

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

## VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

— SPRING 20/21



### FIGHTING TOXIC EXPOSURES

L-R : John Feal of the Feal Good Foundation, Jon Stewart, former host of the Daily Show and advocate for veterans exposed to toxins, Kevin Hensley - incoming Department Legislative Co-Chairman and burn pit advocate, Theresa Hensley, Kristina Keenan - Associate Director, National Veterans Legislative Service - VFW. 13 April 2021, Washington, D.C. VFW Washington D.C. Headquarters

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#### DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER

I am proud to report that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan, has been leading the charge on the VFW's Legislative Agenda for 2021! Over the past few months, our legislative team met with every office of

program has resulted in a new bi-partisan law being drafted from the Michigan delegation and is in the process of being introduced to the House Veteran Affairs Committee.

I want to specifically highlight the efforts of Comrade, Kevin Hensley. Kevin is a twenty year Air Force veteran who deployed to the Middle East eight times. During his deployments, Kevin was repeatedly exposed to toxins, specifically through open air burn pits. Kevin developed severe respiratory symptoms, but was told repeatedly by the VA that he had asthma. It was only after an analysis by Vanderbilt University that Kevin received the appropriate diagnosis, identifying that his toxic exposure during these deployments resulted in a terminal diagnosis of constrictive bronchiolitis and toxic inhalation to the brain.

Kevin and his wife Theresa recently traveled to Washington, D.C. where they stood in partnership with our fellow Comrades at the VFW DC Headquarters, along with celebrity comedian and long-time veteran advocate, Jon Stewart, where together they fought for presumptive benefits and care for all veterans exposed to toxins during their military service.

There is more work that needs to be done, and your involvement is needed, but our Legislative Team has been building the groundwork for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan, to be the most impactful Department in the Nation when it comes to fighting for our Veterans. If you meet these Comrades, please offer your support, as we need you making phone calls and writing letters to make presumptive benefits for these veterans a reality; and so we do not continue to make the same mistakes we did with our Vietnam Veteran Comrades and Agent Orange.

Michigan' Congressional delegation, advocating for laws that benefit Michigan's veterans. This team - led by National Legislative Committee member, Andy Conklin, along with incoming VFW Department of Michigan Legislative Co-Chairman Kevin Hensley, Monroe Post 1136, and incoming Co-Chairman Cameron Zbikowski Holland Post 2144 (who is also currently one of five VFW/SVA National Legislative Research Fellows across the country); and Department Adjutant and Quartermaster Derek Blumke – made the Department proud in advocating for our veterans.

Through their tireless efforts, these Comrades were able to garner support and legislative co-sponsorships from the majority of Michigan's Congressional delegation, on issues ranging from veterans exposed to radiation and chemical weapons at K2 Airbase-Uzbekistan, and other toxic exposures such as burn pits; bills focused on economic opportunities, veterans healthcare, military personnel and retirement. In light of the political environment, we are proud to report the support garnered from our representatives has been bi-partisan and was from all corners of the State.

A couple of our legislative team members have truly made their mark. VFW/SVA Legislative Research Fellow, Cameron Zbikowski's proposal on improving the Veteran Health Administration's Patient Advocacy

MAILING ADDRESS

IN THIS ISSUE

Department Commander .....	1
Dept. Quartermaster .....	2
Dept. Sr. Vice Commander .....	3
Dept. Judge Advocate .....	2
Dept. Jr. Vice Commander .....	3
Dept. Chaplain .....	3
National C of A .....	3
Dept. Membership Director .....	4
Dept. Activity Director .....	4
Dept. Scholarships Director .....	4
Dept. National Home Director .....	5
Dept. Safety Director .....	5
Camp Trotter Update .....	5
Dept. Hospital Director .....	5
Post Reports .....	6
Tribute to Gulf War Vets .....	7
Department Convention Update .....	7
Campaigns .....	7
District Reports .....	8
Auxiliary Reports .....	9-10
Camp Trotter VTS Form .....	10
1 Million American Flags .....	10
National Post of the Month .....	11
Cootie Corner .....	11
Expanded Hearing Benefits .....	11
MOV Editor .....	12
TAPS Form .....	12
Roll Call of Departed Comrades .....	12

VISIT THE DEPT. WEBSITE  
VFWMI.ORG



DEPARTMENT  
JUDGE ADVOCATE,  
RAY LOPEZ

As we reach the end of this administrative year, I find myself being optimistic of days ahead. I congratulate all of our post that have made it through these difficult times. We as an organization continued to serve veterans despite the the obstacles put before us.

I would like to congratulate the posts that have reached 100% in membership so far. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected officers at the posts/districts for the incoming year.

As I have stated in my past articles, posts should take this time to update their bylaws if they haven't done so already.

In closing, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Department Judge Advocate.

Good Luck to all and God Bless!



DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, DEREK BLUMKE

At times, we can find ourselves distracted from what is important, with what seems important. Like the U.S. Constitution, the VFW's structures and ByLaws were established with the goal of having an organization that is resilient, while flexible to change, and while also able to protect the organization, when needed, from itself (Article IX of the VFW ByLaws & Manual of Procedure).

In our democracy, we see personality based infighting. We see factions that appear to be more motivated by the destruction of others, rather than the success of our Nation. In the VFW, we can see much of the same. When we find ourselves spending more time dedicated to the things that are not important, rather than what our mission dictates — serving veterans and their families — it becomes necessary for a renaissance back to why we are here.

I've heard questions from many younger veterans like "What does the VFW do for me?". Through multiple conversations with incoming Department Commander Conklin about these exact questions, we've concluded that we want to show people what we do, while providing a rallying cry to join our ranks.

In Commander Gloger's article, he talked about the amazing work our Legislative Team has been doing. While they've done great work, what they have actually been doing is prepping the battlefield for your advocacy.

For the past 20 years, veterans who served in Post 9/11 conflicts have been falling into the same trap as those who served in Vietnam and the Gulf War. They returned home ill with rare diseases and cancers. They arrived at the VA, and were told they hadn't been exposed to any toxins. When veterans presented evidence, the VA said that studies were needed.

I don't have a Ph. D., but I'm confident in saying that the Russian depleted uranium, chemical weapons and the rocket propellant that my friends and I were exposed to in southern Uzbekistan, can and has made us sick; and can kill us. I also don't think we need a ten year study of those exposed to burn pits, so we can accurately identify if it was the aircraft batteries or the truck batteries that were thrown into these football field sized fires that caused the illnesses and deaths of thousands of veterans, before we can help them.

Some say that providing healthcare and benefits to these veterans would cost too much. Last week, I heard the answer to that argument: "This is a meal that has already been consumed". Translation: these are war costs. We can't call the restaurant manager to the table after we've eaten an entire five course meal, and then say, "I didn't know it was going to cost so much. I don't think I want it now."

As we launch this fight to save these veterans' lives and to support their families, they will come to us, to be part of something bigger — part of the VFW and Auxiliary family. We too will have returned home.



DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN

Congratulations to the in-coming officers and directors for 2021-2022. I am really excited to begin working with you all. I am also very proud of the Auxiliary and the work they do for veterans. I am amazed every day when I see the work they are doing.

