



**YOUR VFW: NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!**

## PA Chaplain of the Year Awarded to Larry “Rex” Welker

By Rev. Peter R. Hook, State Chaplain

The “PA Chaplain of the Year Award” recognizes a District or Post Chaplain who demonstrates a commitment to the ministry and duties of a Chaplain, and who exhibits exemplary performance above and beyond normal expectations.

The recipient of the PA Chaplain of the Year Award for 2020 is Larry “Rex” Welker. Rex is the Chaplain at Diamond Jubilee Memorial VFW Post 2385 in Gratz, PA. He is a former Marine who served with the 2nd Marine Division in Lebanon. He became a member of the VFW in 1972,



The PA VFW Chaplain of the Year Award went to Larry “Rex” Welker. Welker received a certificate and a print from state, district and post leadership in honor of his hard work and dedication.

and over the years has held all leadership positions including Post Commander. For the past eight years he has served as Post Chaplain, a position he truly loves.

As Post 2385 Chaplain, Rex is the primary agent for developing a Post that truly cares for veterans and their families. He regularly visits members of the Post who are sick, hospitalized, or living in extended care facilities. Being a cancer survivor, he knows firsthand what members with cancer are undergoing, and thus, he is able to

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## PA VFW Moves to a New Website Platform Popular Across the Country

The Pennsylvania VFW Headquarters recently transitioned to a new website platform.

“I think it has a nice look and feel to it,” said State Commander Ronald J. Peters. “What is also nice about it is that it is tied in from National HQ to the State Department and if Districts and Posts utilize the same platform they will be tied in all together. That is mainly the calendar and the news feed.”

PA VFW Director of Communications Cory Angell said that there will be growing pains.

“People tend to have different preferences and there is no doubt that I missed dragging over some items from the old site,” said Angell. “We can fix things as we go and that is normally how the process works. I am more than happy to take advice from users of the site.”

Angell said migrating to the new platform should be beneficial to everyone. It has professional art preloaded and can populate a calendar that everyone shares. It features a scrolling carousel of artwork for each branch. He also said it can generate an e-newsletter that you can sign up for on the site.

Angell said that the national HQs would like to see more and more VFW organizations move to the new site.

“I learn more and more about what you can do but it can be as simple or as complex as a user wants,” said Angell. “We all still have a lot of work to do so I ask for everyone’s patience.”

The new site is located at: [www.vfwpa.org](http://www.vfwpa.org)



The new website has a scrolling carousel that highlights each branch of service. The new features include a calendar and e-newsletter that people can sign-up to receive. The site is designed to be interactive from National HQs down to individual posts.



## *From the State Commander 2020-2021*

### **When the going gets tough...**

Ronald J. Peters



These have been tough times for everyone. COVID-19 issues have created a great difficulty for many. The old saying is when the going gets tough; the tough get going. Easier said than done at times; it is nevertheless what we must do now. Membership faces a challenge in that every new year people would normally stop by a post to socialize and when they did they would pay dues. Now, we have the added challenge of renewing membership because of the reduction in social activity. We must reach out and get people we know to renew. We must reach out to those able to become a member to join. We need membership now more than ever. The Pennsylvania VFW has historically been one of the largest in the nation. Let's work to keep it that way. I have been doing interviews with the media and trying to cast the message of how we are a grass-roots community based organization that matters. I am proud of the posts that have been doing blood drives and food drives. We are maintaining that community connection. I encourage you to keep mission focused and increase outreach for membership. I thank you all for your hard work, your continued dedication to veterans and the communities you live in.



## *The Department VFW Auxiliary President Says...*

### **Mission Focuse**

Wendi S. Hennemann



Across our beautiful state we are dealing with many restrictions and closures due to the pandemic. Let us put the pandemic and all the talk about it on the back burner! Leave it behind, for we all have much more to talk about at the water cooler!

I would like you to focus on our work that we do for our Veterans and their families, for this is what we should talk about. We need to talk about it to everyone, not just our members, but everyone. Our story is important!! We must tell our story and TOOT our horn! We are PA PROUD and I know that every member is doing something to assist a Veteran or their family.

Keep up the great work!

Thank you for working tirelessly in different ways to get the information on our National Programs out in the community. "Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans" will carry on, no matter what anyone throws our way! We have seen so many creative and successful ideas, most of which were tried for the very first time. Your efforts to keep moving forward have not gone unnoticed. We truly appreciate each one of you and all that you do! GREAT JOB!

