



Pennsylvania VFWnews



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Scan this QR code to find VFW web resources that will keep you informed and ready to engage.

YOUR VFW: NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

Convention Highlights Many VFW Successes and Challenges Ahead

Scanning a packed ballroom crowd of 300 Veterans from all service eras as he made his first remarks as the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars' highest elected officer, State Commander Thomas M. Hanzes of Transfer Post 7599 was clearly moved by the privilege extended to him to lead 75,000 combat zone Veterans in service to each other, military families and communities.

"I am so humbled and honored to stand before my VFW Comrades and friends as your Commander," stated U.S. Army Veteran Hanzes, who served with the 25th Infantry Division while earning the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Bronze Service Star, Bronze Star for Valor and the National Defense Service Medal.

"I was a young kid who thought he was invincible, then I found myself in Vietnam. I came back from my overseas deployments with a greater love for my country, my family, my fellow veterans and my God.

"I never thought I would have the chance to stand in front of this great body of comrades who served America
Convention ... continued on page 4



2018-19 State Commander Thomas M. Hanzes takes the oath of office during the State Convention.

Department Continues its Push to End Smoking in Private Clubs

At last year's State Convention, delegates overwhelmingly voted in favor of urging lawmakers to remove the exemption from the State's Clean Indoor Air Act that still allows smoking in clubs.

Since then, the Department has developed coalitions, met with legislators and participated in a press event to promote legislation that halts smoking in all PLCB-licensed clubs, which would create a level playing field. State HQ has also requested that all Posts strongly consider ending smoking inside their Post so their facilities are healthier for veterans of all ages and more family friendly.

Recently installed State Commander Thomas Hanzes has pledged to keep this issue as a top legislative priority. Hanzes will soon participate in an American Heart Association media event in western Pennsylvania to support State House Bill 1309 and Senate Bill 519.

State HQ officials commend the more than 40 VFW Posts that ban indoor smoking and the others who prohibit it but not yet reported it to State HQ.

No Smoking ... continued on page 2



From Titusville Post 5958 (left photo), Commander Cecil Dennis and Quartermaster Elizabeth Miller earned "All-State Captain" status and accepted several Department Membership Awards as detailed on page 9. Mars Post 7505 Commander Herbert Carpenter and Quartermaster Robert

Carrara (middle photo) also earned several awards for increasing Post membership. Shown (at right) are State Commander Thomas Hanzes, State Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Perry and newly-elected Jr. Vice Commander Ron Peters demonstrating their VFW leadership unity.



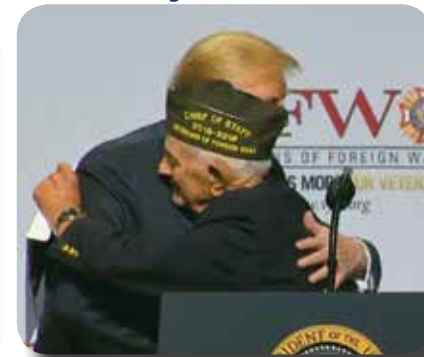
2017-18 State Cmdr. Dwight Fuhrman (left) and his Chief of Staff John Brenner outline why State HQ urges Posts to halt indoor smoking during an American Heart Association program.

PAARNG Sgt. Lupton Receives VFW Eagle Award



Sgt. Kody Lupton holds the PA VFW Eagle Award he received for distinguished service from then State Commander Dwight Fuhrman (far right). Joining Sgt. Lupton were his girlfriend Karissa and son Hunter, (from left) LTC Howard Lloyd, LTC Michael Girvin, CPT. Matthew Slatzer and CSM Jeffery Tracey.

A Presidential Embrace for the Pennsylvania VFW



During the National Convention in July, President Donald Trump offers the podium to the PA Department's own Past State Commander and Past National Chief of Staff Allen Q. Jones, 94. After signing a photo for Sgt. Jones, the president is seen above embracing the World

War II U.S. Army veteran, a moment which drew national news coverage. President Trump thanked all veterans for their service, then outlined numerous programs that will benefit Veterans and the military. (Screen shots taken from Fox News online coverage.)

*From the State Commander***If We Serve, Mentor and Inspire, Our VFW will Grow**

Thomas M. Hanzes - thomashanzes@yahoo.com or (724) 815-9164



Greetings to my VFW comrades and friends:

What an honor you have placed in me to be your PA Department Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander.

It is a humbling experience to say the least. While I cannot adequately express all my gratitude, thank you for the faith and trust you have given me. I hope my year as your Commander will far exceed your expectations of me. I pledge to you my 100% commitment!

I will be on the road as much as possible to visit as many Posts and Districts as I can. I look forward to meeting you.



State Commander Thomas Hanzes accepts the Department's gavel from Past National Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki.

My first thought as we embark together on a new year is this: "ALL PROGRESS TAKES PLACE OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE." We ALL have much to do and many goals to accomplish. Please be flexible with how you work with others. Expand your involvement and dedication beyond what you might have previously been unwilling to do.

We face challenges that are critical to our future including meeting and exceeding our membership goals. Achieving these goals is unequivocally crucial to our survival.

While it may seem like a daunting goal at times—in part due to our Pennsylvania Department having 3,641 active members pass away just last year—we can stop our membership decline by being a powerful, positive force in the community.

For example, we must address Post image problems to attract the interest of younger veterans and female veterans.

Drink and food specials are not enticing enough to spur interest in membership.

Much of our success will be achieved by actively engaging veterans outside of your Post doors. Posts must extend into the community by being active with schools, churches, youth groups, public safety units, places that serve less fortunate persons, State Veterans Homes, homeless shelters for veterans and military units.

It is imperative that we think outside the box and get outside of our comfort zones to find innovative ways to "sell" the VFW as worthy of veterans' investment. Start promoting how much we do for veterans, their families, the military, persons in need and our communities.

Create ways to entice younger veterans, women veterans and their families to join by telling them how we benefit others. Young veterans are looking for activities that add value and joy to their lives, so make your Post family friendly and hold events that attract families.

The VFW's future must reflect the desires and needs of those who will follow in our footsteps. Tell them that we advocate on issues that impact their lives – like fighting daily to preserve their benefits. This will help bring in new members.

If potential members understand the value of VFW membership, they will be proud to be a part of our great organization. But first, we must earn their trust and respect. Let's get to work showing them what the VFW is all about.

WE ALL SERVE, and in addition, we MUST mentor and inspire our newer members so that they have the same resolve and determination that previous generations had in forming and building our great organization.

Again, SERVE-MENTOR-INSPIRE!

"No one does more for veterans than the VFW!"



State Commander Thomas Hanzes poses with the MVPs of the VFW State Teener Tournament. VFW officials joining the Commander are (from left) Post 1754 Sr. Vice Commander Richard Henney, Chief of Staff James Lewis and Past District 17 Commander Jesse Rinker.

No Smoking ... continued from page 1

These Posts have stopped indoor smoking, while providing smokers with designated areas outside of the canteen to light up.

- Lansdale Post 32
- West Chester Post 106
- Harrisburg Post 148
- North Penn Post 676
- Edinboro/McKean Post 740
- Conshohocken Post 1074
- Red Lion Post 1446
- Huntingdon Post 1754
- Mt. Wolf Post 2493
- Hanover Post 2506
- Ephrata Post 3376
- Willow Grove Post 3398
- Media Post 3460
- Roslyn Post 3498
- Willow Grove Post 3612
- Morningside Post 3945
- Covington Twp. Post 5207
- Spring Grove Post 5265
- Mount Joy Post 5752
- Greencastle Post 6319
- Yardley Post 6393
- Levittown Post 6495

- Donegal Post 6743
- Dillsburg Post 6771
- Gladwyne Post 6956
- New Freedom Post 7012
- Clark Summit Post 7069
- Trappe Post 7155
- Whitehall Post 7293
- Millersville Post 7294
- Reynolds Post 7599
- Valley Forge Post 7878
- Mountville Post 8757
- East Berlin Post 8896
- Bensalem Post 9220.