When I began campaigning for Dept Jr Vice I spoke about wanting to change the perceptions of what many people think of the VFW. Since then I was able to work with the leadership of this organization to get the ball rolling. We have started with a few billboards, social media push, and news adds.

I will be doubling down on these efforts by increasing the budget and building a media relations team. I will be pushing to have each Post and District create and utilize their own web and social media sites. The public and veterans want to see what programs and services the VFW has to offer in their town. We must provide and avenue for them to easily see where we are and what we are doing in their community. This will change perceptions of the VFW, increase community support and increase membership. The same old ways don't work anymore. Please be supportive and open minded about trying

something new this year.

The Department website is also going through some changes as some of you may have already noticed. We have/are adding ways to make payments or purchases online with a credit card rather than having to send checks. We have also added post home city along with the post number. We are adding fillable forms on-line as well.

Website training will be continued at our Veteran Training Seminars (VTS). We are creating short training videos to be posted on the web for you to utilize. We are listening to you and making those changes. Any suggestions you have about the website or if you are willing to assist please send an email or call me.

There are some posts that continue to struggle not just because of the pandemic but of other reasons. Please reach out if you your post is having troubles. We don't want to close posts as they are our footholds in that community. Department will ensure to give you tools and assistance you need to be successful.

I look forward to a successful year in 2021-2022. Let's get out into the public in every way possible and bang the VFW drum!

Working together with the Auxiliary we will continue to make this the premier veterans service organization that it is.



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, JOHN GRIFFITH

This year I had the opportunity and pleasure to travel visiting many Posts and District meetings, despite the ongoing pandemic. During each of those meetings we started out reciting Section 230102 of the Congressional Charter. As I pondered some of the words within the charter, two areas stood out to me that should have a deep and special meaning to every member of our organization, the purpose “charitable” and “to assist worthy comrades”. So I was very proud to be a part of our Council of Administration, under the leadership of our State Commander Scott Gloger, when we voted to join other departments, and assist our “worthy Comrades” in the state of Texas by providing them a grant of \$5,000.00, following the horrific ice and snow storm that decimated many of their post homes.

As I continued to meditate over the phrase “to assist worthy comrades”, reflection over the events of this past year became very relevant. As many of our members and

post suffered both loss of life and financial burdens, we as an organization stepped forward to assist. While doing our best to keep “moving veterans forward”, Commander Gloger dispatched teams to assist struggling Posts and to provide guidance and assistance; grants were applied for and received. With all the positive actions of “charity” and “assistance to worthy Comrades” witnessed this year, it made me very proud to be a member of our great organization.

As we look forward to a new administrative year, we should look to re-double our efforts to “assist worthy comrades”. Our future will see the phasing out of the leadership that has been in the hands of our Vietnam veterans. The times they are a changing, it is for these reasons we need to look at new ways of attracting eligible members from a new generation of veterans from the wars and conflicts in the middle-east.

It is incumbent upon us to look at the needs of these veterans and their families to determine how we can best “assist worthy comrades”. While not all posts are currently in a position to facilitate the resources

needed by the new generations of veterans, we need to look to the future and how we can best try. Some ideas include: assistance in finding jobs (Post sponsored Job Fairs); A Day Care for children would assist these young families or single parent families; A fitness center or, a recreation area (play station) for their children would make the Post more family friendly; and a computer business center, where lessons on using the internet & writing resumes could be offered to assist job seekers. To determine what the “new” veteran needs is just to reflect on our own lives and remember what difficulties we had as young veterans and parents to determine how best to meet the needs of today.

In closing this last article for the “Michigan Overseas Veteran” for this administrative year, I want to thank Commander Scott Gloger, who faced a very difficult year but continued to lead and provide inspiration to us all. If I can provide assistance to you in anyway please call or write me at

(734) 735-2175  
jagriffith@sbcglobal.net



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers:

Once again, spring is here and we are at that time again and this MOV publication marks the last edition of this organizational year. Therefore, may your hearts and efforts be renewed by the growth of the season and the worthiness of our respective missions.

After a year of challenges both dire and typical across many fronts, may peace and strength accompany illumination. Such trying times feature what Pres. Lincoln referred to as

‘the better angels of our nature’ and sadly the very opposite were revealed as well, so may we each strive toward the light of wisdom and discernment in the future. May we self-reflect and be open to recognize any issues with clear vision that impedes selflessness, lest apathy destroy us. Ecclesiastes 2:13 (ESV), “Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness.” Let us hold true to the core values of selflessness, patriotism, and advocacy with divine faith (as your beliefs allow), integrity, and kindness as we are a mighty force for positivity in our communities, state(s), and nation.

Last, must state that it has been a humble honor being your Chaplain for this past year. However, and as usual, the number of wonderful Comrades, Sisters, Brothers, and other supporters and the terrific things they do to uplift and invigorate our veterans (and their beloved) in need, our youth, and our communities, far exceeds any efforts taken by one. As Psalm 18:28 (ESV) states, “You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.” Wishing each of you a wonderful springtime, full of love, joy, wonderful experiences, and an abundance of His grace.

May God richly bless you.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, JERRY GORSKI

The VFW National Council of Administration Workshops and National Council of Administration Meeting were held on March 4th - 6th, 2021 via ZOOM. At the Thursday, March 4th, 2021 Workshop the proposal to eliminate the Day Voice of Democracy Washington DC Trip & Parade of Winners and replace it with the Day Spirit of America Leadership Seminar Freedom Foundation Program at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania was brought up for discussion. This was done so there would be no discussion on Saturday, May 6, 2021, when the Motion was made by Adjutant General Kevin Jones. Well, there was a lot of discussion at the Workshop Session. Many of my fellow National Council Members including myself spoke against their Proposal. I gave a detailed speech as to why this Proposal should be defeated and why the VFW should continue with the Day Voice of Democracy Trip for our (52) Department

Winners and the National Patriots Pen Winner, who by the way was Ruby Howe, Michigan’s 1st “2020 National Patriots Pen Winner” from Post 334 North Oakland.

I was almost completely through my speech, when I was interrupted and asked, “Are you about finish?” I told them, “No, I am not finished but I will end”. I made my points!

At the National Council of Administration Meeting, the proposal was brought up by Adjutant General Kevin Jones and there was more discussion. After it was all said and done, a Roll Call Vote was asked for. The proposal was DEFEATED with 46 Delegate votes against the proposal and 37 Delegate votes for the proposal. There were MANY National Elected Executives, who voted against the proposal. I was very proud of the support that I received from those National Executives and My Fellow Council Members. I thanked them afterwards.

This is the 3rd Time that National Leadership has brought up this Proposal. It started in 2018, then in 2020 and now in 2021. So, there will be a Washington DC Trip & Parade of Winners for our (52) Voice of Democracy Department

Winners and the National Patriots Pen Winner in March 2022.

I hope this proposal is not brought again but as of one of my fellow council members told me afterwards, National will continue to try and eliminate the Washington DC Trip & Parade of Winners in the future. As long as I am allowed to have a voice, I will continue to oppose the elimination of the Washington DC Trip & Parade of Winners.

