

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SUMMER 21



Incoming Commander Kevin Conklin and his family at Department Convention in June



Incoming Officers & Directors swear in

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN

Congratulations to the incoming officers and directors for 2021-2022. I'm proud and excited to be working with all of you. I am also very proud of the Auxiliary and the work they do for veterans. The work the Auxiliary does everyday for veterans, their families and the

Veterans of Foreign Wars changes lives and impacts our communities.

When I campaigned for Department Junior Vice Commander, I spoke of changing the perceptions some people have of the VFW. Since then, I was able to work with the leadership of this organization to get the ball rolling. We started with a few billboards, social media, and news advertisements. We have doubled down on these efforts by increasing our media budget and building a media relations team. I will be urging each post and district to create and utilize their own web and social media sites, so our communities know about all the amazing work the VFW is doing in their areas. We must provide an avenue for people to see us in action and know the impact we are having everyday. This will change perceptions of the VFW, increase community support and increase membership. The same old ways don't work, and the recognition of this is forcing us to change. Please be supportive and open minded about trying something new this year.

The Department website is being updated, as some of you may have already noticed. We have added new payment options and will continue to make it easier to make financial transactions with the Department HQ as the year progresses. Additionally, we are updating the map feature on our website to make it easier for folks to find us, and we are adding fillable forms online as well. Web training will be continued at our Veteran

Training Seminars (VTS) so everyone is trained and feels comfortable with using the features of our Department web page. Further, we will be creating short training videos to be posted on the web for you to utilize as well. We are listening to you and are making changes to make your jobs easier. Any suggestions you have to update the website or if you are willing to assist, please send an email or call me.

There are some posts that continue to struggle. Please reach out if you think your post is having troubles. Our posts are the anchor of many of our communities across the State, and we need to ensure their viability for years to come. Department headquarters will work to give you tools and assistance you need to be successful, we just need you to continue working hard and be willing to work with us to ensure the future of our proud organization.

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! As we continue working together with the Auxiliary, we will continue to make this the premier veterans service organization that it is!



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DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, DEREK BLUMKE

A year of Growth: A few weeks ago, our new Membership Director, Iraq War veteran Garrett Dickey, shared a conversation he'd had with a Post Commander about ways of growing the Post's membership. The Commander told him: "I'm not sure how much longer I can do this; and I don't have anyone to replace me."

For the past twenty years, we have seen declining membership. Along with it, Post closures. Some of these closures and consolidations are natural, as we never had a right sizing, even while the veterans population shrank by millions of veterans. The pandemic created additional stress on our posts, forcing some to close prematurely, and at times, unnecessarily. During this time, I've begged our comrade post commanders and officers to hold the line. Help is coming.

In June, the Convention approved the creation of a 501(c)3 charitable arm of the VFW Department of Michigan, so we can expand our fundraising efforts, with the goal of getting more support to the field to increase training, technology and programs for veterans and their families across the VFW and Auxiliary.

The 2021-2022 Council approved the budget, which included funding for media & public relations, and for a new position: the Director of Development, Policy and Communications. Since the Convention, Cameron Zbikowski of Holland Post 2144 has

filled this role for us! Cameron is the former Grand Valley State University (GVSU) SVA Chapter President, where he was a top 5 finalist for Student Veteran of the Year (out of 1,500 campuses); is one of 5 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows across the entire organization and is a Navy Iraq War Veteran! Cameron will be fully dedicated towards fundraising, advocacy and increasing communications throughout the Department. Sarah Anderson, who was the Vice President at the GVSU SVA, which was an SVA Chapter of the Year finalist, recently completed a media internship with us, and has extended her work with us for another six months. Sarah's expertise as a public affairs specialist and social media manager in the Marine Corps, complemented by her degree from GVSU in public relations and media, will be deployed to market the amazing work your posts do everyday across our great State.

Finally, former National Secretary-Treasurer and Department Treasurer of the VFW Auxiliary, Jan Passmore, has joined us full-time. Jan's impact on this organization in the last year is immeasurable, and she will continue to streamline our financial operations, while helping with new fundraising efforts, so we can better support the posts and help grow for years to come. These amazing folks will help us do that.

This year, we fight for our future. This year, under the leadership of Commander Conklin, Senior Vice Commander Griffith, and Junior Vice Commander Lopez, we will transform the way we do business. Reinforcements are here. If you need us, call us. THIS YEAR WE GROW.



DEPARTMENT
JUNIOR VICE
COMMANDER,
RAY LOPEZ

Greetings Comrades,

I want to thank you all for the support you have given me during my candidacy. I am looking forward to serving the membership of the Department of Michigan as your Jr Vice Commander.

I would also like to congratulate all the newly elected officers throughout the Department. I look forward to working with all of you in serving veterans and strengthening our organization at every level. Much can be accomplished by working together towards common goals.

Congratulations to Posts, and Districts for reaching All State during the unprecedented difficult year of the Pandemic. Your hard work sends an example to all that it still can be done.

I will be looking forward to getting together with the District Jr. Vice Commanders at Fall Conference. I would encourage all to attend VTS as soon as you have the opportunity.

If there is anything I can help you with, please reach out, I'm a phone call away.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you towards a successful year!



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

We are now in the midst of summer in Michigan. Some of us are blessed with trips and others with a few leisurely days at home with family and friends. Regardless, am hopeful that you are enjoying this season of growth, staying cool, and remaining both positive and mindful.

This time last year in the MOV, respectfully asked you to undertake the following: "Be clear about the mission and objectives, be pragmatic, and lead positively by example to motivate. The mission of the VFW is: "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans." Please also consider: What are your Post's specific goals? What are your reasonable plans to properly address any obstacles and to meet those objectives? Are you communicating effectively and encouraging ethical mentor/menteeship?"

The question posed to me was, 'why would a Chaplain request such things?' The answer to this is simple. Sound leadership strengthens our organization and uplifts those that selflessly serve as well as those being served. James 4:10 (ESV) tells us:

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you." Poor leadership inhibits growth, invites chaos, and reduces selfless efforts. Just as it is difficult to swim holding a large rock, it's difficult to serve at your best level when encumbered with added drama. Therefore, may we endeavor to support our elected leaders rather than merely complain, especially the individuals that strive to serve others first, and be willing to respectfully make changes as needed. May we follow Psalm 32:11 (ESV): "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"

Last, even when you are frustrated, be it due to personal or misc. stressors, please do not despair, but remain active and dedicated to service; Positive results gain momentum and often yield more blessings to others. Indeed, please remain proactive and aware, knowing that your value is high. Advocate, as you can, for positive change in all aspects of your respective lives in each season. As James 1:12 (ESV) states, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." With that thought, hope to see you at the Fall Conference's annual Chaplains' Break-Out Session for Chaplains at all levels.

May God bless you.



DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, JOHN GRIFFITH

Greetings
Comrades, Auxiliary
Sisters and Brothers

Congratulations to
our newly installed
Commander Kevin
Conklin and Auxiliary

President Stephannie Krueger as well as all the newly elected officers for both the VFW and Auxiliaries at (Post and District) Levels. We have an excellent team of people that can continue to move our Department forward and accomplish the mission of the VFW.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of Patty Patterson and Phil McIvor we were able to have a fantastic Department Convention. Also we have to mention District Commander Reinold Yahnka and District President Rose Sancrant for their never ending 6th District hospitality offered in the "Tent City".

At this time of the year, when events surround Memorial Day and our Convention concludes, we all want to take a deep breath with a desire to kick back, relax and involve ourselves with personal and family summer activities. These activities are important to us all for our mental well-being and our family should always come first. However, now is also the time we all need to get to work for our VFW family and the well-being of our post, auxiliaries, and districts! We now have some great resources to assist us in promotion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

During the convention many conversations were had with members of individual post that were interested in starting a Pool Team and joining the Department Pool League. I would encourage any post desiring to get it on the fun to contact Pool League Director Don Smith (989) 971-3650. Having "open" advertised pool tournaments or even "pool nights" for veterans at your post would be a great way to attract potential members to your post, while having a post team is a great way to retain membership.

Also it seemed that a number of our members are interested in starting either a Post or District "Riders Group". Our new Michigan Riders Director, William "Billy" Paine (989) 289-0885, can provide the information necessary to get your post or district off the ground. This is another fantastic way of attracting new VFW members. By advertising and inviting all veteran riders to join in upcoming "rides" we can bring younger members to the VFW. Please notify Billy if your riders are planning a ride.

Did I mention advertisement? Why yes I believe I did. The key to success in any of our programs, like Patriots Pen/Voice of Democracy, Rider activities, Pool, Buddy Poppies, is advertisement. We need to get the word out about the VFW and how we serve veterans. This is accomplished by social media, newspapers, radio and television coverage. We've known this for years, but outside of

post on internal social media little, has been done to promote our activities. Well now the Department of Michigan is doing something about this problem. At Department we have a wonderful professional woman Sarah Anderson (517) 485-9456, who is our Public Relations Specialist. Sarah stands ready to assist your Post and Auxiliary in professional advertisement for our programs, fund raisers and activities. I encourage all to make use of Sarah by contacting her and giving her the particulars on your planned activities, the who, what, where, when of your plans. But please give her as much lead time before your event as possible.

