



# NEWS 2025



VOL. 42 NO. 6

JOURNEY TO HEALING TOGETHER

MAY/JUNE 2025

## Walker, Harney Named 2025 Convention Reps

We are delighted to give a warm Wisconsin welcome to our National Representatives to the 2025 State Convention. Visiting on behalf of VFW C-in-C Al Lipphardt is Brian Walker, Assistant Adjutant General. VFW Auxiliary National Chaplain Kim Harney will represent our National President Brenda Bryant. The annual assemblage is slated for June 11-14, 2025, at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

Brian Walker was appointed Assistant Adjutant General of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on Sept. 1, 2022. Serving in the U.S. Air Force from 2003 to 2015, he earned his VFW eligibility in support of the Global War on Terrorism, receiving the Air Force Expeditionary Ribbon with gold border.

Joining the VFW in 2010 at Post 4313 in Cordova, Tennessee, Brian now maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership at Post 5066 in Collierville, Tennessee. His service in elected and appointed positions at all levels culminated with his election as the Department of Tennessee Commander in 2021, achieving All-American Commander status. On the National



**Brian Walker**  
VFW Asst. Adjutant General

level, he currently serves on the Council of Administration, and previously on the General Resolutions Committee and as



**Kim Harney**  
VFW Auxiliary Nat'l. Chaplain

National Aide-de-Camp.

Brian received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations (with honors)

in 2022 from the University of Memphis. He resides in Overland Park, Kansas with his wife, Elizabeth.

Kim Harney of Sierra Vista, Arizona, was elected to the office of National Chaplain of the VFW Auxiliary in 2024 and is in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2027-2028.

A Life Member of James R. "Bob" Currie Auxiliary 9972, she has served the organization in many capacities at all levels. Kim joined the Auxiliary as a Junior Girl at age 16, on the eligibility of her father, Allen Kent, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam in 1967-68, and 1975.

A retired Special Education Teacher, Kim holds a bachelor's degree from University of Florida in Gainesville and a master's degree from Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia.

In her spare time, Kim enjoys traveling, reading, watching college sports and spending time with family. She is a Life Member of the VFW National Home and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA).

## We Salute PSC John Giese

The Department of Wisconsin is mourning the passing of Past State Commander John T. Giese, 76, on April 7, 2025 in Elkhorn. Our 93rd State Commander served in 2014-2015, under the theme, "Working Together", alongside Auxiliary Dept. President Victoria Newbauer. The closing sentence of his first column in the July 2014 WI VFW NEWS, spoke volumes about his leadership style: "I encourage all of you to work together to make it the kind of organization people want to join, become involved in and finally, stay with us."



A proud United States Marine, John was awarded a Purple Heart for his service as a Huey Door Gunner in Vietnam. A Gold Legacy Life Member of Elkhorn Memorial VFW Post 6375, he served in a number of offices and chairmanships at all levels of the organization. Following his term as State Commander, John was elected to represent Wisconsin on the National Council of Administration from 2015-2019. His campaign ad for that office, reflected his commitment to the position: "As your voice on our National Council, I will communicate your concerns to our leadership. I intend to bring as much knowledge back to you and pass it on so that we can all pull together and be the best we can be."

John dedicated his life after Vietnam to a life of service to others, serving the Elkhorn Police Dept. for 31 years,



**John T. Giese**  
June 3, 1948 – April 7, 2025

SEE JOHN GIESE, PAGE 7

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Comrades,

As I sit down to write my final column as your State Commander, I am filled with gratitude and pride. THANK YOU for your unwavering support over this past year. It has truly been an amazing journey — one I will always cherish — and I’m confident that Mary Ann is smiling down, proud of the incredible accomplishments you’ve made in her honor.

At the time of writing, Wisconsin VFW membership stands at **100.24%**. That means we are just **400** members away from reaching 102% — a milestone that would mark the largest recorded growth in recent history of the Wisconsin VFW. Let that sink in for a moment. Your hard work, your outreach, your commitment — it’s working. But we’re not at the finish line just yet. Let’s keep pushing, keep recruiting, and keep spreading the mission until the final day of this membership year: June 30. I have no doubt we can reach our goal and finish stronger than ever.

I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at the State Convention in June. It’s a time to reconnect with old friends, welcome new ones, close out the 2024-2025 year, and celebrate everything we’ve accomplished. We’ll be bringing back training sessions, including a Commander and Quartermaster panel open to both new and seasoned leaders. We believe that everyone, regardless of experience, can learn something new and contribute fresh ideas.

In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs will be conducting Military Funeral Honors Training Certification during Convention. This is crucial for our Posts and Honor Guard teams — remember, every participating Post must have at least one certified AP3 member to be eligible for the State stipend for Military Funeral Honors.

Ron Ramos
State Commander

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As I reflect on the past year, I’m proud of the role we’ve played in leading the charge for Veterans’ advocacy and support. Our Legislative Team, under the leadership of Jordan Tilleson and PSC Jason Johns, has worked tirelessly to ensure our voice is heard loud and clear, and that our law-makers are held to the promise to “Honor the Contract.”

I would be remiss not to thank Chief of Staff Carla McAndrew and Deputy Chief Randy Engness for your unwavering dedication to making Mary Ann’s vision a reality. To the entire leadership team and Council of Administration, your integrity and commitment have been outstanding. You’ve supported a mission that was both ambitious and deeply meaningful — and I could not have led this organization without you.

To our HQ staff — thank you. Your work is second to none, and I truly believe Wisconsin has the finest Headquarters in the entire VFW. Your readiness, professionalism, and compassion for our members and Veterans do not go unnoticed.

So once more, I say thank you — for an incredible year, for your trust, and for allowing me the honor of serving as your Commander for two terms. Let’s finish strong. Let’s hit 102%. And let’s continue the “Journey to Healing Together.”

Comrades,

I hope this article finds you doing well and enjoying the return of the robins, geese, and other migratory birds. I know that spring is here on Beaver Dam Lake when the pelicans return to the Lake. Unfortunately, I have not seen any of this article but hope to see them soon. Last month I indicated that my next article was going to be on the topic of Servant Leadership. I hope you enjoy it.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has long stood as a pillar of support, advocacy, and camaraderie for Veterans across the United States. At the heart of its mission lies a leadership philosophy that echoes the very essence of military service — **Servant Leadership**.

Servant Leadership turns traditional leadership on its head. Instead of leading from the top down, servant leaders put the needs of others first — empowering, uplifting, and supporting those around them. This style isn’t about power or authority; it’s about humility, empathy, and a genuine desire to serve.

For many members of the VFW, Servant Leadership feels second nature. Veterans have lived a life of service, often sacrificing personal comfort, safety, and time with family to serve their country. Carrying that spirit into leadership within the VFW is a seamless transition.

From Post Commanders to committee volunteers, servant leaders in the VFW prioritize the well-being of fellow Veterans. They listen first. They advocate fiercely. They foster inclusive spaces where every voice matters. Whether it’s organizing community events, supporting Veterans in crisis, or mentoring the next generation of members, these leaders operate with a clear purpose: to serve.

Servant Leadership strengthens the VFW’s mission in several key ways:

- **Empowerment:** By uplifting members and encouraging participation, servant leaders create more engaged and active posts.
- **Trust & Unity:** Transparency and a people-first mindset build trust — a vital element in any Veteran organization.
- **Sustainability:** Servant Leadership develops future leaders, ensuring the long-term health and growth of the VFW.

You see Servant Leadership in the VFW when:

- A Post Commander personally checks in on a member recovering from surgery.
- A Service Officer volunteers extra hours to help with benefit claims.
- A VFW member mentors a newly discharged Veteran adjusting to civilian life.

These aren’t just good deeds — they are acts of leadership that ripple through communities.

As the VFW continues to transition and evolve, the importance of Servant Leadership becomes even more critical. In a world where leadership is often associated with authority and recognition, the VFW offers a different model — one rooted in humility, service, and solidarity.

Veterans understand what it means to serve. By embracing Servant Leadership, the VFW not only honors that legacy — it amplifies it.

I am honored to have served as your Senior Vice Commander over the past year. I ask for your vote to become your next State Commander in June. I look forward to continuing my Servant Leadership journey with this organization as State Commander in 2025-2026.

Until next time, remember to “Make it Count” in everything that you do, because you make a difference in the life of a Veteran every day!

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State Sr. Vice Commander

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## STATE OFFICERS

### YEAR END THOUGHTS

#### Leaving a Legacy

What a wonderful year we have had in memory of State Commander Mary Ann Christopherson. Her spirit has inspired us all to step up and deepen our legacy here in Wisconsin. Each year, I see how committed we are to our mission, which makes me proud of what we accomplish together. We focus on helping our community and supporting one another, and this positive impact is felt far and wide. I believe our success comes from our shared dedication and the kindness we show to others.

We remember Mary Ann not just in our hearts, but through our actions as we work to make Wisconsin an even better place for Veterans, service members and their families. Every effort we make, big or small, adds to the legacy she left behind. As we continue to serve, let’s carry her memory with us and keep building a brighter future. Together, we are making a lasting difference! Here are a few thoughts on why we are successful in the VFW and Auxiliary.

#### Focus on We, Not Me

Adopting a “we, not me” mentality has been very important for success. This approach helps create a sense of community and encourages teamwork. In the end, focusing on “we” leads to a happier relationship and a better organization.

#### No Act Is Too Small

Everyday life offers many chances to help others in our community. Lending a hand or showing kindness, even in little ways, can mean the world to someone who is struggling. Every time we choose to help, we make our community and organization a better place for everyone. Your generosity and thoughtfulness make positive impacts on others’ lives every day.

#### Volunteering Your Time

Each time you volunteer, you practice the important value of giving more than what you have to. It doesn’t matter if it’s helping at a local food bank, donating blood or sharing resources to those in need, every little bit counts and makes someone’s life better.

#### Find a Cause You Believe In

When you are passionate about a cause, it often feels easier to give your time and energy. Your passion is infectious and inspires others to join you.

May you have much success crossing the finish line.

Renee L. Simpson
State Jr. Vice Commander

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## “The HQ Dispatch”

Greetings Comrades!

It is quite amazing that we’re nearing the end of the program year. We have great momentum across the board, whether it is membership, programs, or yearly compliance tasks. Keep up the great work and energy all the way until June 30! Don’t let off the gas.

A few end of year reminders from us at HQ:

First, we currently have exceeded the amount spent on Unmet Needs versus how much we’ve taken in via donations to the program. Please consider a direct donation to Unmet Needs personally or via your Post Relief Fund. Also consider participating in our Summer Sweepstakes you are receiving with this paper. The money raised supports all our programs, including Unmet Needs! It’s also a fun way to possibly win some money! Thank you all for your continued support, however you choose to give/participate!

Next, and very simply put, if you are wondering if your Post is eligible to vote at State Convention, please check the checklist dashboard in the Members Only section of our state website, [www.vfwwi.org](http://www.vfwwi.org). There you can see the status of all your mandatory tasks that keep a Post in good standing with Department.

Finally, once you receive this newspaper, you will have completed your Post elections. We must get your Election Report ASAP. Failure to submit an Election Report, whether it’s due to an oversight by the Post, or failing to find willing members, National will automatically suspend your Post operations. Please get those Election Reports in!

QM Heath would like to thank the membership for entrusting him with the position of QM again for this past year. Also, ADJ Wallace and AAQM Eisenhower would like to thank CDR Ramos for appointing us. Mary Ann Christopherson had a great vision for our organization before she passed, and across the State, we delivered on our collective “Journey to Healing Together”. Of course, this year would not have been possible without Commander Ramos stepping up to serve a second consecutive term to lead us all on this Journey. Thank you, Commander, for your continued dedication to the VFW.

We at HQ love serving you, the members, and this fine organization. If you need assistance or guidance, please reach out to us. If you are attending State Convention, be sure to stop Tom, Adam, or Steve to say hi!