I have much more to report to you about the National Council of Administration Workshops and Meeting and also about Membership but I have reached 500 words, which is what I am allowed!

Thank you again for electing me as your National Council of Administration Member representing YOU and the Department of Michigan for 2019 through 2023.

Thank you for supporting me and donating to my Campaign for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief 2023-2024. I appreciate every Post and Auxiliary helping me and supporting me. Please send your donations to Su-jen Mauldin - 214 Endwell, Novi, MI 4837



### DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, VERN BLAUWKAMP

Greetings Comrades

Congratulations to all Posts and Districts for overcoming so many obstacles this year and still doing great in membership! By the time you receive this MOV we should have 7 Districts over 95%. That is fantastic!

As of March 17, 2021, Department of Michigan stands at 93.95%, we are ranked 26th in National standings, we have been falling in recent months but still doing great. We have recruited 576 new and reinstated members so far this year. You have accomplished a lot. Let us keep up the great effort. Some of the

Districts have contacted me and asked for unpaid member lists and At Large member list to help them attain 100%, and those Districts are some of those at 95% and higher.

Retention, Retention, Retention, is the key to all of us being 100% every year. We will need to make phone calls and even call on some past comrades and get them back in our great organization. Once again if your quartermaster cannot retrieve the lists of unpaid members in your Post, District, and area please let me know so I can get those lists to you.

I have spent days, weeks, and months trying to get more advertising in the Department. Every where I went Posts and Districts were all for it and even agreed to help pay for it.

We could have also received money from National to help pay for them, but I was told they were not cost effective. Hopefully, the ads I worked on a long time in the U.P. will finally be aired. I have been told for a few months that social media ads are coming soon. I honestly believe advertising is the key to our future success. That has been proven in Holland as we continue to have Veterans contact us on Facebook and others walk in the door asking to join our Post, 17 new and reinstated members so far this year. It can be accomplished.

We can do this together. Let us continue to contact our members in order to retain them in our great organization.

Thank you for all you do!

### DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

BOB LUTZ

Greetings Comrades.

I hope everybody is staying safe and healthy during this pandemic.

I would like to start by congratulating districts 5, 6, 8 and 15 for having every post in their district reported. Great job!

There are far too many posts that have not turned in a single report. There is no excuse for this! Some are blaming the pandemic which is not an excuse. Post still fly flags, post members still fly flags, post members still can stay in contact with their legislatures in other words, do the job that you were elected to do!

At the other end of the spectrum, we have a bunch of post that report but cheat their self. By this I mean for example, they will report that they donate their hall for scout meeting twice a month and don't report the value of the hall rental. The amount that you would charge to rent out your to the public is what you put down on your report. Say that the price you rent the hall out is \$400.00 and in the case above where the scouts use the hall twice a month, the value would be \$800.00 that you would put on the report.

Hopefully we will have our June convention and I will be available to answer any questions

that you might have. We have made reporting a simple as we possibly can but we can't do it for you but I can help you!

Sr. Vice Commander Kevin Conklin has asked if I will continue my position next year and I have accepted.

I'd like to thank Commander Scott Gloger for my appointment for this year. It has been a trying year to say least and our line officers have done a tremendous job to keep the Dept. of MI VFW moving forward and I would like to personally thank each and every one of them.

All the information about reporting is provided in the program section of the Department web page.

Again, I do not take hospital reports and again they will NOT be forwarded to the Hospital Director

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me and if you leave a message please make sure that you mention the VFW(I've been getting tons of telemarketer messages) and I hope that everybody is in good health and staying safe.

(586)924-4591

activity@vfwmi.org

### TIPS FOR COPING WITH STRESS

**EXERCISE.** Medical research proves people who are physically fit are less likely to suffer stress than people who are sedentary. Make exercise a major part of your life.

**LEARN TO SAY NO.** Know your limitations. When you are asked to add another commitment to your overburdened schedule, just say no.

**BE POSITIVE.** If you continually remind yourself you can't change your tension-filled life, you probably won't. By feeding yourself a constant flow of negative thoughts, you create anxiety in your life. Say to yourself, "I will try," or "I can do it."

**DON'T MAJOR IN MINOR THINGS.** Some things in life you can't control. Don't try to change something you can't. You only waste energy and produce tension when you become obsessed over uncontrollable things.

**SHOW YOUR EMOTIONS.** You may look calm, cool, and collective on the outside, but inside you're not. Locked up emotions may bring ulcers or something worse.

**TREAT YOURSELF.** Without going overboard, factor a means to reward yourself. The reward will lift your spirits, and reduce another stressor.



### DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS DIRECTOR, GARY BROWN

Well, another successful VOD/PP/TOY program has come and gone and as I write this article, we are waiting to see who wins the National

VOD & PP on April 1st. This year was a real test for our districts and posts to get students and teachers because of the Covid-19 and it affected everyone in our homes and schools. To my amazement those students and teachers who did enter this year.... the caliber of these entries was great even though the number of entries was very low compared to last years totals.

Our First Place VOD winner Noah Brasseur and First Place PP winner Chloe Pan were both from VFW Post 9809 out of the 9th District and each of the traveling trophies will be on

display at their VFW Post for 1 year. The 9th District also had the First Place Teacher of the Year for grades K-5 was Justin Skinner from VFW Post 6579, New Lothrop Area Public School, for Grades 6-8 was Michelle Spisz from District 6 VFW Post 6464 Fowlerville High School, and for grades 9-12 was Rodney Sturgis from District 7 VFW Post 6248 Decatur High School.

This year the VOD/PP/TOY awards night was held at the Department Headquarters building in Lansing, Michigan and the program was conducted by ZOOM. As each of the students were announced you could see them on the Monitor Screen one at a time. This was a really challenging program not to say the least. To keep this program to tradition's as if we were all in the Ball Room at the Radisson Hotel, I wore my Tux and Evelyn Avery wore her dinner gown for the presentations.

I want to thank every Chairperson(s) in every VFW Post and District for all the hard work they put forth into the VOD/PP/TOY program as they did and for getting all the winning student and teacher packets to me for judging on time. This is always a challenge and what is even harder is trying to read the entries paperwork to get all the names spelled correctly.

I want to personally thank Scott Gloger for appointing me as his Programs Director again for this year. I have always loved this program and it is incredibly special to me. I will miss being your director next year and being involved with all the next years students and teachers. Again, I want to say Thank YOU everyone and I truly hope that next year we can ALL be Face to Face at the Convention Center as a group.

**DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR****JAMES HUBBARD**

Comrades, Brother, Sisters & Friends

I hope this finds you and yours doing Well, It has been a long time since we were able to engage and see each other, with so many things that have been canceled, I feel there is light at the end of the tunnel if it is only the daily Sunshine and Spring Season right around the corner.