Lastly, I want to encourage our current members to lend a hand at your Post and Auxiliaries. Many members lamented that they just can't get the help they need for conducting Bingo, Fish or Steak Fries and other fund raising activities. The old saying "Many hands make for light work" is as true today as it was in the past. If each member of the post would dedicate one day a month to assisting their post, it would take so much of the burden off of the labor needs. One or two hours a month is not a lot to ask of our members for an organization that has and continues to give so much to our veterans.

As your Senior-Vice Commander I stand ready to assist you in any way I can. Please do not hesitate to call me.

(734) 735-2175

Veterans Crisis Line



800-273-8255

PRESS 1



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, JERRY GORSKI

I want to begin
by Congratulating
our New Elected
Department
Officers for 2021-
2022. Department
Commander Kevin

Conklin, Senior Vice Commander John Griffith, Junior Vice Commander Ray Lopez, Quartermaster/Adjutant Derek Blumke, Chaplain Jennifer Smith, Judge Advocate Bruce Bridson and Surgeon Don Martindale. Also, Congratulations to Chief of Staff Dave Miller and Inspector Randy Ballwin and the Other Directors, who were appointed for 2021-2022.

Congratulations also to Norm Mauldin from District 5, who was elected Big Ten Delegate 2021-2022 for the remaining term of Ray Lopez, who was elected Junior Vice Commander.

I also want to Congratulate the Elected Post, County Council and District Officers for 2021-2022. I want to wish everyone at Department, District, County Council and Post a very successful year.

At our State Convention, we had Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland

from Arizona. We got to know Chief Tim and see him in action including "singing" at the Banquet. He was "down to earth" with the membership throughout the convention including shooting pool with our State Pool Director Don Smith and myself and Post 3243 Fenton. Don beat Junior Vice Chief Tim 2 to 1 at Post 3243 Fenton and went on later to beat him 5 to 1 later at a different location. Chief Tim was lucky and beat me 2 to 1 at Post 3243 Fenton. I hope we get to see him again in Michigan.

By the time you read this article, we will already have had our National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. We were supposed to have it in Baltimore, Maryland "but" circumstances with Covid-19 prohibited us from having it. So, the National Council of Administration including myself, voted to have it in Kansas City, Missouri for 2021 and also for 2022. I am looking forward to being "in person" and "not" on ZOOM. I believe we have had enough ZOOM meetings. We now need to get back together. It is therapeutic by being with each other in person.

Now, I would like to talk about MEMBERSHIP, one of my favorite topics. As of Tuesday, June 8, 2021, MICHIGAN is at

96.84% and in 37th Place in the Nation. We need 1,149 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members to Reach 100% by June 30, 2021. National is at 97.83%. National needs 22,659 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members to Reach 100% or 1,045,244 Members. National has 1,022,585 Members as of Tuesday, June 08, 2021. Michigan is in 8th Place in the Big Ten Conference. No Department is the Big Ten Conference has achieved 100% as of Tuesday, June 08, 2021, but Indiana is in 1st Place at 98.19%. There are 12 Departments as of Tuesday, June 08, 2021, that have Achieved 100% in Membership with Montana in 1st Place at 105.31%. WE CAN AND WE WILL DO BETTER IN 2021-2022.

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 help me with My Campaign by sending "any" donation to Sujen Mauldin at 214 Endwell, Novi, MI 48377. Thank You and God Bless You.



DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, GARRETT DICKEY

G r e e t i n g s comrades. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dept Commander Kevin Conklin for appointing me

Membership Director for the '21 – '22 year. I am deeply honored and excited to prove our Comrade Commander correct in this selection. Two things you will learn about me is that I love to travel, and I love to meet new people. If we have not met yet, there is a great chance we will soon. Either by car or by bike, I will be in your neck of the woods. If you have not already done so, check out Commander-in-Chief, Matthew Mihelcic's National Membership Program on the VFW Website under the Training and Support tab. It's full of an amazing amount of information.

This past year pushed our posts to the

brink, but we were able to stand up, dust ourselves off, and proudly proclaim that we are still here, and we are needed now more than ever. One of my main focuses this year will be the way we approach new and prospective members. Focus the conversation not on why we need them, but rather why they need us. We know our organization fights tooth and nail to support our veterans, and it is our responsibility to convey that message. We will continue to utilize digital and social media with help from our social media director as well as refocusing our recruiting through community outreach. Our posts can be the heart of every community in this great state. What better way to attract new members than to attract the whole town? Invest in your community and your community will invest in you. Lastly, get out of your comfort zone. It is easy to see someone who looks like ourselves and talk to them. I challenge you to approach

someone different. Have you talked to someone of a different age, ethnicity, gender, orientation, or faith? Identifying bias is hard, but not so hard that we cannot overcome them. Recruiting new members and retaining current members remains paramount. We are not done once we have sent in the application. Check in on your new members, reach out to members you have not seen in a while, and make sure everyone gets your newsletters. I love the ease of emailing, but there is something about receiving physical mail that cannot be duplicated electronically.

Our ongoing promise that "No One Does More for Veterans" starts with each individual member. You represent the Veterans of Foreign Wars every where you go and to everyone you see. Every one of you, all our brothers and sisters are recruiters. I am proud of this organization, and I am proud to have you on my team.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

BOB LUTZ

Hello Comrades, I hope that everybody is in good health and spirits! It sure was nice to be able to have our Department Convention! I hope that everybody remembers that whoever won the elections that in the end that we are on the same team and if we don't "get along" all the Veterans and programs that we represent will suffer.

There are numerous changes in the way we will be reporting! The on-line reporting is by far the best and soon will be the only way. As of now the following changes are being implemented!

- #1- No OLD forms will be accepted
- #2- No HOMEMADE forms will be accepted
- #3- No ALTERED forms will be accepted
- #4- Fax no longer accepted
- #5- If you must handwrite a report, make sure that it is legible and on the correct form. (note that this will not be accepted much longer)

If you are mailing your report, it must be postmarked by the 10th of the month and sent directly to me, not to Department. If the

10th lands on a holiday or weekend, it will be accepted till the next business day.

To be fair, these changes will go into effect for the August reports that are due in September.

Reporting via the Department website is by far the best way and soon, the only way. It is easier than you think.

BOB LUTZ

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DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS DIRECTOR, EDDIE DANDRIDGE

Hello Department of Michigan. My name is Eddie Dandridge Sr.

I was asked to be this years VOD/PP/TOY Director for 2021-2022 by our

State Commander Kevin Conklin. Thank you Commander Conklin for the appointment.

Just a little background on me, I am married to my lovely wife Rosalyn Dandridge who is a Life Member of Lt. Wood-Cpl. Neil W.Reid VFWA Post 6691 in Fraser, MI.

I am a Gold Legacy Life Member of Oskar A. Areas Post 1794. I am a Past All-State Commander of Oskar A. Areas VFW Post 1794 in Mount Clemens, MI. Past Outstanding District 5 Post Commander Of The Year. Past Macomb County Council Commander. Past State Honor Guard Member. Past Camp Trotter Director. Past District 5 All-State Commander 2020-2021. Red Star Life Member Military Order Of The Cootie & All-Star Grand Commander Of Michigan 2019. Paid Up For Life Member Post 4 American Legion in Mount Clemens. AmVets Life Member Post 29 in Mount Clemens, Camp Trotter Life Member, Michigan National Home Life Member, Life Member of NCO Academy Graduate Association & Member of PLAV Post 6 in Hamtramck, Michigan.

The VOD/PP/TOY is a joint VFW & VFWA program, our VFW/VFWA Chairman's work

together sharing Ideas & Materials, we are one team.

I want to let all our amazing members out there in every Post/District within our Department Of Michigan, nothing will get accomplished in any of our programs without your involvement. You matter! You are key in all we set out to accomplish in the Post/District & Department.

We thank you for your dedication to the success of our Post, District & Department Of Michigan.

It was so good to see everyone at the State Convention 03-06 June. We had a wonderful time being with each other for the first time in a long while.

We were able to pass on valuable information at VTS & as Commander Conklin stated, we will move this Department Of Michigan forward together! As one Team!

As the VOD Director, I was able to distribute VOD/PP/TOY Training Manuals, Posters & Brochures to all 12 incoming District Commanders to pass on to their VOD/District, Chairman's, Adjutant's, & Post Chairman's, Adjutant's.

Thank you to Rudy Wade who assisted me in getting the packages of information out to our District Commanders at the VTS Session on Sunday morning, you are a welcome addition to this Team & The Department Of Michigan.

OK! VOD/PP/TOY Chairman's you have

your information in hand early, so let's start working the programs together with our counterparts.

