



Pennsylvania VFWnews



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YOUR VFW: NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

2021 Flying Squadron

By Cory Angell, PA VFW PAO

The 2021 Flying Squadron took flight Aug. 13 in Harrisburg. Generally, its purpose is to refocus leadership on the true mission of the VFW among state officers, district commanders and chairmen.

“The flying Squadron is important because it gets all the district commanders and state leadership together right after elections,” said State VFW Commander Nathaniel Smith. “It puts us on the same path moving ahead in the coming year.”

Several presentations were also made. Commander Nathaniel Smith made presentations to Immediate Past State Commander Ronald Peters thanking him for his hard work and



Pennsylvania Department Commander Nathaniel Smith, left, and Jr. Vice Henry Mannella, right, listen to district and committee leaders across Pennsylvania during the Flying Squadron in Harrisburg Aug. 13.

dedication over the 2020 – 2021 year.

“He did a great job and remains an important asset to the Pennsylvania VFW,” said Smith. “We plan on using him as much as we can going into this year.”

Ronald Peters also made presentations of All-American caps to the district commanders whose posts were successful in making that achievement.

“I was proud of everyone during my time in command and it was nice to present those commander caps to the district commanders,” said Peters. “It’s nice to see those people and their posts get recognized for their hard work.”

Continued on Page 4

WWII Veteran gets his Shellback

By Cory Angell
PA VFW Public Affairs

Pennsylvania State VFW Commander Nathaniel Smith, a 23-year Navy veteran, joined Rear Admiral Peter Stamatopoulos, Supply Corps, United States Navy, Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command in presenting a Shellback Certificate to a World War II veteran Aug. 31 at the Carlisle VFW Post 477.

“Oh my, that was unreal. I was in the Navy for two years and I never got close to an admiral. Never even saw one,” said WWII Navy Veteran Herb Morrow reflecting on the event where he received a replica of his long-lost Shellback certificate.



Pennsylvania State VFW Commander Nathaniel Smith and NAVSUP Commander Rear Admiral Peter Stamatopoulos along with several servicemembers and veterans gathered to reissue the coveted shellback certificate to WWII Navy Veteran Herb Morrow.

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From the State Commander 2021-2022

Flying Squadron and Training

Nathaniel Smith



Greetings Comrades:

We have now begun the the 2021 – 2022 VFW program year and we are off to a great start. We had a great turnout at our Flying Squadron and Officers Training Institute which means that our Leaders at all levels are motivated and ready to get started for a great year. Our State Membership Team has already conducted many events which were

well attended and widely successful bringing on new members into our great organization.

I have already had the honor to help celebrate the anniversaries of many posts and visited over 39 locations so far this year and was overwhelmed by the generosity, warm welcome, and hospitality that they have provided to me and my Chief of Staff.

It is critical that we work together to continue the transition of leadership of this department, at all levels, from the Vietnam era veterans to the Persian Gulf, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom Era veterans. It is keenly important to keep in mind that without a strong membership body we cannot sustain or prevail in this great organization. “My motto this year is “Honor, Courage, and Commitment. It is imperative

that we continue to Honor all Veterans, we must have the courage to move this Organization forward and must be 100% committed to do our due diligence to get new members into the organization. I encourage all Post Commanders to reach out to their District Membership Chairperson for assistance with scheduling recruiting drives, attending information sessions, and other events related to Membership.

We must continue to work with our counterparts in our posts to host events and show the community that we are a family-oriented organization. This, in return, will give new and eligible veterans a reason to join and increase our membership in both the VFW and Auxiliary. It is vitally important to invite your community leaders and publish your events in the local newspaper so everyone will see what the VFW is doing in their communities.

We also need to continue to strengthen our partnership and by collaboration with our Auxiliaries, Military Organizations, Employers, and the Community providing facts about the VFW. I believe that more posts need to promote the “adopt a unit program” as we seek and welcome all eligible Veterans into our organization.