Each one of have had to make changes in our Daily Life Style jus t think of the many changes that was made at our VFW National Home, Life is a struggle already for each family Let's do what we can to Support Our National Home No Matter How Small there are many things we can do to show our support Like 1) Become a Home Front Here! You determine the amount of your monthly donation, you can increase or decrease it or even suspend

the gift at anytime Start today with as little as \$10 a month to start call

866-483-9642 or visit

[www.vfwnationalhome.org/monthly](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org/monthly)

and get started today. 2) Sign up for AmazonSmile and with each purchase you make a percentage is then sent to the National Home and this cost you Nothing 3) April is the Month of the Military Child Wear Purple on Thursday April 15th, Post on Social Media to bring awareness to the world, Put up a Yard Sign/Ribbons in your front yard Encourage friends and family to make a special gift to the National Home to the Family Support Services.

I Look forward to seeing you at Convention, bring your donations I will have my jug available to make except your donations.

**CAMP TROTTER****KEVIN CONKLIN**

The Camp Trotter Committee is having conversations about whether to cancel the camping season or not. With the restrictions put forth by Gov. Whitmer we would be limited to twenty-two campers per week. The financial burdens would drastically devastate the camp budget. The Camp Trotter Committee is planning on the camping season being open until that a decision is formally made.

Camp Trotter needs volunteers to assist with maintenance projects. If you have a big heart and willingness to lend a hand please let us know. We always have cleaning, landscaping, and other maintenance projects to be accomplished, whether the camp is open or closed. We have a "Clean Up Day" planned for May 21, 2021. We will meet there at 9a to begin various projects. A lunch will be provided. The more hands we have the quicker it will go so, Please send workers!

The Camp Trotter Committee has voted to change the name of the golf outing this year to

the "Ernie Myers Memorial Golf Outing". The golf outing will be held on Friday June 18th in Newaygo. Check the website for updates. Ernie Myers was a past camp director that passed away this year. We will also be looking to fill a recent vacant camp director position. We need someone that is ambitious and willing to work as a team member. If you are interested in this rewarding position, please let us know.

As always, we are looking for donations for the camp and the golf outing. Please reach out to your local vendors that would be willing to support Camp Trotter For Children. Please do not wait until the last minute. These donations are used to raise money for the continued operations of the camp. Without your support by volunteering or donations, our camp will not survive. Please send all donations to Department Hq. If sending checks please write it for VFW Dept of Michigan and earmark it for Camp Trotter.

**DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT**

G r e e t i n g s Comrades, Sisters and Brothers I hope this issue finds you well.

Public Service Officer of the year entries have been received. We only had 5 Posts submit entries year. This is less than last year and is greatly disappointing. This year was exceptionally hard on our public service officers and they deserve to be recognized for all the hard work they put in day and night. It is not just the departments that they work for that can nominate them, anyone can submit a nomination for these men and women. I challenge every District to submit at least one nomination for each of these for the 2021-2022 year.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winners are:

**Law Enforcement Officer Scott Rafalski**  
sponsored by Post 334, District 5

**FireFighter Lt. Jason Waite**  
sponsored by Post 3701, District 9

**EMT/Paramedic Hilliary Maninga**  
sponsored by Post 3900, District 15

Please help me in congratulating these fine officers at our June State Convention held in Flint! Thank you to Posts 334, 2144, 3701, 3900 and 9931 for your entries this year.

If you are looking for safety materials the Michigan State Police have FREE safety information available for you. The form to obtain the safety information can be found online at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2014MaterialsCatalog\\_460159\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2014MaterialsCatalog_460159_7.pdf) or you call 517-636-4256. If you are unable to access the online form please call or email me and I will be happy to send you a copy. I am here to help you achieve your goals and assist with getting you the drug and safety points you need!

**DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, DON MARTINDALE**

G r e e t i n g s Comrades, I do hope this finds you all well and virus free.

This has been a very challenging year for everyone.

I do hope you all are still using your masks when venturing out, other than staying home and being vaccinated it is probably your best defense against Covid, also wear them correctly covering both your mouth and nose. You alone are the one most responsible for your well being so don't get lazy now when there is light at the end of the tunnel.

If you are registered at the VA they have been giving out the vaccine for about a month, call your hospital or clinic to see what you have to do to get registered, as of right now you will need an appointment. For those veterans with a 100 % disability and

have your spouse on Champ VA, the VA will inoculate them also, but mention that when getting your appointment. Please don't let your guard down now you have gone this far a little bit longer "won't mean nothing" our Vietnam Vets will have heard that phrase often enough, so be careful.

I also want to announce my candidacy for the position of Department Surgeon again. I feel I have done all that has been asked of me for reporting your outstanding hospital work, and always in a timely manner usually within two days your report is entered. I always try to answer any questions you have for me and so far I have been able to answer those questions to your satisfaction. Thank you for having me as your Department Surgeon and if elected I will continue to do the same work I have been doing since elected to this position. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

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# POST REPORTS



## POST 334 -LAKE ORION

On February 25, 2021, VFW Post 334 visited the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry and presented them with a \$1,200 check to sponsor a food shelf for 2021/2022. This is the 3rd year that VFW Post 334 has sponsored a shelf to help our the local community. During 2020, this organization delivered to 1,746 households, with a average of 146 household visits per month. They served 3,696 individuals during 2020, with a monthly average of 308 individuals served. This all added up to 151,699 pounds of food going out to the community. This past year has been a rough one with the Covid restrictions. Instead of having clients come into the building to choose, the clients would complete a shopping list that would then be

filled and delivered to their car outside of the building.

The Oxford/Orion Fish Food Pantry provides groceries to their neighbors in need who live in Oxford, Lake Orion, Addison and Oakland Township. They provide food based on pounds per the size of the family. This can range anywhere from 60 to 200 pounds per month.

If you are in need, or know someone that needs our help who lives in one of our neighborhoods, call 248.628.3933 to arrange for a client review.

This food pantry is possible because of donations from the local communities and greatly appreciates all of the support and could not purchase food, personal care and

household items for their clients without your help. Monetary donations can be made by visiting their website:

<https://oxfordorionfish.org/index.html>  
or by check payable to 'Oxford/Orion Fish' and mailed to PO Box 732, Lake Orion, MI 48361.

Questions on the Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry, please call Michelle Behn 248-310-2842 President Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry.

Questions on the VFW Post 334 or if your a veteran interested in becoming a member, please call Jim Hubbard 248-496-1213

This event was covered by Oakland press, Oxford Leader and the Orion OnTV News Break: FISH Adopt-a-Shelf



## POST 582 - ORTONVILLE



The Ortonville VFW Post 582 Voice of Democracy winner Paige Thwing a junior at Brandon H.S. Paige is a all A honor roll student, varsity letter for Golf and Marching Band, Future problem solvers- 1st place individual for state of Mi. Pictured is Post CMDR. Dennis Hoffman presenting Paige her certificate and \$300.00 prize check. Post middle school winning teacher is Christine M Borg Wayne State graduate and 12yrs at Brandon Middle School pictured is Post CMDR. Hoffman presenting Christine her certificate and \$100.00 prize check.



## POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



Post #3701 Lakeview earns National VFW Post of the Month for February 2021



Post Commander Roberts accepts Post recognition awards from the Village of Lakeview and Cato Township for continued community support

VFW PAYS TRIBUTE TO GULF WAR VETERANS

Three decades later, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) continues to pay tribute to the nearly 700,000 military men and women who served in the Gulf War.