District Chairman's, make sure all paperwork is returned & correct before sending to Department Director, please make sure your Post Chairman's request all Student VOD/PP Entries back by

1. 31 October 2021 to Post
 2. 15 November complete Post Judging
 3. 15 December complete District Judging
 4. 10 January 2022 complete Department Judging
 5. 15 January District's Participation Report Form due to Department Chairman
 6. 15 January Department Winners due to National
 7. 31 January 2022 Department Reports Form due to National Headquarters
- Deadline for Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award

1. 31 October 2021 to Post
2. 15 November completion of Post Judging
3. 15 December completion of District Judging
4. 01 February 2022 Department Winners & Report Form due to National Headquarters (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention).

We at The Department Of Michigan, say thank you for working together & making this a team effort.



DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR, RANDY BALDWIN

Greetings Comrades. Congratulations to Commander Conklin, Senior Vice Commander Griffith, Junior Vice Commander Lopez, Quartermaster Blumke, Judge Advocate Bridson, Chaplain Smith, and Surgeon Martindale on their election. Congratulations to all appointed personnel. Let us all work together to accomplish our mission, to which we took an oath in the Member's Obligation when we became members of this great organization.

We have lost two great Comrades this past year. PSC Ernie Meyers and long serving State Inspector Bob (airbornebob) Williams. They will be sorely missed.

Long time Department Historian and photographer Jim Muys is retiring from that position. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Special thanks to PSC McIvor and Mrs. Patty Patterson for all their hard work in

arranging the Conference and Convention. Their efforts made this year's Conference and Convention a great success. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Both of you are a blessing to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan.

This past year has been one filled with severe restrictions which created many new problems for us to overcome. To the credit of everyone, at Department, District, and Post levels, thank you for everything you have done to accomplish the things required to maintain our operations. It has been difficult, but by working as a team, we have managed to get through the last 15 months. With the restrictions being lifted, we will once again be able to proceed as we normally do.

One major problem we have had is Posts not getting required documents to Department Headquarters. At the June convention, there were 61 Posts who were unable to vote in the elections. Voting at the convention is one of the most important privileges we have. We must get better at our administrative actions so as not to have this situation again. It is our

responsibility as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be accurate and complete in all our administrative actions, including but not limited to audits, inspections, election reports, and Delegate dues. If anyone needs assistance, contact our department. We are there to assist you with any problems you may have.

We have had some changes to our programs that District Commanders and those of you that attended the Convention have been made aware of. Please be sure all new information is disseminated to all Posts so they may be able to accomplish their mission accurately and in a timely fashion. If we work as a team, we will be able to do great things in this coming year. We have an obligation to all Veterans to be as efficient and compassionate as we must be in caring for our comrades in need.

In closing, I wish to personally thank all of you for your efforts during this most difficult. It has been my pleasure to be able to serve you in my capacity as the State Inspector. I look forward to the coming year and all the challenges it may bring.



DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE, CAMERON ZBIKOWSKI

Here is a quick introduction of your new legislative directors.

Cameron Zbikowski: An OIF/OEF Veteran, VFW/SVA Legislative Research Fellow, and SVA student veteran of the year finalist, Cameron has lobbied the Michigan Delegation for Patient Advocacy improvements within the Veteran Health Administration.

Kevin Hensley: A multiple tour Iraq and Afghanistan War Veteran, Kevin has personally been affected by toxic exposures and burn pits. As a result, he has become one of the VFW's top advocates for Toxic Exposure

Legislation, testifying on Capital Hill recently alongside John Stewart advocating for the need for presumption of benefits.

Over the past 6 months your department legislative team has been working tirelessly to address a wide variety of legislative issues at the Federal Level.

Current Legislation we're supporting:

- Pact Act (HVAC) – Covers 23 illnesses, in process to receive a bill number.
- True Cost of War Act (SVAC) – Covers 12 illnesses only.
- Major Richard Star Act
- Veterans Economic Recovery Act
- Ensuring Survivor Benefits
- During Covid-19 Act of 2021
- Equal Access to Contraceptives for

Veterans Act

An extended list and a description of each of the bills will be included in the upcoming weeks in an update of the Legislative Section of the VFW-MI website. Additionally, we will be networking over the next year within the state legislature for support specific for Michigan veterans.

We will be reaching out to our district and post legislative counterparts over the coming months so that we can get recommendations and ideas on what would be helpful to veteran groups across the state.

We look forward to serving you and to ensuring that Michigan leads the way in legislative priorities for our state and this great nation!



DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT

Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers. It was great to see everyone at the State Convention!

Year end Divisional awards were presented to the District Commanders for the 2020-2021 year. Congratulations to District 5 for logging over 2,000 Drug and Safety points and District 9 for logging over 1,000 Drug and Safety points for the last fiscal year.

On June 4th, I had the honor of presenting the 2020-2021 Public Service Officer of the Year Awards. Firefighter Lt. Jason Waite with the Lakeview Fire Department sponsored by Post 3701, District 9; EMT Hillary Maninga with Ahmeek Village Volunteer Fire and Rescue sponsored by Post 3900, District 15. Law Enforcement Officer Scott Rafalski with Oakland Sheriff's Department sponsored by Post 334, District 5. Officer Rafalski was unable to attend so his award will be presented at his Post at their 9/11 Memorial

service later this year.

The deadline for this year's submission for Public Service Officer of the Year is January 1, 2022. The form is available on the Department Website under the safety program tab.

If you are looking for safety materials, the Michigan State Police has FREE safety

information available. The form to obtain the safety information can be found online at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2014MaterialsCatalog_460159_7.pdf or call 517-636-4256. I am here to help you achieve your goals with drug and safety points. ds@vfwmi.org





COOTIE CORNER, ERIC BELL

Greetings,
Comrades and
Auxiliary Sisters!

Even though our
year was hampered
by COVID-19, the

Grand of Michigan is 106.57% in membership with (8) Pup Tents. We even have a new Pup Tent in Saginaw at the Carrollton-Zilwaukee VFW 1859 and another in the works at City of Trenton VFW 1888. This year's Grand of Michigan officers are Grand Commander Russell Makowski, Sr. Vice Commander Nathaniel Powell, Jr. Vice Commander Jennifer Heraty, and Grand Auxiliary President Jeanne Beck. Cootie of the Year is James Schultz Jr.-VFW 345 and Seam Squirrel of the Year is Gary Burns-VFW 2777.

Our upcoming projects for the Children of the National Home are; Cedar Point trip (August 12) and Cootie Christmas (Dec 3-4). Without your help and contributions both of these functions could never get off the ground. Please, when sending your contribution make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home. Also don't forget to earmark for Cedar Point or Cootie Christmas. Any donations sent to the National Home will not help our Michigan Programs.

Send donations to:

Shane Houghton

343 High St.

Ionia, MI. 48846

Phone: 616-527-9397

shoughton1951@hotmail.com

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2020-2021

Anyone can be a Michigan Nitpicker. Proceeds from this project helps support the Grand Programs for the Children at the National Home. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can contact PGC Bob Routhier Jr. at jackpot1111@aol.com.

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 or Cooties. Sign a new member up today!

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"



DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE, SUNNI HAGLUND

Hello everyone! I am your Community Service Director for 2021-2022. I am also currently serving as the Sr. Vice Commander at

Lakeview Hough-Pontius Post 3701. I am beyond grateful to be chosen for this position and am excited to begin working with you all on your community service projects! Thank you Commander Conklin, for the appointment.

This coming year, not a lot will change in the program. The main categories for awards within the program include the Post Special Project award, the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project award, the New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year award and the National Outstanding Community Service Post award. Those awards and the 1st through 3rd place division awards, will be presented at the State conference next June!

The top three Posts in each division, are recognized based on their Community Service reports submitted throughout the year. Post membership for the same time period, will determine which division each Post falls under. Don't forget to send your reports in by the 10th of each month. The winners for last year's divisions are as follows:

Division I (10-65 members)

1st Place: Imlay City Post 2492, Dist. 10

2nd Place: Cadillac Post 6864, Dist. 12

3rd Place: Bridgeport Post 9931, Dist. 9

Division II (66-125 members)

1st Place: Livonia Post 3941, Dist. 4

2nd Place: Flint Post 822, Dist. 10

3rd Place: Springport Post 6056, Dist. 6

Division III (126-225 members)

1st Place: Muskegon Post 446, Dist. 12

2nd Place: Lambertville Post 9656, Dist. 6

3rd Place: Portland Post 4090, Dist. 9

Division IV (226+ members)

1st Place: Plymouth Post 6695, Dist. 4

2nd Place: Monroe Post 1138, Dist. 6

3rd Place: Traverse City Post 2780, Dist. 13

The **Post Special Project Award** is part of the National Award Program, but all entries will need to be submitted through myself

first, to review them for completion. This form needs to be filled out completely and legibly, then placed in the first page of your 3 ring binder. Remember that these binders are passed/mailed around to all personnel on the committee, and will be reviewed by a lot of hands. The sturdier and neater you present your 3 ring binder, the better. All projects must be executed and nominated within the 12 months prior to judging. All submissions need to be sent to me no later than the 1st of April, 2022. There weren't any Michigan Posts who submitted their project to National for judging last year. If you need assistance or possible ideas, don't hesitate to reach out sooner than later.