The birthday of our Navy was celebrated October 13 and the birthday for the Marine Corps, November 10. Happy birthday to all who served in their ranks. I also wish everyone a safe and Happy Veterans Day for November 11. Thank you all for your service to our great nation.

We are one team, one VFW that works together to complete a mission to continue to put this Department on top where it needs to be. Veterans need to know that “Nobody does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars.”

“FULL SPEED AHEAD”



From the State Quartermaster

Trustees Report

John B. Getz Jr.



I wish to thank all who work the programs of the VFW, I need to talk once again about the trustees report of audit. All of the quartermasters know that the audit form is not filled out by the quartermaster but by the Trustees. We as quartermasters need to have all banking information ready. We need to make it easy for the trustees to fill out the quarterly report. The report is a PDF fillable on line on the Pennsylvania VFW website (www.VFWPA.org). Once filled out and all the money is accounted for, the report must be signed by the trustees and submitted to us and the district.

If the trustee just signs the report without doing the work, he/she needs to understand the document is a legal binding document. If the funds come up missing the post can hold the trustees accountable. If a trustee does not know how to reconcile a bank statement, please teach them. They will be surprised how simple it is.

I also want to let the adjutants know that all program reporting must be done on the All-American Dashboard on the national web site, VOD and Patriot's Pen and other programs must be entered by the Adjutant, that person is the only one who is able to enter the information.

Thank you for all you do for the veterans of our great nation have a wonderful year and remember that every day is Veteran's Day.



From the State Senior Vice Commander

Membership

Henery R. Mannella



Membership, membership, membership; I can't say it enough. In order to sway our elected officials we need the voting power and the numbers for influence. We have to continue to do outreach and increase our numbers so we have the power of influence. I think where we need it most is in the younger generations.

Those who have most recently served in the Global War on Terrorism need to know that we do great things for the community, veterans and their families. Their membership is not only critical to us now but is absolutely critical for our future. So reach out to this generation of veterans. Educate them on the great things that we do and help them to become a member. Together there is nothing we can't do.

VFW General Orders No. 1 2021 - 2022 Series

Note the following:

5. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles. Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and

discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.

7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.

8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2021-22 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"® Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

10. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.



John Otte Pennsylvania VFW
Membership Chairman

It's an honor to serve as the State Membership Chairman. I want to let you all know we have a great team assembled and have been attending many events to help our numbers grow. We also have been running the School of Membership Recruiting and Instruction. We try to provide refreshments for those that attend and make it informative and fun. All VFW and Auxiliary members are welcome to attend! No experience is necessary. Attendees will be given all of the tools and techniques necessary to be successful in recruiting eligible veterans into the VFW/Aux. Please check www.vfwpa.org and look under the about tab where you can find our membership page. We will list training and try to keep the page updated for you. If each of us strive to help recruit just one member it would make all the difference in the organization. The more numbers we have in membership the more influence we care to help support all our veterans.



2021 Flying Squadron from page 1

One in person presentation by Immediate Past State Commander Peters was to Conshohocken VFW Post 1074 Commander Walt Hartnett.

“When I first became post commander, I didn’t know All-American or All State Post existed,” said Hartnett. “As I went to district meetings, OTI’s and department level events and got more involved I saw the challenge. Last year after being All State we set out with the goal of All-American. It’s only with the effort of the entire board that we accomplish being an All-American post. It is a tremendous achievement for our post and now we are looking to go back-to-back.”



Conshohocken VFW Post 1074 Commander Walt Hartnett receives his All-American Commanders cap from Immediate Past State Pennsylvania VFW Commander Ronald Peters.

Another presentation was made courtesy of Pit Row TV who provided posters of Pennsylvania military members that are missing in action to District 23 Commander Alister McGibbon. These posters were presented to district commanders so they can find a proper place to honor their memory.