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SCAN ME



# STATE OFFICERS

Greeting Comrades,

As I write this, we are in the midst of yet another round of state and local elections. I'm starting to feel that yearly political elections have become the norm, much like winter and highway construction. Thankfully, by the time you read this, the elections will have concluded, and we can move on to our summer activities. While I know the point of this article is dated, I feel it is important enough to rehash for our new leaders at the Post level.

The VFW is a bipartisan organization, focused on ensuring our earned rights and benefits, entitled to us by Congress, are not degraded, reduced, denied, revoked or removed. Why is this important you ask?

Section 702 of our National Bylaws outlines the position the VFW has taken in regard to politics. Politics is a personal matter, and while it is important to address the issues important to you and your community, we as an organization cannot affiliate ourselves with any particular party as it may adversely impact our mission of helping Veterans. Questions are routinely asked when someone sees a Veteran wearing VFW apparel at a political rally. While we would prefer they wouldn't, nothing in the Bylaws prevents them from doing so.

However, if that individual were to engage in an interview, while wearing this apparel, and endorse a particular candidate, the general public might assume this individual is speaking on the behalf of the entire organization, and this could result in some form of disciplinary action. Should an individual engage in such an interview, they must clearly identify that they are not speaking on behalf of the VFW, only that they are expressing their personal view. In addition, the same applies for the display of political signs, flags, etc., at a Post. This is forbidden and could also result as an adverse action against the Post.

Another question that always comes up is when a candidate requests to address the members of a Post. The advice most commonly provided is this: the Post should refrain from inviting candidates to campaign at the Post, however, if a candidate asks, and the Post is inclined to have them speak, it is imperative that they invite the opposing candidates to address the members of the Post as well.

In addition, and while it may be confusing, if an incumbent would like to solicit input from the members, regarding Veteran-centric issues, or discuss Veteran Legislation they are promoting, this is acceptable, as long as they do not deviate into general political topics. Information obtained this way may support the VFW's Legislative agenda.

Finally, worry about your own political viewpoint! Refrain from discussing politics at your Post meeting. If you must talk about politics with your comrades, invite them to your house and discuss it over a beverage of your choosing, since it is best to leave politics at home!

Dear Comrades,

I hope spring has brought you some bright days. A happy and blessed Mother's Day to all our Veteran mothers, your spouses, and to all in your family.

This is my last column as your State Chaplain. I want to say thank you to every Post and District Chaplain that I had the pleasure to meet, share with, and serve with. If I didn't personally meet you, you were in my prayers. During these past two years, it has been my humble pleasure to hold this position. I have learned a lot, and I have many thanks to our Almighty Lord for the strength and health to be able to serve him and you.

Thank you for all your support, calls, texts and emails. Not only have I been able to share with you prayers and the Lord's word, but I have also learned from you. I leave you with the following scripture and God's blessings for each of you. Remember, when you speak to any of your fellow

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comrades be present, let's intentionally listen and always pray for each other.

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." — Philippians 4:6-7

**Wisconsin Veterans  
of Foreign Wars News**



Hello VFW Family,

The weather is starting to get warmer and we are getting the itch to get out to enjoy it. As we are getting the itch, we are also rounding the last leg of our journey, and are getting ready for our State Convention.

At the beginning of this year I said, "Let's strive to honor what Mary Ann envisioned by gaining momentum to ensure this year is a memorable one for all within our VFW family!" I truly believe that we did just that! We made it memorable with the help of "The Journey to Healing Together". We have just a little more than a month to go, let's top it off by ending on a great note with a 102% membership. Keeping the tide (membership) rolling in ...

Mary Ann Christopherson, mentor to many, had said in last year's *WI VFW NEWS* May/June 2024 issue, "Each achievement, no matter how small, contributes to the greater impact of our Post. By highlighting our accomplishments through initiatives like the All-State Award, we not only acknowledge our efforts but also inspire others to strive for excellence."

I agree with her statement whole-heartedly. We all contribute to the greater impact in some form or another and then we inspire others to strive for excellence. Even though some don't really want to be recognized, let's continue to show our communities what we are all about by showing our accomplishments. I hope that you submitted your District and/or Post All-State package. Thank you

**Carla McAndrew**  
Chief-of-Staff



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for taking that journey together to make that great achievement as a District and/or Post. In return, you'll inspire others to follow or even lead the way with other initiatives.

It has been a great honor to be Department Chief-of-Staff for the 2024-2025 command year. Thank you "Honorary Commander" Mary Ann Christopherson for the appointment as your Chief-of-Staff. Thank you State Commander Ron Ramos for the continued appointment and for putting your trust in me. It has been an honor working with you and for you. I enjoyed traveling to, visiting, and attending events at different Posts, Districts, and the Washington D.C. Conference, in memory of Mary Ann Christopherson and "A Journey to Healing Together".

Continue sharing your story and our VFW family story. I wish you the very best in your future, and look forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention. This is only "bye for now", until next time!

Comrades:

By now your Post elections should be completed. Your Officers-elect are probably curious and perhaps anxious about their positions, especially if it is new to them. I'm positive that every Officer starts out with the intention of doing a fantastic job for their Post, but sometimes good intentions can get sidetracked. So, try to prepare yourselves ahead of time for the position you have been elected to for the coming year. Start by reading any manuals available from the Department and National that explain a specific position in more detail than section 218. Many online videos are also available.

In the case of many of the Officers, reading section 218 of the Manual of Procedure will be mostly adequate to explain an Officers' duties. However, the Quartermaster's position is without a doubt the most technical to master since there are financial records to maintain, reports to file and deadlines to meet. For Quartermasters, a helpful checklist and other tools are available on the Department website – [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org). Log in under the **Members Only** tab and look for **Quartermaster & Trustees** in the navigation menu. Select that option and you'll find all kinds of helpful manuals and forms. The Quartermaster Checklist Guide is available there and should be your go-to document for quick help on what needs to be done and when.

There's a lot that can be learned from studying (Yes, I said study!) manuals and checklists. However, if you're new to a position, ask for help from a Post mentor. The Quartermaster job in particular will run more smoothly with some experienced help by your side.

One last comment here is important for new Quartermasters (and Trustees) – *do not accept a messed up financial situation*. The Post's financial accounting and reporting (taxes, ledger, audits, etc.) must be up to date, accurate and balanced against the bank when you accept the position. If something appears questionable, there are people available to help resolve problems. Hopefully, your Post Commander is experienced and if questions still persist, then the District Commander, State Inspector and HQ staff will try to assist you as needed. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance.

Best wishes to all new and recycled Post Officers this coming year!

**Leroy Jansky**  
State Inspector



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## Wisconsin VFW News Production Schedule

Department Convention • June 11–14, 2025

July 2025 Issue Vol. 43, No. 1 Deadline to Editor: June 16, 2025

Remaining 2025-2026 Deadlines TBA

Watch for the details.

### Wisconsin VFW News

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## Planning for Upcoming Meetings

### ■ 2025 Department Convention

Wed.–Sat., June 11–14, 2025  
Madison Marriott West • \$124 + taxes  
1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI 53562 • 608-831-2000

### ■ 2025-2026 Program Kickoff/Council of Administration

Fri.–Sat., July 11–12, 2025  
Hotel Mead • \$92/\$102 + taxes  
451 E. Grand Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • 715-423-1500

### ■ 2026 Department Mid-Winter Conference

Fri.–Sat., February 6–7, 2026  
Hilton Appleton Paper Valley • \$129 + taxes  
333 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911 • 920-733-8000

### ■ 2026 Department Convention

Wed.–Sat., June 10–13, 2026  
Holiday Inn & Suites/Central WI Expo Center • \$109 + taxes  
1000 Imperial Ave., Rothschild, WI 54474 • 715-355-1111

**NOTE: In most instances, special room blocks include the night before events start.**



Greetings Comrades!

Spring has sprung in Wisconsin, which means 70-degree days followed by 20-degree nights; what a temperamental and beautiful state we live in! Spring not only brings great fishing, but also the budding of flowers and trees, which can also lead to the worst time of the year for those seasonal allergies. Remember the VA is there for you, through in-person and virtual appointments, to go over your symptoms and get you the treatment to help get you through the sneezes. As a reminder in 2025, you'll need to use a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account to sign in to My HealtheVet and other VA tools online.

In my previous articles, I talked about how to recognize signs and symptoms of PTSD, what to do when you recognize those symptoms and what to do when someone is seeking assistance. By recognizing the symptoms, you can be the change that soldier needs. You can be the support that soldier needs. You can be the person that changes the course of that soldier's life.

Remember, treatment and healing don't

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always need to be traditional. Outdoor activities can be mentally and physically healing for anyone, but especially with soldiers that need space, time, and a mental challenge. So, get outdoors soldiers!

Lastly, this will be my final article as your State Surgeon for 2024-2025. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Surgeon and I look forward to new challenges ahead. As I have stressed all year, we can tackle PTSD together, even if it is one chip from the rock at a time, we will get it done. Remember, it affects us all. God Bless.

Leadership in the VFW plays a crucial role in fostering community, providing support, and empowering our members. Our organization serves as a bridge between the military and civilian worlds, and strong leadership is key to maintaining a sense of purpose and camaraderie among the membership.

Effective leaders in our organization must possess a deep understanding of the unique challenges Veterans and our members face, including the transition to civilian life, mental health issues, and reintegration into the community. A good leader listens actively, builds trust, and encourages open communication at every level. They must also be adaptive, recognizing that our members come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, each bringing valuable perspectives to the table.

Leaders in the VFW are not just figureheads; they are mentors and advocates, guiding our fellow Veterans and members toward resources and opportunities for personal and professional growth. By creating inclusive spaces for Veterans and our members to share their experiences and learn from one another, leadership becomes a catalyst for healing and empowerment.

Ultimately, leadership in the VFW is about fostering an environment where all members feel valued, understood, and supported. This approach not only honors their service but also ensures they continue to contribute meaningfully to the Post. The question everyone has to ask themselves is: "What kind of leader am I at the Post?"

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**AT RIGHT: State Commander Ron Ramos addresses the opening session at Monona Terrace while VFW State Legislative Chair Jordan Tilleson looks on at right and Wisconsin DAV Benefits Protection Team Leader Al Labelle listens at left. AT FAR RIGHT: Charles Konsitzke of the UW MIA Recovery Project Addresses the gathering at Monona Terrace, while VFW State Legislative Chair Jordan Tilleson looks on at right.**



On April 22, the Wisconsin State Capitol became a powerful symbol of unity, service, and advocacy as over 400 Veterans from across the state gathered for Veterans Day at the Capitol (VDATC) 2025. The event, held in partnership with the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and numerous other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), was a resounding success, bringing together constituents from every State Senate District and 93 of the 99 Assembly Districts.

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Tilleson**  
State Legislative  
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**Lots of engagement with JVC Renee Simpson, SVC Ty Letto and PSC Michele Rathke conversing with WDVA Secretary James Bond, (bottom of photo, l-r) and DAV Leader Al Labelle speaks with Gov. Tony Evers behind them.**



service members. This was followed by a dynamic presentation titled "How to Communicate with Legislators" led by Joey Hoey, equipping attendees with tools to effectively advocate for Veterans' issues.

With energy and purpose, attendees marched from Monona Terrace to the State Capitol, where a powerful rally in the rotunda united Veterans, Legislators, and supporters. The program opened with a welcome by WDVA Secretary-designee James Bond, and remarks by Governor Tony Evers, commending the dedication of Wisconsin Veterans and reiterating his commitment to ensuring their voices are

heard in the Legislative process.

Bipartisan support was on full display, with impactful speeches from: Rep. William Penterman (R-Hustisford); Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-Milwaukee); Sen. André Jacque (R-New Franken); Sen. Jodi Habush Sinykin (D-Whitefish Bay). Each lawmaker spoke passionately about the critical importance of the two top Veteran priorities being advanced this session:

- Reducing the eligibility requirement for the Veteran and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit from 100% to 70% disability — a change that would make this essential relief accessible to more Veterans across Wisconsin.

- Securing \$500,000 in funding for the UW MIA Recovery Project, to bring home our missing in action service members and provide closure to their families.