State HQ often receives calls from veterans searching for smoke-free Posts to join. If your Post is smoke free and is not included in this article, please email State Adjutant John Getz at adjutant@vfwpahq.org and ask to be added to this growing list.

Posts that are planning to make the transition to smoke-free facilities can contact State HQ for referrals to Posts that have successfully become no-smoking establishments. The phone number at State HQ is (717) 234.7927.

District Meeting Schedule**AUGUST 2018**

| DIST. | LOCATION | DATE | TIME |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 13 | VFW Post #6558 - Womelsdorf | August 12, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 14 | VFW Post #6824 - Rome | August 19, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 17 | VFW Post #7463 - New Bloomfield | August 5, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 18 | VFW Post #2385 - Lykens | August 5, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 19 | VFW Post #6347 - Mt Jewett | August 12, 2018 | 2:30 P.M. |
| 20 | VFW Post 3448 - Mt. Pocono | August 19, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 21 | VFW Post #8896 - East Berlin | August 26, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 27 | VFW Post #6743 - Jones Mills | August 26, 2018 | 2:30 P.M. |

SEPTEMBER 2018

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Philadelphia VAMC | September 12, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. |
| 7 | VFW Post #7949 - Eddystone | September 26, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. |
| 8 | VFW Post #6495 - Levittown | September 16, 2018 | 1:30 P.M. |
| 9 | VFW Post #5956 - Manheim | September 9, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 10 | VFW Post #25 - Scranton | September 9, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 11 | VFW Post #8335 - Avoca | September 16, 2018 | 2:30 P.M. |
| 12 | VFW Post #3432 - Pine Grove | September 16, 2018 | 2:30 P.M. |
| 15 | VFW Post #6753 Knoxville | September 23, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 16 | VFW Post #5954 - Red Hill | September 19, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. |
| 20 | VFW Post 8008 - Nesquehoning | September 16, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 22 | VFW Post #7043 - Coalport | September 16, 2018 | 2:30 P.M. |
| 23 | VFW Post #21 - Connellsville | September 9, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 25 | VFW Post #7505 - Mars | September 16, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 26 | VFW Post #7073 - Parker | September 9, 2018 | 2:30 P.M. |
| 28 | VFW Post #470 - Erie | September 9, 2018 | 1:00 P.M. |
| 29 | VFW Post #2754 - Pittsburgh | September 16, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |

OCTOBER 2018

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Philadelphia VAMC | October 10, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. |
| 7 | VFW Post #3460 - Media | October 24, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. |
| 14 | VFW Post #8306 - Catawissa | October 14, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |
| 16 | VFW Post #3612 - Willow Grove | October 17, 2018 | 7:30 P.M. |
| 24 | VFW Post #4793 - Waynesburg | October 21, 2018 | 2:00 P.M. |

AT YOUR SERVICE: MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Have You Utilized the State's Veterans Registry?

The Pennsylvania Veterans Registry is an online application that allows veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to connect with the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to request information about valuable benefits, programs and services.

The registry is part of the DMVA's strategy to expand communication with veterans and persons who support them. All registrants'



information will be shared with County Directors for Veterans Affairs and Commonwealth agencies to facilitate local connections. Visit <https://register.dmva.pa.gov/>

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS HOMES



Delaware Valley Veterans' Home, Phila., 215-856-2718
Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center, Scranton, 570-961-4348
Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home, Hollidaysburg, 814-696-5352
Pennsylvania Soldiers' & Sailors' Home, Erie, 814-878-4917
Southeastern Veterans' Center, Spring City, 610-948-2406
Southwestern Veterans' Center, Pittsburgh, 412-665-6782

We are here to make you feel at home!

Visit dmva.pa.gov and click on Veterans Homes.

THE VFW'S 1 STUDENT VETERAN PROGRAM PROVIDES EXPERT ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS SEEKING:

- Guidance in filing for GI Bill benefits.
- Help accessing education benefits.
- Answers to any VA benefit questions.
- Resolution of wrongly denied or delayed benefits.

1 STUDENT VETERAN



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Dedicated to the comradeship of those who borne arms in defense of the USA, to the principle of informed and active patriotism, working to keep us strong and free.

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Editors: State Commander Thomas M. Hanzes & State Adjutant John B. Getz, Jr.
 Produced by Department Communications/Public Affairs Director David A. Sandman

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VA Benefit News & Other Important Health Updates

This information is provided by the PA VFW Veterans Service Officer program. For an appointment call (717) 234-7927. State HQ thanks the State of PA for Act 66 grant funds.

BENEFICIARY TRAVEL

Who is eligible for VA Beneficiary Travel?

- Veterans with disabilities rated 30% or more service-connected (SC): travel for care relating to any condition.
- Veterans with disabilities rated less than 30%: travel for care relating to their SC condition(s).
- Veterans receiving VA pension benefits: travel for care of any condition.
- Veterans with annual income below the maximum applicable annual rate of pension: travel for care of any condition.
- Veterans who are unable to defray the cost of travel (as defined in current BT regulations).
- Veterans traveling in relation to a Compensation and Pension examination.
- Eligible Veterans in certain situations related to obtaining service dogs.
- Certain Veterans in limited emergency situations.
- Beneficiaries of other Federal agencies, when authorized by that agency.
- Allied beneficiaries when authorized by appropriate foreign government agency.
- Certain non-Veterans when related to care of Veteran (Caregivers under the National Caregivers Program, medically required attendants, VA transplant care donor and support person, or other claimants subject to current regulatory guidelines).

REQUEST FOR RETIRED/ARCHIVED RECORDS OF PAARNG

The PAARNG has a state file of service from 1955-2009. Information from these state files varies but should include records of enlistment, discharge and other administrative actions. The Veteran or next of kin of a deceased Veteran can obtain copies of available information by sending a Records Request Form to: PA Department of Military & Veteran Affairs, Attn: Office of Veterans' Affairs, Record Requests (Insert Air or Army), Bldg. 0-47, Ft. Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003

DD 214 DISCHARGE - eVETRECS

Here is a list of the required information that is needed to request Military Personnel Records. Military Personnel Records can include DD 214s/ Separation Documents, service personnel records found within the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), and medical records. Military personnel records can be used for proving military service or as a valuable tool in genealogical research.

Your request must contain basic information for your service officer to locate the Veteran's records.

This information includes:

- Veteran's first, middle and last name used while in the service
- Service number
- Social security number
- Branch of service
- Enlisted or Officer (provide rank or grade)
- Dates of service
- Date and place of birth

- Place of entry into the service
- Place of discharge from the service
- Last unit of assignment

You may use this system if you are:

- A military Veteran or next of kin of a deceased, former member of the military. The next of kin can be any of the following:
 - Surviving spouse who has not remarried, Father, Mother, Son, Daughter, Sister, Brother.

If you are the next of kin of a deceased Veteran, you must provide proof of death of the Veteran such as a copy of the death certificate, letter from the funeral home or published obituary.

Request forms are located on the post bulletin board. Take one, fill it out and give it to your VFW post service officer. It is important to fill out as much information as possible.

Once the request is submitted, print the signature page. All requests must be signed and dated by the Veteran or next of kin and faxed to the National Personnel

Records Center in St Louis MO. The turnaround time for most requests, via this free service, is less than six weeks. Requests can be submitted online - <http://www.archives.gov>.