“I’d like to thank Pit Row TV for giving us these posters and how they continue to honor those missing in action. It’s important that we remember these servicemembers,” said District 23 Commander Alister McGibbon.

One poster honored Air Force Col. Joseph Millard Stine who was from Everett, Pa., District 30 Commander Melody Price received his poster. The other poster was of Navy Seaman Apprentice Kenneth Doyle Scaife from Johnstown, Pa. whose poster was received by the District 26 Commander David Seymore.

As of the time of publication they have not found a proper



Port Allegany VFW Post 6391 Commander Earl Stump, who serves as the state Safety Awards Chairman, looks on as others provide briefings. Later, Stump would brief on the processes for posts nominating police, fire and EMS personnel for recognition.



District 30 Commander Melody Price received Col. Millard’s poster from District 23 Commander Alister McGibbon.

place to display the posters but both are actively seeking a proper home for them.

In the end, the event allowed for every leadership chair to make a presentation on their program areas and allowed for district commanders to raise issues charting the year ahead.

Shellback continued from page 1

Morrow had lost a sea bag while on his way home from the war and unfortunately his certificate was in it.

In this rich Navy tradition, those who have not crossed the equator (pollywogs) perform rituals that amounted to “good-humored mischief,” some may say hazing, according to the website history. navy.mil. After crossing and performing the rituals you become a shellback and worthy of the - “Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep” meaning that King Neptune had accepted them.



Pennsylvania State VFW Commander Nathaniel Smith presents a Certificate of Commendation from the Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars to World War II veteran Herb Morrow Aug. 31 at the Carlisle VFW Post 477.

Stamatopoulos opened the event by talking about Morrow’s incredible story of Service.

Morrow served on a five-inch gun crew providing fires to Marines landing on both Okinawa and Iwo Jima.

Morrow served from 1944 – 1946 in the Pacific on the light cruiser Birmingham. In the battle of Okinawa a kamikaze struck just 30 feet from his battle station.

The Birmingham survived the attack however, 52 men died and 82 were wounded. The ship docked for temporary repair so it could make its way to full repair and then back to sea duty in Australia.

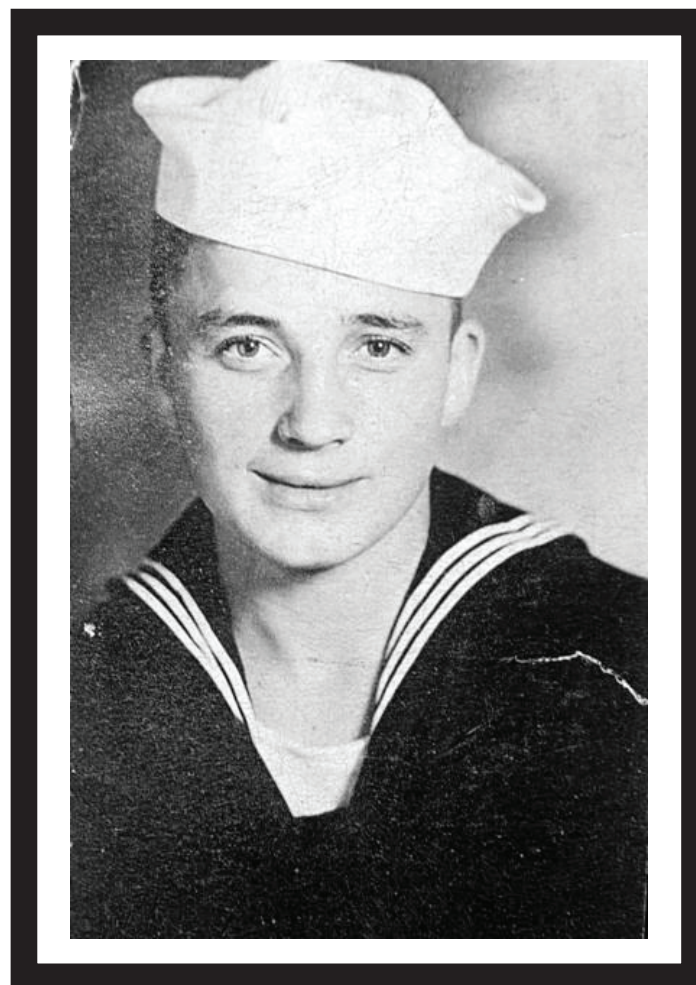
The Carlisle VFW Post 477 Commander Richard Olson felt it was so important to give back something to the 94-year-old man who had the courage to go to war for his country at the age of 17.