This unforgettable day would not have been possible without the support of the Wisconsin VFW Legislative Committee and the VFW leadership, whose dedication and funding helped ensure the event's success. Most importantly, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Veterans who attended, many of whom traveled long distances. Your presence and your voices made a difference.

As VDATC 2025 concludes, the Legislative Committee will be carefully reviewing feedback collected from Legislator meetings to incorporate those insights into future events. Additionally, we will continue to follow up with lawmakers to help move these vital bills forward in the current Legislative session.

Thank you to all who made this day meaningful, and thank you to the Veterans whose service continues to inspire and shape our state's future.

**Editor's note: An album of photographs by State Photographer Sherri Smith may be found on the State website by clicking here: [VDATC 2025](#). We thank her for her fine photos from the day!**



The march to the Wisconsin Capitol always involves breaks and photos.



An engaged, powerful showing of Veterans packed the Capitol.



MEMBERSHIP

Current Membership Totals By District

Dist.	Life	New	Reinstate	Continuous	Total	Adj. Prior Year	Percentage
1	2270	130	80	327	2807	2665	105.32%
2	3124	52	25	330	3531	3537	99.83%
3	731	9	7	110	857	850	100.82%
4	1156	17	6	127	1306	1283	101.79%
6	1705	26	7	153	1891	1881	100.53%
7	2118	42	11	246	2417	2456	98.41%
8	1815	47	13	216	2091	2047	102.14%
9	2528	78	16	143	2765	2772	99.74%
10	1312	32	10	206	1560	1565	99.68%
11	1615	21	14	208	1858	1896	97.99%
99	1470	92	15	210	1787	1861	96.02%
Totals	19844	546	204	2276	22870	22813	100.24%

Totals as of May 6, 2025  
396 Legacy Life Members

THE CURRENT LEADERBOARD  
as of 5-5-2025

As we approach the final quarter of our Command Year, a **hearty salute** to these **73** Posts that have reached **or exceeded** 102% in membership:

- Post 11038, Rochester – 175.16%
  - Post 8482, Oak Creek – 143.85%
  - Post 3635, Florence – 133.33%
- Post 2115, Hudson – 122.36%
  - Post 2063, Crivitz – 118.33%
  - Post 2336, Baraboo – 118.18%
  - Post 7898, Woodruff – 117.50%
  - Post 8813, Peshtigo – 115.25%
  - Post 6375, Elkhorn – 113.86%
  - Post 7444, Armstrong Creek – 112.50%
  - Post 10170, Mayville – 112.00%
  - Post 10533, Shullsburg – 110.81%
  - Post 10393, Boscobel – 110.52%
  - Post 7817, Westboro – 110.00%
  - Post 8770, Big Falls – 109.09%
  - Post 7534, Howard – 108.82%
  - Post 10263, Pardeeville – 108.33%
  - Post 6709, Waupun – 107.57%
  - Post 9202, Germantown – 107.44%
  - Post 8527, Athens – 106.84%
  - Post 8375, Silver Lake – 106.66%
  - Post 6005, Cadott – 106.25%
  - Post 2895, Cudahy – 106.15%
  - Post 10272, Oregon-Brooklyn – 105.92%
  - Post 6823, Laona – 105.88%
  - Post 9057, Thorp – 105.88%
  - Post 6003, Oxford – 105.66%
  - Post 9677, Bellevue – 105.60%
  - Post 2126, Menasha – 105.55%
  - Post 6179, Kellnersville – 105.26%
  - Post 7692, Freedom – 105.12%
  - Post 6279, Adams – 104.80%
  - Post 2687, Tomahawk – 104.80%
  - Post 8342, Ringle – 104.76%
  - Post 5729, Medford – 104.67%
  - Post 10231, Necedah – 104.54%
  - Post 7308, Pleasant Prairie – 104.47%
  - Post 8314, Gillett – 104.34%
- Post 2306, Beloit – 104.30%
  - Post 10187, Edgar – 104.16%
  - Post 328, Stoughton – 103.92%
  - Post 10519, Greendale – 103.92%
  - Post 3143, Rhinelander – 103.75%
  - Post 10911, Camp Douglas – 103.63%
  - Post 8278, Bangor – 103.57%
  - Post 10388, Franksville – 103.44%
  - Post 10195, Rosendale – 103.44%
  - Post 8400, Land O' Lakes – 103.37%
  - Post 9440, Highland – 103.33%
  - Post 8512, Almena – 103.33%
  - Post 1621, Janesville – 103.31%
  - Post 8733, Mosinee – 103.27%
  - Post 3434, Hillpoint – 103.22%
  - Post 11279, Twin Lakes – 103.12%
  - Post 7080, Cassville – 103.12%
  - Post 9075, La Farge – 103.12%
  - Post 10441, Tichigan – 103.07%
  - Post 1163, Beaver Dam – 103.03%
  - Post 9510, Randolph – 103.03%
  - Post 10407, Weyauwega – 102.94%
  - Post 8338, Barron – 102.94%
  - Post 2204, Rice Lake – 102.81%
  - Post 5470, Whitewater – 102.70%
  - Post 10549, New Glarus – 102.63%
  - Post 2344, Lancaster – 102.63%
  - Post 1908, Oshkosh – 102.58%
  - Post 7896, Benton – 102.43%
  - Post 2241, Neillsville – 102.43%
  - Post 2260, Oconomowoc – 102.17%
  - Post 7591, Madison-Day – 102.14%
  - Post 2119, Mountain – 102.12%
  - Post 5716, New Berlin – 102.06%
  - Post 8329, Barnes Twnsp. – 102.00%

And a hearty **YOU CAN DO IT** to the **54 Posts** that have reached at least 100% and are just a few new members away from 102%+. Let's help Commander Ramos make it a great year to honor the memory of Mary Ann Christopherson.

2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

This challenge between our Posts ends in May, so your Post still has a last opportunity to earn a Monthly Winner spot and entry into the Grand Prize Drawing. Visit [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org) and log in to the **Members Only** link for the details and how to report your monthly results. Good luck!

CONGRATULATIONS to our latest  
Membership Challenge Monthly Winners

March 2025

Division 1 Post 7591, Madison-Day  
Division 2 Post 664, Clintonville  
Division 3 Post 9202, Germantown  
Division 4 Post 10187, Edgar  
Division 5 None qualified

April 2025

Division 1 Post 1318, Madison (Cranefield)  
Division 2 Post 2115, Hudson  
Division 3 None qualified  
Division 4 Post 2373, Williams Bay  
Division 5 Post 10232, Frederic

Each Monthly Division Winner receives an entry into the Grand Prize Drawing for \$1,000 for their Post. Congratulations!

Comrades,  
Our membership year is winding down, now is the time to sprint to the finish line! This year Commander Ramos has given us goals every month and we have stepped up to the challenge and met them! At the time I am writing this we are at **100.24%** and only **400** members from our final goal of 102%. Each Post only needs to get 2 new or reinstated members and we will far exceed 102%. I know we can do this and make our membership year a great success in honor of Mary Ann Christopherson.

This year I have noticed as some of our past top recruiters slow down, new ones step up to take over the heavy hitting. The Wisconsin VFW has a bright future as more new people step up and help with the load. If you have not yet recruited a new member, now is the time to get started. It is as easy as talking to that woman or man wearing that Veteran hat. Find out about their service and if they are eligible for the VFW. Once you have helped that first Veteran join the

Randy  
Engness  
State Membership  
Chairman



715-651-0263  
engnessr@gmail.com



VFW, you will find it easier the next time. I would like to congratulate Hudson Memorial VFW Post 2115 for leading their Division nationally in April, and being recognized by Commander-in-Chief Lipphardt. Post 2115 Commander Nate Haumschild is one of those who are stepping up. Whether someone is wearing Veteran clothing or has Veteran plates or stickers on their vehicle, he is always looking to have a conversation with them. Let's have those conversations and finish strong! **Recruit, Engage, Inspire, Retain!**

TOP RECRUITING UPDATE  
through 5/5/2025

Recruiter	Post	Dist.	Recruits	Recruiter	Post	Dist.	Recruits
James A. Cairo	11038	1	55	Peter A. Pemrich	1621	1	4
Robert E. Haisler	11038	1	39	Scott J. Weber	6375	1	4
Nate J. Haumschild	2115	9	23	Daniel E. Mckee	7308	1	4
Jason T. Coffey	11038	1	20	John D. McCoy	7308	1	4
David G. Green	10818	9	12	Phillip D. Allen	7308	1	4
Dena M. McCormick	11038	1	9	Gundel M. E. Metz	1318	2	4
Michael P. Morgan	6375	1	7	Tami Zalewski	2260	2	4
Jack C. Voight	2778	8	7	Gary L. Friske	9511	2	4
Robin L. Drogsvold	328	2	6	John F. Schaetzel	9202	6	4
Anthony R. Matecki	8813	8	6	Christopher T. Ankele	6003	7	4
Randy L. Engness	2204	9	6	Leroy G. Jansky	1038	9	4
Thomas E. Heath	1621	1	5	De Witt H. Woodworth	1530	11	4
Michael F. Fischer	11038	1	5	Bartley G. Mauch	7694	11	4
Steven J. Eisenhauer	1318	2	5				
Kerry E. McAllen	7591	2	5				
Aaron Volling	3635	8	5				
James E. Weadge	1621	1	4				
Michael E. Zientek	1621	1	4				

Plus another 170 signed  
with no named Recruiter.  
Thank you to all of our Recruiters.  
Let's finish the year strong!

FLAG DAY 2025  
SUNDAY, JUNE 8 — WAUBEKA, WI



HONORING:  
U.S. MARINE CORPS  
Past and Present  
& All Military Personnel



Please register as an Honored Guest. Enjoy VIP seating, Complimentary Lunch, Appreciation Swag Bag, and a seat on the Honoree float through Waubeka's parade route or front row seats are available to watch at the Americanism Center ... New this year: VIP Drawing for U.S. MINT PROOF Marine 250th Anniversary Silver Dollar ... Be sure to sign in on Sunday before the program!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

- Lineup Time: Noon, parade will begin at 1:30 p.m.
- Location for Lineup: Americanism Center, 4200 Valley View Drive.
- Parade Route: Parade will begin and end at the Americanism Center.
- Awards Ceremony for all Military units will follow the parade at the Americanism Center. Please complete the application below and return it to: email address: [Lorenz7037@yahoo.com](mailto:Lorenz7037@yahoo.com)

Please return the application before, but not later than, May 31, 2025 in order to allow sufficient time for mailing rules, programs, etc.

PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING UNIT IN THE FLAG DAY PARADE

NAME OF UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP LEADER OR BUSINESS MANAGER \_\_\_\_\_

COMMANDER/PRESIDENT/POST/AUX. OR DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



We invite all VFW Posts and Auxiliaries, Drum & Bugle Corps, Marching Bands, Baton Corps, Drill Teams, Scouting Units, All Color Guard Units, Military/Patriotic Floats.

This committee has no funds available to defray any expense of units.



## Ice Age Trail Walk for Veterans to Cover Historic Trail in a Day

As previously published in the March/April 2025 *WI VFW NEWS*, Wisconsin Veterans of Foreign Wars is planning a monumental event. This will be a fundraising and awareness walk of the entire Ice Age Trail in **one day** and we need **YOU!** This could be a landmark event and hopefully, become an annual event.

Putting the face of the VFW and partner organizations in the public eye. Please do not hesitate to share with us names of members or nonmembers that would be interested in being a part of this momentous occasion. Anyone interested is welcome! A great opportunity to engage with your Adopt-A-Units.

**What we need to recruit in the first stages are the following Command Staff:**

- **SAFETY DIRECTOR** – Position needs to communicate well, work as a leader and a team player.
- **PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR** – Someone with media contacts and experience desired.
- **OPERATIONS SECTION CHIEF** – Must have the organization and management skills to lead and follow up with all six Divisions that will cover the 120 segments of the trail.



• **LOGISTICS SECTION CHIEF** – Logistics is everything. Responsible for transportation, supplies, communications, facilities, fuel, food and medical personnel.