Our veterans continue to serve those veterans who fought next to them in time of war, our communities, and those service men and women serving today. "United We Stand" with all our Comrades as we continue working on more open communication and assisting you within the Posts as much as possible. With all of us working together we will "Bridge The Gap" and become a stronger and more effective unit. Thank You for your service to our Country, so we may enjoy the freedoms we have today! I am honored and humbled to serve next to State Commander, Ron Peters. Thank you, comrades for all you do!

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. We send you and your family Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Veterans of Foreign Wars District 29 Commander Jessica King, right, and Vipers center Wesley Westerman, teamed up on Nov. 23 to gather holiday turkeys for local veterans at VFW Post 894 in Harrison, Pa.

## **Local Youth Hockey Player Teams With VFW To Help Veterans During Holidays**

By Michael P. Mauer, VFW District 29 PAO

A center with the Vipers youth hockey club in Lower Burrell, Pa., went on the power play with the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Allegheny County to help former service members and their families have a happier holiday season.

Wesley Westerman, a 15-year-old freshman at Highlands High School in Natrona Heights, Pa., gathered more than three dozen turkeys and donated them Nov. 23 to VFW District 29. The effort was used to make Thanksgiving dinners with all the trimmings that were served to veterans at VFW Post 8430 'Hilltoppers' in East McKeesport.

"Knowing that I helped some local veterans and their families over Thanksgiving makes me feel like a winner," said Westerman. "I feel as good off the ice as I do on it."

Veterans of Foreign Wars District 29 Commander Jessica King more than doubled Westerman's score by collecting about 60 turkeys of her own. The pair's teamwork brightened Thanksgiving for hundreds of local veterans.

King, a Marine and Iraq War veteran, was elevated to the position of VFW District 29 commander earlier this year. As commander, she is in charge of the approximately three dozen active VFW Posts in Allegheny County.

"Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the restrictions that are being placed on social gatherings and veterans' service organizations, we've been able to work together and live up to our motto of 'No One Does More for Veterans,' King said. "Having young people like Wes help us makes things even better."

## Cpl. Claire Van Eman Grove City VFW Post 519 100th Anniversary Celebration

by John Sestak, VFW Auxiliary Treasurer Post 519

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, the Cpl. Claire Van Eman Grove City VFW Post 519 celebrated their 100th anniversary. The Post was established on October 6, 1920 in memory of Cpl. Clare Van Eman of Grove City, PA, who had given his life in service to our country during World War I. Cpl. Van Eman was a soldier in the 5th Marine Regiment, 2nd Division. He was killed in action on June 6, 1918, at the Battle of Belleau Wood. The Battle of Belleau Wood is a historical battle in Marine lore. He is buried in the Aisne-Marne Cemetery in France with his fallen comrades.



The 100th Anniversary Celebration was led by Post Commander, Ben Lewis, with historical details provided by Post Adjutant, Jim McClelland. During the ceremony, various dignitaries presented awards and proclamations to Commander Lewis. The VFW District Commander, Jim Brown, presented the VFW Century Award. Shelly Oakes, State Representative Tim Bonner's representative, presented a State Citation from Representative Bonner. Randy Riddle, the Mayor of Grove City Borough, presented a proclamation from the Mayor's Office proclaiming Saturday, October 3, 2020 as VFW Day in Grove City.

The celebration also included the presentation of custom 100th Anniversary coins to those in attendance. The coins were distributed by Commander Ben Lewis, and Senior Vice President, Milan Mijatov. The Post's oldest living member, Dallas Schull, a World War II veteran, was in attendance, and was the first to be presented with his coin by Commander Lewis. After the closing of the Anniversary Celebration, all in attendance enjoyed a catered meal from Family Traditions.

Both the Cpl. Claire Van Eman Grove City VFW Post 519 and the Post 519 Auxiliary are very active in the Grove City community. Various patriotic and charitable activities take place at the Post and in the surrounding area, with monies raised going to help our veterans and other local organizations in need. These activities include participating in the July 4th and Memorial Day celebrations, Christmas gifts for veterans, children's Christmas parties, posting flags in the cemeteries, Poppy distribution, funeral and fund-raising dinners, among others. It's been a busy 100 years, with plans for another 100 years of helping others just getting started!



The VFW District Commander, Jim Brown, presented the VFW Century Award from National Headquarters (upper left). Randy Riddle, the Mayor of Grove City Borough, presented a proclamation proclaiming Saturday, October 3, 2020 as VFW Day in Grove City (lower center). Shelly Oakes, State Representative Tim Bonner's representative, presented a State Citation (lower right).