“For quite some time now Herb and I have been meeting at the VFW on Sunday mornings for breakfast at least every other week or more,” said Olson. “He told me the story of crossing the equator enroute to Australia, participating in the treacherous Shellback ceremony, and ultimately having lost his prized Shellback certificate when his sea bag got stolen when his ship docked in California and he was awaiting discharge. He expressed real remorse for having lost his certificate, and I felt compelled to see if I couldn’t somehow fabricate a certificate to fill the void.”

Olson then did research and found that Tiffany Publishing recreates

certificates emulating those presented to Sailors 70 years ago. Given the military presence in the Carlisle area with the War College and the Mechanicsburg Navel Depot he was on the hunt for who could help present it.

“I’m fairly certain that Herb had never seen as many Naval officers in one place as he witnessed at his Shellback ceremony,” said Olson.”



A photograph of Herb Morrow at age 17 when he joined the United States Navy.



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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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Focus on Mission Success



Jessup VFW Post 5544 recently celebrated their 75th Anniversary where they got the award from VFW National Headquarters known as the Diamond Jubilee. Seated left to right: Trustee Bill Price, Sr. Vice commander Manuel Griffen, Commander Russ Canevari, Jr. Vice commander Steve Jackowitz, Judge Advocate John Ritzko. Standing left to right: Post Adjutant John Jerome, Surgeon Ray Faurbach, Quarter Master Michael Dermody, Life member George Uhrin Sr.



Rimersburg VFW Post 7132 recently received the National Diamond Jubilee Award on the post's 75th anniversary. The award was presented by District 19 Commander John Fletcher to Post Commander John Mannion and board members, Benji Stitt, Denny Rankin, Chuck Brothers, Larry Murray and Pete Greenawalt.



VFW Post 5958 Titusville, Pa. awarded several scholarships. Sophia McGill who was awarded a scholarship (center left) with Cecil K. Dennis (center) who also serves as the State Sgt.-at-Arms. The other scholarship that were awarded went to the following individuals: Trenton Beach, Aaron Bienio, Grace Beach, Megan Kerr, Derek Beach and Hunter Holcomb.



The District 21 John Brenner Memorial Diabetes Walk was held Sept. 24 - 26, 2021. We visited all 18 Posts in the District. Walkers were dropped off 2 miles out from each Post and walked in where they were greeted by Post and Aux. leadership. In some cases, members walked the two miles in with the team. We have collected over \$24,600 to date. F & S Transportation, Manchester, has donated the van all 16 years for us to transport the walkers. The donation will be presented at the VFW MidWinter Conference.



Focus on Mission Success



Hamilton-Myers Post 6070 and Scout Troop 174 from Newville will be digging potatoes up from the Post's front yard this week. The potatoes are placed in 5lb bags and delivered to the Big Spring Food Bank for their monthly food distribution program. This joint VFW/Scout effort has been a success allowing the Scouts to obtain needed community service time and supporting needy families in the area with healthy food. The project has produced at least one ton of potatoes annually for the past three years. Hats off to the Scouts and our Comrade Veterans for being involved in a very worthwhile mission.