• **ADMIN / FINANCE SECTION CHIEF** – Responsible for financial management, administrative tasks, and communication with other Section Chiefs.

• **DIVISION STAFF** – Each Division should be staffed with a Safety, Logistics and Admin / Finance lead. That means **six of each** are needed.

If you are interested or would like more details to be on staff for this inaugural event, please **email Doug Mitchell at DougM@vfwwi.org**.

## HAPPENINGS

# So Long, Knoot

Yet another Vietnam Veteran has been called home. VFW of Wisconsin Past State Judge Advocate and Past State Chaplain, William C. “Knot” Knudson, passed away on April 29, 2025 at the age of 83, following a brain hemorrhage and stroke suffered four days earlier at his home in Marshfield.

Knot was proud to serve a total of thirteen State Commanders from 2009 to 2020 as Judge Advocate, and one and a half years as State Chaplain from early 2022 to mid-2023. He thoroughly relished both jobs, always doing the best he could to serve the membership and the organization. He was immensely pleased with the recognition of a Gold Legacy Life Membership bestowed by his comrades in the fall of 2023, to honor his years of service.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Bill’s VFW eligibility was earned in the U.S. Army in Vung Tau and Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, in 1965-66. After coming home, he spent nearly 30 years in Radio Broadcasting Management and Sales, owning his own AM station in NW Connecticut for a time. He did confide to Marla that the *second* happiest day was buying it, with the first definitely being *selling it*. His resume in the past 33 years in Wisconsin included real estate; motorcoach tour driving; reverse-mortgage lending; “Wild Willy’s Hots and Brats”; and saving the best for last – Funeral Home and Crematory Assistant. And endless stories.



**William C. “Knot” Knudson**  
December 25, 1941 – April 29, 2025

Left to carry on the tales are his wife of 42 years, Marla J. Morgan; daughters Tiffany and Kacie; two granddaughters and a great-grandson; a bunch of wonderful nieces and nephews around the country, and several patient in-laws. Plus many incredible friends in many places and of course, his VFW family. Oh, and Petunia the Beagle.

Visitation will take place from 10:00 am–12:00 noon, on Friday, June 20, 2025 at Hansen-Schilling Funeral Home, 1010 E. Veterans Parkway in Marshfield, with a service to follow at noon. Interment of ashes will take place at the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery at King later this year.

Connecting the people of Wisconsin with the **USS Wisconsin** and her crews.

Your support is appreciated!  
[www.USSWisconsinSub.org](http://www.USSWisconsinSub.org)



**USS WISCONSIN**  
SSBN 827 ASSOCIATION

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to support the Commissioning and crew of the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine that will carry our state’s name  
**ON WISCONSIN!**

Ad sponsored by Randy Engness, U.S. Navy and Submarine Veteran

## VFW National Home Community Celebration

The VFW National Home is honoring their  
**100th Anniversary**  
of dedicated service to military and Veteran families

**Saturday, June 28, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

For more information:

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/news-and-events/events/community-celebration/>

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

#### QUALITY SUITES

901 Delta Commerce Dr., Lansing, MI 48917  
Call phone number: 517.886.0600  
(Make your reservations as soon as possible)

INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS, TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS AND ANY EXPENSES.

Old-Fashioned  
Baseball  
Game

Engaging  
Family  
Activities  
For All  
Ages!

Car  
Show

3 Stages  
of Music  
After 4 p.m.

FREE  
Carnival  
Rides!



VFW  
NATIONAL HOME

**Happy 100th  
Birthday!**



TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS TAPS

This listing reflects the most recent reporting of deceased members obtained from VFW National Headquarters. While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information, it does not necessarily reflect the year of the members’ passing. Please contact Editor Marla J. Morgan (wivfveditor@gmail.com) with any questions or corrections.

Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City	Post	Name	City
305	Dale Deardorff	Eau Claire	2306	Sylvan Doll	Beloit	6709	Thomas Streblov	Waupun	9392	Lawrence Lemke	Juneau
305	Edwin Olson	Eau Claire	2723	Daniel T. Sullivan	Fond du Lac	7131	Lynn Moeller	Granton	9510	Daniel Cross	Pardeeville
305	Arthur Taylor	Hudson	2895	Harold Moats	South Milwaukee	7232	Roger Nyseth	Eau Claire	9677	Tony Fruzyna	De Pere
328	Charles Noyce	Stoughton	3319	Daniel Geske	Kaukauna	7345	Patrick Fuller	Ridgeway	9677	Clarence LaFave	Green Bay
388	Phillip Whitman	Mosinee	3319	Gerald Van Schyndel	Kaukauna	7591	Duane Ballentine	Cupertino, CA	9677	Rodney Truttman	Green Bay
664	Gerald Connolly	Kimberly	5470	S. Mucci	Toutle, WA	7591	Lawrence Longseth	Monona	9719	James Stachura	Pulaski
1163	Michael Washtock	Beaver Dam	5716	Robert Pichler	Waukesha	7692	Joseph Rickert	Appleton	10197	Kenneth Watters	Iron River
1318	James Armbrecht	Madison	5780	Duane Brunkow	Delano, MN	7694	James Corrao	Englewood, FL	10441	Thomas Pisarski	Waterford
1391	Russel Heisler	Racine	6003	Peter Kuhlman	Lombard, IL	7929	James Kelly	Circle Pines, MN	10519	Richard Carr	Grafton
1530	Richard Peterson	La Crescent, MN	6005	Dale LeDuc	Cadott	8216	John Fisher	Cross Plains	10544	Duane Engleman	Appleton
1621	Larry Tracy	Sarasota, FL	6179	Robert Decker	Florence	8216	Ronald Syphard	Montello	10568	Douglas Chase	Springbrook
1707	Paul Kaether	Pardeeville	6201	Ray Radatz	Nelson	8320	Gerald Kozlowski	New Berlin	10818	Gene Shefland	New Richmond
1865	Charles Gann	Kenosha	6352	William C. Knudson	Marshfield	8343	Wes Pichler	Waterford	10911	Chester Schmid	Hixton
1879	William Olson	Fort Atkinson	6375	John T. Giese, PSC	Elkhorn	8343	William Runge	Wind Lake	15051	Kenneth Hitchcock	Ripon
1879	Harold Zastrow	Rio	6498	William Blair	Zion, IL	8375	Jack Velino	Trevor	15051	David Hulke	Altoona
1916	William Mead	Reedsburg	6498	General Brown	Converse, TX	8483	Clifton Erstad	Sun Prairie	15051	Donald Martzahl	Hortonville
2112	Trent Davenport	Sparta	6498	Dale Demeuse	Hartland	8512	William Garling	Cumberland	15051	Tealia Robinson	Milwaukee
2112	David Waddell	Solon Springs	6498	Jerome Kosmicki	Milwaukee	8512	Lloyd Sinclair	Blaine, MN	15051	Daniel R. Sullivan	Watertown
2115	Donald Schumacher	Holcombe	6614	Willie Armstrong	Cottage Grove	8813	Robert Ellison	Peshtigo			

Deadline for the July 2025 issue is June 16.

John Giese

Continued from Page 1

retiring as Police Chief of 22 years in 2002. A man of many talents, he then served on the Elkhorn City Council; was elected to two terms as Mayor of Elkhorn; worked as a Middle School teaching assistant, and a Hospital Security Officer, fully retiring in 2018. John’s many interests included spending time with his family, riding his Harley, camping and hunting, and playing the bagpipes as a member of the Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums.

A loving husband, father and grandfather, John’s memory is forever cherished by his loving wife Sue (Murn) Giese; children John, “JT” (Claudia) Giese, Jr.; James “Jim” (Carla) Giese; Rachel (Robert) Loveday and Ashley (Phil) Zurkowski; grandchildren Hannah, Charlie, Thomas, Alexandra, Ashley and Liam; his furry companion Lucas. He is also survived by sisters Patricia Blasi,



Then-Post 6375 Judge Advocate Giese was proud to accept his Post’s Red Carpet Award in January 2023 from QM General Marc Garduno and State Cdr. Michele Rathke. Tina Flanagan photo.



Selected as Recipient #7 by Hogs for Heroes in August 2018, John found the bike of his dreams – a 2018 H-D Heritage Softail Classic in “Twisted Cherry” – at Boardtracker’s Harley-Davidson in Janesville. Hogs for Heroes photo.



In this forgotten candid from the 2017 State Convention, it is apparent that longtime State Honor Guard members just escort themselves as needed ... Dick Meyer photo.

Candice Bethards and Deborah Vartanian. And a large VFW and Auxiliary family, who called him comrade, mentor and friend.

Visitation and services for John took place on April 16 and 17 in Elkhorn with Burial and Military Honors at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove. The Purple Heart Riders, of which John was a member, the VFW Dept. Riders Group and others from throughout Wisconsin, escorted John from Elkhorn to his final resting place on April 18. Donations to honor John can be made to VFW Post 6375 in Elkhorn or the Lakeland Animal Shelter in Elkhorn.

Job well done Marine, rest in peace.



Sue Giese places the State Commander’s cap on her husband’s head following his installation in June 2014, while then-Colonel of the Honor Guard Matt Mayer looks on at right with PSCs De Witt Woodworth and Earl Banks on the dais. Dick Meyer photo.



FROM THE HEART

As we finalize our year, I hope everyone has accomplished their goals. By now, new Officers for Auxiliaries and Districts are elected and ready for Installation. Continue recruiting new members and sending in quotas until June 30, 2025.

Don't forget to contribute to the Joint Special Project "Journey to Healing Together", in order for us to present a check to Commander Ramos at the Convention. I encourage you to attend the Department Convention in June at Middleton, for great ideas, new friendships, and insights into next year's direction.

I would like to encourage people to think about going up the chairs at Department. We have two openings coming up for next year as Guard and Conductor. Feel free to ask me or another Line Officer about what is required and expected. Remember you

Cheryl Woodards
Department President
608-692-4027
wivfwacheryl55@gmail.com



are not alone in this process.

My year as Department President has been insightful, challenging, and more rewarding than I thought possible. It was such an honor to represent all of you for Wisconsin. Meeting and getting to know all of you has been a joy and I will carry these memories with me forever.

From the heart – thank you.

Brothers and Sisters from the great Dept. of Wisconsin:

Our "Honoring Veterans Together" year is coming to an end. Thank you, District Presidents, for the great group of Cardinals that you gave me this year. They did all that I asked of them, which made my year much easier. We had our ups and downs, but then I expected that. During the year, we lost three Auxiliaries for various reasons — 8337 Liberty Grove; 6005 Cadott; 6375 Elkhorn, and 7037 Waubeka combined with 1393 West Bend. But working together, we strengthened many of our remaining Auxiliaries this year. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we're in it together.

This is my final article this year as your Chief-of-Staff and here are some final notes from our National Chief-of-Staff Betty Arnold:

**"From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans,** our Program never ends. It is a constant from month to month and year to year. Leaders may change but the message is clear on all levels. We are here to assist Veterans, their families, our communities and the VFW Auxiliary. Never forget your "why" as we work together to achieve our goals. EXTENSION—REVITALIZATION—MENTORING: All three components of this Program are vitally important. As we prepare for Auxiliary elections, make certain that you have done mentoring on the duties of Officers. THANK YOU for your dedication and sharing your unique talents. You have made a difference."

PLEASE, everyone stay safe and healthy the rest of the year. God Bless Everyone and God Bless America. I close with this quote:

*"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."*

~John F. Kennedy

Linda Moran
Chief-of-Staff
920-337-9922
loopylin1950@gmail.com



PDP Skic Still Going Strong



District 7 Auxiliary was delighted to have our 67th Department President, Marie Skic, attend the recent District meeting hosted by Post and Auxiliary 1638 in Merrill. Here with Past District President Mary Lou Duerr of Marshfield, Marie looks terrific – and still going strong at 97-1/2 years young! Thanks to Mary Lou Duerr.