The **Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award** is an extension of the Post Special Project award. Any Post receiving the Award of Excellence, will be entered into this competition. This is a huge honor, and is awarded at National Convention.

The **New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award** can be received by any VFW member in good standing that has been a VFW member for less than 2 years. Each Post is asked to nominate at least one new member, who goes above and beyond for your community/Post. This year, the award went to Adrienne Boman from Post 2144 Holland. The Post Commander wrote a very touching nomination to have her considered for this award. She was more than deserving of it, and we commend her for all of her dedication and hard work for her Post and community. The deadline for submissions for this award, is also the 1st of April, 2022.

The **National Outstanding Community Service Post Award** is given at National level as well, and is another huge honor. There are two Posts that are selected by the Department of Michigan to compete for this award. The two posts that were submitted this past year are Post 3701 in Lakeview and Post 4139 in Lapeer. Congrats to those two Posts for consistently going above and beyond for their communities.

For more information, please go to the Community Service Program tab on vfwmi.org, or call/text me at 616-788-3222

AUXILIARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES / CAMP TROTTER

WENDI HALL

This Auxiliary program provides today's youth many opportunities to serve our veterans and to acknowledge their many efforts. As well, this chairmanship helps to promote, educate youth in the American history of Patriotism and to encourage youth in service and support of our Veterans.

The Illustrating America Patriotic Art Contest is for Youth, grades Kindergarten - Eighth, depicting anything patriotic two dimensionally. Get excited for the Red White and Blue solo singing contest is back for a second year and is available for kids kindergarten thru 12th grade.

Contestants must sing the Star Spangled Banner in any format but they may not alter any words.

Patriotism through literacy promotes and

supports reading and education of American History of patriotism and to foster a love of books.

Camp Trotter is our own Department of Michigan operated Kids Camp Located on Bills Lake in Newaygo. Supporting our Camp through donations to the General Fund, Camp Scholarships, lifetime memberships or donating to any special projects are very necessary fundamentals of helping to keep the Camp going for the future.

Another way which you can support the camp is by donating your time and skills toward upgrades and maintenance projects. There will be no camping season for the youth this year still due to health concerns. Camp Trotter Family day will still happen though August 28th 2021.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**STEPHANIE KRUEGER**

We are in a new administrative year and I want to start it off by thanking both Della Steege and Carrie Turner for their leadership in what was a challenging time in our history – Covid 19. One term was cut short due to the shutdown of our country, and one started out with the continued shut down. Events were canceled or rescheduled and we all tried to make the best of things. Both Della and Carrie continued to lead with grace. ZOOM meetings became a part of our terminology these last 15 months. In addition, I would be remiss if I did not mention our own Michigan-grown National VFW Auxiliary President Sandi Onstwedder. She taught us to keep on

going, and do what we can, how we can.

Next I want to congratulate both the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary officers on all levels. By now you are all on your way to making this a record-breaking year. My best wishes go to my VFW counterpart, State Commander Kevin Conklin and his officers. Teamwork is what will make this organization thrive and grow into the future. Teamwork on all levels, both VFW and Auxiliary, will be our model for success. Elections are over, it's time to move forward with our chosen leaders.

This next few months will find us busy doing the things we always do, chairmanships - Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen,

Americanism, Hospital work, working with the Youth and National Home, and assisting our Veterans all over this great state. There is a lot we can do. No one can do everything alone, but all of us can do something, and as a group we are unstoppable.

September will find our National President Jean Hamil in our state. Watch our websites and Facebook pages for updates. Fall Conference will also begin in late September so please make plans to attend.

A final thought: Thanks to all who have supported me through my 40 years in this great organization. You have been a blessing.

AUXILIARY SR. VICE PRESIDENT**DIANA WARD**

Greetings Sisters, Brothers and Comrades:

For those of you that may not know me, my name is Diana Ward and I have the great privilege of serving as your Department Senior Vice President for the 2021-2022 year. I have been a member of Curtis-Wolverton Auxiliary #3243 in Fenton since 1991, but literally grew up in the VFW having parents that were active since 1972. My eligibility is through my father, James Ward, a 20 year Navy veteran who served in Korea, Viet Nam, Guam, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines – just to name a few. He also served as a United States Air Marshall. My mother, Viola Ward was also a Navy veteran. They are my “Why” along with all the other members of my family who have served. I have held offices on all levels and have held multiple chairmanships on all levels. I currently work as a nurse in the NeuroTrauma ICU at Genesys Hospital and was the honored recipient of the Continuing Education Scholarship available through our National organization.

I'd like to congratulate Stephanie Krueger on her election as President for the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary. I know she will do a great job for our Department and I look forward to serving with her along with the other Line Officers. Thank you to my Auxiliary sister, Diane Morea, for giving me my nomination at the Department Convention and the continued support of my Auxiliary and District 10. It was wonderful seeing everyone at the Convention. Congratulations to all of the program winners, the Auxiliary Achievement winners and the District Achievement winners. I wish everyone the best of luck on bringing home awards from

the National Convention. Finally, I'd like to thank the membership for placing their trust and confidence in me to aid in the leading of our Department. I pledge to all of the Line Officers, Districts and Auxiliaries to be there for you and assist in any way I can.

We are a strong Department and often set the standard for Departments across the country. I know that we, as your Line Officers, are going to be working very hard with, and for, all of you to continue to strive to make the Circle of Excellence. Membership is crucial to our organization, so we need to support our members to help our Auxiliaries succeed and stay strong. This means retaining members, bringing old members back into the organization and getting the word out to eligible family members of veterans. Let's share the good news of our organization. I know that Stephanie has some wonderful things planned for the year and we are here to support her.

The pandemic has made things very difficult the last couple of years. We have lost some Auxiliaries and some great members; however, we are looking to the future and building the organization back up. As your Department Officers, we are here for you. Just reach out and we will give as much help as we are able. If you ever need anything, I can be reached on my cell at

(810) 955-2931,
at home (810) 629-3976
or by internet at
legalblaze@aol.com

I'm looking forward to a great year! Hope to see everyone at Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children and Camp Trotter during August.

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN**JANE DADY**

Thank-you for electing me to the most exciting, challenging and rewarding position as VFW Auxiliary Department Chaplain. I am excited to embrace this Blessing, God's gift of pouring good things into our lives.

The Lord places people and situations in your path for a reason. “Sometimes when someone is anxious to stick out a glad hand, it's because God has something up his sleeve.” Please reach out to me if you know of someone who is ill, in the hospital or suffered a loss. I will send a card, say a prayer or just listen if you need someone to talk to.

When you get to your wits end, you'll find God responds to knee mail.

AUX. HISTORIAN**TRACIE LEMON**

Greetings, my name is Tracie Lemon, I am honored to working along side the VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Chairman this year.

By now Auxiliary Chairman should have copies of the Guide sheets and their first Bulletins.

Through this year we can accomplish our goal by being vigilant. We will be the history keepers of our auxiliaries and preserve our stories so each unique post and auxiliary's legacy will endure. We can use, and become more proficient in, social media in promoting our mission and our individual events.

Become familiar with the publicity forms available on both the Department and National websites. These will help guide you with social media, with press release, talking points and media releases.

AUXILIARY CHIEF OF STAFF**GLORIA DOBBIE**

Welcome to the 2021/2022 Auxiliary year! Congratulations to the Officers, Chairmen, and Members who have committed their time and energy to insure the success of our Organization this year.

Tell Our Story of Service is our Department President's Theme.

So, what does this mean for your Auxiliary? If you're experiencing issues that you feel are beyond your control, you should contact your

District President. Your District President will inform the Department President who will then involve The Chief of Staff.

Some examples of issues are; instituting a new Auxiliary, disbanding an Auxiliary, consolidating Auxiliaries, and anything else that may be a cause of concern.

You will notice that this year the Program title is Chief of Staff / Extension / Mentoring for Leadership. You should also report to

your Mentoring for Leadership Chairman, Judith Brown.

Remember to reward healthy Auxiliaries with “Good Job Awards”! Everyone loves to receive earned recognition.

At the direction of our President, please feel free to contact me at any time.

I'm looking forward to a successful year for our Officers, Chairmen, and Members.

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POST REPORTS

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POST 334 -LAKE ORION

VFW Post 334 Honor Guard performed at eight funerals at Great Lakes National Cemetery on April 20th, 2021. There were five Army, two Air Force and one Navy funeral.

On Thursday, April 22, the Honor Guard also performed at the East Lawn Cemetery in Lake Orion, Michigan to give honors to a Marine Veteran.