Marines in tanks during the liberation of Kuwait and Operation Desert Storm

U.S. Marines roll into Kuwait International Airport in light armored vehicles after the retreat of Iraqi forces from Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm. The land war lasted only 100 hours, but resulted in the liberation of Kuwait. Department of Defense photo.

April 11 marks the 30th anniversary of the cease fire signed between the coalition and the Iraqi government, and we recognize and thank the veterans who fought and selflessly sacrificed to liberate the nation of Kuwait from invading forces.

American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen served in the Gulf War, ensuring one of the swiftest, most decisive victories in U.S. history. However, the price paid for such a victory is often forgotten. We must never forget the cost of 374 dead, 467 wounded, and the two servicemen whose remains have yet to come home.

On behalf of a grateful nation, the VFW commemorates this momentous event for our country and for liberty.

We honor all Gulf War veterans – men and women who dedicated themselves to accomplishing their mission and protecting freedom half way around the world. Let us all honor their service and sacrifice today and forever more.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION UPDATE

Department Convention is still moving forward, but due to Covid-19, the hotel and event spaces will only be operating at 50% capacity. The Convention will also be streamed via Zoom for those unable to attend in person, or for those who do not feel comfortable joining in person because of Covid. The restaurant will also be operating at a very limited capacity, so either bring food, or plan to eat offsite in the event you are unable to eat at the hotel restaurant. Due to renovations at the Holiday Inn, there will only be one hospitality room, and that will be the Department hosted hospitality room. Finally, we are REQUIRED to follow all Covid protocols in place by the State of Michigan, this includes wearing masks and social distancing. Further, release waivers will be required to be signed by everyone attending the Convention. The Testimonial Dinner is still tentatively being planned, but the details of this are yet to be finalized. Additional information will be forthcoming.

★ CAMPAIGNS ★

**JENNIFER SMITH**

Candidate for  
Department  
Chaplain  
2021-2022

**JAMES JOHNS**

Candidate for  
Department  
Chaplain  
2021-2022

**BILL THICK JR**

Candidate for  
Department  
Judge Advocate  
2021-2022

**BRUCE BRIDSON**

Candidate for  
Department  
Judge Advocate  
2021 - 2022

**JERRY GORSKI**

Candidate for  
National Jr. Vice  
Commander-In-Chief  
2023-2024

**GARY BROWN**

Candidate for  
Department  
Sr. Vice Commander  
2021-2022

**RAY LOPEZ**

Candidate for  
Department  
Jr. Vice Commander  
2021-2022

**DON MARTINDALE**

Candidate for  
Department  
Surgeon  
2021-2022



## DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



### DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - EDDIE DANDRIDGE



Good afternoon Department Of Michigan, District 5 Comrades & Auxiliary members.

The Department Of Michigan has just completed it's first ever Mid-Winter Conference & VOD/PP/TOY Award Programs via Zoom.

This has been a year like none other that I can remember, very challenging for everyone all around the world, not to mention here in Michigan where we all found a way to try & stay safe.

Our Department Commanders/Chairman's & Auxiliary Presidents/Chairman's pushed through all the obstacles and put together an amazing VOD/PP/TOY Award Program.

Congratulations to all Post/District & Department VOD/PP/TOY winners for this year.

To those VOD/PP/TOY participants who can re-enter next year's competition, please do so again.

To all Post/District VOD/PP/TOY Program Chairman's, it's all up to you how well this program is received so please make it a priority for your Post/District in the 2021-2022 year to have good representation from every Post in each District.

Elections are coming upon us for Post/County Council's & District's.

Please start thinking about the Officers/Chairman's you need to make sure your Officers operate together as "One Team".

There's no reason to have dissension within our Post/County Council's, District's

or Department.

Commanders/Chairmans if we communicate clearly to our membership & listen when they're speaking, I believe we can have everyone on the same message, which makes for a good working environment.

I want all Department Commanders/Officers/Chairmans, District 5 Officers/Chairmans/County Council Commanders/Chairmans & Post Commanders/Chairmans & Members to know it has been my honor to serve with such a great group of professionals at every level.

From the Post/County Council/District & Department Headquarters, everyone trying to get the job done at each level, that's working together as a "One Team". I thank everyone of you for your outstanding dedication to this Team/Organization.

### DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - REINOLD E. YAHNKA



Comrades of the "Super 6th District"

This past year has been a learning experience for everyone. The year is coming to an end and

we will soon have our last District Meeting and have elections for next years officers. Post are starting to open back up slowly after the COVID-19 pandemic. Need to still maintain social distancing and wear your mask when necessary. Everyone needs to consider getting vaccinated. The VA is giving Veterans the vaccine so contact your local VA and get scheduled to get your vaccine. It looks like we will be having a Department Convention this year so get your room reservation in. The hotel housing information is on the Department webpage. Don't forget to get your Allstate applications in by the end of April. We are getting down to the wire and

really need to be working membership. As I am writing this District 6 is in 1st Place with a 95.95 percent and needs 111 more members from the Post in the District. Congratulations to Post 6464 Fowlerville at 103.30 and 5 new members, 6462 Dundee at 102 percent and 3 new members, 9656 Lambertville at 101.57 percent and 6 new members, 4093 Carleton at 101.91 and 1 new member, and 10194 Grass Lake 100 percent. There are 4 Post that need 1 member to make 100 percent 2 Post that need 3 members. Let make the "Super 6th" the first District to make 100 percent. Each Post has been inching closer and closer every day. Keep up the great work that you are doing on membership. The District is 100 percent in activity and Hospital reporting. We have 2 Post that have not reported any Youth Activity projects and hours. Make sure you get your donations in for Veterans Military Support, especially if you are eligible for All American. Fowlerville Post 6464 and Lambertville Post

9656 have met the requirements to make All-American this year. The National Commander has stated that those Post that meet the requirements to make All-American will be recognized as long as they make 100 percent in membership and 1 new member. There are 3 Post in the District 701, 4093, 6056 eligible for All-American this year because they participated in the VOD, Patriots Pen and they make their donation to Veterans Military Support and attain 100 percent plus 1 new member. Post 6056 only needs 100 percent in membership by the end of April.

It has been an Honor to be your District 6 Commander and I am here to serve you and help you or your Post in any way I can. So please feel free to contact me at any time so that we can keep the "Super 6th District" "Veterans Moving Forward".

Thank You, for all that you do.

### DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER BILL THICK



I hope this finds you all in good health and positive spirits. While challenging at times,

the last 2 years serving as your District #7 Commander has not come without its fair share of rewards. The greatest thing I have received has been friendship and the ability to serve fellow veterans and their families. Whether it be volunteering at Camp Trotter, performing Honor Guard detail at a funeral or counseling a veteran in hospice, my life has found greater purpose through serving others with my involvement in the VFW.

We have some great members here in District #7, both VFW and Auxiliary. I'm proud to know you. I'm proud to have served you. Keep up the hard work and keep up the fire!



### DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER - DEAN MAKI

Greeting comrades from the U.P. It's been an awesome introduction to Spring up here so far. I hope it continues on into Summer. I am

anticipating the Convention in June because we have not met in person for some time. The ZOOM conferences work well but a lot of camaraderie is lost using a computer. Once again I would like to congratulate our essay winners: Averie Vial in Patriots Pen & Bradley Luce in Voice of Democracy. They were both sponsored by Post 4573 in Ishpeming. I really missed escorting those two into the banquet that was supposed to take place in Kalamazoo. Luckily this pandemic seems to be easing up and more and more restrictions are being lifted.

I very disappointed that only three posts

out of twelve had filed a Hospital report. NOBODY has donated to the Veterans Home or VA Hospital? Nobody in your organization donates blood? There are still four posts who have not filed Activity reports. I cannot believe that no one at your post flies our flag at home. No one has written their congressman? No one has done any Community Service? Please report before the end of the year.

Elections will be conducted at the Spring Convention meeting which will be held on April 18th at Post 3165 in Negaunee. The day before on the 17th, they will hold a VTS at 2:30 pm. If you have anyone in your post willing to accept an office in the District, bring them to the meeting. The only post is which is 100% in membership happens to be my own Post 3165. St. Ignace is 98%, Escanaba & Ishpeming are about 96%, One post is 74%. Remember, membership is the life blood of our organization.

# ★ ★ DIST. AUXILIARY PRESIDENT REPORTS ★ ★

## DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT - AILEEN ADRAGNA

As we circle back around to election time, let us reflect on what we have learned during this past year. We have learned how to social distance to keep our health and prevent passing on contagious diseases. We have learned how to look after our loved ones and our veterans from afar. We have learned how to use technology to still hold meetings and conduct auxiliary business. Now we need to keep the learning growing for us as individuals and as an organization.

March begins the election cycle. We begin with electing delegates for district, state and national. The determination for the number of delegates for your auxiliary is detailed in the by-laws. One delegate and one alternate shall be elected annually not less than 30 days prior to the convention to which they shall serve or no earlier than in March.

On the district level, the delegate number is based on each 15 members or partial of the current auxiliary membership. On the state level the number of delegates is based on each 30 members. On the national level the number of delegates is based on each 50 members.

Therefore, if your auxiliary has 125 members, for district your auxiliary would elect 9 delegates and 9 alternates. State delegates and alternates would equal 5. National delegates and alternates would be 3.

But let me remind everyone, if the auxiliary votes to pay any part or all of the expenses

for attendance -such as rooms, meals, or registration fees -said delegates will be expected to attend the business meetings and make a report at the next auxiliary meeting of any motions or actions made during the convention. An example would be if there was a vote to increase registration fees at department meetings.

Delegates at a district level should be prepared to attend the majority of the four meetings held beginning with the spring convention and election of new officers. Department delegates should attend the convention in June, fall conference and the mid-winter meeting.

Does the delegate have to hold an office or chairmanship in the auxiliary? No they do not. Can the auxiliary elect the same individuals to the different levels as delegates? Yes they may. The delegate is the representative for the auxiliary to attend business meetings to cast any votes on motions and elections. Can anyone attend these meetings? Yes, we should all strive to learn about any changes in the working of this organization - chairmanships, officers, by-laws, and rituals.

With all this information, are you ready, willing, and able to expand your membership into a more active role? To make new friends and share the work of this organization with like-minded people? We welcome you with open arms. Just ask for a hug.

## DIST. 8 PRES. - NANCY VREDEVELD

Hello to the Great 8th!! The year is coming to a close, and I would like to thank everyone for their work for the veterans, in what has been a very different year. You were amazing in your ideas of how to serve our veterans, even during lockdown. Congratulations to the district for achieving 100% in membership in March! You truly are the Great 8th!! This has been a year of challenges. Dealing with technology at our meetings, issues with the internet during district meeting, and learning how to conduct meetings with members in various locations. Thank you all for your patience as we struggled through. My sincere wishes to all newly elected officers for a successful year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Department convention in Flint!

## DIST. 9 PRESIDENT - CARLEY RALEIGH

As our year draws to a close there are still things we need to do. Plan your July 4 parades and don't forget the Veterans in your area that need help sprucing up around the house this summer.

Take some youth with you and remember to report!!

Thank you to everyone that has worked so hard this year through all the ups and downs Covid threw at us. I was able to meet with most of the Auxiliaries in person and a couple on Zoom.

You are all doing a great job. Hope to see you at Department Convention. Stay safe.

## DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT - WENDI HALL

Wow what a year. I knew from past experience of doing District president that I would face changes and challenges but I did not count on COVID or to have in continue to plague us. We all have had to dig deep and try to work our programs in new and sometimes frustrating ways but hopefully we have come out stronger.

One example is at our November Dist. Meeting made up a poster board tool to teach my District how to log onto and input Chairman's reports. I also continued to do this in my remaining Inspections. I wish like so many others that programs were able to have been run like "normal" but we all have made adjustments to work differently.

Due to many in my District getting Covid and some severe weather the last couple of inspections were pushed into the New Year. I have tried to be available and have had many, many phone calls mentoring this year that I hoped helped.

Although we did not have a mid-winter conference in person, I was able to meet and present our District VOD winner her check and hear her speech.

Once again it was a interesting and different year as the 12th District president but I did it in honor of my father and brother both veterans in their own respect and all other veterans. I am and was proud to represent District 12.

## DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT - JUDITH BROWN

It's been a really hard year with Covid19 and trying to get things done. God has blessed us with a path on how to do it. Thanks go to Michigan's President Carrie Turner and Michigan's Commander Scott Gloger, for their guidance and of course to our National President Sandra Onstwedder for her guidance.

Michigan had to hold their Winter Conference by Zoom so we were unable to have an actual banquet for our VOD/PP and Teacher of the year.

In Hillman at VFW Post 2356 we waited as long as we could until things opened up to 50% then held our banquet on March 11, 2021. We invited all the students that entered the essays and the teacher. The Banquet was attended by 37 people. We were honored with the presence of State Commander Scott and Linda Gloger. Commander Gloger presented District 13 VOD/PP with their prizes. Those winners were PP Alyssa Wrangler of Gaylord, and VOD Isabelle M. Buhr, from Cheboygan.

VOD winner for Post 2356 is Breanna Lynn Casebier, Richard W. Mills, and James E. DeRouchie, winners for PP are Aubrey L. Weiland, Levir Vogt and Madelyn E. Oswald, listed in order of first place to third place. All were presented with their checks, medals and certificates of appreciation.

Our Teacher of the year is William Dever, he may not have made it to State but we are

here to tell you that he is the most awesome teacher in the State of Michigan. His work with the students, school and community is far superior to any other teacher.

I am very proud to say VFW Post and Auxiliary 2356 is the post that I have belonged to and that we are an awesome Post and Auxiliary, we work together like really well.



★

AUXILIARY REPORTS CONT.