"Emergency" Requests and Deadlines

If your request is urgent (e.g. upcoming surgery, funeral, etc.) and there is a deadline with your request, please provide this information in the "Comments" section of eVetrecs and fax it to: Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED VA DISABILITY CLAIM

Administrative Documents

- Discharge document (DD Form 214 or WDAGO)
- Overseas or Temporary Duty (Travel) Orders
- Martial History - Must provide the following:
 - Marriage Certificate
 - Divorce Degree(s) for each previous marriage
 - Death Certificate(s) for previous marriage(s)
- Birth Certificate(s) & Social Security Number for each dependent under Age 18, if over 18 and still in school (need a letter of verification from school/college).
- Court Order (Child support or adoption)
- Financial Information: Voided check including (bank name, routing number and account number).

Medical Documents

- Service Medical Treatment Records (outpatient, dental records, entrance and separation physicals).
- Private/Military Inpatient Hospitalization Records.
- Private Outpatient Medical Records including names, addresses and phone numbers of doctors that treated you as well as dates of treatment.
- Line of Duty Investigation Reports.

Once you have obtained this information, please call a VFW State Service Officer at (717) 234-7927 to set up an appointment. Any difficulty obtaining this information can be addressed at the initial appointment.



State Convention ... from 1

and who love America—the land of the free and home of the brave,” said Hanzes.

“As for the VFW’s future, change has to come to our organization. We have to find a way to make people believe that the VFW is as great as we know it is. We have to learn how to promote the VFW in ways that generate increased interest. No other group does more for Veterans of all ages than your VFW, it’s not even close. Let’s make a real effort to tell others how many wonderful things the VFW does for others.

combat zone veterans forward:

“If we continue our high levels of service, if we effectively mentor new leaders, and if we inspire new members to join and lead, then we will gain the membership and collective experience we need to accomplish our mission into the future,” he said.

The Department’s leadership team continues to reflect a wide diversity of Veterans from all service eras—men and women—who are dedicated to proving that the VFW organization is worthy of its “No One Does More” motto.



“It’s an honor to stand before a group of people who put a great deal of time, money and effort into supporting veterans. The work that you do is absolutely fantastic. On behalf of the Governor and Adjutant General, thank you for all that you do as a premier organization.... Please remember that about only 20% of lawmakers are veterans. That’s why it is so important for you to let your concerns known.”

- PA Veterans Affairs Deputy Adjutant General Eric Weller

“It’s an incredible story. Let’s make sure those eligible for the VFW know about the impact we have on others. It’s up to us to make our organization grow, in part, by welcoming and supporting younger Veterans.”

Vietnam Veteran Hanzes outlined three priorities that he believes will help the organization continue its successful transition to both bring younger Veterans into the VFW and help prepare them to lead the world’s largest organization of

Hanzes was installed on June 16 along with State Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Perry from Post 7505; Ronald Peters from Post 212, who won the closest election in Department history for State Jr. Vice Commander; State Quartermaster John Getz, Post 3376; State Judge Advocate Frank McGovern, Post 3460; State Surgeon Nelson Lowes, Post 6743; State Chaplain Peter Hook, Post 6393; State Inspector Michael McLane, Post 7069; and all District Commanders.

“Our programs are the face of the VFW. If we are not working these programs, we will be in trouble because these activities define our mission.

Clearly, the VFW story is one focused on service. We must have the vision, courage, the integrity and perseverance to meet the challenges facing our organization.

You make a difference. We need everyone in the VFW to make a difference.”

- Past National Commander-in-Chief and Past PA Commander John A. Biedrzycki



State Commander Hanzes appointed Past State Commander Getz to be his State Adjutant and Past State Commander Allen Q. Jones as his Parliamentarian. Past State Commander Robert Eiler continues to serve as the Department’s representative on the National Council of Administration.

Past Nat’l Chief “Big John” Urges VFW Members to Reach Out

Past State and National Commander John Biedrzycki, speaking on behalf of National Headquarters, reminded VFW Posts and members that many thousand eligible Veterans are waiting to be asked to join the VFW. However, he stressed that many of those Veterans are waiting to see how the VFW meets the needs of newer generations of eligible members.

“Thank you for all your hard work to ensure that no one does more for Veterans than the VFW,” commented “Big John.” “This world is a very dynamic place. As it changes, the VFW needs to change.

“Our success depends on how well we accept and deal with change. This

convention gives us a chance to plan and renew everything we do to honor the dead by serving the living.

“Our VFW programs are the face of the VFW. If we are not working these programs, we will be in trouble because these activities define our mission,” continued Biedrzycki.

“Clearly, the VFW story is one focused on service. We must have the vision, courage, integrity and perseverance to meet the challenges facing our organization.

“You make a difference. We need everyone in the VFW to make a difference.”

National Auxiliary representative Janice Holm thanked delegates for demonstrating that the VFW and its Auxiliary are service-driven organizations.

VFW Honors PAARNG Sergeant

Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran PA Army National Guard Sergeant Kody Lupton of Johnstown—a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter repairer for Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 2-104th

Convention ... see next page



District 10 Commander John Rybcinski and District President Margaret Thomasovitch pay their respects to deceased members of the Department.



Delegates pay close attention to reports about VFW programs.



The State Color Guard presents the flags.



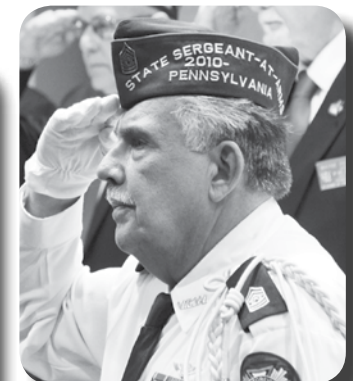
PA VFW Police Officer of the Year Award winner Christopher Crawford, from the Erie Bureau of Police, accepts his award plaque from Department officials.



Philip P. Price, from the Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Department and Post 8488 member, holds the EMT of the Year Award.



Firefighter of the Year Gregory A. Chandler accepts his award. Gregory serves with the Air National Guard and is a member of Spring Grove Post 5265.



State Sergeant-at-Arms James Gubash, who retired from his position after the convention, was honored by State Commander Fuhrman for his years of service.

State Commander Hanzes to be Guest of Honor at Oct. 19-20 Event

State Commander Thomas M. Hanzes will be the guest of honor at his Testimonial Weekend scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 19-20, at the Park Inn by Radisson, New Castle Road in West Middlesex, PA.

Festivities will begin on Friday Night with a "Baseball, Hot Dogs and Apple Pie" theme celebration beginning at 6 p.m. with a buffet meal. Wear your favorite baseball team jersey or patriotic attire. There will be music, dancing and prizes throughout the evening.

Saturday will feature the State Commander Testimonial Banquet beginning with a cash bar at 5 p.m. Appropriate dress can be business casual to formal.

The cost to attend is \$35 for each evening. When reserving hotel rooms, be sure to request the special \$109 plus tax rate for the Thomas "Ace" Hanzes Testimonial.

Support from all Districts, Posts and Auxiliaries is requested to help offset the cost of the events. An event Ad Book will be produced with ad sizes ranging from a full page (\$80) down to a quarter page (\$25). Deadline for placing ads is September 15th.

Please watch for the Testimonial mailing, which will have reservation forms including hotel, an agenda for Friday and Saturday Night events and Ad Book forms. Event information is available on both the VFW Department and Department Auxiliary websites.

Deadline for reservations is October 1st.

Pennsylvania Department VFW in Spotlight During National Convention

The Pennsylvania Department's participation in the National Convention in July included receiving recognition for being the home State VFW of newly installed National VFW Surgeon Ruth Fairchild (pictured below) and for being the top Department to support the National Desert Storm Memorial (NDSM) project in Washington, D.C.

The Department was also honored for receiving two National VFW Publications Awards for its official quarterly publication, *Pennsylvania VFW News*.

Shown at right is State Commander Thomas Hanzes with NDSM CEO Scott Stump. To add to the Department's \$25,000 in donations so far, visit <http://www.ndswm.org> and click on "donate."

Shown below is some of the PA delegation at the convention.



