



# NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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



July, August, September 2025

Volume 44 Issue 1-Final Edition



**James  
MacArthur**  
**STATE COMMANDER**



Comrades,

Summer is over and fall is here hope you had a great summer, for me it was a busy summer. I have already attended four district meetings and I am looking forward to attending more District meetings in the coming months.

Just a little bit on recruiting, I spent ten days at the State fair and we recruited more than 100 new members. I want to thank PCIC Tim Borland for flying all the way here from Arizona to help out at the State fair; also State Adjutant Bob Mitchell for organizing the whole thing for us. Likewise, I want to thank the following comrades for their help Matt Vanetten, Jim Brooks, Harold Patchen, and Amanda, Jody and Gene in the office that helped get these new members in the system thank you everyone.

I want to thank everyone who came out to the Homecoming for me and Justine at the Stuyvesant Falls VFW Post and a thank you the members of that Post for all their hospitality. I just returned from CIC Carol Whitmore's homecoming in Des Moines Iowa. It was great to see commanders from other States and a great time was had by all. Commander Whitmore is a great person, a veteran and is

**State Commander continued on page 2**



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



Comrades,

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

**State Adjutant continued on page 2**



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



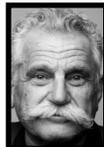
Comrades,

The New York State Office of unclaimed funds has recently revamped their access program. There are a couple of these changes which make it a lot easier to recover funds due to your Post or to you personally. The site is <https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds>. After

**Quartermaster continued on page 3**



**Jody Treadway**  
**Editor**



**Richard Tibbetts**  
**State Historian**



**Barbara Bishop**  
**State Photographer**



## New York State Overseas Veteran

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### \*\*PUBLICATIONS:

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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.

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### \*\* 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

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committed to moving our organization forward and helping Veterans for those of you who don't know our motto is for veterans by veterans.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> we had another recruiting event at Fort Drum and that evening I attended the Districting 4 Commanders dinner at the Lowville VFW Post I want to thank the members of the Lowville Post for their hospitality it was a great evening.

So, comrades it's the end of September meetings are happening we've had our Department OTI now Districts are starting to conduct their OTI's fall conference is coming up let's get involved if you hold a new position and are not sure about something reach out to a prior officer with knowledge don't be afraid to ask. I know District inspectors have started doing inspections and be ready its' all about ensuring our Posts are being operated correctly it's not about we are out to get you if you have a question call headquarters or call me, we are there to assist you.

Lastly, comrades, I need your help as you know our goal this year is 101% membership we are currently at 86.56 % together we can and will reach our goal, I have faith in all of you and thank you for your hard work comradeship and friendship. Remember no one does more for veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars. See you at the fall conference!

Yours in comradeship,  
James Mac Arthur  
Department Commander

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

completing entries for their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Programs. These entries are essential to ensure that the National Organization has accurate statistical information on our Department's Program activity. It is the primary responsibility of the Adjutant to make entries on the Dashboard, but authority is granted to the Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and Quartermaster to make the entry as well. Please review the Commander-in-Chief's membership Program for further requirements to meet the All-American Membership Program for the 2025-2026 year. The All-American Membership Program is designed to recognize exceptional leadership and accomplishments in membership growth and VFW core Programs.

Please be aware that Department Headquarters is having difficulties sending out emails to members that have old Roadrunner (rr.com) accounts. As of October 2023, sending or receiving emails from these addresses has been discontinued for most users. Existing accounts may still

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downloading the most recent list of moneys due Posts in the Department, I be mailing this list to the post Commanders and Quartermasters for your action. This will be the final time I have searched and sent the lists out. Most of the post which I have contacted in the past have not applied for their funds. If you do not want to apply for these unclaimed funds, please send me a letter signed and notarized for the Department to acquire the funds. I am not going to do this and then return the funds to your Post.

You may need a copy of the most recent election report to prove the current Quartermaster is the authorized officer to receive these funds. Unfortunately, there are Posts which have lost their charters and these funds are now being recovered by the department. Some posts have 2 or 3 unclaimed funds awaiting their applications. One defunct post has 5 accounts sitting for recovery.

Each person in the Post, District and the Department which handles funds for the respective entity, needs to be bonded. The bond must be sufficient to cover the annual average of the amount of assets the individual will have access to or controls. Who needs to be covered, Bar Stewards, Quartermaster, Assistant Quartermaster (if there is one). Anyone else which comes in contact with the funds of the organization, this includes Bell Jar raffles, bar funds, and investments.

The list of unpaid annual members in our post 15033 (at-large) is over 10,000 members. It is a huge task to be able to sort these names into District lots. The lists are almost complete, and I will be sending them the Department Membership Chairmen, District Officers and associate membership co-chairman for distribution and or a district membership drive. These unpaid members can be a boon for your Post. Set up a day and a phone committee to reinstate these members into your post.

Defunct Posts seem to be growing in number and the assets of these posts become the property of the department. The issue is recovering the funds and assets. PLEASE work on membership to retain the funds within your post.

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



## Jack Sanford

### SR. VICE COMMANNER



Comrades,

As Summer comes to a close and we are back to the business of our Posts, Districts and Department. I hope many of you took the opportunity to attend the Department OTI, if not Please plan to attend your District OTI it is well worth it, not just for the information that you acquire, but the interaction and information you gain and share between you and your Comrades throughout your District.

**I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS BUT IF YOUR POST HAS NOT SUBMITTED THEIR ELECTION REPORT WHY? IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, ASK FOR IT!**

Buy now you should all be on your way to being Inspected there is no reason why every Post cannot be inspected before the end of the year the collection of all the information (Bond, 990, Trustee Reports) should take less than a week (there were a number of Post's that were still not inspected by the State Convention). Remember Community Service Reports can be submitted by any Post Member at any time, but the best time is when you have completed your project / program.

As you are all aware by now Commander MacArthur has set as his Membership goal at 101%, which is not an unreasonable goal and is attainable. Let us NOT get caught in a trap of competing with other Posts because every Post has its own unique circumstances let us concentrate on our Post goals and compete within ourselves and making our Post at least 1% better than the year before. Remember as you go out into your community for your programs (Scouting, Legislative, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen just to mention a few DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIP carry a few membership applications with you so you don't miss any opportunities to Recruit and it couldn't hurt to even have a few Auxiliary Applications. Sometimes when we recruit someone to the Auxiliary you find the eligible Veteran for the VFW never limit your opportunities for success.

Meetings! what can I say about meetings. On the average you will attend 10 Post Meetings a year 3 District Meetings a year and then there are those of us that will attend 3 or more Department Meetings. I personally look forward to meeting with my Comrades and sharing ideas. Remember meetings are information and information is POWER. When you miss Post or District Meetings you miss your opportunity to gain vital information about your Post or District, and your opportunity make yourself heard and to express YOUR opinions. The response I most often hear is

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**State Adjutant continued from page 2**

have access, but they are managed by Spectrum, the owner of the service, and will likely be transitioned or completely removed in the future. If you currently have a Roadrunner.com (rr.com) email account its recommended that you migrate to a new email provider like Gmail, Outlook, or Yahoo. If this issue has affected you and you are no longer receiving emails from Department Headquarters, please provide me with a new or alternate email address.

Yours in Comradeship,

Bob Mitchell

State Adjutant



**Ben Thompson,  
PSC**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**



Comrades,

It is recommended that officers at all levels obtain a copy of the current 2026 podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which are available through the VFW Store at National Headquarters or you can download the digital version from the National webpage for free. The 2026 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 126th National Convention.

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

To sustain the Veterans of Foreign Wars reputation and assure its continued success, I recommend that all Post and District Commanders read the Department of New York's Code of Ethics, which can be found on the Department's webpage, and either

**Judge Advocate continued on page 5**



**James Haas  
STATE SURGEON**



Comrades.

As department Surgeon I am happy to report that the open positions of VAVS officers at the Syracuse VA Medical Center and the Buffalo VA Medical Center are in place. I would like to welcome John Shatraw and Mark Johnson from District 5 to the positions of VAVS Officer and Deputy VAVS officer at the Syracuse VA Medical Center. Our nominee for VAVS officer at the Buffalo VA Medical Center is still in the process of approval at VFW National. We should have confirmation and have this individual in place by November 1<sup>st</sup>. I look forward to working with them to assure our Veterans at these medical centers have the help they deserve.