Chaplain of the Year Continued from Page 1

offer comfort and encouragement to comrades dealing with cancer.

In addition to his responsibility as Post Chaplain, he regularly supports and participates in other Post programs and activities. He serves with the Post Honor Guard, and each month helps with the Post's Military Food Share Program.

Rex has been a long-time member of the Lykens United Methodist Church where he has been involved with Bible studies and the church food pantry.

Rex and his wife, Janice, have been married for fifty-seven years. They have two daughters, four grandchildren, and three great-

grandchildren.

It was truly an honor for me to present this award to Larry "Rex" Welker, a faithful servant and a good model for those of us who are called to serve those who served. The Chaplain of the Year receives a framed certificate and an engraved watch. He also gains possession of a framed picture to be displayed at his Post for the coming year.

On the new Department website <https://vfwpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=88797> you will find my Chaplain's Page which has information concerning the award, the Monthly Chaplain's Report, and various resources to help you in your ministry to comrades and their families.

is to provide social services to a wide variety of people in twelve states. The subsidiary, Fresh Start, assists chemically dependent, mentally ill, and/or homeless individuals in gaining the treatment and support necessary to lead a healthy and productive life. The Coatesville Fresh Start operation focuses on homeless individuals and in particular homeless veterans.

Jennifer Ficco is program manager for a Fresh Start operation on the campus of the Coatesville Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital. She explained that her organization houses homeless male veterans in two separate buildings, where she works to prepare them to acquire housing elsewhere when they are physically and mentally able to do so. While other doctors and counselors help with addiction, mental health, or other physical problems, Ficco focuses on finding affordable housing for the veterans.

Until adequate housing

can be found, the veterans are housed and fed on VA grounds.

To make life a little more pleasant for the veterans, Ficco plans an annual holiday event whereby the men enjoy a meal with some upgrades such as pie for dessert or a specialty sandwich tray. The men are also presented with a gift bag on Christmas day containing personal use items such as socks, toothpaste, and packaged snack foods. The gift bags this year will be through the courtesy of Post 845.

Post Quartermaster and retired army Sgt. 1st Class, Ernie Griffith, solicited donations from members of the post and the surrounding community. Griffith said he had a very generous response. He and fellow post members packaged 60 gift bags that will be distributed on Christmas Day. The post also is donating a \$500 gift certificate to be used for groceries that will enhance the meal at the holiday party.

## VFW Post 845 Supports Fresh Start

By Ernie Griffith



As the 2020 Christmas season approached, due to Corona virus restrictions on church gatherings, one Downingtown area church has been unable to offer the same charitable support it had given to the Fresh Start Foundation in previous years. Consequently, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 845 of Downingtown was asked if it could help make the

holiday season a little brighter for approximately 60 homeless veterans.

Post 845 willingly agreed to help because as Post Commander Marty Peterson has stated many times, "The primary purpose of the post is to help other veterans."

The Fresh Start Foundation is one arm of a non-profit organization, Merakey. That organization's purpose

**USS Donner LSD-20 will hold its 22nd Annual Reunion, Monday, May 3rd in Buffalo, New York**

**Contact Dennis Heimbach**

**1375 Pershing Blvd. Unit 709**

**Reading, PA 19607 for information.**

**610-775-7539**

**[dennisheimb@gmail.com](mailto:dennisheimb@gmail.com)**

# Giving a Fellow Veteran a Lift

By Cory Angell, State VFW HQ

Frank Henry served in Vietnam as military police with the Air Force and his knees are not what they use to be. He has needed a chair lift for about three years. Climbing and descending the steps of his Carroll Valley home is difficult.

His wife Maria reached out to the Veterans of Foreign Wars state headquarters for help. After talking to Cynthia Lewis at

headquarters she made a few calls to people letting them know a veteran had a need for a chair lift.

Not having much luck she started to price what it would cost for a new install. Out of nowhere and completely unconnected; John Peris from Harrisburg, Pa. called VFW headquarters.

Peris' mom had passed away and he wanted to see if he could donate the chair lift to a veteran since his family had a tradition of military service. It couldn't have been better timing.

Long-time VFW members pitched in to get this done for the Henry family. David "Spike" Gyger who was local to the area went to do the uninstall and delivered the lift

to VFW headquarters. Rick Olsen, Carlisle, then delivered it to the Henry residence just outside of Gettysburg, Pa.

VFW District 8 in Bucks County for help then set up a day to do the install in Henry's Ski Run Trail home. After riding up the stairs for the first time in years pain-free, Frank was almost speechless.