Pictured after the Installation of Officers at the State Convention are members of the Department's Council of Administration (left) consisting of Line Officers and District Commanders; and State Sergeants-at-Arms, Membership Recruiters and Program Chairpersons (right).

Convention Coverage ... from 4

GSAB—received a standing ovation from Convention attendees when he received the distinguished Pennsylvania VFW Eagle Award. The award is presented only to National Guard personnel whose military duty reflects the VFW's ideals of high service, integrity and honor.

Lupton, 26, while on deployment to Kuwait, was chosen to support operations in Iraq as a crew chief as part of a six-ship MEDEVAC Detachment. Due to his maturity, his ability to perform his job at a high level and his dedication to the mission, Specialist Lupton was promoted within weeks of his reassignment to Iraq.

His outstanding service ensured that unit assets were airworthy. He also flew on missions out of Camp Taji, which provided MEDEVAC coverage for half of Iraq.

Convention Speakers

Post members from all regions of the state participated in the event and received briefings from Veteran-focused groups including the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), the Veterans Administration health care network

covering Pennsylvania and HUMANA.

DMVA Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs Major General (Ret.) Eric Weller outlined the programs and services that benefit the state's more than 800,000 Veterans. By visiting www.dmva.pa.gov, veterans can review all state benefits—including six State Veterans Homes and a real estate tax exemption for any honorably discharged Veteran who is 100% disabled and has a financial need—and sign up to receive updates via the Veterans Registry.

U.S. Army Major (Ret.) Kathy Silvia, who provided an overview of significant contributions made by female military personnel, reminded delegates that the Women's Veterans Memorial in Washington is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

After holding meetings about proposed resolutions, Department leaders gave delegates the chance to discuss and vote on pending resolutions, which were then voted on at the National Convention in July. Visit www.vfw.org to read resolutions that were adopted during the national event.

See page 9 to read about VFW program winners who were honored.

General Orders No. 1



Having been duly elected and installed, I, Thomas M. Hanzes, State Commander, Department of Pennsylvania, Veterans of Foreign Wars, for 2018-19, hereby assume command.

1. **PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS:** All previous appointments have expired and are null and void.

2. **THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS HAVING BEEN PROPERLY ELECTED** on June 16, 2018, in conjunction with the 99th Annual Convention in Gettysburg, and will be recognized and respected in accordance with the positions they occupy:

State Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Perry, Post 7505
 State Jr. Vice Commander Ronald Peters, Post 212
 State Adjutant/Quartermaster John Getz, Post 3376
 State Judge Advocate Frank McGovern, Post 3460
 State Surgeon Nelson Lowes, Post 6743
 State Chaplain Peter Hook, Post 6393
 State Inspector Michael McLane, Post 7069;
 National Council of Administration Member Robert Eiler, Post 8805

3. **DISTRICT COMMANDERS:** The following members having been properly elected for the ensuing year are officially recognized as Commander of the District and members of the Department Council of Administration:

District 1 - Zbigniew Laska, VFW Post 8051
 District 7 - Alfred Robinson, VFW Post 974
 District 8 - Thomas Goodman, VFW Post 1597
 District 9 - William E. Stellfox, VFW Post 845
 District 10 - Chester J. Potoski, VFW Post 7251
 District 11 - Melissa Dimmitt, VFW Post 6615
 District 12 - Kim D. Shollengerger, VFW Post 3432
 District 13 - Ronald J. Brown, VFW Post 38
 District 14 - John Miner, VFW Post 5642
 District 15 - Daniel L. Rieppel, VFW Post 6757

General Orders No. 1 ————— see page 10

Focus on Mission Success



VFW Post 33 Commander David Cackowski welcomes State Representative Eric Nelson to a Town hall meeting held at the Post to address issues concerning veterans. The representatives from the Greensburg Veterans Sunrise Center presented plans on a new Veterans Rehabilitation Center to be built near Greensburg. VFW officials also welcomed Sunrise Center executives and others interested in the new 115-unit housing facility. (Photo by VFW Post 33 Member Paul Yeckel)

After a successful Military Appreciation Night, Doylestown Post 175 officials gather for a photo with CB East and CB West students going into the military, along with their parents. The Post holds this tribute every year to help show veterans, military troops, tomorrow's military personnel and the public that it is focused on serving veterans and our troops.



Lititz Post 1463 plays an important role in the 6th Annual Lititz Walk for Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc. The event is hosted by the VFW Auxiliary, Lititz civic organizations and the Lititz Recreation Center. All proceeds for this event go directly to Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, a volunteer organization providing 24-hour, emergency financial assistance for Pennsylvania's veterans and their families.



West Mifflin Post 914 Intrepid leads the parade during the borough's annual Community Day festivities on June 30. From left are Post Adjutant and Desert Storm Marine veteran Ken Curcio, Post Quartermaster and Navy Gulf War veteran Gary Ruston, Commander Pro Tem and Army Vietnam veteran Charles Krebs, and Junior Vice Commander and Vietnam Marine veteran David Luikart. (Photo by Anna Curcio)



Yough Middle School students honor veterans with a Poppy flower "Thank You Veterans" sign. The Poppies were supplied by West Newton Post 7812 to sixth-grade teacher Krystal Firmstone, who taught the students about the origination of the Poppy flower. All Posts are encouraged to purchase extra Poppies to donate to local schools to help teachers instruct students about the sacrifices made by veterans.



After its annual Memorial Day program, Connellsville Post 21 officials pose with keynote speaker, then State Sr. Vice Hanzas. Shown are (from left) Senator Pat Stefano, Past State Commander Allen Q. Jones, State Sr. Vice Commander Hanzas, Post 21 Commander Glenn Siple and Post life member Gerald Browell.

Focus on Mission Success



Mahoning Valley Post 2076 members in Punxsutawney meet for breakfast on Armed Forces Day in observance of the National "VFW Thank Burger King Appreciation Day," showing gratitude for the chain's donations to support veterans.



Clarion Post 2145 Auxiliary awards prizes to winners of a cornhole event held on Armed Forces Day. John and Ed Bailey won the first-place trophy and cash prize. Also shown are District 19 President Valerie DeCorte and Auxiliary President Bobbie Lawrence.



Leetsdale Post 3372 conducts its annual Memorial Day services held at the town War Memorial. Post Jr. Vice Commander Regis Lacher read a list of deceased veterans, while Robert Lawrence sounded a bell for each name read. Post Quartermaster Thomas James, who participated in the ceremony, is also shown.



Doylestown Post 175 Commander Col. (Ret.) Greg Marston presents a check to Captain Caleb Haslett of Delta Company, 103rd Engineering Battalion, to help the unit start a Family Readiness Group. The primary objective of the FRG is to empower soldiers, their families and extended families, who are experiencing frequent and long deployments, to become more knowledgeable and self-reliant. All VFW Posts are encouraged to create supportive relationships with local military posts in part by participating in VFW military support programs. For more information about the VFW's military support programs, visit www.vfw.org.



Chartered on August 25, 1946 as the Linesville Post 7842, the Post recently honored Charter Member and Life Member Shyrl Hood, pictured here with his wife Lois, with the original charter. The Post presented Comrade Hood with a citation acknowledging his 71 years as a member. Sadly, he passed away in early August. Rest easy, Comrade. Thanks for your service.



Past State Commander Glenn Umberger installs District 16 officers recently at a ceremony held at Trappe Post 7155. Shown in front holding the nation's flag is District Commander Jonathan Bittner, followed by other officers.

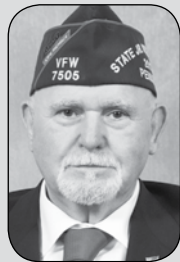


Broomall Post 6633 collected clothing items, coffee, microwave ovens and DVDs for the VA Hospital in Coatesville. Pictured are (left) George Roebas, Quartermaster, and Manny Leventelis, Post Commander.