Scout Troop 174 member Zachary Rodgers was recently recognized by Hamilton-Myers Post 6070 Newville for earning the Rank of Eagle Scout. From left to right: Jr. Vice Keith Murray, Commander Don Flagle, Eagle Scout Zachary Rodgers, Quartermaster Anthony Bury.



Left: Some of the Hamilton-Myers Post 6070 members took time for a photo op during National Night Out in Newville to pose with K-9 Officer Shawn Gutshall and K-9 Lock. From left to right: Jr. Vice Commander Keith Murray, Quartermaster Anthony Bury, Mayor and Sr. Vice Commander Randy Finkey, Officer Shawn Gutshall, K-9 Lock, Commander Don Flagle and Post Member Mike Winkleman.

“Local funds were raised through donations to bring Lock onboard. “It’s great to see the results of donations from our community and the VFW,” said Post Commander Don Flagle.”

Reflections on Afghanistan



Major General Chris Donahue, commander of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, of Chambersburg, Pa., boards a C-17 cargo plane at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. Maj. Gen. Donahue is the final American service member to depart Afghanistan; his departure closes the U.S. mission to evacuate American citizens, Afghan Special Immigrant Visa applicants, and vulnerable Afghans. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Alex Burnett)



Staff Sgt. Bryan A. Hoover of West Elizabeth, left, and Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. Fike of Conneautville, shown patrolling in the Shajoy District, Zabul Province, Afghanistan, were killed in a bomb blast Jun. 12, 2010. "I don't know what to say other than I wish they would have kept permanent bases there, just like we did in Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea etc..... too much work and blood to give it back to them at this point," said Bo Zimmerman a close friend and fellow Soldier that served with the two in Afghanistan.

Photo by Combat Photographer Dan Shakal.



Sgt. 1st Class Brad Rhen, Lebanon, Pa., served with the 25th Infantry Division in Afghanistan.

"For the most part, I actually enjoyed my deployment. As a public affairs specialist, I got to go out on dozens of missions around Afghanistan with different types of units. I met a lot of great people, both coalition members and local Afghans," said Rhen.

"I agree with the decision to withdraw our forces after nearly 20 years. If we haven't accomplished what we wanted to accomplish in 20 years, I doubt we would accomplish those goals at all. Clearly, the withdraw has not gone as smoothly as anyone would have liked. But despite how bad it looks, evacuating the number people we have in such a short period of time was pretty impressive."

Below: Army Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Caba (Staff Sgt. At the time), served in Mazar-I-Sharif, Camp Deh Dadi II and Camp Marmal, 2011 - 2012 with 378th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. "It is disheartening to think about all the hard work and lives lost to be completely wiped away in a week's time," said Caba.



Eldred Pennsylvania native joins cadets for West Point ‘March Back’

By Marcie Schellhammer
Courtesy of the Bradford Era
marcie@bradfordera.com

The so-called Long Gray Line connects Eldred native Jim Slavin and Bradford native Jack Craven to the freshmen at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The first-year members of the class of 2025 — or plebes — and the “old grads,” Slavin, Craven and classmates from the USMA class of 1975, were joined together in West Point’s 50-year affiliation program — “to strengthen the ties between the graduates of yesterday and the cadets of today as both groups work together to strengthen the Long Gray Line as it serves our nation.”

The Long Gray Line is the continuum of West Point graduates serving the nation, so named for the gray uniforms worn by cadets.

To prove their dedication, the 1971 graduates of Otto-Eldred and Bradford, respectively, joined the cadets on Aug. 9 for the “March Back,” a 12-mile hike the cadets make from their training grounds at Lake Frederick to the academy’s grounds as the last obstacle in the cadets’ training.

The March Back program, which began in 2000, “is the only event where our graduates can interact directly with cadets allowing them to feel like they are once again part of the Corps of Cadets, as such, this is an extremely popular event,” said a West Point spokesman. “Many graduates participate every year.”