These Honors consist of a rifle salute and the playing Taps.

Pictures by Chuck Haskin



POST 2645 - SOUTHFIELD

VFW Post 2645 Southfield donated ten “9/11 Flags of Honor” and “9/11 Flags of Heroes” to the Southfield Police & Southfield Fire Departments.

The ten flags were composed of five Flags of Honor and five Flags of Heroes.

Every name from 9/11 in New York City are listed on the flags.



POST 582 - ORTONVILLE

Post 582 members distributing poppies in May post surgeon Cliff Filhart at chase bank and Sr. Vice Carl Jeffrey at Bueche’s. Post 582 leading Memorial Day parade and Vickie Mic singing amazing grace & Paige Thwing The Post V.O.D. winner reading her essay and talking about patriotism. The turn out and support from the community was great their glad to have some sort of normalcy we also had a flyover from Selfridge Air Base.



POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



Post & Auxiliary members pose with Mercantile Bank employees and Village of Lakeview Manager in front of new Post home at 506 S Lincoln

The Lakeview VFW Post 3701 is excited to announce that they have a new Post home! The Commander requested a donation of the previous Mercantile Bank building which was for sale for \$600,000. After discussions with Mercantile Bank's corporate office and the Village of Lakeview, the Lakeview VFW purchased the building for just \$7,500 with the Village purchasing the parking lot and Mercantile Bank donating the rest. It was a big ask of Mercantile Bank but the lesson learned is that it never hurts to ask the question!

The Post has sold their previous home which they built in the mid 70's and will use the profits to renovate the new building to include a commercial kitchen, large rental space, private offices and designated meeting spaces. The new building is more than double the size of the previous building, in almost perfect condition and most importantly located in the heart of their community. The new building will allow the Post to offer better services to community and be more involved with village events. A major future goal for the building is to add an elevator and designate the 9,00 square foot basement as a community emergency shelter.

The Post is scheduled to host the District 9 meeting in February in the newly renovated space.

POST 8872 - PORT SANILAC

Port Sanilac VFW Post 8872 Commander Roger Bobby and Adjutant Jeff Lyall with the new flagpole at the Sanilac County Historical Museum. The Post donated and installed the pole and will maintain the flag from now on.



★ CAMPAIGNS ★

JERRY GORSKI

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

JENNIFER SMITH

Candidate for Department of Michigan Chaplain 2022-2023

VERN BLAUWKAMP

Candidate for Department of Michigan Jr Vice Commander 2022-2023

AUXILIARY JR. VICE PRESIDENT / SARA MANKE

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers for the 2021-2022 year. I hope this year finds our world and our organization getting back to somewhat of normalcy. I am looking forward working alongside you all this year and would like to share some inspiring words from Nikki Banas: Impact

"You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know

how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk so don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind because you never know how much someone needs it."

AUXILIARY SECRETARY / SANDI ONSTWEDDER

Change has occurred at the Department level not only by having a new Department President, but also by the Department having a new Secretary. I am excited to start this new journey and to be able to continue being an active contributing member of this Department.

With new leadership comes change. I stand 100% behind Stephanie Krueger and her leadership plans for 2021/2022. Transparency is her goal. She strongly believes the more

members know, the more equipped we all will be to strengthen our Auxiliary.

Special plans are being made for the Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. Please make your plans to arrive on Thursday. Dinner will be furnished by me, followed by team building exercises for all members, not just officers.

When you need to call the Department Office, Nicole Koutz or I will do our very best to be of assistance to you.

AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE / JENNIFER SMITH

Am honored to be the Dept.'s Auxiliary Legislative chairman and thank Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Dept. of MI Pres. Stephanie Krueger for this appointment. As we know, we have much work to do to make this year productive and am requesting your patience as we navigate. Please know that both your and our Department's success, as well as helping others, remains my goal.

Accordingly, would like to share that am pleased at the past legislative reports received. A gentle reminder that the Legislative Program's Guide Sheets focus upon three major parts -- VFW Priority Goals, VFW Action Corps Weekly, and Legislative Education and Involvement. What does all this mean [grin]?

Please support the VFW Priority Goals; Downloadable Brochure: <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure.pdf>. Also, please advocate for your members to review and sign-up for the Action Corps Weekly via <https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly> and <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>. Asking for the numbers of your members signed-up to please be included in your reports. Please indicate if newly signed up or existing. Specifics count in reporting this year so please indicate who (lawmaker or staff) you contacted, how (telephone, email, etc.), and regarding which VFW-supported legislative effort.

Next, the Guide Sheets and Bulletins are important tools to download so please do so as they contain helpful links, added program information, and insights. Simply go to the

VFW AUX Dept. of MI's website, click onto 'Programs', then 'Legislative.' This brings us to our third component of the Legislative Program, the 'Legislative Education and Involvement,' which is discussed in the Guide Sheets' achievements. Specifically, 'please train Auxiliary members on the legislative process.' The Guide Sheets further clarifies under 'National Awards:' "Most outstanding training of members on the legislative process. Citation to every Auxiliary that trains members on the legislative process. Criteria and entry form (required) available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](https://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2022. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters." Regarding this, will create a couple downloadable documents that may assist you in this effort and will post on the VFW AUX Dept. of MI website soon and the Dept. Aux.'s Facebook Programs' page via: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/920314502137875>.

Last, please know am just a call or email away for our District Auxiliary Legislative Chairs and other members that need additional help via (517) 819-3551 or jsmith7148@aol.com. Am in frequent meetings, outreach, misc. but will get back with you soon if your call or email is missed as you each and your Districts/Post Aux.s are important. Mighty Michigan patriots, may we 'Tell Our Story of Service' by seeking new heights 'Soaring Above and Beyond.'

With a grateful heart, Jennifer L. Smith

AUX. MEMBERSHIP / NICOLE KOUTZ

The question I have for you is WHY did you join or WHY might you want to join?

Here are a few reasons WHY to join or WHY to stay a member by paying your dues for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.

- To honor the service of a family member.
- To promote patriotism within your community to all citizens young and old.
- To participate in programs that bring family and community members together for worthwhile projects.
- To stress that veterans and their entitlements be a number one priority for legislators.

• To be the voice of those Veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can all live in a democracy.

WHY IS MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

105 years of committed service to those who served us, and have given us our precious FREEDOM...OUR VETERANS. Membership is the key. Without the membership, we could not successfully conduct programs that benefit our veterans, military and their families.

DOES MEMBERSHIP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Millions of veterans, military and their families' year after year have been touched by the good that we do. Membership gives us the power, strength & unity to truly make a difference. Each member counts! Each member makes a difference! YOUR membership makes it happen.

DID YOU KNOW...

The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation's oldest veterans' service organizations and our members are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat. We have nearly a half million members representing all 50 states who volunteer countless of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel, and their families.

We are a voice for veterans on Capitol Hill and are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. We are one of the top 10 providers of volunteer hours in the VA medical system. Every year, members fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans and their families. We also provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth. With nearly 4,000 Auxiliaries, there is likely one in your area working to improve the lives of America's uncommon heroes.

We, as members, need to understand WHY it's important to pay our dues.

OUTREACH / CHRISTINE LEBRUN

Auxiliary Community Outreach is a new program for the VFW Auxiliary and currently is in its second year. This program is about service by freely giving out time to other organizations in our communities. By volunteering, it gives us the opportunity to engage with others in our community and to spread awareness of what we do for veterans and their families.

One of our missions of this program is to seek out opportunities to support and recognize First Responders in light of the twentieth anniversary of 9/11, as well as their sacrifices due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

AUXILIARY NATIONAL HOME**KATHY HUBBARD**

I'm so excited to have been asked to be the Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home for Children Chairman for the coming year, since this is the chairman that has my heart. Being the Department Chairman for the coming year really excites me, there is so much we can share with one and other as well as with Community. For one is to promote the Buddy Poppy to everyone we come in contact with, as well as share the many things our VFW National Home for Children has to offer not only to our Veterans but to their families as well. We can support the National Home in so many ways for the fun times and for the serious things our Veterans need.

Your Support of the National Home gives struggling military and veteran families hope

at a time when they really need it most. Be sure to go to the website for more information vfwnationalhome.org hear the resident's stories and take a visual tour of the Campus.

This year we are going to do our very best to encourage everyone we come in contact with to take part in the Department of MI Joint Challenge Fundraiser "Cash for Kiddo's" Be sure to stop by your local VFW Post and make your donations supporting the Family Services Fund, this can be done Weekly, Monthly or a One Time donation. Let's work together to let the National Home Families that Michigan is there to Support Our Veterans.