I would like to thank District 3 posts for stepping up to the challenge for Electric Shavers that were collected and donated to the Albany Stratton VA



Medical Center. I was able to collect 57 Electric Shavers and met the challenge of 50. These shavers will be distributed to the Cancer patients and those patients on blood thinners. Special

**State Surgeon continued on page 6**

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

“Well I go to the meeting via ZOOM”. Believe me when I say ZOOM does have its place but you have lost your opportunity to connect and interact with your Comrades on a personnel basis and to share information and opinions with them on what course of action your Post or District will peruse. ZOOM or Networking will never take the place live face to face interaction, but I do encourage you to use all formats of communications available to keep your Comrades informed.

I hope to see as many of my comrades as I can at the Fall Conference and hope you all have a successful year. Let’s put New York on top again, because “Who’s Better Nobody”.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Jack Sanford  
Sr. Vice Commander



**Harold Patchen**  
**STATE INSPECTOR**



Comrades,

I wasn’t sure if I should start with this statement or end with it. **NOW**, is the time for inspectors to begin their inspections. We don’t want to wait too long because we may have to fight the snow and other bad weather. Besides, once they are completed you can relax. Inspections are not to find faults per se but to look for things that could get a post into trouble. I look at it as a way to SAVE POSTS. If we continue to “kick the can down the road”, posts will eventually end up turning their charters in. If you are “gigged” by your inspector today and you correct the finding, you may years down the road think “I’m glad now that these things were found by the inspector”. Post Commanders and Quartermasters are encouraged to work with the inspector. Have your prior year inspection form, your IRS-990, your most recent quarterly report, officers file, Bond paperwork etc. ready before the inspector arrives. Each post should have a copy of their IRS-990, most recent quarterly report, copy of bond (unless bonded by the Department of N.Y.) AND the new (this year) Post Inspection form ready for the inspector to

take back with him or her. **This new form needs to be signed by the post commander AND inspector.**

This year all inspectors need to turn in finished inspections first to their respective District Inspector for review. After district review, they’ll be forwarded to the Department HQ. for approval. This will allow the posts to get a head start on fixing the necessary items.

Deficiencies that I’ve seen so far are:

Item 1. Post Bylaws in accordance with section 202 of the National Bylaws.

Item 2. Is the Post Incorporated in accordance with section 708 of the National Bylaws?

**State Inspector continued on page 6**

**Judge Advocate continued from page 4**

use the Departments Code of Ethics or draft one of their own for their offices to sign. The integrity of all our officers is vital to the success of organization.

As a reminder, as we move towards the upcoming elections cycle, I direct everyone’s attention to

Article VII, Sec. 702 of the VFW National Bylaws, which states, “No Post, County Council, District, Department or the National Organization, or any component part or member thereof, shall participate in any way in a campaign of a candidate for any partisan public office...” This applies to fundraisers, endorsements, and the use of VFW facilities or names in any way that suggests the VFW is supporting a candidate.

The Post building may be rented or used by a political campaign for an event, and this is done the same way as with any other private group (e.g., through a rental agreement, without promotion or endorsement by the Post), this may be permissible, as long as:

- The Post does not advertise, promote, or sponsor the event.
- The event does not use VFW branding or materials.
- The Post does not show favoritism or exclusivity to one candidate or party.
- The Post ensures equal opportunity for other candidates to rent the space (if requested)

The Commander and the Post membership must take great care to avoid giving the impression that the VFW is endorsing the candidate in any way.

Always remember, if you’re not sure, ask first.

Ben  
Ben Thompson, PSC  
State Judge Advocate  
[Phpm1896@verizon.net](mailto:Phpm1896@verizon.net)

**State Surgeon continued from page 4**

thanks to Fort Plain, Glens Falls, Colonie, Ravena, Castleton on the Hudson, Queensbury, and Ballston Spa posts for their donations. Along with the Electric Shavers District 3 collected a huge supply of Hygiene products. Donating a total of \$3,586 to the Stratton Medical Center.



Ray Theis, VAVS officer at Stratton medical Center Albany continues to serve Breakfast to the Mental Health Patients once a month supported by VFW Post 8692 Colonie and myself.

Emmitt Henry held a successful Ice Cream Social for the patients at the St Albins Medical Center with a huge turnout.

District 7 held their annual picnic for the Patients at the Batavia Medical Center. Thank you to all in District 7 who participated.

I remain committed to our Veterans and our medical centers. We have many more events planned that will keep the morale of those veterans under medical care positive.

Respectfully,

James J. Haas

Department of NY VFW Surgeon



**State Inspector continued from page 5**

Item 26: Does the post carry all proper types of insurance. Our Department Adjutant Bob Mitchell and I called National last week to see if or what insurance is needed by posts that don't own a building and meet at churches, other Veterans Clubs etc. We are waiting for a ruling. We apparently aren't the only department with this question.

Many posts are pushing the three-year limit with no IRS-990's filed. Remember they are expensive and time-consuming, so don't forget to get them done. Remember also that by now all posts are expected to have post by laws. I know that some are IN PROCESS, waiting for department and National approval. All bylaws should be reviewed and updated every 5-8 years at the minimum. One post, in reviewing their 20+ year old bylaws, found that to have a legal meeting they needed **20** members. That was updated quickly.

In Comradeship,  
Harold Patchen  
State Inspector

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

If you know of any service member currently deployed to Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Doha, Abu Dhabi or Djibouti, please provide me with their name and contact information. 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 contact information before November 30, 2025, so we can contact them prior to the Christmas Tree sendoff.



Information needed:  
NAME  
UNIT NAME & NUMBER  
APO ADDRESS  
EMAIL ADDRESS (**WE MUST HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS**)

Please email the information to Ben Thompson at [phpm1896@verizon.net](mailto:phpm1896@verizon.net)



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



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



Comrades,

With the New Year in full swing all the Posts and District should be working on their programs. We need to continue to communicate with each other, continue our mission on recruiting new members, working Post At-Large list, reinstating members and letting them know we are a family-oriented organization that not only supports our veterans but our communities as well, we need to continue to work together to make a difference and build membership to include all generations. As we know State Commander Jim MacArther's goal for National is 101% in membership. This membership goal is attainable with each District conducting membership drives in their areas throughout the year, Department of New York can achieve National's Goal of 101% in membership and show National VFW, New York is onboard in increasing our Membership numbers. It has been many years since Department of New York had made a 100% in Membership. It is time to support our State Commander Jim MacArthur and get the Department of New York to 101% Membership.

With School back in session, we should be already into our schools and working on our youth Scholarship programs such as Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year Programs. Deadline for submissions at the Post level by 31 October 2025. We also do not want to forget the other programs and reports required to be submitted such as Community Service, Trustee Reports, Inspections and Scout of the Year. Each Posts need to ensure they report all their Programs in the Dashboard to ensure they receive credit.

The holiday season is here; I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving Day as you spend time with your families. With Winter upon us and Christmas right around the corner, be safe as you travel to be with your families, reach out and check on your comrades and members and let them know we are here and care for them. I want to wish every comrade a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

***Past State Commander continued on page 8***

Greetings from your National Council Member!

I just returned from a three-day session in Kansas City where we had a very successful and intensive budget workshop and C of A meeting. National Commander Whitmore has appointed me to the National Budget and Finance Committee as well and the National Audit Committee, which I am very appreciative of but requires a little longer stay at these meetings in Kansas City and other conference locations moving forward in the 2025-26 VFW year.

Having a place on the National Budget and Finance Committee enables us to have a say in how the budget is prepared and be involved in the recommendations that concern how our dollars are spent as an organization. A full day workshop entailed reviewing the actual results of the 2023-24 budget year, the current 2024-25 actual revenues and expenses through July 31, 2025, the 2024-25 budget and an in-depth review and analysis of spending to be projected for the 2025-26 VFW Year which was presented to us by Budget Chair Debra Anderson.

The Financial Report included as of July 31, 2025 the General Fund Cash and Investments balances totaling \$123,274,454.00, Council Designated and Donor Restricted Funds of \$50,690,247.00 and Total Unrestricted Cash and Investments of \$72,584,207.00. VFW National experienced a 20% decline in equity markets during March and April of this year but the markets have rallied since that pullback. VFW National overall Cash and Investments has increased \$3.8 million since the beginning of the fiscal year. Projections look good for most departments to come within budget estimates with brighter prospects for the 2025-26 year. The proposed budget as it stands right now includes \$102,674,000 in revenue and expenses.

In addition to the financial review of the previous and projected budget and salary reviews and discussions held, a major presentation and discussion centered around the DC Memorial Building renovation project. For those who may not be aware, the VFW owns an historic building in Washington D.C. located in the

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**Past State Commander continued from page 7**

With Fall Conference right around the corner, I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Yours in Comradeship;  
Daniel L. Kell  
Intermediate Past State Commander

**NCM Continued from page 7**

clustered area of the Congressional and Senate office building complex located at 200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast. Representatives Chester Bartels, STEAM Collaborative, Mike Clay from New Age Construction and Ashly Lawson, New Edge Construction provided an in-depth analysis of the construction overview to date and findings the National Council would need to contemplate and take action on if it so desired.