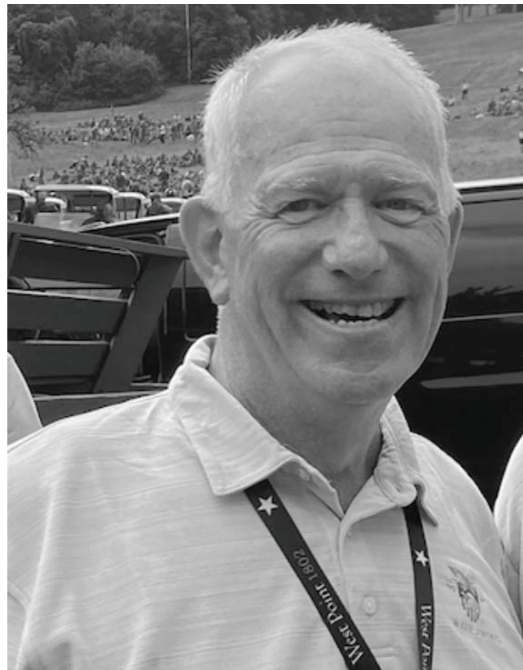
The program usually has the old grads and other alumni walking for the last two miles with the cadets. Slavin scoffed good-naturedly at the shortcut.

“I wouldn’t be telling you about it if I only did two miles,” he said, laughing. He added that he thinks the route is more like 14 miles than 12. “It sure felt like 14.”

Describing it, Slavin said, “It started at 4 o’clock in the morning. I had never done it before. A lot of my buddies do it.

“Those men and women carry these 40-pound packs, they’ve got their Kevlar and helmets in there,” Slavin said of the cadets. “What really impressed me, they have the leadership of the junior and senior classes.

“I was just so impressed with the leadership of those kids helping, motivating, leading these freshmen,” he said. “It turns



Jim Slavin at West Point for the March Back. Slavin had an illustrious career in the Army spanning 28 years and taught at West Point for some of it. Slavin was inducted into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 2012.

them into soldiers. It was really refreshing to see.”

Participating in the March Back were 1,200 cadets and graduates spanning 64 years of West Point classes, from 1958 to 2001.

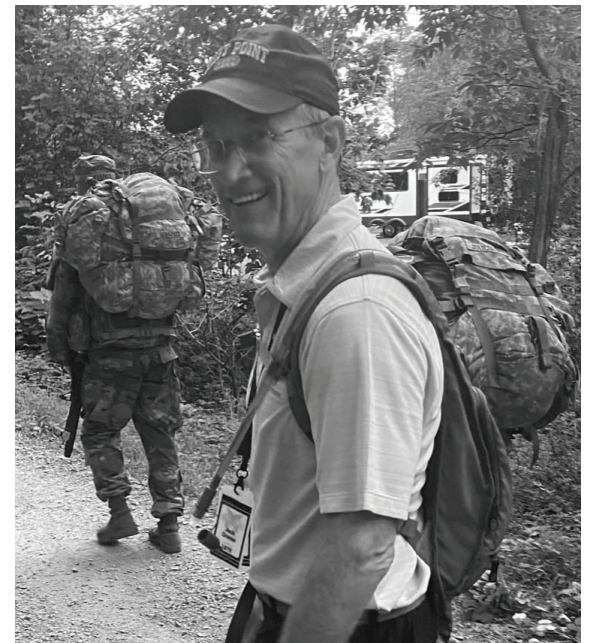
For Slavin, seeing so many people he’s known through the years — including Craven and Portville, N.Y., native Chris Gaston —

was “pretty neat.”

“I didn’t know him in high school,” Slavin said of Craven. “We met at West Point. We became good friends at West Point and stayed in touch for 40 some years.”

And West Point has remained a part of his life in those years as well.

“I taught there back in 1984,” Slavin said. “I routinely go back for football games and such.”



Jack Craven walking with the West Point Cadets as a member of the 50 year old class of graduates.