"I don't believe it. I cannot thank them enough," he said.



**Left:** VFW District 8 Commander David A. Pearl, along with several others from the district, helped Frank Henry by installing a donated chair lift in his home outside of Gettysburg, Pa.

**Right:** Frank Henry pictured in Vietnam where he served as Air Force Security Forces.



## Do You Need Help With Veterans Benefits?

Full-time, VA-accredited VFW State Service Officers are ready to answer questions about government benefits, help you file a claim and represent you at a VA appeal hearing. These phone numbers connect you with your nearest State Service Officer. You can ask about outreach locations and home visits.

**Philadelphia: 215-381-3123**

**Northeastern Region: 570-821-2535/2536**

**Harrisburg/Lancaster/Reading/Lititz Region: 717-234-7927**

**York/Gettysburg/Chambersburg Region: 717-884-7927**

**Altoona/Johnstown Region: 814-943-8164**

**Pittsburgh/Southwest Region: 412-395-6259/6260**

**Butler Region: 724-287-4781**

**Erie /Northwest Region: 814-835-8494**

**Northcentral/State College Region: 570-748-5929**



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to the principle of informed and active patriotism, working to keep us strong and free.

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## Focus on Mission Success



Munhall-Witaker VFW Post 6673 Quartermaster Dan Pavasko presents a \$500 check to Veterans Place Pittsburgh to help feed veterans for Thanksgiving.



Munhall-Witaker VFW Post 6673 Quartermaster Dan Pavasko presented a check for \$100 to Mike Liskovich of Veterans Helping Veterans-Homestead and \$100 check to Cub Scout /BoyScout Pack #4 Munhall. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Post 6673 continues to support Veterans and the Steel Valley Community.



VFW Post 7530 participated in a "Caravan of Heroes" event with American Legion Riders from Post 751 in Enola. Many young folks turned out and thanked the Riders and all Veterans for their Service.

At East Penn Middle School the Caravan stopped and the National Anthem was played. Ryan Fiscus, President of the Riders is also a member of VFW Post 7530 in Lower Allen Township. Also helping to organize the Event was Christine Cleveland, who not only works at West Creek but is also a part of the VFW Post 7530 Family.



Officer Newswanger of the Ephrata Police Department helped facilitate a donation of food and blankets from VFW Post 3376 to the new local homeless shelter Dec. 21.

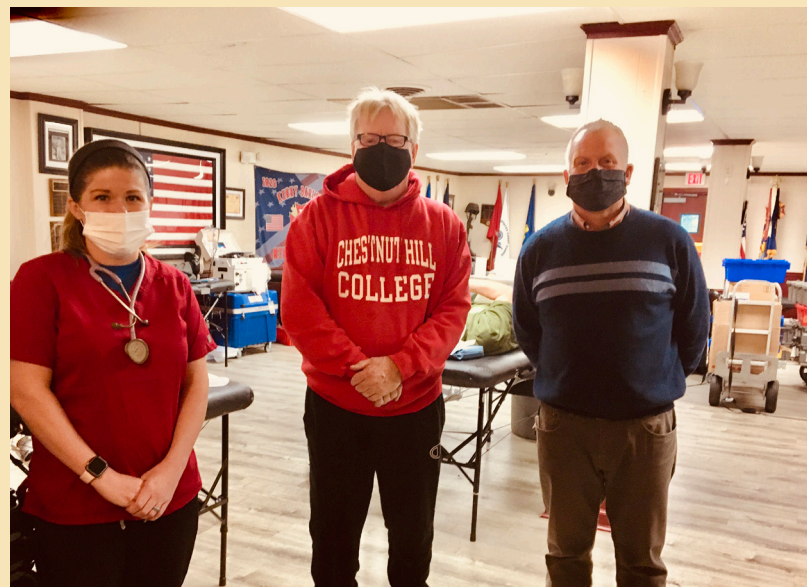
"Ephrata VFW Post 3376 is proud to support the many worthwhile organizations in our community, and we are grateful for the many people who make this community wonderful," said Amy MacKenzie, VFW Dept. of PA Post 3376 Quartermaster.



## Focus on Mission Success



VFW Post 33 held its annual Veterans Day program. The event included Mallory Valentine of the Young Marines of Westmoreland addressing the guests on patriotism. Chase McElheny, Young Marines of Westmoreland County read his essay on What Veterans Day Means to Me and the post color guard presented a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.



Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Media Rugby Football Club team up with the Red Cross for monthly blood drives the last Wednesday of every month at VFW Post 3460, Media, PA. Shown at the eighth event: Ashley Barrett, Red Cross Team Supervisor, Pat Flanagan, VFW Canteen Manager and Larry Elias, Media Rugby Football Club President.



