaires, AmVets and various other groups like ABATE. Many Posts had



Christmas Parties, for children, gathered Toys for Tots and wrote back cards to school children that took their time to wish Veterans Happy Holidays.

This was also a time where District 11 Riders received their Charter from National. We are expecting big things from the First President Russell Gobetz. These Riders will help support the VFW mission and hopefully will attract younger members to join.



District 11 once again, has received awards for our VFW programs from the State including Teacher of the Year and Voice of Democracy.

Many of District 11 Posts have a long-standing relationship with Youth Programs in Suffolk County. We support Scouting, Sea Scouts and JROTC. We have attended Blue and Gold dinners, Eagle ceremonies, given out



awards to both the Sea Scouts and JROTC. We currently have 3 submissions for the Scouting program, 2 Eagles and 2 Gold Scouts.

St Patrick's day has come and gone, and District 11 was busy supplying Color Guards to every corner of our county. It was nice to see a few Joint Color Guards take place. Veteran Comradery is strong here on the Island.



Memorial Day is right around the corner, and I can't wait to see what our Posts have planned for this day. Collecting Poppy's to help our Veterans, Widows, and Orphans to aid in Our mission to 'honor the dead by helping the living" has never been stronger. Our District has been distributing Poppies and holding recruitment tables throughout their communities.

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 2022-2023



Comrades,

Below is photo of recent event at All American Post 5359 District 11.



We had a press conference on March 3rd. with the Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency and Senator Kristen Gillibrand to promote the PACT act and provide detailed information on filing disability claims connected to military service.

William Hughes  
Sr. Vice Commander  
District 11

### Blackberry Smoke

The Veterans of Foreign Wars New York partnered with the Lana Turner Foundation & Richard Turner of Blackberry Smoke to donate to State Commander Peter Pennelle's Special Project - The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital (MFCH), a member of WMCHHealth. At the end of 2022, Comrades were invited to concerts in Ithaca & New York City. Veterans had a Meet & Greet with Blackberry Smoke musicians & team coordinating with the Lana Turner Foundation in donating the proceeds to the Special Project. Commander Pennelle chose the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital because he believes support for the



patient & family during a health crisis is of utmost importance. The MFCH is almost unmatched in their dedication & care as a "family-centered" hospital.

Commander Pennelle, Comrades, the Lana Turner Foundation & Blackberry Smoke took part in bringing their donations directly to The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital with some of the proceeds going towards music therapy within the hospital's Creative Arts Therapy Program. The Hospital gave a tour to show the amount of love & care that shows complete involvement of parents, siblings & family members in every step of a child's treatment. Comrades noticed intricate details during the tour such as an aquarium, a baseball museum, plus even a firetruck for children & their families to experience.

The New York Veterans of Foreign



Wars & Commander Pennelle expresses immense gratitude to the Lana Turner Foundation & Blackberry Smoke for their time & efforts donating towards Commander Pennelle's Special Project.

You can find out more information about The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at the link below as well as details of the Commanders Special Project at the links below:

- <https://www.mariafarerichildrens.org/about-us>
- <https://vfwny.com/uploads/documents/2022-2023/PennellesSpecialProject.pdf>

Please visit the Lana Turner Foundation Website to find out more about their program, CURE Childhood Cancer:

- <https://curechildhoodcancer.org/about-cure/named-funds/lana-turner/>





SPRING CONFERENCE  
MARCH 31—APRIL 1, 2023  
ALBANY MARRIOTT  
ALBANY, NY





# Buddy Poppy Order Form

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

1000 Poppies- \$330.00  
 500 Poppies- \$165.00  
 (Must be ordered in multiples of 500)



(518) 463-7427

# of Poppies/ Cost	\$
Shipping & Handling	\$
<b>Total:</b>	\$

**Shipping & Handling**  
 (Based on National- effective through 8-31-23)  
 \$100.01 to \$200.00 .....\$17.00  
 \$200.01 to \$300.00 .....\$19.00  
 \$300.01 & over .....\$24.00

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Position:</b>	<b>Post #:</b>
<b>Shipping Address:</b> (Poppies cannot be shipped to a P.O. Box)	X _____ (Signature) _____ (Print Name) _____ (Email)	

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](mailto:adjutantdny@vfwny.com)  
 Cc: [acomstock@vfwny.com](mailto:acomstock@vfwny.com)

**Mail Form & Check to:**  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 69 Sand Creek Rd  
 Albany, NY 12205

<b>*Name</b>	<b>*Phone:</b>	<b>*Billing Address:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> (Same as Shipping Address)
<b>*Credit Card Number:</b>		
<b>*Exp. Date</b>	<b>*CRV Code on Back</b> (3 Digit Code)	<b>*Email:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> (Email Receipt Requested)

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

HQ Use Only			
Check #/ Transaction ID:	Invoice #:	Posted:	





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