AUXILIARY

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

What does this time of year bring for you? Are you excited about spring and the beginning of summer; having nice weather to get outside or does it overwhelm you knowing that now you will have even more items on the "to do" list? Wherever you find yourself, take time to celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring. While everything was still brown here in Wisconsin, I made an unplanned trip to Florida and had the opportunity to see the hillsides a lush green and the bushes coming to life with beautiful flowers. It was a wonderful reminder of the cycle of things.


Our organization and our Auxiliaries have a similar cycle. We may find ourselves in a time of growth and renewal, just watching our members bloom, enjoying the colors of our labors or just hibernating for a time. Regardless of where you see yourself today the cycle continues. I want to encourage you, that just like with the time change, let's "spring forward" and work together to get the Department to 100%. The more members we have, the more we are able to do collectively for our Veterans and their families.

The next couple of months provides us with several opportunities to be visible in our communities. Who can you partner with to make a difference in those communities and to educate on the purpose and mission we have? Invite the individuals you encounter to join you in this essential work. Look for ways to watch the cycle continue. Our parents and grandparents may have found themselves in one of the seasons, but they persevered and left their legacy for us.

We're reaching the end of our 2024-2025 year. Thank you, Auxiliaries, for the dedication and hard work everyone has done to make the year successful. However, this is not the time to relax or "hibernate" just yet. Take these next few weeks and make that last push!

**Our Department Membership as of May 8, 2025 – we only need 32 members to reach 100% Paid!**

Charlene Cobb
JVP/Membership Chairman
262-348-6547
ckcand2k9@yahoo.com



Auxiliary	Current Total	Deceased	Paid Total	Prior Total	Current Percent	Paid Percent
Total – Non-District	466	6	472	506	92.09%	93.28%
Total – Dist. 2	1082	29	1111	1091	99.18%	101.83%
Total – Dist. 4	286	3	289	281	101.78%	102.85%
Total – Dist. 6	499	15	514	507	98.42%	101.38%
Total – Dist. 7	1247	25	1272	1272	98.03%	100.00%
Total – Dist. 8	815	26	841	857	95.10%	98.13%
Total – Dist. 9	760	22	782	789	96.32%	99.11%
Total – Dist. 10	677	22	699	682	99.27%	102.49%
Total – Dist. 11	444	9	453	455	97.58%	99.56%
WI – At Large	1130	238	1368	1393	81.12%	98.21%
Total – Dept. of WI	7406	395	7801	7833	94.55%	99.59%

Working the Chow Line



The Charcoal Chicken and Brats event at Cochrane-Buffalo City VFW and Auxiliary 10406 is always a wonderful time, and they know how to put the Dept. President to work, too. Even better, while Cheryl Woodards was working on the line, husband Mike Woodards stayed busy, recruiting a new Life Member to the Auxiliary! According to Aux. 10406 President Kim Goss, "Cheryl and Mike are welcome back any-time and we will have an apron ready for her." Fun times! Thanks to Kim Goss.



DRAPING OF THE CHARTER

This listing reflects names as of the most recent reporting of deceased members. While every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information, depending on when the member was reported (or not), it does not necessarily reflect the year of their passing. Treasurers: please remember to report your deceased Sisters and Brothers in a timely fashion so we can honor them and their service with this final tribute.

Aux.	Name	City	Aux.	Name	City
305	Orpha I. Mattix*	Eau Claire	8733	Joan Rheinschmidt*	Mosinee
305	Judith A. Taylor*	Eau Claire	9677	Bonita Blaney	New Franken
305	Marleen K. Thudium*	Eau Claire	9677	Kathryn C. Neveu*	Green Bay
659	Jeannette Junk*	Manitowoc	10424	Janet Carter*	Colfax
664	Delores Knapp*	Clintonville	10424	Patricia Lehman	Menomonie
987	Janet D. Klotzbach*	Lake Delton	15051	Connie Kennedy*	Lodi
1393	Marilyn Schluga*	Fredonia	15051	Gloria Kostka*	St. Croix Falls
1621	Kay Farberg	Milwaukee	15051	Patricia J. Leaman*	West Bend
1707	Ellen Jane Flattum	Portage	15051	Frieda Lentz*	Barron
2260	Jean Braunschweig	Oconomowoc	15051	Jeanette Nowakowski*	S. Milwaukee
2260	Ione L. Hoene*	Oconomowoc	15051	Wilma L. Olson*	Arena
2778	Janis Scharmann*	Shiocton	15051	Berdell A. Orlebeke*	Sussex
3153	Rose Mary Woelfel*	New Holstein	15051	Betty Ann Potter*	Wis. Rapids
5278	Karen M. Koentopp*	Ripon	15051	Mary Jo Pritz*	Neshkoro
5729	Jeanette Gehrig	Medford	15051	Patricia A. Puffe*	New London
5970	Veryl Franke*	Mauston	15051	Lois A. Raddemann*	Hartford
6003	Imogene Julson*	Oxford	15051	Delores P. Riemer*	Oak Creek
7221	Dorothy K. Ignatius*	Muskego	15051	Jean K. Ripley*	Racine
7534	Mariann Lemerond*	Hatley	15051	Margaret Sadler*	Muskego
7534	Sharon Livermore*	Green Bay	15051	Nancy A. Sherman*	Milwaukee
7591	Shirley M. Gloe*	McFarland	15051	Carol Steidl*	Franklin
7692	Mary E. Schwaller	Appleton	15051	Shirley Toellner*	Mayville
8584	Thomas L. Moore*	West Allis	15051	Helen Wisz*	Mosinee
8718	Margaret Laing	Coloma	15051	Clara I. Wolhowe*	Platteville

\* DENOTES LIFE MEMBER

STATE CONVENTION  
POPPY DISPLAY INFO

Have you thought about your “Buddy”® Poppy entry for the VFW State/Department Convention? You still have plenty of time to make a display and enter it into the competition. There will be first, second, and third place winners in each of three categories. First place winners will have the option of submitting their entry for judging in the National Competition in Columbus, OH. The three categories are:

**CATEGORY 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign**  
• Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotion, etc.

• Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

**CATEGORY 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays**  
• Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes.

• Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the “Buddy”® Poppy.

**CATEGORY 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies**

• Post Home displays, table center-pieces, corsages, pictures, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.

• Any display not meeting the qualifications of Category 1 or 2, shall automatically be entered in Category 3.

Renee L. Simpson  
VFW "Buddy"®  
Poppy Chair  
VFW  
608-343-3906  
sheserveswi@gmail.com



Susan Carlson  
Aux. "Buddy"® Poppy/  
Natl. Home Chair  
715-271-8088  
susankcarlson1@gmail.com

In ALL CATEGORIES, at least one (1) of the poppies used in the display **MUST BE** in its **ORIGINAL FORM AND COLOR WITH LABEL ATTACHED**. Full details can be found on the State VFW website at [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org) under the PRO-GRAMS tab. Scroll down to “Buddy”® Poppy to locate Poppy resources. **The entry form is also there to print out full size in advance if you wish.** (The form below is for your reference.)

We hope to see many creative entries this year. **Good luck to all.**

REGISTRATION FOR BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST  
ANNUAL STATE/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Post and/or Auxiliary Number \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Category (1,2, or 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Display No. Leave Blank \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poppies used in Display \_\_\_\_\_ (where display is entered in Category 3 & is a sample of a number of identical items, only one item needs to be displayed, but indicate the number of such items used and the total number of Poppies used.)

Name of Person/Persons responsible for setting up & taking down the display.

If you are the top winner in one of the three categories, do you wish to have your display entered in the National Contest? If yes, you will be responsible for having the display transported to the National Convention. In case the winners cannot get their display to the National Convention, the VFW and VFWA Chairmen will pick a substitute.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature & Title \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This entry form must accompany your display to the designated area at the State/Department Convention prior to 12:00 noon on Friday of the Convention week. If entering a display in more than one category, prepare a separate copy of this form for each display.

BUDDY POPPY ANNUAL CONVENTION AWARDS PROGRAM  
BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST

- Will follow State/Department Rules
- Judges Award for “**MOST IMPRESSIVE**”-**\$25.00 State/Department Convention Only**
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>,3<sup>rd</sup> place awards in each category-**State/Department Convention Only**
- 1<sup>st</sup> place in each category will be entitled to represent the State/Department of Wisconsin in the National Convention Contest

DISPLAY CONTEST CASH AWARDS-ANNUAL STATE/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

CATEGORY	1	2	3
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

2025 Korean War Veterans  
Memorial Ceremony and Program

Sunday, June 1, 2025  
(rain or shine)  
Starting at 10:45 am

Korean War Veterans and their families, Veterans from all branches of service, and the public are invited to attend as we honor those who served in the Korean War. Please join us!

Wisconsin Korean War Veterans Memorial  
Pacawa Park, Plover, WI  
(Exit 153 off I-39)

Cheers to  
100 Years  
for Our  
Department



Following its institution and installation on June 20, 1925, during the 4th Encampment (Convention) of the VFW Dept. of Wisconsin in Manitowoc, the Department of Wisconsin Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, was chartered on July 30, 1925, with eight original Auxiliaries listed:

- 920 – Swanson Williams, Milwaukee
- 847 – Henry S. Blomberg, Superior
- 305 – Eau Claire
- 388 – Burns, Wausau
- 1230 – Wolf-Olson, Sheboygan
- 1382 – Curtis-McNutt, Tomah
- 1028 – Dodge-Gilbertson-Carlson, Spooner
- 1163 – Clarence Keske, Beaver Dam

Four of those Posts are still going strong – 305, 388, 1163 and 1382, with only two Charter Auxiliaries still operating – 305 and 388.

It's time to celebrate! Our 100 Year Committee is still working on final details for these events and others:

Department Convention, June 11–14, 2025  
Cheers to 100 Years Kickoff

July C of A, July 11–12, 2025  
Treat for Auxiliary members attending

Fall Meeting, November 15, 2025  
Dress in vintage Auxiliary clothing — prizes will be awarded.

Mid-Winter Conference, February 6–7, 2026  
Special prize drawing for registered members, and special treats.

Department Convention, June 10–13, 2026  
Big 100 Year Celebration!

ALL members are cordially invited to attend these events, to take part in the celebration of our Century of Service to Veterans. Watch for more details and mark your calendars!



# VFW Day of Service in Wisconsin a Success

The 4th Annual VFW Day of Service met with great success across the Department, with some events on Saturday, May 3, and others scheduled for days throughout the month. This is just a sampling of what we're sure were many great community service projects. Thanks to District 8 and Posts 328, 6498 and 10911 for sharing your photos and stories!

## Post 328, Stoughton



Stoughton VFW Post 328 and their Auxiliary joined the Stoughton Parks and Recreation Dept., and other community members, to clean the headstones at Riverside Cemetery. Thanks to Lisa Olson of Auxiliary 328!



Great signage at Dick's Family Foods on May 2 helped the collection greatly.

## District 8 Veterans Against Hunger



Members of the De Pere Police and Fire Departments assisted Post members at a collection point at Kwik Trip on a rainy May Day.

In an interesting twist, with massive preplanning, District 8 VFW and Auxiliaries combined their May 3 District meeting with the culmination of a massive Food Drive in the District. All donations were designated for the Wrightstown Area Food Pantries, and the Cotter Family Gathering Center in Wrightstown figured large for both collecting donations and hosting the meetings.

Post 2113 QM Randy Hansen is a master at garnering local and national press and TV coverage – be sure to ask him how he does it. No word on how many pounds of food or items were collected but we'll bet it was a great success.

Thank you Post 2113 member Michelle Leick-Leurquin for your patience with photos!



NO project can be accomplished without our hardworking Scouts, here at the Cotter Center, sorting, boxing and toting.

## Post 6498, Milwaukee



Members from Post 6498 again mulched around trees and flower beds at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee. From left are: Post Cdr. Mike Burzelic; SVC Kurt Baker; Art Lunde; Dean Duffy, son of Jerry Duffy; Keith Ponath; Bob Pelowski; and QM Bill Rheingans. Thanks Mike!



An energetic group, full of smiles, ready to take on the Park.