VFW Teamwork can Overcome Any Challenge

Wayne D. Perry, State Sr. Vice Commander - wayper@zoominternet.net



Comrades, as we start a new VFW program year, let's increase our level of commitment to help elevate the support we provide at the District, Post and individual member levels. As a team, we can boost our membership total, our Department and National program participation numbers, and the number of veterans, military personnel and citizens whose lives we improve.

I think sometimes we forget why the VFW was created in 1899. It wasn't just to provide a social place for veterans and their families to gather. In fact, the canteen side of the VFW is the least important thing that we should spend time and energy on.

If you could travel back in time to when Spanish-American War veterans joined with World War I veterans to create the VFW, you would see that caring for wounded veterans, creating programs to support them and preparing programs to help our military were the main reasons why Congress approved our national charter.

It's all about service, period. If you are not serving and supporting veterans, our military and your community—not

just once or twice during the year, but throughout the year—then you are not carrying out the VFW's mission to the extent we all should be doing.

Improving our service will drive our collective success. The Pennsylvania Department can once again be first in the nation for membership by going all out for those we serve. Are you all in for the VFW's future?

Service will drive our reputation and how eligible members react when they are asked to join us. There are so many places that you can recruit new members. In fact, everywhere you go you can watch for veterans. It's not hard to go up and shake a veteran's hand, thank them for their service and explain how the VFW has improved your life.

Let's get behind State Commander Hanzes and make our Department the best in every category including membership, community service, support of our military, Buddy Poppies and youth involvement.

I look forward to working with new District Commanders to help in any way I can to get our VFW objectives met.

I thank everyone who is already working hard to keep the VFW mission in motion. If you are not involved now, please step forward. We need your support and your ideas!



Facts and Figures

Your Effort and Attitude will Determine Your Result

John B. Getz, Jr. - State Adjutant/Quartermaster - adjutant@vfwpahq.org



Comrades, here we are already in the 2018-19 new year. During our Convention, we celebrated many mission success stories. Yes, we have much to be proud of in the VFW, but there are many more veterans, military families and citizens that need our help.

We must let our veteran brothers and sisters, both inside and outside of the VFW, know how our being an elite group of combat veterans makes our nation better. The VFW is not about sitting in a canteen. If that's all you want, you can find that in any corner bar.

What separates the VFW from other social and fraternal organizations is the level to which we help others, while honoring our deceased comrades. We are not designed to be a self-serving organization. Some people—including some eligible veterans and their families—think the VFW is just about getting the best price on a beer. Only you and I can turn this attitude around.

To all Post Quartermasters, you are

often made aware of many veterans who need help. Please keep them in mind when you hold Post meetings. Use your Relief Fund to help, which exists just for that purpose. To keep that fund strong, remember to distribute Poppies and deposit donations into the Relief Fund.

Looking at our Department membership, we no longer hold first place. Yes, for the first time ever, we're second in the nation. And, we used to have many Posts and District earn "All-American" status. This lack of membership success is a disgrace to our Department.

We've even had calls from National HQ asking about our membership decline. If we continue this weak effort to recruit and retain members, we could end up in last place. Let's get back to VFW business!

If each member recruits just one member, and each Post participates in VFW programs, we can retake first place. Let's get this year off to a great start!

Do you want to help your Post to legally operate video games? If so, tell your State lawmakers to pass HB 2478. This is a chance to bring more funds into your Post.

Thank you for helping Veterans!

Membership Moment

Successful Recruiting 101: Reach Out and Engage

When VFW Membership Assistant Director Rick McKenna presents a recruiting workshop, he reminds VFW recruiters to always be on the lookout for indicators of whether or not someone is a veteran.

Look for bumper stickers or license plates in a parking lot, he says. Apparel like t-shirts and ball caps is another way to identify eligible veterans. McKenna has signed up new members just by noticing a cap indicating military service.

"It's not always going to go that smoothly," McKenna said. "But if you don't put yourself out there, you'll never know. And don't be afraid of being told 'no.'"

McKenna said one of the most important things to show potential members is that you respect their time. Keeping the introductory conversation to three to five minutes is key. If the veteran says "no" when you ask for a time to follow up with him or her, leave a business card with your contact information should he or she have a change of heart.

"There's really nothing worse than a recruiter being pushy," McKenna added. "This leads to the loss of potential members."

Likewise, McKenna urges recruiters to follow up in a timely manner. "If you say you are going to call or visit, do it."

McKenna offers these crucial tips that recruiters should employ:

- Shake hands and thank veterans and their families for their service.

- Address veterans as "sir" or "ma'am."
- Use everyday words when speaking.
- Don't use profanity.
- Maintain a professional appearance.
- Put cell phones and tobacco away.
- Acknowledge and talk to others who are with the veteran.
- Be prepared to give facts showing how the VFW helps veterans of all ages (HQ has supplies to help).

"Whether you are working a membership booth at a fair or approaching someone in a store parking lot, there are four basic steps in recruiting," McKenna said:

1. Opening introduction - Introduce yourself and make it clear that you are with the "Veterans of Foreign Wars" because not everyone knows what "VFW" means.

2. Qualifying questions - Use specific questions to determine a veteran's eligibility.

3. Show VFW facts - Offer brochures and present facts about the VFW to illustrate what the organization does and why it is important for them to support and join.

4. Ask to join - If you don't ask them to join, they never will. Some veterans, including younger ones, are just waiting to be asked.

"The longevity of the VFW is reliant on good recruiting practices," McKenna said. "Being courteous and respectful will go a long way in recruiting. And remember, don't get discouraged and never give up."



News Ideas will Fuel VFW Success

Ronald J. Peters, State Jr. Vice Cmdr. - acavrp@hotmail.com



Comrades, as we start a new year, we need to take a moment to reflect on ourselves and our VFW Posts. Let's ask ourselves how we can get better run our units, serve more people and improve what people think about our organization.

During Post meetings, let's prioritize examining the VFW's mission and how we can better meet our annual objectives. Stress that we are all on the same team, with the same desire to help veterans, our military and our neighborhoods. Open the floor to anyone who wants to offer positive input. No one is more important than anyone else in the meeting, and everyone has skills and energy that can contribute to your Post's success.

Work on developing new ideas, improve existing programs and discuss new ways to be active in your communities.

As a Post Commander, I always

asked if anyone had any new ideas or ways to promote the VFW. One time, a young Desert Storm veteran asked if we could hold a 5K Walk/Run. You know what? No one else ever thought of that. We did the necessary planning and raised \$1,500 to support a veterans' organization.

Never underestimate the power of a new idea because it can grow into big things. One great idea that all Posts can pursue is making facilities more family friendly and holding family events.

Learn about VFW programs. Then, when you are engaging with others in your communities, proudly talk about how VFW programs help people. By telling the VFW's story, you can directly enhance what people think about our organization.

Whenever you leave your home or Post—for example, when you go to local fairs, malls, restaurants and patriotic events—you can be a VFW ambassador.

Let's re-energize, engage and evolve. Please go to work and help our Department Commander Thomas Hanzes have a successful year!