Based on the initial approved construction plan, in June, building permit requests were submitted for HVAC replacement and exterior window replacement. In July an exterior window design package was submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts with approval granted in August as well as temporary space being worked on for a move out of the DC building and relocating at the United Methodist Building nearby. Demolition and construction was to begin in October. An initial budget based on a 2023 feasibility study set the cost of renovations at \$8,394,750.00 and Budget based on Building Permit drawings increased to \$9,221,765.00. When the contractor went into the building and assessed the work based on the drawings, they found that other issues were identified that needed to be addressed driven either by code requirements or end-of-life use of the equipment. The following needs (required work) drove the cost up a little more:

- Chiller Failure and Replacement (940K)
- Exterior Window Replacement (780K)
- Fire Alarm expansion (VAV/FCU/EAV) shutdown (310K)
- Hazardous Materials Report & Abatement (240K)
- Design Development/CA (150K)\_
- Required project changes (+ 1,420,000)

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**Colin Anderson**  
**DIRECTOR VETERAN SERVICES**



Comrades,

As you are probably aware of, the Post (District) Service Officer is no more. At the 126th National Convention, delegates adopted an amendment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Bylaws that changes the official title of *Post Service Officer* and *District Service Officer* to **Benefits Advisor**.

The following are from the 2025 Post Benefits Advisor Guide:

What is a Post Benefits Advisor (PBA)?

*Post Benefits Advisors are local ambassadors of the VFW who help veterans and their families by providing information and connecting them with important resources.*

What is a Post Benefits Advisor (PBA)?

*Post Benefits Advisors are local ambassadors of the VFW who help veterans and their families by providing information and connecting them with important resources.*

Essentially the Post Benefits Advisor is the subject matter expert on Veteran’s benefits and resources in your area. The accredited Department Service Officers will handle Federal benefits. The PBA must know where to direct veterans for assistance with VA benefits (send them to an accredited VSO), VFW benefits, emergency financial help, homeless shelters, local and state benefits e.g. property tax relief and employment resources. It may be as simple as how to get a veteran’s discount at Lowes or Home Depot or more complex things such as grants from state agencies, veterans service organizations etc.

The PBA should have a way to reference the available resources in their area. Many are available online. New York State offers many programs for veterans. They are easy to access through the NY Department of Veterans’ Services website ([www.veterans.ny.gov](http://www.veterans.ny.gov)). Most counties have a veterans’ service department who should be familiar with local resources. For those in New York City, the NYC Department of Veterans’ Services

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(<https://www.nyc.gov/site/veterans/index.page>) provides services for the veterans in New York City.

The Benefits Advisors can feel free to reach out to me or one of our VSOs if they require support or need ideas for their PBA toolbox. The link to the 2025 Post Benefits Advisor Guide is available online at <https://vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits> . A knowledgeable Benefits Advisor will be an asset for the post and district. Remember the motto “No One Does More for Veterans”.

Yours in Comradeship  
Colin Anderson  
Director of Veterans Services

**NCM continued from page 8**

This raised the projected project cost to: \$11,691,765.00

As the building was being evaluated for this construction it was determined that other areas should be looked at for possible upgrade and/or replacement which would be the “Wants.” This new “Wants” list would require a revised budget. These “Wants” included:

- Wet Fire Suppression (710K)
- Cooling Tower Replacement (765K)
- CH Water Pump Package Upgrade (280K)
- Plumbing/Sanitary Piping Replacement (280K)

This raised the total project change to : **\$16,196,765.00**

In the final analysis, after much discussion it was determined that once construction began, walls opened up, street tear-up and construction would be a good stewardship opportunity to make these additional upgraded changes. By taking this action the VFW would in the long run be saving a great deal of money as these “want” systems would require replacement at some time in the future. New drawings, permits, security, and reopening areas previously worked on would need to be done in addition to the added costs associated because of inflation and increases to the equipment and systems

themselves.

Added to the discussion of including these additional changes was an idea presented that offered an option to open up the rooftop area of the building for upgrade to be used for rental purposes to mitigate the increased added costs to the reconstruction project. Other buildings in the general vicinity of the VFW DC office building rent their rooftop spaces for thousands of dollars and presents a financial benefit to consider. I bring these detailed cost projections to you because it is a very large expenditure of our VFW dollars and as members you need to know how our money is spent and why.



Washington Memorial Building  
Washington, D.C., United States

Following the review of the budget, construction related to the DC office building and the retirement plan board Quartermaster General Garduno spoke about the proliferation of Department foundations and their use of the name and marks of the VFW. It has been determined by the Quartermaster

General that Department foundations should not be using the name and marks of the VFW, and something needs to be done to correct this situation and a motion would be made to address the issue.

Additionally, Quartermaster General Garduno brought up the topic of the proliferation of the name of the VFW and marks of the organization not only being used by foundations but also the many Departments, Posts, Councils and Districts using the name, logo and marks of the organization without proper authority and is asking for assistance in keeping this from occurring.

Adjutant General Dan West addressed questions that were presented by Council members for discussion during the workshop. Additionally, he proposed a motion for the VFW to approve a licensing agreement between the VFW and Torch LLC and authorizes the Adjutant General and the Quartermaster General and direct that the licensing revenue be applied according to VFW policy and practices. The motion was seconded and was passed by the Council. Torch is a company that sells a variety of flavored beverages

# ON THE ROAD WITH COMMANDER JIM



NATIONAL HOME VISIT-MICHIGAN



NATIONAL HOME VISIT-MICHIGAN



NATIONAL CONVENTION—  
COLUMBUS



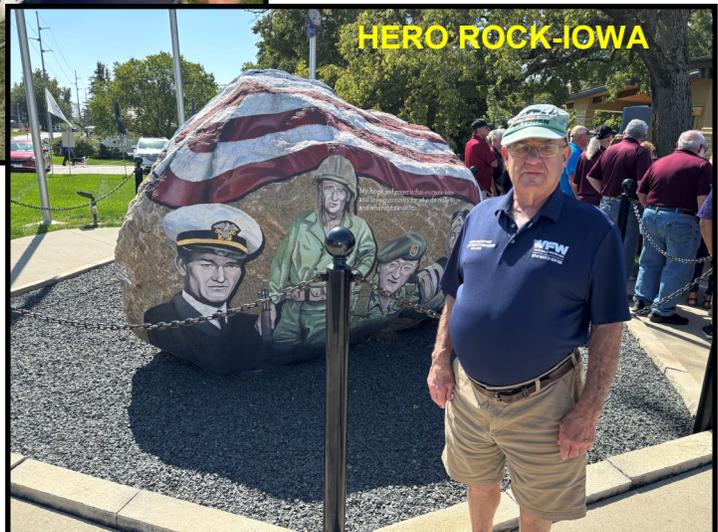
NY STATE FAIR-SYRACUSE  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



STUYVESTANT FALLS CLAM BAKE



OTI—ALBANY



HERO ROCK-IOWA



**PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
"VFW Military Family Support Center"  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
Department of New York VFW Auxiliary  
&  
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR SOLDIERS IN SERVICE**

## **HOLIDAY CHEER**

On behalf of our military personnel serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Djibouti, Doha and Abu Dhabi, we are again sending Christmas Trees, lights, ornaments and Menorahs to our military personnel in harm's way at the above locations. This is our **twenty second year** of running our program sending trees to our deployed troops and we look forward to it being as successful as the previous years.

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

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY November 30, 2025**

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

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Ben Thompson, PSC  
Proctor-Hopson #1896  
VFW Military Family Support Center

**NCM continued from page 9**

that contain 10mg of THC and would be marketed to VFW posts across the country that may have a desire

to order through their distributors. Although the VFW is entering into an agreement with Torch, LLC it is not an endorsement of the product.

Our last day was wrapped up with a formal Council of Administration meeting prior to our departure from Kansas City. The following motions were brought before the Council. The following motions came out of Committee and did not require a second:

- Adopt the budget for Fiscal Years 2025-26 – Passed

- Rescind the motion previously approved at the March 25 Council meeting requiring the contractor to provide a payment and performance bond from a security company (required a 2/3 approval of the Council). – Passed

- Approve allocations of \$100,000.000 for Capital expenditure in the Kansas City building – Passed

- Approve to adjust the employee salary brackets by 3.3% - Passed

- Approve Jeff Carroll to the Retirement Plan Board for a 5-year term beginning in March 2026 – Passed

- Approved to deem that West Virginia has terminated its retirement plan since they ceased to have any remaining participants or eligible employees – Passed

The following motions were presented that were discussed the previous day and put on the floor and would require a 2<sup>nd</sup> following the motion:

- To approve an increase of \$ 10.6 million for a capped total of \$19 million to the DC Memorial Building Project. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Move that the Council direct all units who have created foundations or charities that use the VFW's name or marks in any form shall disclose their existence within 90 days by providing the Quartermaster General with their EIN, most recent 990 filing, latest set of bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to assist the creation of a mechanism for compliance and oversight. The motion was seconded. Motion Passed.