He spent 28 years in the Army, retiring in 2005 as a colonel. After that, he served as a civilian Army employee until 2014. Now he lives in North Carolina, but still has relatives in Eldred.

“I try to get back every year,” Slavin said of McKean County.



Department Membership Update:

80.47% as of Sept. 30, 2021

	Post	Dist	Percent	Need for 100%	Location
2	5958	28	73.70%	-229	TITUSVILLE
3	8896	21	103.15%	12	EAST BERLIN
3	477	18	102.29%	13	CARLISLE
3	7530	18	101.53%	7	MECHANICSBURG
3	2385	18	101.05%	4	LYKENS
3	6704	18	100.21%	1	MECHANICSBURG
4	7155	16	103.86%	10	TRAPPE
4	2493	21	102.84%	8	MOUNT WOLF
4	813	22	102.47%	7	DU BOIS
4	4843	26	101.34%	4	FORD CITY
4	6168	18	101.17%	4	SHIPPENSBURG
5	8724	22	128.15%	67	DUNCANSVILLE
5	537	21	104.65%	10	ETTERS
5	1620	18	102.84%	6	MIDDLETOWN
5	1785	22	102.61%	5	CLEARFIELD
5	4795	23	102.57%	5	WINDBER
6	734	27	126.38%	43	LIGONIER
6	509	20	119.23%	30	TOBYHANNA
6	5642	14	109.15%	14	MONTROSE
6	148	18	106.25%	11	HARRISBURG
6	1213	18	103.18%	5	RUTHERFORD HEIGHTS
7	8008	20	139.83%	49	NESQUEHONING
7	3258	8	136.23%	50	CHALFONT
7	212	19	128.57%	38	BRADFORD
7	1074	16	120.00%	23	CONSHOHOCKEN
7	4584	23	114.28%	16	MASONTOWN
8	2076	19	122.00%	22	PUNXSUTAWNEY
8	1132	19	118.34%	20	KANE
8	6675	29	110.00%	10	PITTSBURGH
8	7527	17	106.12%	6	BEDFORD
8	8023	18	104.16%	4	ANNVILLE
9	8427	27	114.94%	13	HERMINIE
9	7689	22	114.28%	10	ROARING SPRING
9	2341	28	113.09%	11	ALBION
9	8051	1	105.55%	4	PHILADELPHIA
9	7251	10	105.26%	4	THROOP

	Post	Percent	Need for 100%	Location	
10	7840	25	116.66%	10	HILLIARDS
10	314	19	113.20%	7	CLARENDON
10	3975	12	111.66%	7	AUBURN
10	6303	24	111.53%	6	GREENSBORO
10	7810	15	110.34%	6	AUSTIN
11	9788	16	160.41%	29	HORSHAM
11	8353	11	134.78%	8	GLEN LYON
11	5635	20	117.24%	5	LACKAWAXEN
11	7524	26	110.25%	4	SOUTH FORK
11	6673	29	109.75%	4	MUNHALL

Place	District	% Membership	Members needed for 100%
1	21	84.11%	4873
2	28	83.88%	3883
3	1	83.35%	853
4	15	82.98%	1713
5	14	82.63%	1364
6	26	80.78%	2174
7	13	80.77%	932
8	18	80.16%	4411
9	12	79.61%	1169
10	7	79.56%	839
11	9	79.17%	2936
12	30	78.15%	1105
13	19	77.65%	1627
14	8	77.32%	2169
15	17	77.08%	816
16	27	75.64%	2042
17	25	75.31%	1935
18	29	74.90%	2818
19	22	73.99%	2216
20	23	73.50%	1407
21	16	71.77%	1342
22	20	71.24%	1038
23	10	71.11%	1293
24	11	70.63%	1446
25	24	69.07%	1070

The VFW Auxiliary ...