2017-18 Dept. of PA VFW Award Winners

MEMBERSHIP CONTESTS

CAPTAINS ALL-STATE TEAM:

Commander Cecil Dennis, Post 5958 – Titusville
Quartermaster Elizabeth Miller, Post 5958, Titusville

COMMANDER'S PLAQUE (HIGHEST INCREASE AMONG POSTS): MARS POST 7505, COMMANDER HERBERT CARPENTER AND QUARTERMASTER – ROBERT CARRARA, 57 MEMBERS

ROBERT MUSSER MEMORIAL PLAQUE (GREATEST POST PERCENTAGE INCREASE BY APRIL 30): MARS POST 7505, COMMANDER HERBERT CARPENTER AND QUARTERMASTER – ROBERT CARRARA, 116.81%

VAN ZANDT AWARD (MOST NEW/REINSTATED POST MEMBERS AS % OF MEMBERSHIP): TITUSVILLE POST 5958, COMMANDER CECIL DENNIS AND QUARTERMASTER ELIZABETH MILLER, 55 MEMBERS

JOE SALVO AWARD (INDIVIDUAL MEMBER SIGNING UP THE MOST NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERS OVER 25): 80 MEMBERS, CECIL DENNIS - TITUSVILLE POST 5958

All-State Posts:

Post/Commander/Quartermaster

175/Gregory L. Marston/Louis M. Rizzo
3258/Elwood H. Hippel/Lawrence L. Duchnowski
845/Martin Peterson/Owen E. Griffith
6824/Glenn B. Owen/Steven D. Hakes
8488/William H. Harmer/Willard M. Zerfoss
148/Joseph A. Staudt/Robert L. Ketchem
2385/Lynn M. Stonerod/Glen A. Welker
3502/Scott M. Fritz/David W. Gyger
6497/Gregory S. Showers/Joseph W. Heaney
7343/Frederick K. Bower/Barry R. Bender
5265/Robert Klindinst/Gregg Chandler
8896/Gary L. Kopp/Dwight R. Fuhrman
5020/James M. Rice/Floyd F. Hauth
8826/Michael D. Showalter/Robert A. Layton
879/Hugh G. MacPherson/Rex B. Brown
7505/Herbert O. Carpenter, II/Robert M. Carrara
7605/Robert L. Pegg, Jr./Joseph R. Kopsic
740/John P. Hayden/Edward J. Denk
5958/Cecil K. Dennis/Elizabeth M. Miller
7599/Clark W. Eberhart, Jr./Thomas M. Hanzes

DANIEL GIEGER SCHOLARSHIP

A \$1,000 scholarship for pursuing higher learning: Theresa R. Hencinski of Secane, submitted by VFW Post 928

ANNUAL VFW SAFETY AWARDS

“PA VFW John Radko Police Officer of the Year” - Christopher Crawford, Erie Bureau of Police, submitted by Erie Post 470. **“PA VFW EMT of the Year”** - Philip Price, Clifford Township Volunteer Fire Department, Kingsley Post 8488. **“PA VFW Firefighter of the Year”** - Gregory Chandler, PA Air National Guard, Spring Grove Post 5265.

DEPARTMENT SCOUT AWARDS

First place: Eagle Scout Jeffrey J. Buscher, sponsored by Post 281; Second place: Scout Katherine M. Loftus, Post 6493; Third place: Eagle Scout Zachary Redcay, Post 7343.

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARDS

PA VFW Citizenship Education Teachers of the Year: The Department thanks the following Posts for entering teachers in this important program: 3258, 411, 8896, 6704, 5958, 3414, 2493 and 8675. All Posts are urged to enter teachers for Grades K-5; Grades 6-8; Grades 9-12:

BUDDY POPPY AWARDS

The top Post in each category for number of Poppies purchased per member: Group 1 - Post 8951, 12,000



The convention marked the end of a long run for Post 6558 member James Lindsey serving as District 13 Commander. Jim is shown here with 2017-18 State Commander Dwight Fuhrman. Thanks for your dedicated service, Jim. Your leadership made a significant contribution to the VFW at the local, District and Department levels.

Poppies purchased; Group 2 - Post 879, 14,000; Group 3 - Post 6231 and Post 3451, 5,000.

Posts exceeding 10 Poppies per member purchased:
879,8951, 6393, 5958, 396, 470, 821, 845, 1564, 3451, 5937, 6231, 739, 740, 4843, 6617, 7069, 11322, 747, 7505, 3,175, 249, 464, 3258, 5544, 6704, 7599, 8724, 5265, 1568, 5507, 7530, 7842, 5754, 4789, 8896, 32, 106, 333, 537, 914, 1409, 1446, 1597, 1989, 2385, 4909, 5752, 7689, 7878, 7919, 8612, 8805, 212, 509, 15, 5020, 1785, 4714, 5069, 6221, 8826, 1600, 2, 481, 1132, 1074, 6824, 7343, 8488, 21, 25, 1213, 148, 384, 779, 3502, 3575, 4315, 4712, 4845, 4965, 6233, 6341, 6345, 6520, 7295, 7463, 7605, 8008, 8675, 8851, 11282, 6223, 1425, 5467, 8282, 8306, 1190, 43, 265, 287, 294, 560, 595, 5644, 5935, 6497, 7375, 8023, 8518 and 9764.

COMMUNICATIONS CONTESTS

Post Newsletter First place - Chalfont Post 3258, Editor William Malone; Second - Shellsville Post 9639, Editor Michael Stephens.

Post Website First place - Chalfont Post 3258; Second - North Penn Post 676; Third - Etters Post 537; Fourth - Linesville, Post 7842.

District Website First place District 18, District Webmaster David Gyger.

National Awards PA VFW Public Affairs Director David Sandman earned a second-place National VFW award for feature writing in Department papers. *PA VFW News* won a second-place award in the National Publications Contest.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

CONTEST 1 - No Post winners.

CONTEST 2 - Districts with 100% participation: Districts 8, 10, 13, 16, 21, 28 and 29.

CONTEST 3 - Community Service Record Books: First place Flosom Post 928 and Auxiliary; Second place Post Titusville 5958; Third place Cranberry Township Post 879.

CONTEST 4 - (Posts submitting 10 or more reports)

Auxiliary Category for Achieving 100% Participation in Post Auxiliary Community Service for the 2017-18 VFW Program Year - the winners are:

District 7 – Chairman Anna Buzan-Brown

District 18 - Chairman Robin Kohler

District 20 - Chairman Bonnie Walraven

HEALTH CARE AWARDS

Outstanding VA Health Care Employee -

Marcie Baker, RN.

Outstanding Community Health Employee - Cheryl Pebbles.

Both winners were submitted by Mercer Post 6345

EMPLOYMENT AWARD

Cresson (PA) Steel Company, nominated by Cresson Post 7377.

VFW Elects Lawrence as New Nat'l Commander

“There’s an energy in this organization that’s just chomping at the bit to be released ... Let’s Make It Happen!”

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M., was elected on July 24 as the new national commander of the 1.2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

VFW membership eligibility requires honorable service in a war or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1986 and earned his eligibility by serving in South Korea,



where a cease-fire agreement, has existed since July 27, 1953, and where war could erupt at a moment's notice.

For all the organization already does for others every day, Lawrence now wants the VFW to “*Make It Happen*” even more in every community.

“(This energy) comes from a younger generation who wants to get their hands dirty in their communities, and from an older generation who knows that the way we did things in the past no longer works, but whose experience and knowledge remain valuable.”



Chaplain's Corner

Post 914 Chaplain Staudt Earns Award

Rev. Peter Hook, Chaplain - peterhook@verizon.net



The State VFW Chaplain of the Year Award for 2018 is Mr. Eugene J. Staudt. Gene serves as Chaplain at All-American VFW Post 914 Intrepid, in West Mifflin, PA.

During the award presentation Gene stated, “This is such a great honor for me, and I am truly humbled to receive this award. I have really been honored to serve the Post in the position of chaplain for 10 years and have grown into the office.”

According to Post 914 Commander Jake Bradich, “Chaplain Staudt’s service as a Chaplain is exemplary, and winning this award shows every member of our organization that we hold two things very dear—God and Country. Gene Staudt demonstrates this not only in his duties as Post Chaplain, but also in his personal life. I am very proud to have him in our Post.”

As Chaplain of Post 914, Staudt is the primary agent for developing a Post that truly cares for Veterans and their families. He is the point of contact for bereavement ceremonies, and he participates in the unit’s hospital visitation program at Southwest Veterans Hospital.