Our Fall Conference will be our next get-together

and hope to see you there and provide any additional information to you as I get it. Enjoy the rest of the summer as we move in the fall season and have safe travels wherever you may be headed.

Yours in Comradeship,

*Gene Ratigliano*

Gene Ratigliano

National Council Member



**Jesse Figueroa**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 1**



Greetings everyone,

I would like to thank everyone in District 1 for their support in electing me as your District Commander for 2025-2026. I am from Corrigan-Kiernan Fighting 14th Infantry VFW Post 546 in Brooklyn. My mission is to assist, train, mentor and advocate with the Posts, such as submitting their Trustee Reports, inspection Reports, Quartermaster Bonding, election reports, community service and IRS-990. District 1 had its struggles on obtaining 102% membership in 2024-2025; our National Membership Goal is now 101%; We now have the very first woman Comrade-In-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carol Whitmore of Iowa; I congratulate you all for what you do. Our membership is 86.33% as of this writing. Let's break the bank in membership, programs and other requirements to become All-American District for 2025-2026.

Here are my official visits from June 19th to September 7th, 2025:

June 19<sup>th</sup>-Juneteenth Jubilee at Nautilus Park in Coney Island, Brooklyn - DONE

July 4<sup>th</sup>-Independence Day Celebration at Haspel-Staab VFW Post 551 in Middle Village, Queens - DONE

July 11<sup>th</sup>-Rockaway Veterans Weekend in support of Gary Sinise and the Lt Dan Band in Breezy Point, Queens - DONE

July 27<sup>th</sup> -Frank Appice Rolling Thunder New York Chapter 2 Annual Rally at the West Shore Little

**Commander District 1 Continued on page 14**



*Fall Conference  
October 10-11, 2025  
Albany Marriott  
Albany, NY*



**Commander District 1 continued from page 12**

July 28<sup>th</sup>-National Buffalo Soldiers Day at Brooklyn Borough Hall - DONE

August 5<sup>th</sup>-NYPD 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct National Night Out Against Crime at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in support of VFW Post 150 - DONE

August 7<sup>th</sup>-VFW Post 8540 Meeting in Breezy Point, Queens - DONE

August 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>-VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio - DONE

August 18<sup>th</sup>-Street Renaming Ceremony Honoring WWII US Marine Charles Sciara on E 12<sup>th</sup> St-Ave P in Midwood, Brooklyn - DONE

September 1<sup>st</sup>-VFW Post 150 Labor Day Event in Corona, Queens - DONE

September 6<sup>th</sup>-VFW Department OTI at the Albany Marriott in Albany - DONE

September 7<sup>th</sup>-VFW District 1 Meeting at Proctor-Hopson VFW Post 1896 in Jamaica, Queens at 1:00PM - DONE

A very special thanks to my mentors and Past District 1 Commander John Pieperzak for their mentorship and guidance towards me. If I have any Post-related issues that I may not have answers to, then, I call my mentors or Department HQs for answers. I will do what I can to make this year successful. District 1 OTI is approved by Department HQs. It will take place on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, at Proctor-Hopson VFW Post 1896 in Jamaica, Queens at 9:00AM. Now that it's approved, Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters will get the information.

I can be reached at (718) 912-8321 or at [vfwpost546@outlook.com](mailto:vfwpost546@outlook.com)

District 1 website is <https://www.nyvfwdistrict1.org>

District 1 Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/vfwnydistrict1>

District 1 Instagram Page is <https://www.instagram.com/vfwnydistrict1>

Thanks.

Yours In Comradeship,

Jesse Figueroa  
District 1 Commander  
VFW Department of New York



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



Comrades,

Summer tends to be low-key to give our members time to spend with their friends and families. Even so members were still involved with their communities and supporting Veterans.

A membership drive at the West Point Community Fair on July 30<sup>th</sup> where our new District Membership Chairman, Dan Auxier, Sr. netted 4 new members for Orange County posts.

VFW Post 973 in Newburgh supported the planting of a Liberty Tree at the Historic Edmonston House, New Windsor, NY on August 16<sup>th</sup>.



The Liberty Tree sapling was grown from a graft of the last Revolutionary-era Liberty Tree located in Annapolis, MD. Liberty Trees were trees used as special meeting places by the colonists

during the Revolution.

VFW Post 672 in Brewster received special recognition in an article in the September-October VFW magazine. The article covered the post's annual 9-11 commemoration ceremony, highlighting their involvement in their local community as the ceremony included local firefighters, policemen, and the high school ROTC.

The Charles Johnson Medal of Honor Memorial VFW Post 9008 hosted a fundraiser with Giants Super Bowl XLII Champion Jay Alford at the Millbrook Community Day on Saturday September 20.

The Dorrance Brooks VFW Post 528 in Harlem League Complex in West Shore, Staten Island - DONE

**Commander District 2 continued on page 15**



**Commander District 2 continued from page 14**

sponsored a photography class for Veterans on 27 September.



Four years after President Joe Biden signed the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act into the law, a ceremony was held honoring the 369th Infantry Regiment, a group of primarily Black soldiers that fought bravely in World War I. VFW Post 528 Dorrance Brooks Post hosted a ceremony in Harlem on June 21, 2025, to honor the "Harlem Hellfighters," the soldiers of the 369th Infantry Regiment. The ceremony marked the 100th anniversary of Dorrance Brooks Square, which was the first public space dedicated to an African-American soldier.

As we enter Fall I'm looking forward to building on our past successes as we move forward. Our goal is to help posts and Veterans succeed. We want healthy, active VFW posts that will be here to support Veterans and their families far into the future. Ensuring officers know their duties is the first step. Our first OTI is Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>; we will have another one Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Working together we can achieve anything!

Yours in Comradeship,

Sharon Waddell

District 2 Commander



**Michael Andreadakis**  
**COMMANDER DISTRICT 3**



Comrades,

Let me start by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity that has been granted me to serve veterans by my election as District Commander.

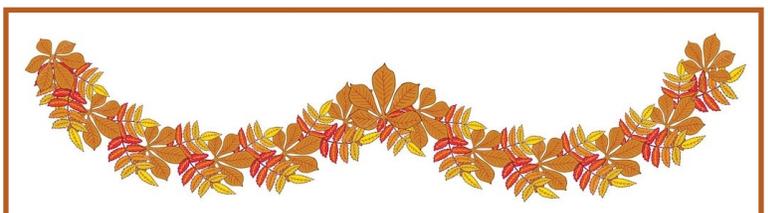
Next, I would like to remind us of all that the work of fulfilling our mission "Nobody does more for Veterans" requires participation from all of our members. No one member can complete this task. Together, we can make a difference.

We need to open our mouths and talk to our friends and neighbors about the VFW. We need to seek out veterans, *all veterans*, and help them. If they are eligible, we need to invite them to join with us. We need to become involved in our communities to show that we are still serving. By doing these things we will bless the lives of veterans, bless our communities, and strengthen our posts as our neighbors see us as a force for good and not just a bunch of veterans sitting at our posts swapping war stories.

Service is an important part of our purpose. We cannot, however, ignore the social aspect of our organization. As we join each other socially we create opportunity to invite others to associate with us. Let us consider the needs of younger eligible veterans and organize activities that attract and fulfill the needs of young families. This will encourage younger eligible people to join the VFW because they will not be taking time from their families to become part of our great organization.

In Comradeship,  
Michael Andreadakis

Commander District 3  
Department of New York





# James Brooks COMMANDER DISTRICT 4



Comrades,

District 4 ended the VFW year in June with a total membership of 102%, of 21 Posts, 19 had 100% or more.

District 4 members were asked to join with Harley-Davidson of Utica for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor the Fallen Ride. At the event we presented the Utica Veterans Outreach Center with a check for \$4500. This was made possible through Past Commander Dan Kells special project.



District 4 Officers were joined by hundreds of VFW members and many area veterans when we welcomed home Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey, on August 21<sup>st</sup>, the name sake of Post 5538, Boonville, NY. Pvt. Hennessey's remains were recently identified. He was a POW and died on November 1, 1942, at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp, in the Pacific Theater of WWII. He was 24 years old. District Officers also attended a Life Remembrance held two days later at Post 5538.