## Post 10911, Camp Douglas

A group of Post and community members had a great Day of Service on May 10 at nearby Mill Bluff State Park. They walked the trails, cleaned up trash and debris, rehabbed picnic tables, blew leaves out of parking lots and picnic areas, and filled the playground with new wood chips. Thanks Renee Simpson and Angela Thomsen!



Sanding and smoothing picnic tables, followed by new stain.

It's always critical to hydrate and rest!







You are cordially invited to the  
Department of Wisconsin  
**104th VFW Convention**  
**100th VFW Auxiliary Convention**  
**June 11 – 14, 2025**  
**Madison Marriott West**  
**Middleton, WI**



It is time to gather to celebrate the accomplishments of the  
“Journey to Healing Together” and “Honoring Veterans Together”  
leadership teams in 2024-2025. ALL members in good standing are welcome  
to attend any portions of the Convention. Remember:

« **DEADLINES** are fast approaching – **May 23, 2025**  
– make sure you have secured your hotel  
accommodations **and** completed your  
registration and meals reservations.  
Forms/online registration are available at **vfwwi.org**.  
Questions? Call State VFW HQ at 608-221-5276.

« Members (Post and Auxiliary) intending  
to attend Convention as **Voting Delegates**  
should ensure their Post/Auxiliary have  
submitted them as a Delegate – **AND**, **VFW**  
**members must pay their Delegate Fee in**  
*addition to the Convention Registration.*

« Reserve time during  
Convention to view the  
“Buddy” ® **Poppy Displays**; visit  
the **Vendor tables** and support  
**Ways and Means Fundraisers**  
for both Auxiliary and VFW.

« **NOTE THESE GREAT EVENTS:**

- **Wednesday, June 11 @ 4:30 pm – Joint Memorial Service**  
**followed by a VFW/Auxiliary Night Out at Post 8483**
- **Thursday, June 12 @ 6:00 pm – Cash Bar Cocktail Hour**  
**and the JOINT AWARDS CELEBRATION @ 7 pm!**

« Food, drink and transportation  
to Post 8483 on Wednesday evening  
are on your own.

« Travel safely and prepare to have fun —  
see you there!

***Editor’s note:** Electronic files of the detailed Commander-in-Chief Resolutions for the 126th National Convention are available upon request to State Headquarters, or on the National website – [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) - in the Document Repository located in OMS. The C-i-C Resolutions require no action at our State Convention.*

**126th NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS BY**  
**COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF & NATIONAL OFFICERS**

**FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION**

201 PERIODIC REVALIDATION OF VFW NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

**NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**NATIONAL POW/MIA SUBCOMMITTEE**

- 401 PROTECT POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING MISSION FUNDING
- 402 ENSURE DOD COMPLIANCE WITH TAP LAW
- 403 RESEARCH BLAST OVERPRESSURE
- 404 REPATRIATE AMERICA’S FIRST FOREIGN WAR CASUALTIES

**VETERANS SERVICE COMMITTEE**

- 601 PROTECTING HEALTHCARE AND BENEFITS
- 602 TOXIC EXPOSURES
- 603 MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS
- 604 ENSURE VETERAN SUCCESS IN EDUCATION
- 605 VA NURSING HOME ANNUAL INSPECTIONS
- 606 DENTAL CARE ELIGIBILITY
- 607 MEDICARE

*Following a change to State Bylaws Article XII, Section 1201(3) approved at the 2024 State Convention, any **PROPOSED Resolutions** or State Bylaw changes will now be posted no later than ten (10) days prior to the State Convention. Look for them by June 1 at [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org).*

**Congratulations**  
**to our 2024 – 2025**  
**All-State Team!**

**Posts**

Post 11038, Rochester, D1 - Captain  
Post 2115, Hudson, D9 - Co-Captain  
Post 2113, De Pere, D8 - Co-Captain

Post 1621, Janesville, D1  
Post 6375, Elkhorn, D1  
Post 7308, Pleasant Prairie, D1  
Post 10549, New Glarus, D1  
Post 328, Stoughton, D2  
Post 7591, Madison, D2  
Post 6279, Adams-Friendship, D7  
Post 10187, Edgar, D7  
Post 3635, Florence County, D8  
Post 7534, Duck Creek, D8  
Post 7692, Freedom, D8  
Post 8338, Barron, D9

**Districts:**

District 1 - Captain  
District 8



## **AGENDA**

**(Agenda and Room Locations Subject to Change)**

Attire for C of A/Committees: VFW Business Casual (Collared Shirt/Polo & Slacks)

**Veterans Service Committee:** Phil Landgraf – Chair  
**WI VFW Foundation:** JVC Renee Simpson – Sec/Treas  
**Finance Committee:** Jim Cairo – Chair  
**News Committee:** JVC Renee Simpson – Chair  
**Women Veterans Committee:** Dr. Angela Thomsen – Chair

4:30 to 5:30 pm **Joint Memorial Service – (Wisconsin Room)** VFW & Auxiliary Chaplains  
6:00 pm **VFW & Auxiliary Night Out at VFW Post 8483**  
Food and Beverages available to purchase. Hawaiian shirts encouraged.

Attire for State Line Officers: VFW Business Casual (Mary Ann's Shirt/Purple Shirt)

8:30 to 10:00 am	<b>Reports (Breaks as Needed)</b>	
	Convention Committee	Wayne Woodman – Chair
	Service Committee	Phil Landgraf – Chair
	Finance Committee	Jim Cairo – Chair
	WI VFW Foundation	JVC Renee Simpson – Sec/Treas
	News Committee	JVC Renee Simpson – Chair
	Women Vets Committee	Dr. Angela Thomsen – Chair
	National Legislative	PSC Jason Johns – Chair
	Unmet Needs	PSC Jason Johns – Chair
	State Legislative	Jordan Tilleson – Chair
	Membership	Randy Engness – Chair
	Safety	Jason Janecek – Chair
	Honor Guard	PSC Mike Eggleston – Lt. Colonel
	Awards Committee	George Stoeber – Chair
	National Home	PSC Michele Rathke – Chair
	Poppy	PSC Renee Simpson – Chair
	Frank Brown	Wayne Woodman – Chair
	Big 10 Conference	Adam Wallace – Conference Chairman
	State Riders	Paul Morrison – State President
	Military Order of the Cooties	Brian Rickman – Grand Commander

**2:00 to 4:30 pm      Training/Seminars (Classes will run concurrently)**

**Military and Funeral Honors Program Training (Superior Room) – WDVA**  
Training covers flag folding and rifle team training. All equipment will be on-site.  
This training is required by at least one member of your Post's Honor Guard to be eligible for Stipend Reimbursement.

6:00 to 7:00 pm	Joint Awards Celebration Cocktail Hour (Wisconsin Room)
7:00 pm	Joint Awards Celebration (Wisconsin Room)

Attire for State Line Officers: Business Attire (Suit)

7:30 to 11:30 am & 1:30 to 3:00 pm	<b>Registration, Credentials, and Poppy Displays</b>
7:30 to 8:30 am	<b>Women Veterans Breakfast – Ticketed Breakfast</b>
8:00 am to 5:00 pm	<b>Vendor Tables (Halls outside Meeting Rooms)</b>

6:00 to 7:00 pm      **Cocktail Hour Cash Bar**  
7:00 pm                **All-State Banquet**

Attire for State Line Officers: Business Attire (Suit)

1:00 pm **Joint VFW/Auxiliary Installation of 2025 – 2026 Officers (Geneva Room)**  
Attire of Officers to be installed: Business.

30 mins after installation **2025 - 2026 Council of Administration Meeting (Geneva Room)**

4:00 to 8:00 pm **Commander/President Reception – VFW Post 1318**

# Ty Letto

Candidate for  
State Commander  
2025–2026

- A strategic and dynamic leader with over 33 years of experience
- Proven ability to empower, inspire, and motivate VFW and Auxiliary members
- Passionate about helping Veterans create a better everyday life



**VOTE Ty Letto**  
AT THE JUNE 2025 STATE CONVENTION





## CONVENTION

**VFW AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
100th Annual Convention  
June 11 - 14, 2025  
Madison Marriott West  
1313 John Q Hammons Dr, Middleton, WI 53562**

**AGENDA**  
Subject to change  
Chairmen should be ready to report at any time.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025**  
Business Attire/Official Look - Officers

*Subject to change*

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025**  
*Business Attire/Official Look - Officers*

11:00 am to 3:00 pm	<b>Registration, Credentials and Poppy Displays</b>	
12:00 to 5:00 pm	<b>Vendor Tables</b>	
10:00 to 11:30 am	<b>Cross of Malta/Floor Practice – (Mendota Room)</b>	By Invitation – Officers and Floor Team
11:45 am to 12:45 pm	<b>Lunch on your own</b>	
1:00 to 2:00 pm	<b>Council of Administration Meeting – (Mendota Room)</b>	Meeting open to all Members
2:15 pm	<b>Convention Opening – (Mendota Room)</b>	
	<b>Opening Greetings</b>	Lenore Otto, PDP
	<b>Cross of Malta March</b>	Officers and Floor Team
	<b>Call to Order</b>	President Cheryl Woodards
	<b>Roll Call</b>	Secretary Faith Elford, PDP
		Conductor Jennifer Mauritz
	<b>Auxiliary Ritualistic Opening</b>	President Cheryl Woodards,
		Officers and Floor Team
	<b>Escort of National Representative</b>	Conductor Jennifer Mauritz
		National Chaplain Kim Harney and Floor Team
	<b>Escort of other Guests</b>	Conductor Jennifer Mauritz
		and Floor Team
	<b>Approval of 2024 Convention Minutes</b>	President Cheryl Woodards
	<b>Official Communications</b>	Secretary Faith Elford, PDP
	<b>Convention Appointments</b>	Printed in Convention Book
	<b>Convention Rules</b>	Printed in Convention Book
	<b>Announcements</b>	Secretary Faith Elford, PDP
	<b>Recess until 8:00 am Thursday</b>	President Cheryl Woodards
4:30 to 5:30 pm	<b>Joint Memorial Service – (Wisconsin Room)</b>	VFW Chaplain Ilein Taipe
		Aux. Chaplain Marge Southworth
6:00 pm	<b>VFW &amp; Auxiliary Night Out at VFW Post 8483</b>	
	Food and Beverages available to purchase. Hawaiian shirts encouraged.	