In October, VFW Post 8612 in Milford ran a Farmers to Families food drive. The post was able to feed 800 families in Pike County and the surround areas. Not only did they have volunteers from the post but also from the Vietnam Veterans, American Legion Post 139 and a new organization in Pike County, Heart2serveU which is helping Disabled Veterans. (Photo by Greg Protsko, District 20 Commander)



The Cadet Color Guard of Cedar Cliff High School; their Junior ROTC Warriors posted and retired the Colors for the Veterans Day celebration at VFW Post 7530 in Lower Allen Township. Social distancing and masks were used. The post livestreamed the event for those that could not attend in person. (photo by Jeff Puckett VFW Post 7530)

# Striving to Recognize Valor

By Cory Angell, PA VFW

Arthur Liss has spent the last 10 years attempting to upgrade his brothers Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor. However, the change of politicians in office and other dead ends and roadblocks have stalled his efforts. He continues to drive toward his goal because he honestly believes the military would have rated him a higher award if they knew all the facts at the time.

“I approached the participants and suggested that I be the repository for communications to remove any other participants from feeling that they were being self-served, said Art Liss. “Larry’s former commander Gen. Weyand wrote a letter in 2008. It was a look back on the facts for and a recommendation for the silver star. That should’ve happened in 2009.”

That letter never went through.

Former congressmen Joe Sestak saw the documentary on Larry Liss and his actions under fire in Vietnam and he then recommended the Medal of Honor.

“There were multiple issues at play during the time that the award write-up took place,” said Art Liss. “We can talk more about the idea of struggling with the Army Awards

Branch given how many cases they are behind. It was not too much to ask to re-open the door and look at the considerations being presented to them. They should not give up on a case and continually ask for new evidence not recognizing they have all the evidence they need.”



Capt. Larry Liss with Vietnamese orphans as he sits in his UH-1 helicopter.

Art’s brother, Larry Liss, certainly defied the odds to save others. It can be seen in the documentary, “Helicopter Wars-Vietnam Firefight.”

According to the website Larryliss.com, a company of over 100 men led by U.S. Special Forces was ambushed. They were surrounded and outnumbered six to one. They were sure

to be annihilated unless they were extracted. Two helicopters answered the desperate call for help.

When they arrive, there is nowhere to land amid the thick 40-foot-high bamboo. They decide their only option is to chop their own landing zone using their helicopters’ rotor blades. To rescue all the men, they will have to return five times. Each time they go back there are less troops on the ground to defend the landing zone.

The fire was intense and Larry had to even dismount the helicopter at times to aid the wounded on-board.

Larry’s helicopter was totally unarmed. In the back of the other helicopter is a single machine gun. It was amazing that the blades could take the damage that they took.

“This is not about me but seeking the truth and presenting the Proper Honors owed by this Nation to all the heroes of this Mission,” said Art Liss. “Right now, Capt. Liss is the main nominee to open the doors for further upgrades as deemed necessary by General Weyand. It is time that people hear the words of those who were there on 14 May 1967.”

Anyone wishing to assist Art Liss can contact him at [aeliss1@comcast.net](mailto:aeliss1@comcast.net). His brother Larry is a VFW Life Member of VFW Post 1564 Phoenixville, Pa.



Congratulations to Col. Stacey S. Zdanavage who recently assumed command of the 193rd Special Operations Wing. In this photo, Zdanavage (right) accepts the 193rd’s guidon from Brig. Gen. Michael J. Regan, Jr., the Pennsylvania National Guard’s Deputy Adjutant General - Air.

Zdanavage succeeds Brig. Gen. Terry Koudelka, who was recently promoted and is preparing to deploy and assume the role of deputy commanding general of Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa.

The 193rd SOW wing is the only unit in the military with a unique flying mission and they are deployed often. The EC-130J Commando Solo, a specially-modified four-engine Hercules transport, conducts Military Information Support Operations and civil affairs broadcasts in FM, TV and military communications bands. The Wing has expanded its mission sets in recent years to include clandestine, low-visibility, low-level resupply and infiltration/exfiltration.

## Mestrovich and the Medal of Honor

by Army, Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Heft

*Note: Heft is a historian for the 111th Infantry and serves full-time with the National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C.*

Today's news cycle reports daily on the actions of Army National Guard soldiers performing pandemic response around the country. The Guard and its members have long supported health crises around the world, ensuring military doctors and aid can help those in need. One of the most famous men in the 28th Infantry Division began his career in the Army National Guard due to his experience in pandemic response.