Post 7227, Carthage, NY, held an End Veteran Suicide Awareness Walk at the Carthage Farmers' Market on Saturday, Sept. 20.

District 4 and Lewis County Post 6912 hosted a



dinner in honor of newly elected Commander James MacArthur on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. While in the area Commander MacArthur

and Jr. Vice Commander Marcello Rotundo attended a POW/MIA ceremony at Post 2246, Rome, NY and did some membership recruiting at Ft. Drum.

Several District members were invited to a Gold Star Family Day ceremony and dinner. This was a very moving ceremony with many of the Gold Star family members of the grater Oneida County area speaking about their sons, this is a yearly event hosted by Utica Chapter 944, Vietnam Veterans of America.

Several of our Posts are offering daily or weekly food specials with some great menu's, please view our District Face book for much more information <https://www.facebook.com/groups/885720918151170>

Yours in Comradeship,  
James Brooks  
District 4 Commander



# Norbert Neiderer COMMANDER DISTRICT 9



Comrades,

First I would like to take the time to remember the Past Department of New York Commander Harold "Hal" Burke Jr. who passed away on August 23, 2025.

Our district has been busy over the past few months. We have completed 12 of the required 14 Post Inspections with the last two scheduled over the next few weeks. I would like to thank Comrade Harold Patchen and Comrade James Haas for their help in inspecting our district and supporting us with some Post inspections. We held our District meeting on September 14, 2025. At this meeting we discussed the VFW Programs and their deadlines, we had a Post submit a Resolution to encourage Congress to modify the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Act of 2019. We voted and approved it at district level for forwarding to the State for their approval.

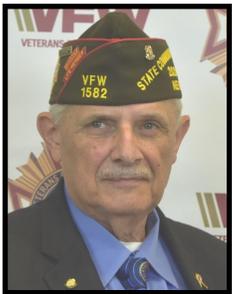
With Veterans Day approaching fast, we discussed how several posts are putting together their

**Commander District 9 continued on page 17**

**Commander District 9 continued from page 16**

and those that are continuing to serve. These ceremonies show our communities our dedication to our service members and gets them involved with helping out.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Norbert Neiderer  
District 9 Commander



**Ronald Sorrentino**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 10**



Comrades,

District 10 started at a fast pace. Last year we had 12 posts with 100% or more. Congratulations to the following Posts:

- Post 120 Garden City 106.97%
- Post 347 James Erwin Donahue 106.97%
- Post 455 Elmont 100.56%
- Post 1310 Merrick Freeport 102.73%
- Post 1384 Lieutenant John F.O Grady 102.12%
- Post 1582 John J. Oliveri 103.26%
- Post 1790 Joseph V. Marando 110%
- Post 3350 Robert Garrison 104.61%
- Post 4987 Butehorn Brothers 103.84%
- Post 5199 Sgt. John K. Kissell 122.64%
- Post 5942 Plainview 109.67%
- Post 7763 Sgt. Peter F. Colleran 104.22
- Post 9394 Gus Scutari 100%

Our district also had four Allstate posts, 1790, 3350, 5942, 7763. And our district made 100.22%.

I want to say congratulations to all the State officers elected at the June 2025 Convention.

It is an honor to be the district 10 Commander for all of Nassau County.

**Commander District 10 continued on page 18**



**William Hughes**  
**COMMANDER**  
**DISTRICT 11**



Comrades,

District 11 is excited to be working hard to maintain their "All American status in the VFW and we continue to see many of our Posts working at keeping up their "All State" status. We have had two significant District Poppy Distributions this past summer, in addition to Post Poppy and Recruiting drives in their area of influence. Several members from our District have been involved in our Suffolk Co. Veterans run series, not only by running or volunteering but also wearing VFW apparel and being announced as representatives of the VFW.



District Poppies at LI Ducks Baseball and Murphy



Run Around the Lake Medal of Honor Michael Murphy

**Commander District 11 continued on page 21**

**Commander District 10 continued from page 17**

Like I said, our district has been very active within our community,

- On April 26, 2025, we were asked by New York State Senator Patricia Canzonero-Fitzpatrick from district 9, if we could set up a meeting for the senator. We held the meeting at the Oceanside Post; it was well attended.
- On May 13, 2025, I was invited to Post 3350 Robert Garrison to swear in their newly elected officers.
- On May 24, 2025, members of our district helped place American flags on the graves of veterans at the National Cemetery in Painlawn.
- On May 25, 2025, we held our Memorial Day parade.
- June 10-14, 2025, I attended the department convention in Albany.
- On June 16, 2025, members of our district attended the wake for comrade Robert Inslee, a member of the Levittown VFW post, Robert, passed away while at his post meeting. Robert was a great friend and loving husband to his wife Fran.
- On August 2, 2025, Nassau County Held its 38<sup>th</sup> Salute to Veterans ceremony and concert, there were five distinguished service awards that night and I was honored to be one of them.
- On August 8-14, 2025, I attended the National Convention in Columbus Ohio.
- On September 11, 2025, I attended the 9/11 Memorial Service at Lido Beach.
- On September 7, 2025, my first district 10 meeting was held as commander.
- On September 14, 2025, I will be attending the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Post 1384 Long Beach.
- September 18, 2025, Nassau County Veterans Service Agency will be holding its Veterans Picnic and Resource Fair, our district will be holding a Membership drive at this event.

On September 19, 2025, Nassau County along with Vietnam War Veterans will be hosting a POW/MIA night Vigil, at the Nassau County Veterans Memorial Plaza in Eisenhower Park.

Upcoming Events:

- On October 18, 2026, our district will be hosting

OTI.

- October 26, 2025, the Blue Star mothers will be hosting a luncheon
- On October 28, 2025, the barber and beauty institute of New York will be giving free haircuts to veterans.

On November 9, 2025, Long Island Cemetery Memorial Organization will be holding a Veterans Day ceremony at the Painlawn cemetery.



July 26, 2025, Membership drives at Harley Davidson with comrades from the district in Bellmore.



August 23, 2025, Senator Rhoads Veterans Valor Walk at Eisenhower Park.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Ron Sorrentino  
District 10 Commander



# COMMANDER KELL'S SPECIAL PROJECT

## VFW donates \$50,000 to WNY homeless veterans' health services



September 9, 2025



*The Veterans of Foreign Wars recently donated \$50,000 to support health services for homeless veterans in Western New York. Pictured (from left): Junior Vice Commander Marcelo Rotunda, Department of NY VFW; Danny Williams, State Patriotic Instructor, Department of NY VFW; a representative from the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program in Buffalo; and Daniel Kell, Past Commander of the Department of NY VFW.*

**BUFFALO** — In a display of solidarity and compassion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has announced a \$50,000 donation to support health services for homeless veterans in Western New York.

This generous gift represents not only a tangible investment in the well-being of those who have served but also a powerful affirmation of the enduring bonds that unite veterans across generations and backgrounds.

"At a time when the challenges faced by homeless veterans are more urgent than ever, this act of giving stands as a beacon of hope — a reminder that the call to serve does not end with military discharge, but echoes through continued acts of kindness and advocacy, living up to our motto: 'No one does more for veterans,'" VFW officials said in a statement.

**Commander District 11 continued from page 17**

We continue to have our Commander’s Call Zoom meetings as needed that cover a variety of topics of need and interest for Veterans and families. Budgets are needed and funds are needed even at the district level to cover the monetary awards, plaques etc. that we provide for those that excel in our core youth, teacher and public servant awards. One of the ways we have funded this area was by a District fundraiser held featuring an outstanding show band and included lite bites and just a great atmosphere.

The Commander has been invited and did attend and speak at Suffolk County Press Conferences that promote Veteran Centric issues. On August 29<sup>th</sup> many of us again crossed the LI Sound from Bridgeport CN to Port Jefferson NY (this year in heavy downpours) in Kayaks with 22 PAC to bring awareness to the horrors of PTSD and veteran suicide.

the persistent issue of PTSD and suicide in our ranks.