Our Michigan Days at our VFW National Home is set for August 22nd be sure to Mark your calendars and bring your family. If you

have never been there before, take time to attend and extend an open invitation to your hometown be it your Community Leaders, Mayor or even your next door neighbors, Also invite your families, car pool possibly, we will do our best to make sure they have the best time ever, we are planning some new things well as working to make sure All State Requirements are being met.. but at the same time doing all we can do to make sure it's a memorable experience for all. I look forward to seeing you there, Please come up and introduce yourself to Me.... Can't wait! Plus Be sure to pray for GREAT Weather A Sunny Warm day for everyone ... No Rain! I'll be looking for you....

Thank you for all you do for Our Veterans!

AUXILIARY MENTORSHIP, JUDITH BROWN

I am excited to be working alongside of all VFW Mentoring for Leadership Chairman this 2021/2022 Year. Guide sheets and Bulletins should be in your hands by now. Please read them and follow the guide sheet carefully. I am here for you if you need help, if I cannot answer your question I will get the answer for you and contact you back ASAP!

"Leadership is – Supplying Constant and

Consistent Motivation" a quote by a mentor to me.

Mentoring is to be undertaken by every member in your auxiliary. Guide the new members and some of the existing members who have not been there in a while. Things change and help may be needed to follow along. Set next to them and help them. This is only a start. Have you ever helped anyone in learning something? Like how to bake an item for the auxiliary bake sale and to present it properly, help them to understand how an audit is done. Show them proper etiquette of

a meeting. If you have done any part of the above, YOU ARE A MENTOR!

The primary objective of promoting this program in your Auxiliary should be to build Leadership qualities into all members. Remember someday you are going to want someone to step up to the plate and take a position. Start that TRAINING now!

A member encourages, energizes, is patient reliable outgoing, consistent communicator and knowledgeable. God bless you and Good Luck.

AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS**ROSE SANCRANT**

I would like to thank the Department President, Stephanie Krueger, for this appointment as your 2021-2022 Scholarship Chairperson. I look forward to working with Eddie Dandridge, my VFW counterpart. If you have not already reached out to your counterpart please do so immediately. Form a partnership with your counterpart as you distribute contest information. As students head back to school it is important to promote our programs and provide pertinent information to the students to ensure max participation in the VFW and Auxiliary programs. Think outside the box to promote i.e. social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), local newspaper, church bulletin, local businesses, libraries, and the best promotion is "word of mouth".

Voice of Democracy (VOD) Audio-Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9th-12th. Theme "America: Where will we go from here?"

Patriot's Pen (PP) Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 6th-8th. Theme "How can I be a good American?"

VOD and PP entries are due to the local Post by October 31, 2021. District level judging to be completed by November 15, 2021 with Department level judging completed by January 10, 2021.

Continuing Education Scholarship is open to an Auxiliary member, 18 years or older (who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, or children with a financial need. One applicant will be chosen in each of the four Conferences, each receiving \$1,000.

Applications must be submitted by February 15, 2022 to National Headquarters:

Programs Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is open to all students in grades 9th-12th. Artwork must be submitted to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2022.

Resources: VFW Website, www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education; VFW Auxiliary Website www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships; Department Website www.vfwauxmi.org.

Feel free to reach out to me with Scholarship questions : probie08@icloud.com

AUXILIARY VETERAN/FAMILY SUPPORT**NANCY VREDEVELD**

I am looking forward to working as chairman of Veterans & Family Support with all the VFW Auxiliary Chairmen, where we can show our support for those who have given so much. We are here to support our veterans and their families.

National has requested two things from us this year:

- Increase awareness of homeless veterans
- Show support (by events or activities) for

caregivers of veterans and their families

NVS - National Veterans Service helps veterans, service members, and families obtain benefits they deserve - at no cost.

Programs that are available for active duty and discharged military are: MAP - Military Assistance Program, Unmet Needs, and VFW "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship"..

We also are promoting Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health

Awareness. The Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255

connects veterans, their family and friends with caring, qualified responders in times of crisis. You can call and press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at veterans.crisisline.net 24/7. Add this info to your phones!

You can find descriptions of all these programs in the guide sheet.

Don't forget to report all you do!



DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - SUE-JEN MAULDIN



Greetings to the Fighting 5th,

I want to start by saying "thank you" for trusting in me and allowing me to serve YOU.

Congratulations to all our newly elected officers. Additionally, congratulations to our District 5 Commander of the Year Ron Grouse, Post 1794 Commander and All-State Posts 1794 and 9914.

So much was left undone last year due to restrictions so, that means we need to hit the ground running while we can.

- Membership is the backbone of the organization and it's never too early to start planning membership drives where ever and whenever you can.

- Now is the time to get out to the schools and work on the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pens, and Teacher of the Year Programs. Attend PTA meetings, place an ad in the

local newspaper and school papers, post on websites/Facebook pages, etc. Think out of the box and get the word out there. Remember to fill out the applications completely and submit all the documents requested when submitting to the District.

- Please make sure you review the Department Programs. If you are submitting someone for awards, look at the deadlines. These are hard dates so, make sure you get your submissions in on time.

To keep up with events going on in the 5th, please view the "Calendar" under "News" on our website at www.vfwmidist5.org. Additionally, we have two Facebook pages where information is also posted "Oakland & Macomb Counties" (Private Group) and "VFW & Auxiliary MI District 5" (Public Group). Anyone conducting a fundraiser for the Post/Auxiliary, please post flyers on the pages.

The District meetings are as follows:

Aug 15 - St. Clair Shores Post 1146 @ 10:00 a.m. (Dashboard Training) Business

Session @ 1:00 p.m.

Dec 12 - Waterford Post 1008 @ 10:00 a.m. (Pearl Harbor Observation); Business Session @ 1:00 p.m.

Feb 20 - Frasier Post 6691 @ 10:00 a.m. (POW-MIA/Joint Memorial); Business Session @ 1:00 p.m.

Apr 24 - New Baltimore Post 7573 @ 10:00 a.m.; Business Session @ 1:00 p.m.

Although the past year has been difficult, I can't express how proud I am of the officers and members of the Posts and Auxiliaries who have risen above these unprecedented times. Hopefully, we will be able to remain open so we can continue to help our veterans and reconnect with our communities and each other. Remember, you are not alone. I and the District Officers are here to help you. Continue to stay safe and let's make this a year of recovery.

NOTE: NO CAMPAIGNING will be allowed at the first or last meeting due to the amount of business being conducted.

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - REINOLD E. YAHNKA



Comrades of the "Super 6th District"

As the Commander of the "Super 6th District" I could not be prouder of the

accomplishments of the Post in the "Super 6th District. The "Super 6th District" was best in the State and we were seated in the front row. The "Super 6th District" was the only District 100 percent in membership and received a \$500.00 check. If the "Super 6th" is still in the lead at the end of June the District will receive another check for \$500.00 and the District Commander will receive a jacket. The "Super 6th District" also made All-State after the 30 April deadline and the Commander and Quartermaster will receive their white All-State caps at Fall Conference. There were only 13 All-State Post in the State and the "Super 6th District had 5 of them. Congratulations to the following All-State Posts, Monroe Post 1138 Commander Robert Cebina, Quartermaster David Miller, Carleton Post 4093 Commander John Brazon, Quartermaster Donald P Kecskes, Springport Post 6056, Commander Michael Whittum, Quartermaster Rod Marks, Fowlerville Post 6464, Commander Butch Ogdon, Quartermaster George Wygant and Grass Lake Post 10194, Commander Rex Murdock, Quartermaster Brandon Richards. The "Super 6th District" was also the first District to be 100 percent in Hospital reporting. The "Super 6th District" was also the only District where every Post in the District was eligible to vote if they would have been in attendance. Every Post had paid their delegate dues, audits were turned in, election reports and bonds were completed making every Post eligible to vote. There were 62 Posts in the Department that

were not eligible to vote. Please have your delegates register on Saturday and attend the convention next year on Saturday. The "Super 6th District" hospitality room was the biggest and best in the Department. Thank you to "Super 6th District" President Rose Sancrant and her husband Erie Post 3925 Commander Tom Sancrant for their tents, tables, chairs and great tasting potato salad and Cole slaw. Tom grilled some fabulous hamburgers and hotdogs. Thank You to "Super 6th District" Sr. Vice Alvin Bond, Jr. Vice Bryan Gawecki, Post 6056 Commander Mike Whittum for helping in setting up and tearing down the hospitality room. I also have to Thank my wife Diana and Auxiliary 6056 Treasurer for making the 4 sheet cakes and helping in any way she could. You, the Comrades of the "Super 6th District" are the best there are and make my job easier and make me look good. Thank You. I am asking you to keep working membership and let's make the "Super 6th District" an All-American District. Thank You to everyone that helped make the "Super 6th District" the best.