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DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT - DELLA PETAJA

Hi Again from the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula. Our winter was not too bad and we accomplished many things even with Covid hanging over us. We had our District Meeting on Valentine’s Day in Crystal Falls, with the weather co-operating fully. All Auxiliaries were able to attend but one. South Range is the Spring Convention destination for April. In our list of accomplishments start with, Crystal Falls Auxiliary donating gift cards to the 19 Veterans at the Iron County Medical Center. Calumet Auxiliary donated to the food bank and brought a Pasty Meal to the Frontline workers at Gardenview assisted living. Chassell Auxiliary donated treat bags to Little Brothers friends of the elderly for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine’s Day. South Range Auxiliary made 20 hats, 24 pair of mittens and 140 masks for the elementary school. Wakefield Auxiliary donated sweatpants and under shorts to the Covington Elders home. Covington Auxiliary gave clothing to a Veteran in need. So we have accomplished what we could at this time. Stay safe.



OAK BROOK, Ill. – In the true spirit of Memorial Day, Ace Hardware is once again collaborating with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Ace Hardware is pledging to give out 1 million American flags nationwide on Saturday, May 25. Consumers are encouraged to visit participating Ace stores to receive a free 8” x 12” American flag\* on May 25, while a second flag is donated to a local VFW Post to be used for marking and honoring veteran graves this Memorial Day.

Ace Giveaway 2019 “We are proud to again affirm our long-standing commitment to honoring veterans by supporting VFW Posts and local communities,” said John Surane, Executive Vice President and Chief Merchandising Officer for Ace Hardware. “This Memorial Day, Ace stands with the VFW in honoring the courage of the brave men and women who have sacrificed everything for their country. We applaud the VFW for the incredible support they continue to provide for veterans nationwide and are grateful to be able to work together with our loyal customers to honor the fallen this Memorial Day.”

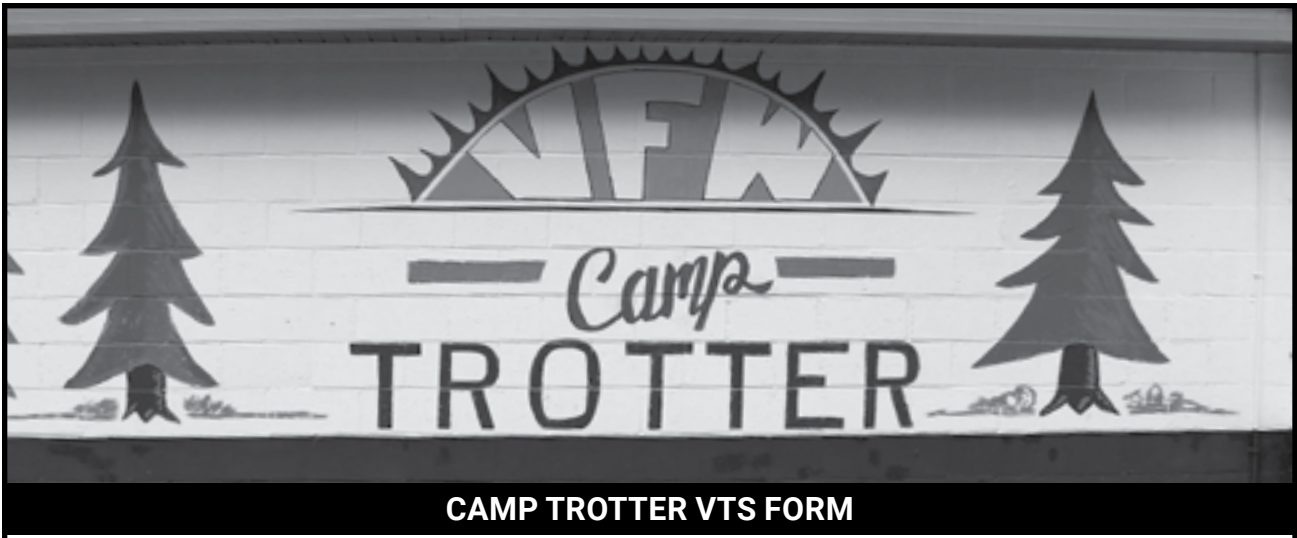
“Teaming up with companies like Ace, who show dedicated support to both our brave service men and women, and our local communities nationwide, just makes sense,” said VFW National Commander B.J. Lawrence. “On behalf of the more than 1.6 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, we appreciate this donation and remain committed to honoring America’s fallen heroes while helping to remind Americans what Memorial Day is truly about.”

Last year, Ace Hardware sent a total of 530,000 flags to 2,250 local VFW Posts across the country. The American flag giveaway aligns with Ace Hardware’s long history of supporting veterans nationwide. Ace’s very name is a commemoration of the “Flying Aces,” the courageous fighter pilots from the First World War. Ace’s patriotism continues through the support of its veteran retailers, and the sincere appreciation for all the veterans and active-duty military who work in Ace stores, distribution centers, and its corporate offices.

View the list of participating VFW Post locations at [www.vfw.org/AceGiveaway](http://www.vfw.org/AceGiveaway).

\*Flags will be available in participating Ace stores, while quantities last. In-store only. Limit one 8” x 12” flag per customer. No purchase necessary.

*\*\*Article & photograph from VFW National Dispatch newsletter*



Department of Michigan Veterans Training Seminar

Camp Trotter Pre-Registration Form

\$30.00 / June 19th

Name	Position	Post	District

Total Attending \_\_\_\_\_ (Bring your own bedding, and shower items)

Please provide the number of a Comrade that will be attending the Seminar below, along with what positions they presently hold: Post County Council, District, or Department.

Please make checks payable to: VFW Department of Michigan VTS  
924 N. Washington Ave.  
Lansing MI. 48906-5136

VTs Director: Ronald Amend PSC  
ramend@vfwmi.org / Cell 586-2553871

Adjutant/Quartermaster: Derek Blumke  
vfwqm@vfwmi.org / Office 517-485-9456

Department Office: Amanda Helms  
amanda@vfwmi.org / Office 517-485-9456

**LAKEVIEW POST #3701 NAMED NATIONAL POST OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY**

Congratulations to VFW Post 3701 in Lakeview, Michigan, for being named the VFW's #StillServing Post of the Month for February 2021.

VFW Post 3701 quickly mobilized as the pandemic reached their Lakeview, Michigan, community in spring 2020. They knew protective gear already was in short supply for hospitals, so they began to help by making face masks.

Over a three-day period last March, members of Post 3701 and its Auxiliary made and packaged more than 450 masks with adjustable straps, bendable nose pieces and pockets for filters. The Post and volunteers continued to work socially distanced in order to meet the need for local workers and

families requesting additional masks. Later in 2020, in partnership with the Red Cross, they held blood drives, as well.

"It's in times like these that, as a community organization, we need to do our part and serve those who supported us while we were fighting overseas. It's the least we can do," said Commander Stacey Roberts.

All this is even more remarkable because just a few years ago, Post 3701 was on the verge of closing. Roberts and several fellow members, however, were determined to save it. Their efforts were a success, and the Post continues to thrive and help their community. The National VFW is proud to recognize their commitment and ongoing service.

**NATIONAL VFW EXPANDS HEARING BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS, FAMILIES**

The National VFW is proud to announce it is improving its member benefit offerings by teaming up with Hear In America to provide VFW members and their extended families free hearing screenings, a Low Price Guarantee, and other benefits for hearing aid purchases.