22 Pac Kayaking finish—flying VFW FLAG



Commander with Riders and Horses- Warriors Ranch



Presenting Check for Homeless Vets to Beacon House

On September 20<sup>th</sup> more VFW members and supporters made a one day 66-mile March from Orient Point to the County Center to also bring awareness to



District Recruiting at VA Hosp BBQ

The Commander did represent his Post in Westhampton Beach at the VFW National Convention in Columbus Ohio and was able participate in important and rare roll call votes from the floor of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

*William M. Hughes Jr.*

Commander  
District 11



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



Comrades,

It's that time of the year, Fall abounds, and the weather is getting cooler and once more we are approaching the Service Officers raffle donation. Once again, I am writing to all my comrades and Auxiliaries, about our Servicicers Officers Raffle donation. As I always say we know the importance of this program, as I have said many times before, and will repeat it on and on, our Servicicers Officer do so much for all our veterans. It is a tireless and never-ending job, they not only prepare the paperwork, file the paperwork and as we know they follow through to make sure our veterans receive their benefits. Last year was such a great success, as we met our goal for the raffle donation. This year we are starting off a little slower and are behind in donations. I know we can make it up to remember it's never too late to donate. I am so thankful for all our comrades, Post and Auxiliary because of your generosity I know we will have another outstanding year for this great program.

I know I sent this information out before but is always good to jog your memory and to keep the information fresh, This is only one of the programs our Servicicers Officers are working on. Please read this and say this is why I want to donate to our service officers.

We all know the good work that our Servicicers Officers perform for our veterans; one of the programs is the PACT Act. The Pact Act Veterans

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**BLACK CAP** Five-panel, mesh back medium profile cotton blend with embroidered logo. Adjustable brass buckle. Imported. 7186 \$19.95 *While quantities last.*

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

The Department is looking to hire additional Service Officers; even more reason to donate to this program.

**So, this now brings me to the Raffle Tickets and Journal Ad I know its early but like I say it's never to early to remind us about what is coming up.**

**Continue to show your support for our Service Officers**

**RONALD SORRENTINO**

**CHAIRPERSON SERVICE OFFICERS RAFFLE & JOURNAL**

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
 VFW**

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



**Game changer for POW's, How Monopoly got personnel out of Germany During WW II**

The game of Monopoly is complex and in its appeal to one's inner tycoon, all American.

Its rise in popularity began when the Salem Massachusetts firm Parker Brothers bought the rights to it. Before long as Philip E. Orbanes writes in his new bool "Monopoly X", the game had appeared in movies, inspired a song and graced a range of merchandise, including greeting cards. By the late 1930's, its impact on culture was comparable to that of the "Star Wars" movie trilogy 40 years later. The craze went international, and for the British market it was decided the street names of Atlantic City had to go.

Orbanes includes an amusing vignette in which Victor Watson, head of the Leads printing company that was tapped to manufacture Monopoly in Britian, embarked with his secretary on a renaming bridge, crisscrossing London on the Underground's Circle Line to find replacements for Boardwalk, Park Place, etc. "They selected streets ranging from shabby Old Kent Rod to elegant Mayfair" he writes.

A special version of the game, called Monopoly X, seemed to have debuted in 1941. It was a prisoner of war edition with a false bottom that could hide rations, medicines and escape tools such as cutters, saw blades and maps printed on silk for easy folding into concealable size. Delivered by the Red Cross, which to preserve its neutrality was kept in the dark, the games generally arrived in threes, only one of which - marked by a tiny sticker on the box - was doctored. Thus, if a guard happened to open a box and checked its contents, the contraband still had a good chance of reaching prisoners undetected. In "Monopoly X" Orbanes explores how this ingenious rendition of a beloved pastime helped numerous Allied prisoners of war get out of jail and Nazi-held territory under the protection of Allied forces through a network of secret routes and safe houses. Most of the prisoners held were British, French, Dutch and Finnish. The book's most appealing hero is Airey

**POW/MIA Chairman continued on page 24**



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



Comrades,

So far this year from July 1 through September 30, 2025, we are little behind from last year at the same time. The Department of New York has the following totals so far.

The following is the department reporting period so far:

District	Total VFW/Aux Volunteer Hr.	Value of Hrs.	Dollars Donated	Total
1	358.5	\$12,472	\$6,043.80	\$18,516.02
2	468	\$16,282	\$10,395.22	\$26,676.94
3	742.5	\$25,832	\$13,341.64	\$39,173.22
4	209.5	\$7,289	\$1,884.36	\$9,172.87
5	230	\$8,002	\$994.14	\$8,995.84
6	175	\$6,088	\$10,046.67	\$16,134.92
7	406	\$14,125	\$7,336.20	\$21,460.94
8	61	\$2,122	\$350.06	\$2,472.25
9	211	\$7,341	\$1,720.72	\$9,061.41
10	538	\$18,717	\$6,839.58	\$25,556.60
11	232	\$8,071	\$2,523.53	\$10,594.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>\$126,340</b>	<b>\$61,475.92</b>	<b>\$187,815.82</b>

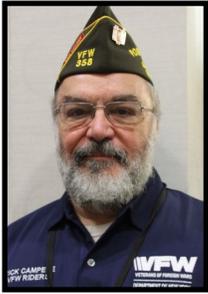
This is only for the first quarters; we are moving in the right direction but are behind last year's total. I know we could do much better. On the reporting of community service, you must remember that the VFW year goes from 1 July - 30 June, **to have your reports count it must show that the activity happened within the 1 July - 30 June time frame.** Also, the description on the reports must have more than one word explanation, one word is not a description. The best way to ensure your reports are in the correct time frame is to do the report in the same month you did the activity.

So, with that said, let's continue getting in our community service reports in.

**To learn more about Community service download VFW Guide for Community service Best Practices found on the department website.**

*Ronald Sorrentino*

*Chairperson Community Activity*



## Rick Campese

### MOTORCYCLE RIDER CHAIRMAN



Comrades,

The first thing that I want you to know about the VFW Riders is that we exist. For those of you who are not familiar with our group the VFW Riders is an organization within the VFW that is made up of VFW and Auxiliary members and Supporters who share a common interest in riding motorcycles and participating in social and charitable activities involving veterans and motorcycles. Like any other VFW sponsored organization we are a family friendly nonpartisan group. We are not a Motorcycle Club or an "MC". Currently the Department of NY has three District level groups, one in District 11, District 4 and District 3. According to the draft Bylaws that were proposed by the National VFW the objectives of the VFW Riders group are:

- To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activity associated with veterans.
- To create and maintain camaraderie among VFW Members from all U.S. branches of service and its allies.
- To support veteran organizations.
- To raise awareness for the plight of POWs, MIAs and their families, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other combat related medical conditions.
- To conduct organizational functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of VFW Riders Group.
- To better communication and camaraderie between other motorcycle associations, veteran's organizations, and Riders Groups.
- To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riding as a constructive activity among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.
- Support and grow "Operation Daily Battle" throughout the VFWRG Nationally and help promote Suicide Prevention for all.

Up until now the group has been run as a committee within the National VFW. Departments, Districts and

**Motorcycle Rider Chairman continued on page 29**



## Ryan Graham

### ASSISTANT SERVICE OFFICER



Comrades,

With the holidays on the horizon - including *our* day: *Veterans Day* - we have great news to come out of the Big Apple: *The newly implemented New York City DSO office*. And if there is one word that comes to mind with this new office, it is *revolutionary*.

Among several different names - including "*Veterans' Resource Centers*" - the "*Vallone Veterans' Initiative*" brings the services of our Department Veteran Service Officers closer to the Veteran, throughout every single one of the 51 New York City Council Districts.

A fierce advocate for New York City's Veterans population, during his tenure as Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veterans' Services or his term as a member of the New York City Council District 19 in Northeast Queens, the late Paul Angelo Vallone truly believed in serving our community of warriors. Although not a Veteran himself, his dedication to the Veteran sphere was profound and severely needed amongst a community lacking in support and knowledge of the issues within our community. This was the Paul Vallone I knew as a sitting member of the New York City Council's Veteran Affairs Committee during my time serving as the Chairman of the (then) Queens County Council VFW Legislative Committee.

We need voices like the Paul Vallone's of the world. Not just those of us that know what it feels like to personally lace up our combat boots at some point in our lifetimes, but also those individuals living amongst us in our communities who care enough to listen, understand, and advocate with us shoulder to shoulder for those things that are just a simple token of tangible support for the service we had given to our beloved nation. Like the saying says: "It takes a village."

I am a firm believer in being optimistic. And I am optimistic that this initiative will be *groundbreaking*. Not just within the VFW, or here in New York City, or even New York State, but at the wider VFW National level and within the entirety of the

**Assistant Service Officer continued on page 26**

**POW/MIA Chairman continued from page 22**

Neave, an Oxford grad who pulled off a thrilling Monopoly X aided escape from Germany's Colditz Caste, the dumping ground for recaptured escapees from other prisons. He also fingered Cole as a serial deceiver and overcame resistance to that accusation from the bullheaded chief of Britian's intelligence agency MI-6, into whose good graces the brazen Cole had insinuated himself. Making periodic appearances in the story is a decoded message charging that an unnamed traitor lurked in the place you would expect to find him: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's White House. By the process of elimination, Orbanes pins the rap on FDR's brilliant and versatile advisor Harry Hopkins. It's a contested issue - other historians clear Hopkins of treason but charge him with naivete towards the Soviet Union, then an American ally - Orbanes makes a good case for his verdict. Also worth noting are two facts about Monopoly's later life: The X model was deemed so touchy a subject that its existence was kept secret until 1985, and standard Monopoly did not become "officially available" in Russia until 1991.