Now it's time to get on with this next year. Comrades, the All-State program has changed this year, so take a look at it and start reporting by the 10th of each month. Look at reporting something in every category every month. Every Post should be doing electronic reporting both activity and hospital reporting. They are doing away with the hand written forms soon. They have done away with the points system and now you have to complete certain requirements in order to make All-State. Start working membership now, don't wait until the end of the year. Post must be 100% plus 3 new or reinstated members. Donations are pretty much the same, \$1.00 per member or \$100.00 per category. Commander and Quartermaster

must attend a 6-hour Department sponsored VTS or attend 6 one hour zoom training sessions. Must contact your legislators. Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen submissions are required. Post must have and active Facebook or webpage. Post must submit at least one entry for Public Safety award. Each Post must purchase Buddy Poppies. Captain of the All-State team will be awarded to the Post with the highest membership on April 30th. Every Post should be able to make All-State under the new program. You are doing what is required, you just need to report it and turn in submissions.

District 6 Meeting Schedule

September 18 - Location To Be Determined

10:00 am - Veterans Training Session (

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm - Meeting

December 4 - Post 6462

418 Dunham Street, Dundee, MI 48131

10:00 am - Pearl Harbor Ceremony

10:30 am - District VOD/PP/Teacher of the Year Presentation of awards.

1:00 pm - Meeting and Nominations

April 23 - Post 1138

400 Jones Ave, Monroe, MI 48161

11:00 am - Memorial Service

12:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm - Meeting and Elections, Installation of District Officers after meeting.

It is an Honor to be your District 6 Commander for a second year back-to-back. I am here to serve you and help you 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.

(517)-745-3705

District6@vfwmi.vet



would be appreciated. I had an informative and enjoyable time at the convention in

DISTRICT 14 - DEAN MAKI

Comrades, the District Officers are basically the same as last year. I again am District Commander. A little more interest in serving the district Flint. Thank you to all those who have been so supportive during my tenure. I look forward to another productive year. Our next District meeting will be held at Post 4420 in Manistique on August 15th at 10:00 am. The fall meeting will be held at Post 5670 in Gwinn on November 7th at 1:00 pm. And our Spring convention will be held at Post 3676 in Sault Sainte Marie on April 17th at 10:00 am.

Now that the restrictions have been lifted, I will hopefully make my rounds of the Post's for inspections. Get your audits in on time. Do your QM bonds, 990's, election reports, & corporate renewals. Report your activities and hospital donations.
Recruit, Renew, & Retain.
Call for assistance.
906-869-1223

DISTRICT 15 - BUD HUUKI

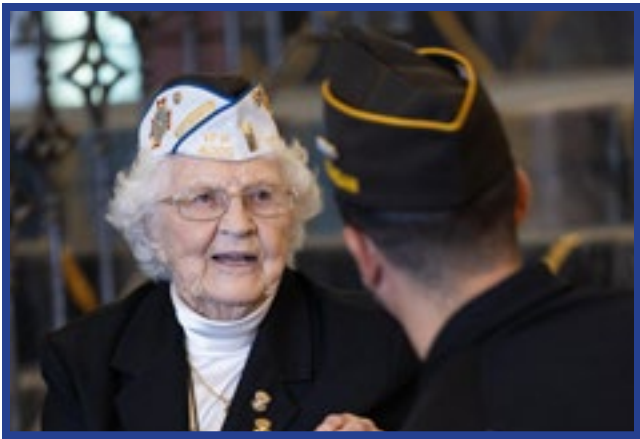
This is my first article after being installed at the Department convention so it will be a short one. Let me congratulate Commander Conklin and all the incoming comrades for their accomplishments and wish all the success during this year. We all have a "tuff" act to follow all the accomplishments of the district last year. But I know the district is up to the challenge.
I'd like to give all the post a heads up. At our fall conference in Wakefield our meetings will begin in the morning. We'll hopefully have some training sessions by the Department of Michigan VTS team. With numerous new young directors and ideas, our members

needs to brought up to date on changing conditions. We've entered the electronic era all program activity reports will be submitted electronically. So it's imperative that our posts are up to speed. You can log into vfwmi.org to see what the current programs and directors require. You must submit your reports by the 10th of each month.
I look forward to serving with our 15th President Judy Fell. WE 'll have a great time moving the district forward this year. I look forward to visiting the posts and sharing any information I receive from National and Department.
Take care and stay safe.

103 YEAR OLD WORLD WAR II NURSE – A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

I had the distinct privilege this past convention of being introduced to Irene Hosking, a 103 year old World War II Veteran who was part of the Army Nurse Corps.
Irene's brother was a Pearl Harbor survivor who was stationed there for his entire career. Irene joined the Nurse Corps hoping to eventually catch up with her brother, but the Army had different plans.
She ended up training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin where she met her future husband and they were married approximately 3 months later. Irene was shipped to Australia, her husband was shipped to the European theater. She says, "because of this they never had a quarrel for over 22 years... but they sure made up for it!"
When arriving to Australia, Irene landed in

Sydney before heading to Townsville where she was trained as an anesthesiologist under the tutelage of Dr. Malcolm Hawk. After training, Irene was stationed in Brisbane where she served as a nurse anesthetist including spinal anesthetics. She thoroughly enjoyed her time living in Brisbane. While there, Irene was invited into local homes and treated as another daughter.
At the young age of 103 Irene was elected chaplain of post 4005 and is truly an inspiration to all.
When interacting with older veterans Irene want's people to know, "don't look at their age and think that they're no longer able to do things, age should not even enter into whatever you're doing." Too many people are "looking at the age and thinking



you're a vegetable."
Irene is living proof that age is just a number, and that you're never to old to participate and make a difference in the VFW!
- Cameron Zbikowski





AUXILIARY PRESIDENT REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 - SERENA LEMONCELLI

I, Serena Lemoncelli, would like to thank everyone that supported me and elected me, VFW Auxiliary 4th District President for the year 2021- 2022.

Lets all work together to make this a successful year

DISTRICT 5 - DON MCNICHOL

Wow what a crazy year ! Thank you to Commander Gloger and President Turner for keeping things going this year during COVID . Congrats to incoming Commander Konklin and President Krueger . We have had to adapt and overcome many issues this past year with all the restrictions but we have made it work. Congrats to all for their efforts . Hopefully this year we can get back to somewhat of a normal way of doing all our programs and fundraisers. Remember that membership is the life blood of our organization . We need to find ways to get our newer members more involved and take a active role in becoming chairpersons and officers. The same people can't keep doing it year in and year out. In closing I am honored to be your 5th District President . We have a great group of people as always.

DISTRICT 6 - PATRICK RICH

I would like thank District 6 for allowing me to be your President.

Please do not forget Michigan Day at the V.F.W. National Home on August 22, 2021.

Camp Trotter Golf outing the 18th of June, 2021 Family Day Aug 28, 2021

I would like to target membership this year. Let's get some new Members.

Do not forget the 911 events in your area.

DISTRICT 7 - JASON MANKE

A huge thanks to the members of District 7 for electing me as your District President. The 2020-2021 year was sure a struggle with COVID but let's keep our fingers crossed that the 2021-2022 year will be a lot better. I'm looking forward to making my official visit in each of the Auxiliaries in this great district.

Remember your district officers are here to help and assist each Auxiliary with questions or any concerns you might have. I have always said the district level is the training level. Don't forget Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children is on Aug 22nd our district will be signing up to help on a project that day. Here are the dates for the 21-22 district meetings:

August 8th- Post 2284 Edwardsburg
November 7th- Post 6248 Decatur
February 6th- Post 667 South Haven
May 1st- Post 4054 Marcellus

Until the next article may God Bless each of you and each one of our Auxiliaries.

DISTRICT 8 - NANCY VREDEVOLD

It is the beginning of a new year, and hopefully things will be less challenging this year. Thank you for the confidence placed in me to be your District 8 President for another year.

There will be a district planning meeting on June 26 in Wayland at 9 am.

Our first district meeting will be held at the Boat and Canoe Club in Grand Rapids on August 7.

The other meetings are November 6 in Otsego, February 5 at the Red Arrow Post, and the district convention will be May 7 in Charlotte. Lunch is at 11am, audit and registration are at noon, and the meetings begin at 12:30.

I plan on having the dates for inspections for you at the planning conference.

Looking forward to serving another year with District Commander Mike Martin.

DISTRICT 10 - ROBERTA REID

Greetings Sisters, Brothers and Comrades of the 10th District: My name is Roberta Reid and I have the great privilege of again serving as your District President for the 2021-2022 year. I want to thank all of my District members for their continued confidence in me to serve them in this capacity. I am a member of VFW Auxiliary 2492 in Imlay City. My husband, Robert, gives his full support of my Auxiliary endeavors. I am really looking forward to my return visits to all of the Auxiliaries in our District. I'd like to congratulate our new Department President, Stephanie Krueger along with her Line Officers on their election to the offices and to my fellow incoming District Presidents. I pledge my support and assistance to them and our District. Congratulations to the Auxiliaries that made Auxiliary Achievement and we will work to, hopefully, get more of the Auxiliaries into the Achievement program this year. Unfortunately, we lost some Auxiliaries this past year, but we are going to try to get those members into other Auxiliaries.