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes



Team Work

By Pam Sopher, Department President
VFW Auxiliary – Department of PA



Here we are in the fall already and continue to face some challenges due to Covid; however, Commander Smith and I continue working together to bring our two organizations closer and especially stronger. Remember, we all can be recruiters for both the VFW and Auxiliary. There is the potential to recruit at least twelve Auxiliary

members from just one Veteran. You as a Post member, are eligible to receive awards from the National VFW Auxiliary for recruiting members. Talk with your local Auxiliary Treasurer for the proper form. There is no better time than now for us to be working together to grow our organizations and continue to make it stronger each day. We need each other now more than ever.

I was invited to attend and speak at one of the Officer Training Institute sessions and I can tell you that it definitely was an eye opener for me. The attendance was overwhelming and you made me think that we as an Auxiliary may need to do this.

Over these past few months I have traveled and attended some amazing visits with our posts and auxiliaries. Your generosity, warm hospitality and especially being able to speak with so many of you has been exciting. Visiting so many of our veteran memorials and monuments across this beautiful State is amazing. I was able to participate in a Patriots Day celebration with high school students and Susquehanna Post 2493 who literally placed 2977 flags designating the number of lives lost 20 years ago on that unforgettable day.

Please keep in mind my Veteran projects to help homeless Veterans. I have chosen Mr. Sandy's Homeless Veterans, York, Pa., and Veterans Place, Pittsburgh, Pa. They both work hard to care for and educate our homeless Veterans. If you wish to make a donation it can be sent to Department of PA VFW Auxiliary and earmarked with your choice of destination.

Thank you for your service and continued dedication to our Country. "Our Veterans Forever and Always." God Bless

Honors Escort: A Final Salute

By Linda Dilling, Dept. of PA VFW Auxiliary
Hospital Chairman
vfwauxldilling@gmail.com



New to the Hospital Program this year is the Honors Escort: A Final Salute

The Honors Escort is an end-of-life protocol at the hour of death to honor military Veterans who have unselfishly served our country. This brief ceremonial procession invites staff, Veterans and visitors to a moment of recognition that offers a dignified farewell to institutionalized Veterans and shows reverence and respect to loved ones and the service of all Veterans. While our VA Hospitals in Pennsylvania do some form of the Honors Escort many non-VA facilities do not.

The VFW Auxiliary is helping to educate staff in non-VA assisted living facilities, nursing homes and local hospitals throughout Pennsylvania about how to pay respect to veterans who depart life while in their care.

The ceremony begins with a bedside flag ceremony. Afterward the veteran's gurney is draped with the American Flag and a procession escorts the veteran. As the procession moves through the medical facility, veterans who want to pay their respect are encouraged to salute and all others stand while placing their hand over their heart.

To view a video on Honors Escort log onto www.pavfwaux.org click on Programs and scroll to Hospitals.

"Soaring Above and Beyond" by HONORING "Our Veterans,





FOCUS ON MISSION SUCCESS



The pictures below were taken of the Pennsylvania VFW State Commander with the Pa. Leadership Team at VFW Post 740 during a post visit in Edinboro, Pa., as they finished conducting Officers Training Institute (OTI) in Meadville, Pa. Thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality, Comrades!



Pennsylvania VFW Commander Nathaniel Smith, right, accepted the Seven Seals Award from the Pennsylvania Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve on behalf of the state VFW headquarters. Mr. Martin Kuhar, the state ESGR Chairman, center, presented the award. The award is for meritorious leadership and initiative in support of the men and women who serve America in the National Guard and Reserve. Cory Angell, left, works at headquarters, and served for months on duty because of COVID-19.

PERIODICALS



Thanks to all 57 of the Comrades that came out Aug. 29 for VFW Officer Training and Instruction in Meadville, PA. A very big thank you to VFW Post 2006 for their hospitality and for hosting this event. These trainings are important for post success. Here, the State VFW Commander Nathaniel Smith holds up a copy of the bi-laws and explains their importance.