In 1914, Serbia and the Balkan Region were facing a pandemic of their own. Typhus had swept through the Serbian Military on campaign, and in turn spread rapidly through the civilian populace. Back in the United States, growing concern about the fate of the Serbian people led aid organizations to begin deploying to the region. A group of volunteer doctors and nurses assembled in the US through the Red Cross to provide critical medical personnel to Serbia. They quickly realized that despite their medical skills, none of them spoke the language. A California surgeon recommended a man he had worked with in Fresno, now Pittsburgh-based bookkeeper and auditor. James Mestrovich was an emigre from Serbia who had come to the United States with his uncle

and brother to California in search of work. He joined the delegation and spent 15 months in Serbia on the front lines of the pandemic. While there, Mestrovich witnessed Typhus outbreak and the horrors of the World War. In addition to his linguist duties, he assisted his fellow countryman who had been wounded



Mestrovich in a unit photograph from the 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry

on the battlefield. Mestrovich once aided a Serbian Captain and famous Belgrade Professor, who would visit him back in Pittsburgh, while the Captain recuperated there in 1917. American members of the Red Cross did all they could for the Serbian people and in the process, the majority of the group was infected with a third of the American Surgeons and many of the nurses in the group giving their life in an effort to serve the Serbian people.

Mestrovich returned to his newfound homeland after the mission with a great patriotism. He told a reporter: "Before I went back home with American Doctors and saw the loyalty with which they served humanity," said Cpl. Mestrovich. "did I (sic) understand the meaning of Americanism." Upon returning to Pittsburgh in 1916, Mestrovich marched to his local recruiter and joined Company C, 18th Infantry,

Pennsylvania National Guard. "After the Americans did this for my people, maybe you can understand why I am in the National Guard. I left a good job as a bookkeeper at a hotel in Pittsburgh to serve my country's savior. I am ready for any service the United States has for me."

Mestrovich was ready. In June of 1916, he was mobilized with the unit to the Mexican Border and promoted to Corporal after showing his military experience gained with the Serbian Army. Mestrovich's service would not stop there. When the Company was mobilized for WWI, it became Company C of the 111th Infantry, today part of the 56th Stryker Brigade. Fighting in France as a Sergeant Mestrovich forever cemented his name in history. During the battle for Fismette along the Vesle River in August of 1918, Sgt. Mestrovich saw his Company Commander wounded as the Company fell back from the ruins of the city. Without regard for his own safety, Mestrovich charged forward through a hail of machine gun fire and falling artillery to rescue his Captain, returning to safety to provide life saving first aid. For this action he would become the 28th Division's first Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

Sadly, Mestrovich did not survive the war. As the fighting raged in the Meuse Argonne, Sgt. James Mestrovich fell in action on Nov. 4, 1918, only a week from the end of the war. Sgt. James Mestrovich was returned to his mother in 1925 in Boka, now part of Montenegro. In 1925, the U.S. mission to the City of Split located Mestrovich's mother and presented her with his Congressional Medal of Honor in the presence of an honor guard. Mestrovich, who had been inspired by American doctors who traveled to his homeland to provide aid, joined the National Guard to serve his adopted country. In its moment of need, he courageously gave his life in the pursuit of American ideals. Though buried in his homeland of Montenegro, his spirit and patriotism live on in the halls of the 111th Infantry and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.



Former 28th ID Commander, Maj. Gen. John Gronski places a wreath at the grave of Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. James Mestrovich Nov. 1, 2018 Mestrovich was killed one week before the armistice of Nov. 11, 1918. (U.S. Army National Guard courtesy photo)