I would ask that at least one member of each of our Auxiliaries attend all three of our District meetings. Our first District Meeting will be in August 2021. At the writing of this article, I don't have the exact date, but our School of Instruction will be incorporated into the meeting. There will also be a Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee included.

District meetings dates will be discussed at the first District Meeting. Other upcoming dates to be aware of are Michigan Day at National Home for Children on August 21, 2021 and Camp Trotter Day on August 28, 2021. District 10 will be responsible for one of the activities at Michigan Day so I would appreciate it if the District members are available to help on that day.

Membership is crucial to our organization, for without members and our veterans, we would not exist. We need members to keep us strong and continue to hold a significant voice in relationship to Congress and other forums to fight for our veterans. As I said earlier, we lost a few Auxiliaries so we need to try to get those members joined to our other Auxiliaries in our District. Other goals I have for this year are to be 100% reported in all our programs. We have several members in the District who are available to each of you to assist you in getting reported, show you how to do it electronically or do them for you if you do not have a computer or access to the internet. Remember this is the teaching level and we are here to assist you with whatever you need for your Auxiliaries. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out to me for assistance. I'm looking forward to a great year!

POST 2780 HOLDS DINNER FOR NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS

Nearly 50 Guardsmen attended the "thank you" dinner at VFW Post 2780. Post Auxiliary President Vicki Luckey said she heard about the troops being housed in a nearby hotel with no laundry service available. She hooked them up with a local launderer which offers discounts to military personnel.

But it made her think that those soldiers might like a home-cooked meal.

"Here they were serving in our area and living out of a hotel," Luckey said. "I thought they were probably sick of eating pizza."

Guardsmen were invited to the Post for a Salisbury steak dinner complete with homemade rolls and desserts. Auxiliary and VFW members worked together to pull off the event. Afterward, some played pool and darts while others embarked on a push-up challenge.

"It was so heartwarming to have our place filled with young military people," Luckey said. "The camaraderie was truly wonderful."

According to a Michigan National Guard press release issued in February, troops have been helping the Michigan Department of Health and Human services with vaccine distribution. The Guardsmen performed various roles, including serving as vaccinators, assistants and post-vaccination observers.

Luckey added that the Auxiliary has persevered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. At Christmas, they hosted a drive-thru Christmas where they served 400 dinners and handed out 250 stockings for children.

"We are very active and try to do what we can," she said. "With the dinner we did, it was wonderful to have the younger generation here with us."



NATIONAL VFW REPORTS



STEER CLEAR OF VA 'CLAIM SHARKS'

As the presence of unaccredited VA disability claim representatives continues to rise, VFW wants to make sure veterans and dependents know their options when it comes to applying for earned VA benefits and disability compensation.

VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer said veterans and their dependents need to be aware of companies that offer help filing a VA claim with promises of boosting the veteran's current disability compensation.

VA claim sharks are taking advantage of veterans. Often, companies will charge five times the amount of the veteran's retroactive compensation, potentially costing him or her thousands of dollars.

"These companies are not accredited by VA," Muckelbauer said. "A lot of them require a membership fee. All of them require a portion of a veteran's disability compensation."

These companies are often referred to as "claim sharks." Muckelbauer said these unaccredited companies often advertise on social media and added that they have become "more aggressive" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These companies are advertising to a receptive audience as a result of regional offices being closed during the pandemic," Muckelbauer said. "They promise things that a veteran or dependent can receive for free."

Muckelbauer said some tell-tale signs unaccredited companies use to attract veterans and dependents include:

Promising a "guaranteed" raise in disability compensation.

Telling clients that they can "start for free."

Providing "coaching" during the VA disability claims process.

"They use language such as, 'If you don't get any benefits, you don't pay anything,'" Muckelbauer said. "It belies the fact that there are organizations, such as VFW, that

have been doing this for much longer, with more proficiency and free of charge."

Muckelbauer said many of these organizations might advertise that they will review VA rating letters to find claims veterans service organizations are neglecting to file. He also said veterans and dependents might find these companies enticing to work with because of current delays at VA.

"People could see this as a way to shorten the process and receive an expedited return on their compensation," Muckelbauer said. "What veterans and dependents need to understand is that they will have to go through the same VA process as everyone else."

Muckelbauer said that depending on his or her contract, a veteran might not be able to get out of an agreement with an unaccredited organization or person.

He said VFW currently is finding ways to protect those who have been affected by claim sharks.

"VFW continues to explore consumer financial protection available to ensure that the rights and benefits of veterans and other claimants are protected," Muckelbauer said.

A FREE OPTION FOR VETERANS

VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci said anyone filing a VA disability claim should only work with organizations that are accredited with VA.

"The first question anyone should ask is, 'Are you accredited with the Department of Veterans Affairs?'" Gallucci said. "Veterans should always work with someone who is VA-accredited. I prefer it if they use a VFW service officer, but if it's not us, find any organization, agent or attorney that is accredited."

Gallucci said veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, can expect to receive a full claims assistance service — free of charge — when working with a VFW Service Officer.

VFW's VA-accredited service officers can help with all aspects of the process.

"VFW Service Officers act as a veteran's power of attorney when it comes to handling VA disability claims," Gallucci said. "This is something unaccredited consulting groups are not legally allowed to do. The reason VFW can do that is because we carry accreditation with the VA."

Gallucci said VA's accrediting process includes having strict training requirements so veteran service officers can keep pace with federal regulations, as well as to better understand how VA evaluates and rates disability claims. He added that accredited organizations are held to a high standard of privacy when dealing with a veteran's health care information.

Though most VFW service officers have been forced to work remotely for the past year, VFW has continued to provide high quality claims assistance virtually the whole time. Many locations are reopening for in-person visits, but the best way to contact a VFW service officer is by email or phone.

"If you call one, please leave a message. They are checking voicemails and they are calling everyone back," Gallucci said.

Gallucci also encourages anyone who feels uncomfortable working with an organization on their VA disability claims to reach out to one of many VFW service officers across the country.

"Just have a conversation with the service officer," Gallucci said. "We are here to help and answer questions. We try to clear up any misconceptions a veteran might have about the process."

This article is featured in the June/July 2021 issue of VFW magazine. It was written by Dave Spiva, associate editor, for the VFW magazine.

MEMBERS WILL GAIN ACCESS TO IMPRESSIVE AND EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce it is teaming up with PerkSpot to offer VFW members meaningful discounts on everything from home goods and the latest gadgets, to entertainment, travel and big-ticket buys.

Benefits of the new PerkSpot discount program for VFW members. With this expanded offering, VFW members will gain access to an exclusive savings platform that connects them to member-exclusive discounts including more than 30,000 national and local offers. Whether it is savings on travel, gym memberships, cell phones, restaurants and more, the PerkSpot discount program offers exclusive discounts in more than 25 categories, meaning there is something for everyone!

"The VFW is consistently working to bring the best discounts and savings to our members, and teaming up with PerkSpot will provide VFW members exclusive access to a

one-stop-shop for thousands of exclusive discounts," said Hal Roesch, VFW national commander. "Our members are combat veterans who have bravely served their country, and this new benefit program provides them the opportunity to enjoy life while still protecting their wallet."

VFW members should have received an email from perspot in June. For more information, or to create a free account, visit vfw.perkspot.com



ARMED FORCES DAY - MAY 15

The millions of men and women who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces raised their right hand and swore an oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States," standing on the front line of freedom, both at home and abroad. They are our nation's defenders in every domain — on land, at sea, in the air, in cyberspace, and in outer space. They even answered the call during a pandemic to join first responders in saving lives and caring for hundreds of thousands of their fellow Americans infected by COVID-19. How blessed is our country that such men and women would selflessly serve everyday on behalf of all of us.



DESIGNER / EDITOR,
STACEY ROBERTS

Happy New fiscal year!
To our new officers, Congrats on your new position. this MOV is a great tool to keep your members updated. I am happy to accept photos with your article as well! Just make sure you have rights to them.

Next deadline = OCTOBER 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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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

4093 Carleton

Adams, Brendan 32 Army/Iraq

5189 Vicksburg

Kucks, Wayne 91 Air Force/Korea

6695 Plymouth

Wyckoff, Frederic 93 Navy/Korea

6864 Cadillac

Anderson, Wallce D. 100 Army/WWII

7573 New Baltimore

Zurro, Charles W. 84 Korea

8465 Port Huron

Balkwill, William 97 Marines/WWII

Pavlov, Joseph 96 Navy/WWII

8846 Muskegon

Archer, Merritt Sr. 83 Navy/Korea

Buys, Leonard 93 Navy/WWII

La Londe, Joseph E. 93 Army/WWII

Meitzner, Kenneth 87 Navy/WWII

9023 Brimley

Wiser, Willis A. 93 Army/Korea

9363 Flat Rock

Pike, Edwin 81 Navy/Vietnam

9808 Saginaw

Summerfield, Lyle J. 871 Navy/Korea

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