Research shows a clear connection between untreated hearing loss and increased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's, as well as higher rates of falls, depression, confusion, reduced quality of life, and an increased number of emergency department visits and hospitalizations. It takes the average person with hearing loss five to seven years before seeking a professional diagnosis, in spite of the fact that the signs and symptoms of hearing loss are clear to other people.

For nearly 30 years, Hear In America has worked to help people get the best possible combination of hearing technology, price, and service. Striving to simplify an already stressful and confusing process, Hear In America acts as an advocate for its millions of members by educating, assisting and diligently following up on the services they receive.

"The VFW is excited about the opportunity to team up with Hear in America," said VFW National Commander Hal Roesch II. "As an



organization with more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members, we work hard to ensure they have access to the biggest savings when it comes to improving their quality of life."

"I've worn hearing aids since I was in my twenties, and I love to hear members tell us how Hear In America helped their entire family be happier," said Hear In America President Bob Marshall. "We are committed to helping as many people as possible to get the hearing help they need, and are honored to have the opportunity to serve the many members and families of the VFW."

For more information on Hear in America benefits for VFW members and their families or to sign up for your free hearing screening with no enrollment fees or premiums, call 1.855.241.5547

**COOTIE CORNER**

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

Now let's get back to the business at hand. Our Year is coming to a close. We must continue making proactive decision at our Pup Tents and our communities to ensure we are prepared for anything which might happen due to COVID-19.

Our 92nd Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party was canceled but to make sure the Children at the National Home did not go without, our Grand Commander Russell Makowski, Sr. Vice Commander Nathaniel Powell, Jr. Vice Commander Jennifer Heraty, and Grand Auxiliary President Josephine Miller delivered sixty-six \$50 gift cards, coloring books and crayons, and a check for \$1056 for additional gifts and miscellaneous expenses to the National Home. Without your help and contributions this function could never get off the ground. Word has it that Santa is looking forward to next year.

Our next Project for the Children of the National Home is the trip to Cider Point in June. Due to the virus this project may not happen, but as Cooties we will always plan for it too happen.

Please when sending your contribution make your checks out to:

Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home.

Any donations sent to the National Home will not be forward to us.

Send donations to:  
Shane Houghton  
343 High St. Ionia, MI. 48846  
Phone: 616-527-9397  
shoughton1951@hotmail.com

**"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2020-2021**

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to

PGC Bob Routhier Jr.  
P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420

In closing, remember membership. The life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cooties Auxiliaries'. Sign a new member up today! Stay Safe and be well

*"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"*



DESIGNER / EDITOR,  
STACEY ROBERTS

Hello friends! This is the final issue for this fiscal year. The deadlines for 2021-2022 are as follows.

Jun/Jul/Aug - due June 15  
Sep/Oct/Nov - due October 15  
Dec/Jan/Feb - due December 15  
Mar/Apr/May - due March 15

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be rejected or returned for revision. **We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.**

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MOV@VFWMI.ORG

7901 Backus Road - Greenville, MI 48838

The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

TAPS FORM

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for your TAPS report.

Send completed form to:

VFW of Michigan

924 N Washington - Lansing, MI 48906  
or Amanda@vfwmi.org

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

Branch of Service :

ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY  
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :

WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM  
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN  
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES

LISTED BY POST NUMBER / LAST NAME / FIRST NAME / AGE / SERVICE / WAR

607 Rogers City

Dean, Harold K. 91 Army/Korea

796 Port Huron

Barry, John W. 90 Army/Korea/Vietnam

1146 St. Clair Shores

Gower, Dale E. 96 Air Force/WWII

1519 Northville

Bodenhorn, Glen 94 Army/WWII

1887 Menominee

Fernstrum, William 100 Air Force/WWII

1888 Trenton

Lehmann, Mary 69 Navy/Gulf

2053 White Cloud

Fetterley, Wayne 87 Army/Korea

2144 Holland

Bronkhorst, John 80 Army/Vietnam

Feenstra, Gus 90 Air Force/Korea

Hallacy, Louis 90 Army/Korea

3023 Grand Rapids

Anderson, Maurice 104 Army/WWII

Crislip, Ronald J. 76 Army/Vietnam

Cross, Richard J. 68

Flake, Richard 87 Army

Gratz, John J. 91 Army/Korea

Hassen, Lyle 84 Marines

Homrich, Ernest 94 WWII

Klawiter, Ralph J. 86

Kloet, Keith A. 75 Army/Vietnam

Mitchell, James Jr. 87 Navy/Korea

Mull, Jerry A. 88 Navy/Korea

Murray, Patrick J. 72 Army/Vietnam

Nausieda, Frank 90 Army/Korea

Sweeney, Richard T. 88 Army/Korea

White, Robert E. 69 Army

Wietke, Theodore 95 Army/WWII

3293 Grand Ledge

Loeb, Simeon 89 Army/Korea

3314 Arcadia

Eckels, Wayne A. 76 Army/Vietnam

3734 Fruitport

Vokal, Edward J. 90 Army/Korea

4090 Portland

Boling, James D. 76 Army/Gulf

Spedoske, William P. 70 Army/Vietnam

4093 Carleton

Norman, Thomas 87 Army/Korea

4115 Sebewaing

Oeschger, Willet E. 90 Army/WWII

4461 Lake Odessa

Holtforth, Lucas 19 Marines

Maus, Michael 75 Marines/Vietnam

McCaul, Robert 87 Army/Korea

Peacock, Thomas 82 Army/Korea

Teller, Lawrence 94 Army/WWII

4659 Shelby Township

Amburgey, Michael 72 Army/Vietnam

D'Angelo, Joseph 89 Army/Korea

Everlove, James 85 Army/Vietnam

Fortin, Thomas 94 Army/WWII

Hildred, John 93 Army/Korea

Johnson, Victor 78 Army/Vietnam

Meitzner, Elmer 98 Army/WWII

Peyer, Sylvester 83 Army/Korea

5678 Tawas City

Holmstrom, Roy 77 Army/Vietnam

6056 Springport

Norris, Iven P. 95 Army/WWII

6248 Decatur

Bahus, Robert 87 Navy/Korea

6509 Petersburg

Tyler, Rodney 74 Army/Vietnam

6896 Westland

Cinpak, John S. 64 Army/Gulf

7805 Ithaca

Budge, William B. 92 Army/Korea

Harger, Roy S. 89 Army/Korea

Hegle, Ted G. 77 Army/Vietnam

8846 Muskegon

Cato, Lawrence J. 86 Navy/Vietnam

Davis, Edward H. 96 Marines/WWII

Gee, Floyd R. 73 Navy/Vietnam

Kersting, Bernard F. 92

Marines/Army/WWII/Korea

Neel, James L. 83 Navy/Vietnam

Sipmann, William M. 73 Army/Vietnam

Skuse, Ernest W. 89 Army/Korea

White, Jerry T. 67 Army/Vietnam

Wilke, David G. 69 Army/Vietnam

9377 Plainwell

Shoemaker, John 93 Navy/WWII

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