***Wisconsin Veterans  
of Foreign Wars News*** **VFW**



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MAY/JUNE 2025

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025**  
Business Attire/Official Look – Officers

7:30 to 11:30 am	<b>Registration, Credentials and Poppy Displays</b>	
8:00 to 11:30 am	<b>Convention Reconvenes – (Mendota Room)</b>	
	<b>Greetings</b>	Linda Moran, PDP
	<b>Roll Call</b>	Secretary Faith Elford, PDP
		Conductor Jennifer Mauritz

<b>Program Awards Presentations – <i>Chairmen should be ready to report at any time.</i></b>	
Veterans and Family Support	Chair – Kathie Lendosky
Awards (Jeannette Frank)	Chair – Helen Stearns, PDP
Auxiliary Achievement Awards	Chair – SVP Kim McWilliams
Extension/Chief of Staff	Chief-of-Staff Linda Moran, PDP
Youth Activities	Chair – Patty Jansky
National Scholarships (Art)	Chair – Deanna Carothers
Department Scholarships – (Lillian Campbell)	Chair – Jennifer Mauritz

Veterans and Family Support	Chair – Kathie Lendosky
Awards (Jeannette Frank)	Chair – Helen Stearns, PDP
Auxiliary Achievement Awards	Chair – SVP Kim McWilliams
Extension/Chief of Staff	Chief-of-Staff Linda Moran, PDP
Youth Activities	Chair – Patty Jansky
National Scholarships (Art)	Chair – Deanna Carothers
Department Scholarships – (Lillian Campbell)	Chair – Jennifer Mauritz

11:45 am      **Auxiliary Plated Lunch - (Green Bay/Milwaukee Rooms)**  
*Open to all Members OR Lunch on your own*

1:00 to 4:30 pm	<b>Convention Reconvenes – (Mendota Room)</b> <b>Greetings</b>	Sally Lamers
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**Greetings – Allied Organizations – tentatively**  
**Program Awards Presentations continue:**  
 Historian/Media Relations  
 Auxiliary Outreach  
 Legislative  
 Membership  
 Hospital

Chair - Historian Nicole David  
 Chair – Alicia Weix  
 Chair – Deborah Hackers  
 Chair - JVP Charlene Cobb  
 Chair – Karen Johnson, PDP

Presentation of Hospital Volunteers (tent.)  
**Gold Star Parents and Families Recognition**  
**Draping of the Charter/Memorial Service**

President Cheryl Woodards  
 Chaplain Marge Southworth  
 Cond. Jennifer Mauritz; Dist. Presidents;  
 COS Linda Moran; Musician Jean  
 Miller; Soloist Aimee Viljevac

Memorial Address	
Nominations of 2025-2026 Officers and Big 10 Rep & Alternate	President Cheryl Woodards
Credentials Report	Chair – Karen Baumann
Announcements	Secretary Faith Elford, PDP
Recess until 8:00 am Friday	President Cheryl Woodards

5:00 pm	Dinner on your own
6:00 to 7:00 pm	Joint Awards Celebration Cocktail Hour (Wisconsin Room)
7:00 pm	Joint Awards Presentations (Wisconsin Room)
8:30 to 10:00 pm	Cash Bar and Entertainment by DJ Jayson Boynton

**FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025**  
*Business Attire/Official Look – Officers*

*Business Attire/Official Look – Officers*

7:30 to 9:00 am ONLY	<b>Registration and Credentials</b>
All day	<b>Vendor Tables and Poppy Displays</b>

8:00 to 11:45 am	<b>Convention Reconvenes – (Mendota Room)</b> <b>Greetings</b> <b>Roll Call</b>	Mary Brown, PDP Secretary Faith Elford, PDP Conductor Jennifer Mauritz
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Americanism	Chair-Sally Lamers, Patriotic Instructor
“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home	Chair – Sue Carlson
WI Veterans Assistance	Chair – Mary Lou Duerr
VFW News	Chair – Jody McKinney
Web Services	Chair – Faith Elford, PDP
Resolutions	Chair – Lucetta Jasinski, PDP

12:00 to 1:15 pm      **Auxiliary Club Lunch – (Green Bay/Milwaukee Rooms)**      OR Lunch on your own

1:30 to 4:00 pm **Convention Reconvenes – (Mendota Room)**

6:00 – 7:00 pm	<b>Cash Bar Cocktails (Ballroom)</b>
7:00 pm	<b>All-State Banquet (Ballroom)</b>

### Cash Bar Cocktails (Ballroom)

### All-State Banquet (Ballroom)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025**  
*Business Attire/Official Look – Officers*

7:30 am	Past Department President's Breakfast	
8:30 to 10:45 am	Convention Reconvenes – (Mendota Room)	
	Greetings & Meeting Opening	SVP Kim McWilliams
	Program Awards Presentations continue:	
	Buddy Poppy Display Winners	Chair Sue Carlson
	Ways and Means	Co-Chairs–Kathy Kakuschke & Diana Thom
	PDP Club Presentation – Election of Cheryl Woodards to “The Club”	
	President's Final Report	President Cheryl Woodards

11:00 am	<b>Presentation of Past Department President's Pin Announcements Closing Ceremonies for 2025 Convention</b>	Dolly Jenkins Secretary Faith Elford, PDP Officers and Floor Team
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**Thank You for a Wonderful Year "Honoring Veterans Together"**  
Safe Travels Home!

1:00 to 2:00 pm **Joint Installation 2025-2026 VFW & Auxiliary Officers – (Geneva Room)**  
 2:00 to 3:30 pm **2025 - 2026 Auxiliary Council of Administration (Mendota Room)**  
 5:00 to 7:00 pm **2025 - 2026 Commander and President Reception**  
 At Lt. Marion C. Cranefield VFW Post 1318, 2740 Ski Lane, Madison, WI

A campaign poster for Renee Simpson, a VFW member, for the position of State Sr. Vice Commander for 2025-2026. The poster features a photo of Renee Simpson wearing a VFW cap and a blue shirt. The background is blue with white stars and red and white stripes. Text includes 'Renee Simpson for State Sr. Vice Commander 2025-2026', 'Never Forget the Sacrifice', a list of her qualifications, 'VOTE Renee Simpson', and 'At the 2025 State Convention Saturday, June 14'.



# ELECT




## FOR JUDGE ADVOCATE

# WEBSTER

# 2025





## ELECT GEORGE STOEBER

### State Junior Vice Commander 2025-2026

*Since joining the VFW 12 years ago, I have witnessed, at the Post, District and Department levels, what this organization does for Veterans, and I am honored, that in some small way, I have been a part of something so great.*

*I feel that I bring strong leadership skills, and a passion for serving the Veterans of Wisconsin. This isn't about me, it is about honoring the legacy of an organization that has, and continues, to do more for Veterans who have served this great nation. I am proud of my service to the Veterans of Wisconsin, and I am proud to call each of you, my comrade!*

*I look forward to serving all our members and I look forward to your support.*

- ★ U.S. Navy, 1983 – 2007; Persian Gulf Veteran ★
- ★ Bronze Legacy Life Member of VFW Post 7308 since 2012 ★
- ★ State Judge Advocate (Feb. 2023 – Present) ★
- ★ State Chief-of-Staff (2021-22); Deputy COS (2020-21) ★
- ★ District 1 All-State Commander (2018-19) ★
- ★ Post 7308 Commander (2015-18) – All-State & All-American (2016) ★
- ★ State Appointments include: Awards Chair; Finance Member ★
- ★ Foundation Member; Loyalty Day Chair ★
- ★ National Deputy COS – (2021-23) ★

## VOTE JORDAN TILLESON

### FOR STATE CHAPLAIN 2025-2026



- † WI Army National Guard – 2001-2010
- † Two tours to Iraq as an Armor Officer
- † Member of VFW Post 328 since 2017, now a Gold Legacy Life Member
- † Post 328 JVC 2021 – Present
- † Current D2 Trustee; Past D2 JVC, SVC
- † Current (and continuing) State Legislative Chair

*“Through these years after the military, I contribute my religion and positive attitude to my success and overcoming difficult times. Bringing smiles, hugs, hot dogs, and flamboyant clothing to VFW functions has brought much joy to this organization and to myself. If elected, it is my intent to continue building on the esprit de corps of the VFW.*

*I want to maximize a “Chaplain’s Corner” on the State VFW website to inspire enthusiasm, devotion, and a strong regard for the honor of the VFW, and spend time traveling to Posts to help share that enthusiasm and love that I have found here!”*

**Thank you for your support and vote at the 2025 State Convention!**

**Dedicated**

**Passionate**

**Energetic**



2025-2026 Program Year  
VFW & Auxiliary Kickoff

Make It Count  
We Rise by Lifting Others

Friday-Saturday, July 11-12  
Hotel Mead & Conference Center  
451 E. Grand Ave.  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
715-423-1500

TENTATIVE SCHEDULES  
(Subject to change)

VFW

(Dress Code – Business Casual – Polo/Slacks)

Friday, July 11

9:00 – 9:15 am Introduction –  
9:15 – 11:00 am Committee Meetings – one opening,  
Finance; NEWS; Communications  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Program Book Review  
12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch – on your own  
1:30 – 2:30 pm HQ Orientation (Bring laptop, etc.)  
3:00 – 4:00 pm Joint VFW/AUX Special Project  
4:00 pm Closing of Friday sessions  
6:00 pm Tailgater Buffet & Kickoff Party  
– Paid reservation required

Saturday, July 12

9:00 am Open Meeting  
9:15 – 11:00 am Committee Reports & Business  
11:15 am – Noon Dist. Cdr. Reports  
12:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch – on your own  
1:30 – 3:00 pm Training – Membership, etc.  
3:15 – 3:45 pm Line Officer Remarks  
3:45 – 4:00 pm Commander’s Closing Remarks

AUXILIARY

(All sessions open to all members;  
Dress Code: President’s Shirt/Business Casual)

Friday, July 11

9:00 am Hospital Committee Meeting  
10:00 am District Pres., SVP, JVP Training Session  
12:00 noon Lunch – on your own  
1:00 – 2:45 pm School of Instruction (Open to all)  
3:00 – 4:00 pm Joint VFW/AUX Special Project  
6:00 pm Tailgater Buffet & Kickoff Party  
– Paid reservation required

Saturday, July 12

8:30 am – 12:00 pm Program Chairmen Promotions  
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch – on your own  
1:00 pm Membership Kickoff  
1:30 pm Council of Administration Meeting  
(Open to all)

2025–2026 Program Year Kickoff  
Make It Count ♥ We Rise by Lifting Others



Friday–Saturday  
July 11–12, 2025

Hotel Mead & Conference Center  
451 E. Grand Ave.  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494



As we conclude the current Command year, it’s time to set our sights on the Kickoff for the next one. While the sessions focus on preparing the newly-elected and appointed leadership for their roles in the coming year, **ALL** sessions are open to attendance by *any member in good standing*. As meetings are held in different parts of our large state, those who live in the vicinity are always encouraged to sit in and see the workings of *your* VFW and Auxiliary, Dept. of Wisconsin. This one may be especially helpful to newer members and/or those considering stepping up to Department offices in the future.

Be sure to check out the Tentative Agendas elsewhere on the page. Here’s the “scoop” on the details – be sure to make your reservations by the deadlines of **June 14 (hotel)** and **June 27 (meal)**:

- ◆ Call Hotel Mead directly for reservations – 715-423-1500
- ◆ Room rates: \$92/\$102 plus taxes. [Ask for the VFW block]
- ◆ Deadline for special room rate: **June 14**
- ◆ This weekend is a great way to learn about the VFW and Auxiliary Programs and events planned for the new year and to meet your incoming VFW Commander Ty Letto and Auxiliary President Kim McWilliams, and their leadership teams.
- ◆ Following the Friday meetings, a “Tailgater Buffet” dinner is planned – reservation and payment by **June 27** is required. **Online reservation at KICKOFF MEAL REGISTRATION is PREFERRED!**

2025-2026 Program Year VFW & Auxiliary Kickoff

Friday-Saturday, July 11-12, 2025

Hotel Mead & Conference Center  
451 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 • 715-423-1500

- Room rate is \$92 Queen/\$102 King + tax – **Ask for the VFW block**
- **The deadline** for Hotel reservations is **June 14, 2025**.

Program Kickoff Meal Reservations

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/ST/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, July 11 – 6:00 pm – Tailgater Buffet** – Potato Salad, Baked Beans with smoked bacon, grilled third pound burger, bratwurst simmered in beer and grilled, sliced cheddar and swiss cheese.

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$43 EACH = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Please make check payable to VFW-Dept. of WI, earmarked “Kickoff”**
- **Mail to: VFW Dept. of WI, PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128**
- **Or scan the QR Code, complete the reservation and pay online.**



- **Reservations MUST be received by June 27 – no exceptions!**



## Cootie Corner

Listen Cooties:  
I would like to thank Paul Kirsch and his team for a great year in leading the Grand of Wisconsin. Thank you to everyone that showed up to State Convention.

My Special Project this year is a Joint project with the Grand President Connie and it is Stop Soldier Suicide. This year's Officers for the Grand of Wisconsin are:

Commander Brian Rickman	Sr. Vice Cdr. Pat Moran
Jr. Vice Cdr. Manuel Salas	QM/Adjutant Kenneth Patterson
Chaplain David Jacobson	Judge Advocate Paul Kirsch
Surgeon Julie Harris	Chief-of-Staff Rodney Fifield
Historian Wayne Woodman	Hospital Chair Wilfred "Twiggy" Johnson
Provost Marshall Micheal Johnson	

I'm looking forward to serving as your Grand Commander again.