Still unaccounted for: WWII -73,515; Korea- 7,841; Vietnam- 1,626; Cold War- 136; Gulf War- 6.

**REMEMBER!**

Pat Iulucci  
Chairman



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



Comrades,

Now that cooler weather has returned to our area and things are winding down from our hectic schedules it is time to reflect on the past year's events at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

In January, a Birthday Party was held celebrating 100 years of dedicated service, first for the children, and now for families seeking a "hand up" making a difference in their lives.

February 8, 2025, a Gala Celebration was held in Lansing, Michigan. This was well attended. Many Past and Present National Officers helped celebrate this event.

The newest house on the campus, the Pollett House, was dedicated on March 7th, 2025. It now brings the total houses to 43.

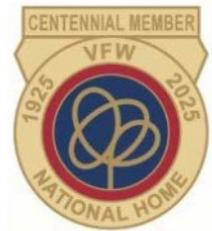
In June, we celebrated with a Community Day at the Home. There were carnival rides for the children, food trucks, a classic car show and live bands. A laser light show capped off the day's events.

Elections for Trustees in Districts 1 & 2 were held in August and September. Your new District 2 Trustee, Judith Barnes, hails from the Department of Connecticut Auxiliary. Let us give a warm welcome to Judith and lend our support in her upcoming endeavors for the VFW National Home 2025-2031 District 2 term of office.

My time as National Home District 2 Trustee representing, Connecticut, Europe, New York and Vermont will be coming to an end at the October VFW National Home Annual Life Member Meeting/Fall Festival October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you and serve the VFW National Home these past 6 years as District 2 Trustee.

Loyally,

Art Scheuneman,  
VFW National Home Trustee  
District 2 2019-2025  
VFW Department of NY  
VFW National Home Chairman  
wdstock44@yahoo.com



State Surgeon James Haas at the New York House s at the VFW National Home

## POST 7227 DIONNE-RUMBLE POST

CARTHAGE - A story that began in 1944 in France came full circle July 18 in Carthage

Reported by Elaine M. Avallone



First Lt. Paul E. Chaufy, of the Army Air Forces, pilot of a P-47 Thunderbolt, was shot down following a raid over France just after D-Day. Nearby villagers saw the plane being hit and went to aid the pilot.

Marie-Therese Bastien was 14 years old in 1944, when she saw Chaufy's plane go down and the pilot parachute out.

Lt. Chaufy's parachute failed to open and he fell to his death. Bastien's father recovered the lieutenant's body before the Germans could find it.

In August 1948, the remains of Lt. Chaufy were returned to the United States. He was interred in Fairview Cemetery in September 1948. According to a Carthage Republican Tribune account, full military rites were conducted by members of the American Legion Bassett-Baxter Post 789.

To the French villagers, Lt. Chaufy embodied the American liberation of France. Community members formed the Paul Chaufy Association and set up a website that details Lt. Chaufy's military career, has interviews and details about a ceremony held last year to honor the fallen American aviator. The website points out that Lt. Chaufy died "sacrificing his life for our freedom."

"Its engagement took place during American aviation support for the troops of the 2nd Leclerc DB and the 3rd US DB, who were advancing towards Argentan and working to strangle the Falaise-Chambois-Montormel pocket," the site explains. "This tribute ceremony is the most beautiful

testimony that can be given to a person who gave his life so that we can live free and in peace today. This duty of memory contributes to the preservation of our collective history and to raising awareness among future generations."

Lt. Chaufy's descendants, Nicole Chaufy Saunders and her family from Utah, attended the ceremony, as did Bastien.

Members of the Paul Chaufy Association, including Bastien's daughter, Mireille LeRoyer, association secretary-treasurer; and her husband, association vice-president Herve LeRoyer; along with the organization's president Damien Thierry and his wife Claudine who is a member, visited Lt. Chaufy's hometown to pay tribute to him and pay respects at his grave.

Chaufy's story is an integral part of LeRoyer's family history and "for the entire group, it was important to be able to pay tribute to this aviator who gave his life fighting the enemy of the time and to perpetuate the duty of remembrance," the group said in an email prior to the visit, noting the visit would strengthen ties with the Chaufy family.

"What is important is to remember is the sacrifice of these men," LeRoyer said. "Our grandparents were young soldiers during the First World War and then experienced World War II again. For my grandfather, who saw his comrades fall in combat during the First World War, I think it was necessary for him to take care of the soldiers killed on French soil so that they would have a decent burial, especially for soldiers fighting outside their country. This is one of the reasons why he wanted Paul to be buried with his parachute, the parachute being the symbol of his dedication and sacrifice in a foreign land."

The first stop in the village for the French visitors was Lt. Chaufy's final resting place in the family plot in Fairview Cemetery where they were met by members of his family, great nephew Greg and Kim Gilbert of Oswego, great niece Patti Pinkham of Carthage, great niece Shelley Morrison and Marilyn Francois of Chicago. Also in attendance were, representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7227 and Auxiliary, village and town of Wilna historian Lynn Thornton and retired Carthage Central High School French teacher Barbara Huff, who acted as interpreter of the gathering.

The French visitors presented the commemorative books and brochures from last year's tribute ceremony to those present along with plaques to

***Lt. Chaufy continued on page 27***

**Assistant Service Officer continued from page 23**

community of Veterans all throughout our Republic from coast to coast. With one hundred percent certainty my optimism views the "Vallone Veterans Initiative" from a visionary perspective that will flourish far into the future.

Although this is chartering into territory within the vicinity of New York City, I picture this initiative growing well into the future and beyond the confines of the Five Boroughs. I envision the expansion of our claims services beyond New York City, Albany and Buffalo, into other municipalities like my father's (also a Veteran) birthplace of Syracuse and Binghamton, down to the counties of Nassau and Suffolk, and every other locality within the confines of the Department of New York VFW.

As New Yorkers we're a proud bunch. Proud of our cities, counties and towns. Proud of our beautiful Empire State. And we should be leading the pack amongst every other department throughout the organization, following our lead because of the innovative initiatives such as this. Not just in claims but also in membership, growing because "No One Does More for Veterans."

This initiative would also not be in existence without the dedication and support of our Director of Veterans' Services, Colin Anderson; State Adjutant Robert Mitchell; Past State Commander Daniel Kell; State Commander James McArthur; as well as all Department leadership – past and present – who have asked questions and bought into this initiative. Not just for New York City, but ultimately for the Department and for all of our Veterans residing within the beauty of our Great State. This initiative will grow within our Department and organization beyond our borders. I say this with utmost certainty. Not just because I want to but because I believe in this initiative down to my core. Not for our organization but for those we support: *Our Fellow Warriors*.

As I write this article while conducting outreach in the office of New York City District 19 Councilwoman Vickie Paladino in Whitestone, Queens, I'm reminded of Paul Vallone and his legacy. Prior to Councilwoman Paladino's tenure as councilwoman, Paul represented the 19<sup>th</sup> District, his home for many decades. Paul was a friend and someone I enjoyed talking to about the issues within our community and how to resolve them. We all have a little bit of Paul within us. It may not show or we may be too humble to say so, but we will always

have the fire within us to continue working and fighting for our fellow Veterans. Whether at the top tier leadership positions or even at the post level, or working on legislative policy measures or claims, the fire to assist our fellow Comrades will always be within our hearts to continue doing what we do best: "Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living." No matter how big or how small.

Yours in Comradeship,

Ryan S. Graham



**Matthew  
VanEtten**  
**PATRIOTS PEN  
CHAIRMAN**



Comrades,

I would like to start of with thanking all the Posts and Districts that participated last year in the Annual Patriots pen Essay Competition. We had 1,311 students participate and gave out more than \$24,000. That is 292 more students participating and giving out \$5,422 more in monetary awards than the year prior and with you help we can continue moving our program forward.

The theme this year is "How are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our County?" How are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our County?", encourages young minds to examine America's storied history as well as their own experiences in American society. I thank each of you for your dedication and support to these programs. With your support, we will have another successful year.

The deadline for Post entries is midnight October 31,2025.