Department Membership Update:  
88.99% as of Dec 31, 2020

	Post	Dist	Percent	Need for 100%	Location
2	5958	28	70.14%	-260	TITUSVILLE
3	2385	18	100.79%	3	LYKENS
3	8896	21	99.47%	-2	EAST BERLIN
3	8951	21	97.42%	-19	WEST YORK
3	7863	15	95.53%	-16	DUBOISTOWN
3	845	9	95.46%	-21	DOWNINGTOWN
4	813	22	101.76%	5	DU BOIS
4	2493	21	98.22%	-5	MOUNT WOLF
4	15	21	95.37%	-13	GETTYSBURG
4	264	28	94.73%	-17	CORRY
4	169	28	94.50%	-14	VENANGO
5	537	21	103.25%	7	ETTERS
5	4793	24	100.50%	1	WAYNESBURG
5	1620	18	100.00%	0	MIDDLETOWN
5	8803	19	98.56%	-3	TIDIOUTE
5	7842	28	97.03%	-7	LINESVILLE
6	148	18	106.25%	11	HARRISBURG
6	5642	14	102.61%	4	MONTROSE
6	1568	14	99.42%	-1	TOWANDA
6	5825	22	98.29%	-3	PINE GROVE MILLS
6	5956	9	96.91%	-5	MANHEIM
7	8008	20	129.26%	36	NESQUEHONING
7	3258	8	113.76%	19	CHALFONT
7	1074	16	113.04%	15	CONSHOHOCKEN
7	212	19	101.50%	2	BRADFORD
7	32	16	101.45%	2	LANSDALE
8	2076	19	114.00%	14	PUNXSUTAWNEY
8	8023	18	102.08%	2	ANNVILLE
8	7919	1	100.00%	0	MONTGOMERY CO.
8	7527	17	98.97%	-1	BEDFORD
8	415	19	98.00%	-2	NEW BETHLEHEM
9	7689	22	110.00%	7	ROARING SPRING

9	7565	23	100.00%	0	HOOVERSVILLE
9	2341	28	98.80%	-1	ALBION
9	8051	1	98.61%	-1	PHILADELPHIA
9	7783	26	97.70%	-2	SAINT BENEDICT
10	314	19	105.66%	3	CLARENDON
10	6497	18	101.63%	1	WILLIAMSTOWN
10	598	7	101.58%	1	DARBY
10	7840	25	100.00%	0	HILLIARDS
10	5205	1	98.48%	-1	PHILADELPHIA
11	8308	24	103.70%	1	LAWRENCE
11	3610	1	100.00%	0	PHILADELPHIA
11	5426	1	100.00%	0	PHILADELPHIA
11	5428	7	100.00%	0	COLLINGDALE
11	5635	20	100.00%	0	LACKAWAXEN

Place	District	Percent Membership	Current Membership 2021	Members Needed for 100%	
1	19	93.88%	1962	-128	
2	16	92.93%	1578	-120	
3	15	92.63%	1873	-149	
4	18	91.61%	4883	-447	
5	1	90.97%	927	-92	
6	21	90.91%	5312	-531	
7	13	90.85%	1043	-105	
8	26	90.35%	2370	-253	
9	7	89.96%	950	-106	
10	8	89.82%	2496	-283	
11	14	89.70%	1498	-172	
12	9	89.49%	3339	-392	
13	23	89.34%	1685	-201	
14	20	89.27%	1223	-147	
15	17	88.99%	2198	-272	
16	12	88.90%	1354	-169	
17	27	87.30%	2324	-338	
18	22	87.24%	2557	-374	
19	11	86.60%	1674	-259	
20	24	86.53%	1356	-211	
21	29	86.51%	3329	-519	
22	25	85.79%	2288	-379	
23	28	85.73%	4207	-700	
24	10	84.84%	1544	-276	

# The VFW Auxiliary ...

## Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes



### AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

By Bonnie S. Drake, VFW Auxiliary Chairman



There are a million things that make us patriotic! What each person does to show patriotism can vary, nothing is set in stone, like the 10 Commandments were.

Despite this chaotic year, I hope you've done something positive in your Posts, Auxiliaries and Communities.

The 2020/2021 Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Program consists of:

- Flag Education – Show respect for flag by engaging the community, youth, schools, recognition of outstanding flag displays and flag retirement ceremonies
- Promoting Patriotism- Celebrating patriotic holidays, and keeping patriotism alive
- POW/MIA Recognition – Hold ceremonies to both educate your communities and honor Veterans
- Recognizing and honoring Blue Star, Gold Star, Silver Star and White Star Families
- Teaching America's Patriotic Traditions

We encourage you to to “Think Outside the Box”: Each Auxiliary shall nominate one youth, one Auxiliary and one VFW Member who shows an outstanding act of Patriotism or shows what being a true American is about.

Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award–VFW Teacher of the Year award contest

Best Promotion & Recognition of: Blue Star Mothers and Families, Gold Star Mothers and Families, Silver Star Families and White Star Families

Our reporting period and deadlines are ending soon, it's **imperative to report** what you've done and make sure you get your paperwork completed and to the appropriate people as soon as possible! **Check** all programs/awards/deadlines of the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for National [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) and/or [www.vfwaux.org/](http://www.vfwaux.org/) resources and Pennsylvania [www.pavfwaux.org](http://www.pavfwaux.org).