Gene also volunteers two days each week at Jefferson Hospital,

which is part of the Allegheny Health network, located in Jefferson Hills.

At Holy Spirit Parish in West Mifflin and Saint Thomas A. Becket Catholic Church in Jefferson Hills, Gene is an active member of the church music program. He is also an active member of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he organizes local car cruises, as well as annual West Mifflin Memorial Day services.



Post 914 Chaplain Eugene Staudt holds the State VFW Chaplain of the Year Award. He is shown with State Chaplain Peter Hook, 2017-18 State Commander Dwight Fuhrman and Chaplain Staudt’s wife, Linda.

Staudt served in Vietnam from (1970-1972) with the United States Army. During combat operations with the 23rd Infantry Division, he served as an artilleryman, fire direction control specialist and radio telephone operator. He was also attached to the 101st Airborne Division.

Gene and his wife, Linda, have been married for 45 years.

It was truly an honor for me to present this award to Gene, a true servant and model for those of us who are called to serve those who served.

General Orders ... from page 5

District 16 - Jonathan Bittner, VFW Post 7155
 District 17 - Robert Snook, VFW Post 7463
 District 18 - David Gyger, VFW Post 3502
 District 19 - Jason Reed, VFW Post 464
 District 20 - Richard K. Ellis, VFW Post 8008
 District 21 - Richard Olivitt, VFW Post 8951
 District 22 - Howard E. Sager, Jr., VFW Post 1785
 District 23 - Ralph J. Delsordo, VFW Post
 District 24 - Martin Puchi, VFW Post 553
 District 25 - James D. Hodge, VFW Post 128
 District 26 - William P. Brown, VFW Post 4963
 District 27 - Robert Body, VFW Post 92
 District 28 - Donald E. Christy, VFW Post 7599
 District 29 - William Roland, Jr., VFW Post 914

4. THE FOLLOWING DEPT. APPOINTMENTS ARE ANNOUNCED:

Adjutant - John B. Getz, Jr., VFW Post 3376
 Audit Committee Chairman - Robert C. Eiler, VFW Post 7842
 Barger Scholarship Chairman - Dwight R. Fuhrman, VFW Post 8896
 Buddy Poppy Chairman - Thomas A. Ondo, VFW Post 92
 By-Laws Chairman - Glenn R. Umberger, Jr., VFW Post 7155
 Citizenship Education & Teachers Awards - Daniel L. Rieppel, Post 6757
 Community Service Chairman - Donald Ramsey, VFW Post 6166
 Credentials Chairperson - Barbara Kollar, VFW Post 1586
 Employment Opportunities Chairman - Alfred Robinson, Jr., Post 974
 Finance Chairman - Robert C. Eiler, VFW Post 7842
 Health Care Awards Chairperson - Ruth A. Fairchild, VFW Post 315
 Homeless Veterans Chairman - Dwayne A. Anders, VFW Post 3
 Hospital/AVS Chairman - Nelson E. Lowes, Sr., VFW Post 6743
 Internal Affairs Co-Chairman - Robert C. Eiler, VFW Post 7842
 Internal Affairs Co-Chairman - James Frisbie, VFW Post 7251
 Internal Affairs Co-Chairman - Roy E. Schrimp, VFW Post 1568
 Legislative Chairman - Nelson E. Lowes, Sr., VFW Post 6743
 Legislative Co-Chairman - Joseph Benacci, VFW Post 470
 Legislative Co-Chairman - John A. Brenner, VFW Post 2493
 Loyalty Day Chairman - James V. Manser, III, VFW Post 7155
 Membership Chairman - Henry R. Mannella, Post 1810
 Membership Co-Chairman - Cecil K. Dennis, Post 5958
 Membership Co-Chairman - John J. Rybinski, Post 3474
 Membership Recruiter - Nathaniel Smith, VFW Post 7293
 Membership Recruiter - David Gyger, VFW Post 3502
 Life Membership & Gold Legacy Chairman - Gary R. Smith, Post 1446
 National Home Chairman - Peter Walter, VFW Post 6495
 National Military Services Chairperson - John Lorruso, VFW Post 1564
 Patriot's Pen Chairman - Benjamin Lipschutz, VFW Post 882
 POW/MIA Chairman - Stephen K. Calles, Jr., VFW Post 509
 Redistricting Chairman - Russell R. Canevari, VFW Post 5544
 Safety Chairman/Geiger Scholarship - Ronald L. Smith, VFW Post 7045
 Student Veterans Chairman - Jesse W. Olson, VFW Post 6611
 Substance Abuse/Prevention Chairman - Benjamin Mastridge, Post 6495
 Veterans Court Advocate Chairman - Terry Stokes, VFW Post 1446
 Veterans Service Chairperson - Christine Smith, VFW Post 1446
 VFW Programs Chairman - John A. Brenner, VFW Post 2493
 Voice of Democracy Chairman - Glenn B. Owen, VFW Post 6824
 Women Veterans Chairperson - Amy MacKenzie, VFW Post 3376
 Youth Activities/Scouting Chairman - James B. Miller, VFW Post 12019
 State Color Guard Captain - Paul L. Kreiner, VFW Post 6704
 State Sergeant - Robert I. Hayes, VFW Post 6615
 State Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms - James J. Ritchie, VFW Post 6495
 State Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms - Cecil K. Dennis, VFW Post 5958
 State Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms - Barbara K. Loncar, VFW Post 6954
 State Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms - Henry Mannella, VFW Post 1810
 State Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms - Nathaniel Smith, VFW Post 7293

4. Every Post chartered by the VFW will be expected to participate in the following programs: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Awards, Buddy Poppy distribution and Military and Veterans Support Services programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

5. The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 711 of the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange for the distribution of Poppies in the respective areas. All profits accruing from Poppy donations shall be used in accordance with section 704 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

6. Attention of Commanders at all levels is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws requiring each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum of at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he or she may be accountable.

PA VFW Posts Encouraged to Send Care Packages**28th Infantry Division CG Schafer Holds Mid-Deployment Town Hall for Pennsylvania Troops Serving in Middle East**

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Roles

28th ID, TF Spartan Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 28th Infantry Division, received a mid-deployment update from commanders during a June 29 town hall event that also focused on what's next for the unit. The soldiers are deployed in support of Task Force Spartan.

The battalion is serving under U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) as the headquarters element for the roughly 9,000-soldier task force that conducts training events, subject matter expert exchanges and symposia, to build interoperability. Approximately 500 HHBN soldiers mobilized from Fort Indiantown Gap in mid-January for the mission. The unit will return this fall.

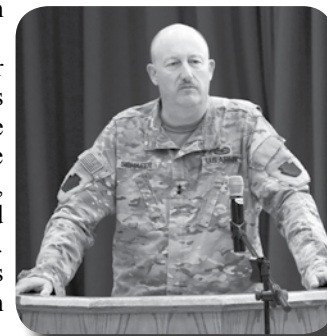
During the meeting, Maj. Gen. Andrew Schafer, division commander, gave an overview of the mission and the area of operations, comprising much of the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt.

Schafer commended his soldiers on their hard work so far and encouraged them to take care of themselves and each other. Questions from soldiers in attendance ranged from what determines success on this deployment to what the unit will be doing when it returns home. Schafer said there are several components to success, including building readiness and developing positive relationships with ARCENT counterparts.

"Improving our 'fight tonight' capability and providing oversight for transitioning units, that is success," Schafer said. "I think we have been successful and that we'll continue to improve."



28th ID HHBN CSM Jeremy Strathmeyer (VFW Post 1463 member) and CPT Bob Boyd (Post 8306) hold a flag sent by the PA VFW. (Photo by MSG Daniel Palermo of the 28th ID Public Affairs Office.)