November 15<sup>th</sup> completion of post judging

December 15<sup>th</sup> completion of district judging

January 10<sup>th</sup> completion of district judging.

Reminder all District winners completed application, essay and 3x5 photo of the student

***Patriots Pen continued on page 30***

**Lt. Chaufty continued from page 26**

family and the VFW with a piece of Chaufty's plane and a medal representing the road that Degaulle and the American soldiers traveled to liberate towns in France.

Annually, people in this French region reenact the route in honor of their thankfulness to those who freed them. The trip takes 10-15 days.

One of the plaques now hangs over the bar at the VFW post.

According to Saunders, the Chaufty homestead was built by her great-great grandfather in 1870. "Their home was the only home Paul ever lived in before he went to war," she said. "It was our Chaufty family homestead from when it was built in 1870 until 1958 or so when it was sold." The current owners, Tom and Kacee Delles, said they retained the woodwork in the house's interior.

Following the visit, LeRoyer emailed, "Paul is part of our lives. Honoring him expresses our gratitude to him, our liberators and our ancestors. Our gratitude is expressed with our heart and in all sincerity. I am proud to have been able to carry out this tribute accompanied by friends, American families, who trusted me. Having gone to Paul's grave on July 18 ends a page in the book of life and the last chapter of my mother's life. Paul died on July 13, 1944, my mother on July 20, 2024. A nice nod to this beautiful adventure that brought us together physically but also in the heart. Remembering, friendship, sincerity, respect, the duty to remember have no borders."

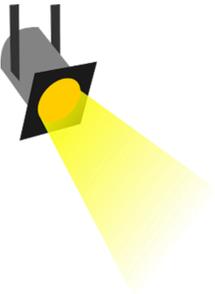
Shelley Morrison said she was grateful to be part of the gathering. Her uncle, Layton Morrison, married Gloria Chaufty, daughter of Harold and Mabel Chaufty. Harold was one of Paul's brothers.

"My aunt Gloria was our favorite aunt," she said. "Paul was her favorite uncle. She was 17 when he was killed. She never forgot him and would tear up whenever she spoke of him." Gilbert said that growing up he had heard stories about his great uncle Paul but now he has the complete story about what happened in France.



Newly elected Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore  
August 13, 2025  
126th National Convention, Columbus, OH





# Spotlight on VFWNY.COM

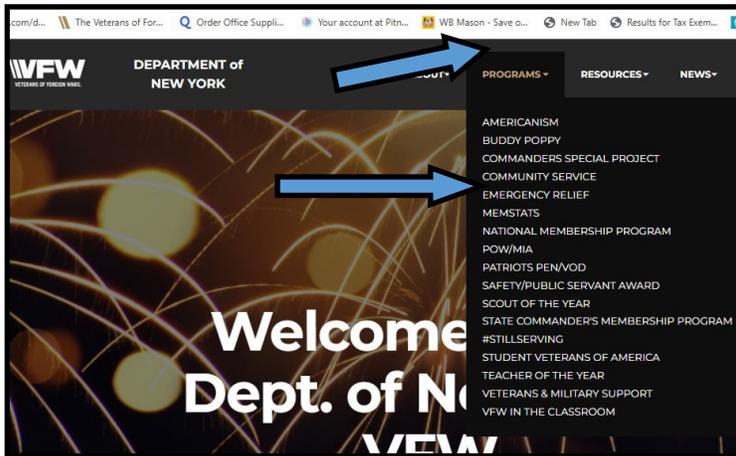
## Featuring: **MEMSTATS**

One of the most useful tools for Commanders and Quartermasters on all levels is the Memstats page on the Department's website. The Memstats page is updated from National Monday through Friday each morning.

Commanders and Quartermasters can check this page daily to track the progress of their post or district in membership, inspection status, community service, trustee reports and OTI attendance.

You do not have to sign in to the Members Only page to reach Memstats. It can be found under the **Programs** listing that is located along the top of the Department's Homepage. Memstats is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge or Safari.

Clicking on the word **Programs** will bring you to a drop-down menu of the various programs.



Once you have clicked on the word **Memstats**, the Memstats homepage will load with the current year's information. The left-hand side of the screen relates to membership information, and the right-hand side of the screen pertains to District/Post requirements. Memstats is based on a July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> year and not the calendar year.

You can search by either scrolling down through the Districts, which are in numerical order, until you find your Post or you can search for a specific District or Post and/ or year by using the search function in the upper left-hand corner of the page. By clicking on District box, you can either select District or Post—type in the number and click submit for that specific

information. When you click on the 2026 box, a drop-down menu will list the years 2019 through 2026 so you can see a Post's or District's information for previous years.

Location	Annual New	Annual Cont	Annual Reinst	Life New	Life Cont	Life Reinst	Life Upgrade	Prior Year	Total	Membership %	Inspection Accepted	Community Service	Trustee Reports	OTI	OTI	OTI	OTI	OTI	OTI
District 1	7	52	2	3	1833	1	4	2196	1898	89.42									
107 Argonne-Marine Park Post	1	2	0	0	103	0	0	118	106	89.83									
123 Ridgewood Post	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	53	52	98.11									
150 Flanders Field Post	0	2	0	0	30	0	1	117	32	27.35									
260 Prince-Wynn Post	0	0	0	1	49	0	1	54	50	92.59									
536 Flushing Post	0	6	0	0	17	0	0	57	23	40.35									
546 Corriegan-Kiernan Fighting 14th Infantry Post	0	3	0	0	178	0	0	185	185	97.83									
551 Haspel Staab Post	5	5	0	0	55	0	0	61	65	106.53									
885 Everett F. Herrel College Point Post	0	1	0	0	63	0	0	75	64	85.33									
1574 Blazing Star Post	0	7	0	0	52	0	0	80	59	73.75									
1896 Proctor-Hopson Post	1	2	0	0	142	0	0	157	145	92.35									
2159 Sgt. Michael J. Labetti Post	0	2	1	0	80	0	0	92	83	90.21									
2488 Long Island City Post	0	1	0	0	28	0	0	32	29	90.62									
2565 Bernard J. Coleman Post	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	16	11	68.75									
2813 John Vincent Daniels Jr. Post	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	62	60	96.77									
2888 Fredrick G. Williams Post	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	17	17	100									
3427 Queensboro Hill Post	0	4	0	0	31	0	0	35	35	100									
4787 Whitestone Community Post	0	2	0	0	83	0	0	91	85	93.4									
5090 Anderson-Lago Post	0	1	0	0	34	0	0	43	35	81.38									
5195 Red Hook Memorial Post	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	34	28	82.35									
9208 Col. Edward O. Corbitt Post	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	42	39	92.85									
9506 P.C. John S. Cascher Post	0	1	0	0	34	0	0	40	35	87.5									
9478 John F. Prince Post	0	2	0	0	46	0	0	52	48	92.3									



The District/Post membership information is downloaded directly from VFW National's membership database. These membership numbers are used by National to determine when the Membership goal for the year is achieved and to assign the delegate numbers for each Post based on their membership number as of March 31st each year.

Location	Annual New	Annual Cont	Annual Reinst	Life New	Life Cont	Life Reinst	Life Upgrade	Prior Year	Total	Membership %
District 1	8	107	2	3	1834	2	5	2196	1956	89.07
107 Argonne-Marine Park Post	1	3	0	0	103	0	0	118	107	90.67
123 Ridgewood Post	0	0	0	0	52	0	0	53	52	98.11
150 Flanders Field Post	0	2	0	0	30	0	1	117	32	27.35
260 Prince-Wynn Post	0	1	0	1	49	0	1	54	51	94.44
536 Flushing Post	0	4	0	0	17	0	0	57	57	100
546 Corriegan-Kiernan Fighting 14th Infantry Post	0	3	0	0	178	0	0	185	181	97.83
551 Haspel Staab Post	6	6	0	0	55	0	0	61	67	109.83
885 Everett F. Herrel College Point Post	0	1	0	0	63	0	0	75	64	85.33
1574 Blazing Star Post	0	11	0	0	52	0	0	80	63	78.75
1896 Proctor-Hopson Post	1	2	0	0	142	0	0	157	145	92.35
2159 Sgt. Michael J. Labetti Post	0	2	1	0	80	1	0	92	85	92.39

The right side of Memstats is color coded blocks for each report and training that is required for the year. The Department needs to receive a yearly inspection, quarterly trustee reports, and an annual 990 for each Post and District. Community Service reports should be submitted as they take place through the Program Reporting page which is found on the Members Only portion of the Department's website.

If a report or training doesn't apply the block will the





*126th National  
Convention  
August 9-13, 2025  
Columbus, OH*





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
<b>THROUGH AGE 30</b>	\$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