“United We Stand” hand in hand as we continue “Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans.”

### Be An Effective Advocate

By Tammy Hunter, Legislative Chairman – [huntertammyjo@aol.com](mailto:huntertammyjo@aol.com)



We need to prepare to be ready to advocate for our veterans both at home and on Capitol Hill. We must reach out to our legislators in an effort to gain their support for legislation that affects our veterans, service members and their families. Let us all work together to help educate them on our legislative issues.

Know the Legislative Issues: Familiarize yourself with the VFW Priority Goals and where the organization, stands on legislative issues affecting

veterans.

Contact your Legislators: Establishing a good rapport with your current and new legislator(s) is a very important part of effective advocacy.

How to Find Elected Officials and Contact Info in Your State: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address>

Provide your legislators with the VFW Priority Goals Brochure to help educate them in understanding the legislative issues we are advocating for them to support.

Stay up to date on veteran issues, sign up for VFW Action Corps. This free weekly news email highlights new legislation, updates on existing bills and discusses the VFW's stance on legislative matters. Sign up at [www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/](http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/).

As we approach the end of the Auxiliary program year, I want to thank everyone for their hard work, I know this year has been a difficult year for all because of COVID-19.

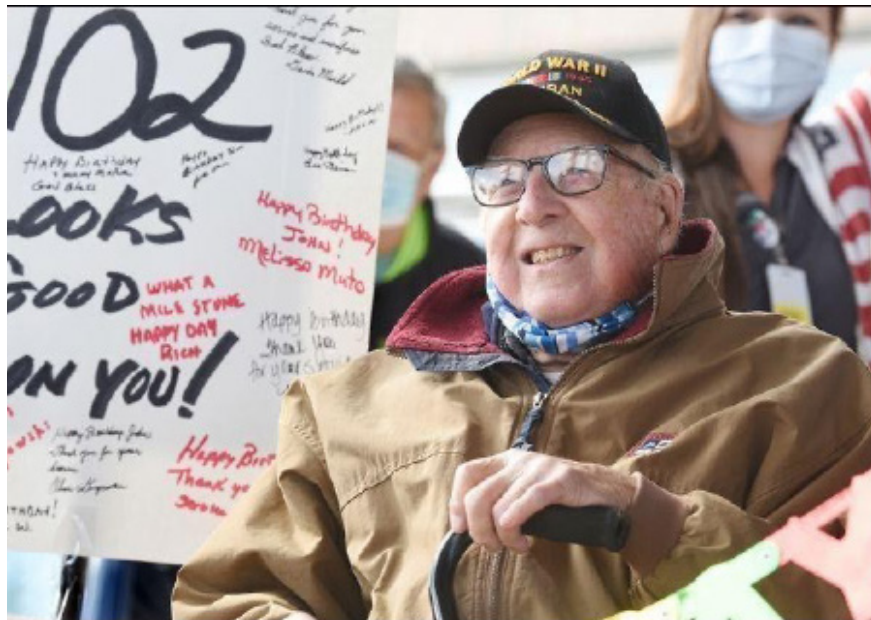
I want to remind everyone that it is time to complete your year-end reports. The reporting period is April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Every Auxiliary should have a strong Legislative program which will enrich “Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans” and show that we are “United We Stand.”





## FOCUS ON MISSION SUCCESS



Retired Lt. Col. John Mahler, who was once assigned to the 342nd Bombardment Squadron, celebrates his 102nd birthday as he watches a parade of military and first responder vehicles pass the Butler Veteran's Affairs Health Care Wellness Center on November 12, 2020, Butler, Pa. (courtesy photo).

## PERIODICALS



PITTSBURGH (Dec 7, 2020) – Chief Yeoman (Select) Shannon Claret, assigned to Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Pittsburgh, lays a wreath during the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance ceremony at the Southwestern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Southwestern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial commemorates the efforts of veterans from this region who served in Europe, North Africa, and the Pacific, as well as the men and women who contributed to the war efforts at home. Established August 1, 2018, NTAG Pittsburgh oversees Navy recruiting efforts over approximately 65,000 square miles of territory throughout parts of western Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Maryland. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Benjamin Dobbs).



EAST CHINA SEA (Nov. 14, 2020) From left, Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Jeremy Gorospe, from San Francisco, Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Alexis Barker, from Modesto, Calif., and Retail Specialist Seaman Kyle Rodgers, from **Franklin, Pa.**, secure a simulated patient to a reeve sleeve stretcher aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh (CG 67) during a fire drill. Shiloh is forward deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryre Arciaga).