28th ID CG Maj. Gen. Schafer (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roles)

TF-Spartan is comprised of a field artillery brigade, an engineer brigade, an air defense artillery brigade and an armor brigade. Lt. Col. Garry Hahn, division chief of assessment, asked Schafer what his biggest challenge has been as TFS commander compared to his normal role as "Iron Division" commander. Schafer said the 28th normally has mission command for four brigades, all in Pennsylvania, whereas Task Force Spartan conducts theater security cooperation in nine countries in the Mideast.

"Besides the Spartan brigades, we have some additional smaller elements. Getting around and seeing them all is challenging," Schafer said. "When I go somewhere here, it's a challenge. At (Fort Indiantown Gap) you can visit three or four battalions on a weekend. You can't do that here."

"The amount of information is just overwhelming. You have to count on your staff," Schafer added.

Schafer noted that the division staff doesn't normally work with theater-level air defense assets. He joked that as he has traveled the area of operations to visit air defense artillery sites, staff has told him that Patriot batteries all look the same. "But there are different soldiers at each one," he noted. "80% of that formation is first-time enlistees. I see great work being done by E-1s to E-3s.

"We have some junior NCOs and junior officers punching way above their weight. We have lieutenants doing the job of 'Iron majors,'" he said.

Lt. Col. Erik Smith, commander of the headquarters battalion, said there are many deployed soldiers who are new to HHBN. He said from the start of the mobilization, through training at Fort Hood, Texas, and arrival into theater, the soldiers have coalesced as a team.

"They have done an amazing job, well above and beyond what myself and (Command Sgt. Maj. Jeremy Strathmeyer) could have expected from when we left PA," Smith said. "They just stepped up their game beyond belief and came together."

EDITOR'S NOTE: State VFW HQ has APO addresses for Posts to send care packages to these PA Guard troops. Email dsandman@vfwpahq.org to request the addresses.

7. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218(a)(11), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustee's Report of Audit. See the Manual for other requirements.

8. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990, 990/N and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the IRS.

9. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now to observe Veterans Day (see section 223/ Manual of Procedure).

10. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

By: Thomas M. Hanzes, State Commander ATTEST: John B. Getz, Jr., State Adjutant/Quartermaster

The VFW Auxiliary ... Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes



The Department President Says...

With Your Help, We Will Meet Our Mission Goals

By Charlotte Lopes - swoggerlopes51@gmail.com or (724) 454-2820



To all my comrades, brothers and sisters, thank you for the encouragement and support throughout these past years as I have moved up the Auxiliary leadership ladder. It is an honor to serve as your Department President.

Our sincere congratulations to Commander Hanzes and his team! We look forward to proudly working with you throughout this "Serve, Mentor & Inspire" year. As we travel this journey together, we will seek out eligible members for both the VFW and Auxiliary.

It will be a true pleasure to travel throughout Pennsylvania and witness firsthand the beauty of our State, as we meet and get to know so many of our comrades, brothers and sisters. I especially look forward to speaking with those who are not always able to attend state functions outside of their own home areas.

Each of us are empowered to

reach out and join together as a strong team to make a positive impact in our communities. Find your passion and run with it to accomplish "Getting Justice for Our Veterans," in large as well as small ways.

There are endless ways to continue our "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes."

Always remember that our mission is to build on the strong foundation of our organizations and continue making them solid and secure for our future deployed, our veterans, their families and our communities.

Let us get this 2018-2019 year off to an amazing start by attending our Program & Leadership Conference August 17 & 18 in Harrisburg; while Commander Hanzes and his team provide training across the state for all VFW members.

Believe...We Can Do It when we work together as a team.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you want to send care packages to deployed Pennsylvania service members, email dsandman@vfwpahq.org and you will receive a list of current APO addresses.

Believe We Can Do It and We Will Pass 100% Again

By Dale Lepore, Membership/Recruitment Chair - (717) 350-1437 or dale@vfw6704.org



PA Auxiliaries: Membership is vital to this organization, not only for our individual benefits, but to show Legislators in Washington and Harrisburg that we are behind Veterans 100%.

We stand with the Pennsylvania VFW's advocacy team fighting with them for their benefits and issues.

Recruiting is another vital part of the Membership Program this year. **A new incentive this year for all Auxiliaries:** each Auxiliary appointed their own Membership Chairman/Recruiter at the beginning of July. This member will have an opportunity not only to send monthly reports and training materials to me, up until December 31, 2018, but then I must

choose one state winner to be forwarded to the National Ambassador by January 31, 2019.

The awards will be announced at the 2019 National Mid-Year Conference. This is great opportunity for all Auxiliary members to show how well they can help our organization grow.

It is time to send your dues reminders. There is a copy of a letter from our National office that you can use to encourage all members to keep their memberships active.

Remember, all members who forgot to pay their dues by June 30, 2018, are no longer eligible to retain membership. These members must REJOIN your Auxiliary. If you have members who fall into this category, please remember to include a special note in your dues reminders to alert them to this fact.

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Plan Today to Offer Student Scholarship Programs

By Joan Faddis, Scholarships Chairperson - (610) 269-0194 or tee3cubed@aol.com



Here are the scholarships being sponsored by the Auxiliary or co-sponsored with the VFW for 2018-19:
CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP - This awards scholarships to current Auxiliary members, their spouse, son or daughter with financial needs, after being a member for one year. Deadline is February 15, 2019.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY COMPETITION - Students are asked to write and record an essay on the theme "WHY MY VOTE COUNTS." The

deadline is October 31, 2018.

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY COMPETITION - This competition requires students in grades 6-8 to write an essay on the theme: "WHY I HONOR THE AMERICAN FLAG," and submit their entry by October 31, 2018.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART COMPETITION - This is a scholarship for students in grades 9 - 12 with the opportunity to express their idea of patriotism through art. Students submit their work, with a brief description of the patriotism being expressed in the artwork. Deadline is March 31, 2019.

More details and applications are available on the National VFW and Auxiliary websites.

Focus on Mission Success

PERIODICALS



During Memorial Day weekend, Shellsville Post 9639 Honor Guard members and other Post volunteers visit the last of four local cemeteries to place flags and perform military honors.



Pictured above are proud members of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery Honor Guard Detail, which includes numerous volunteers from local VFW Posts.



Croydon Post 1597 accepts a \$1,463 donation from Neshaminy Creek Brewing Company to support the Post's Hot Rods and Hops event.



Spring Grove Post 5265 presented its 2018 Spc. Cameron Stambaugh scholarships to high school students. This year, the Post awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to Patrick Bowman, Kylie Good, Drew Gordon, Collin Ruby, Zachary Ruggerie and Kaylyn Trout. Presenters were Commander Robert Klinedinst and member Quentin Stambaugh, grandfather of Cameron Stambaugh. Spc. Stambaugh was killed in Afghanistan in 2012 and graduated from Spring Grove Area High School.



Trappe Post 7155, their sponsored Scout Troop 7155 and some Cub Scouts, conduct their annual Armed Forces and Memorial Day ceremonies. (Photo by David Morgan/Stylish Images, Inc.)



(From left) Commander James Wimmer, Quartermaster Bruce Torrence and Trustee Joe Robinson of Coopersburg Post 3405 present the flag during the National Anthem at the start of the Upper Saucon 5K Run for Charity.



Post 92 hosts a Military Share food program for military families and veterans. The Post works with the PNG Family Program's Donna Carr to feed over 50 families. Shown are District 27 Commander Robert Body, Carr and Commander Lee Johnson.



Etters Post 537 sponsors a Loyalty Day Coloring Contest at Newberry Elementary and Red Mill Elementary Schools. Shown here are (from left) Post 537 Adjutant Jane McKeown, Colby Holtzapple; Breanna Holtzapple; Cayden Holtzapple; Joe Colonna, Post Commander; Cynthia Quickel, Teacher; and Travis Peck, Principal.