Brian Rickmann  
WI Grand Commander



MOCA Sisters and Brothers:  
I am proud to be your President for the next year. Thank you to all who continue to step up to keep this Grand running for the 2025-2026 year:

- President Connie Lindloff
- Sr. Vice Cheryl Woodards
- Jr. Vice Carol Welch
- Secretary Karen Johnson
- Treasurer Dolores Sorenson
- Chaplain Linda Moran
- Conductress Rose Jacobson
- Guard Cindy Rickman
- Trustees: Rita Byers, Judy Borg and Kathy Matthees

I look forward to serving with Grand Commander Brian and his MOC team. The MOCA will join forces with the MOC again this year on our Special Project, which will be Stop Soldier Suicide. More about them can be found at their website — [stopsoldiersuicide.org](http://stopsoldiersuicide.org).

There are thousands of Veterans and

**Connie Lindloff**  
MOCA Grand President

262-215-7074  
lindloffs@hotmail.com



service members who are struggling with thoughts of suicide. We invite you to join in the fight with your support to ensure they have Stop Soldier Suicide there to walk with them through life's most difficult moments, and guide them on the path of hope and healing.

Keep up the great work you do for our Veterans in and out of the hospital. "Keep 'em smilin' in Beds of White". God Bless Everyone.

Connie Lindloff  
WI Grand President



**Brian Rickmann**  
MOC Grand Commander  
608-290-2588  
bcteb3@gmail.com

## COOTIE CORNER

### Grand of Wisconsin Members of the Year



Congratulations to Manny Salas of "Badger" MOC Pup Tent 6 and Dolores Wilson of MOC Auxiliary "What-cha Kalit" 9, on being named the Grand of Wisconsin Members of the Year for 2024-2025. Thank you for your years of service, "Keeping 'em Smilin' in Beds of White"!

*Award photos courtesy of Michele Rathke, with thanks to Bruce Sorensen for the new Cdr. and President photos.*

**AT LEFT: Past Grand Cdr. Rod Fifield (right) presents Manny Salas his Grand of WI Member of the Year Award.**

**BELOW: MOCA Grand Treasurer Dolores Sorensen (left) presents Dolores Wilson with her Member of the Year Award.**



### COOTIE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>August 14-17</b>           | <b>106th MOC Supreme Scratch and 64th MOCA Convention</b><br>– Wyndham Hotel & Events Center, Columbus, OH<br>(Visit <a href="http://lotcs.org">lotcs.org</a> for registration and info.) |
| <b>September 12-14</b>        | <b>Tomah Days</b> – Hospital Visit and Scratch (Watch mailings and future NEWS for details.)  |
| <b>October 31- November 2</b> | <b>90th MOC/MOCA Tomb Trek</b> to the Argonne Cross and Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA<br>(Visit <a href="http://lotcs.org">lotcs.org</a> for registration and info.)                |

### Military Order of the Cootie Grand of Wisconsin 2025 Raffle Results



1st Place – \$500  
2nd Place – \$250  
3rd Place – \$100  
4th Place – \$50  
5th Place – \$50  
6th Place – \$25  
7th Place – \$25

Kris Richardson  
Randi Pearse  
Dan Foley  
Linda Schluter  
Earl Craker  
Mary Brown  
Rocky Mantik



Thank you to all who sold and purchased raffle tickets to support our work for hospitalized Veterans – "Keeping 'em smiling in Beds of White"

### More Clowning Around from Pup Tent 23



Short Arm Pup Tent 23 from Green Bay has clowning and bingo down to a "T", with another successful session at Anna John Nursing Home in Oneida earlier this year. Twenty-two residents and 11 MOC and MOCA members had another great time. Standing from left are: Mark Pirlot, Chris Pirlot, Linda Reitzner, Wilfred "Twiggy" Johnson, Sally Lamers, Bruce Sorensen, Dolores Sorensen, Kathy Matthees, Judy Borg, Pat Moran. Seated in front: Karen Johnson.

*Thank you Bruce Sorensen!*

**Keep 'em smilin'  
in beds of white.**



## Every “Bunny” Has a Good Time in Bellevue

AT RIGHT: Winiecki VFW Auxiliary 9677 in Bellevue held its fourth annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny in mid-April. Here, a festive member, Nickey Ciha, chooses a local attendee to select the next winners for the Bunny basket drawings. An “egg-citing” time! Thanks to Aux. Treasurer Pat Siebert.

AT FAR RIGHT: Wineicki VFW Auxiliary 9677 also sponsored two DECA (Distribution Education Clubs of America) students’ school trip to Florida. Here, member Joan Simpson presents a check to Iyana Taylor. Sydney Wilder from Bayport High School (not pictured) also received a check. Both students presented a recap of their trip at the May Auxiliary meeting. Looks like a great breakfast too! Thanks again Pat!



Arthur Gensler VFW Post and Auxiliary 664 in Clintonville is busy year around. We finally had some space to include their regular Christmas season donation to Goodfellows of Clintonville and Marion. The \$200 helps with services to 300 households in the area. From left are: Aux. President Wendy Schoelkopf; Post QM Tina Flanagan; VFW member Marlyn Pingel; Goodfellows President Steve Conradt; Aux. Treasurer Connie Schoelkopf; Post member LeRoy Wilken. Thanks Tina!

## Post and Aux 664 Busy in Every Season



The annual trip to Clintonville Elementary School for teaching Flag Etiquette to 1st Graders is always fun for everyone. Here, Post and Auxiliary 664 members pose with teachers Kristi Schertz and Ericka Shelton, displaying their Certificates of Appreciation. In the classroom, students receive Flag Coloring Books, Pencils/Rulers and pamphlets. Thanks again Tina!



## VFW Post 10519 Supports Homeless Veterans Initiative

Greendale VFW Post 10519 presented a \$500 donation recently to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative along with some food items. Partnering with American Legion Post 415, this is the second money donation by the VFW this year and will soon be followed by the Legion.

The Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative is founded and run by Veterans, offering unique programs to fill the gaps and avoiding duplication of what other groups do. When possible, they partner with the Veterans Administration, Wis. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, County Veterans Service Officers, and other nonprofit agencies.

Here (from left) are: Post Adjutant Dan Crass, who organized the Food Drive; Food Pantry Coordinator Tomisha Bower; Post Cdr. John Ustruck. Thank you John!



## Beautiful Quilts of Honor Presented in Denmark

Some talented seamstresses in the Denmark VFW Auxiliary 6705 created and presented beautiful Quilts of Honor to two VFW Post 6705 members recently. Thank you all for your service!

And thanks to Richard “Sarge” Verheyen for the info and photos!

ABOVE LEFT: Auxiliary 6705 Sr. Vice President Mary Adams; Vietnam Veteran James Jacques; Post 6705 Commander Jesse Cain.

BELOW LEFT: Auxiliary 6705 Sr. Vice President Mary Adams; Iraq-Desert Storm Veteran Todd Arquette; Post 6705 Commander Jesse Cain.





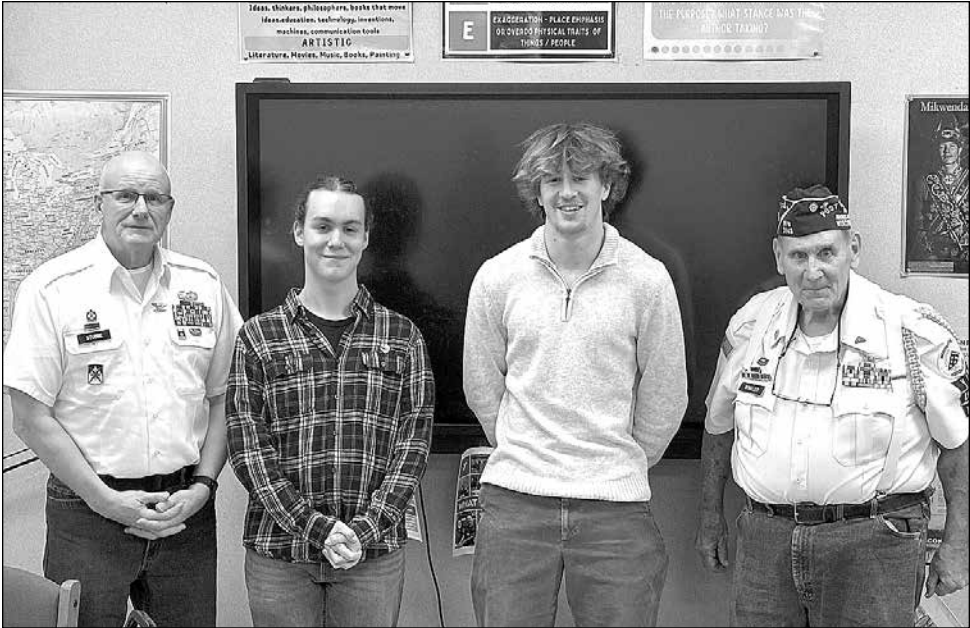
District 7 Patriot's Pen Winners (front, l to r) Lena Fyksen (1st); Cecilia Ann Mills (2nd); Hadassah Uitonbroek (3rd) display their awards at the D7 Winter meeting. Standing (l to r) are: District Chairman Scott Colburn; D7 Cdr. Dale Dahlke; D7 Aux. President Jane Bynum; District Chairman Diana Sweet. *Thanks Tina Flanagan!*



District 7 Voice of Democracy Winners Layla Boyd (2nd) and Lucy Paskey (3rd) are all smiles, with District Chairman Scott Colburn (left); D7 Cdr. Dale Dahlke and District Chairman Diana Sweet behind them. *Thanks again Tina Flanagan!*



Berlin VFW Post 2925 Past Commander Jim Neumeier presented Berlin HS Senior Kayla Buhrow with the First Place Award for the Voice of Democracy. *Thanks Berlin Journal!*



VFW Post 3143 member Doug Stubbe (left) and Commander Jeff Winkler (right), presented Voice of Democracy Awards at Rhinelander HS to students Rory Young and Truman Lamers earlier in the year. *Thanks Coralie!*



Waterloo/Marshall VFW Post 6614 Patriot's Pen Co-Chairmen Scott Relitz (left) and Pete Ponti (right), pose with this year's student winners (l to r) Ben Gorelick (3rd); Levi Studer (1st); Rosalie Klock (2nd). *Thank you Pete!*



Voice of Democracy Winners recognized by Waterloo/Marshall VFW Post 6614 include (center, l to r) Kylee Drels (2nd) and Madelyn Bothe (1st). Voice Co-Chairmen Scott Relitz (left) and Pete Ponti (right) presented the awards. *Thank you again Pete!*



Bentley-Hull VFW Post 6709 in Waupun recently recognized their Voice and Pen winners at the Post. From left are: Makayla Martinek (Voice, 2nd); Lily Wobschall (Voice, 1st); Kaia Fix (Pen, 1st – and yes, her certificate was corrected); Ryleigh Lane (Pen, 3rd); Payton Schlieve (Pen, 2nd). *Thanks Larry Duer.*





Duck Creek VFW Post and Auxiliary 7534 held their annual Youth and Teacher programs Awards Ceremony in late January at the Bayview Middle School Auditorium. Here with the Patriot's Pen winners are (from left): Bruce Jagodinsky; Landon Spettel; Elise Lindgren; Mason Chancey; Adelyn Frappier; Karina King; John Wierer. *Thank you Bruce Sorensen!*



Duck Creek VFW Post and Auxiliary 7534 also recognized their Voice of Democracy winners in late January at the Bayview Middle School auditorium. From left are: Audrey Dotzauer; Bruce Jagodinsky; Grace Lally; Sofia Vorpahl; Grant Swim; Emily Elliott; Jonathon Nuske; Jessica Gagan; Rodney Fifield. *Thank you again Bruce Sorensen!*



Members of Edgar VFW Post 10187 recognized sixteen students at the St. John's School in Edgar, for their participation in the VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest. The students were presented with certificates and each student received a 2x3 foot American flag. The top three winners (front, l to r) were: Lily Wozny (3rd); Cecilia Mills (1st); Elizabeth Bergs (2nd). *Thanks Dale!*



Edgar VFW Post 10187 Members presented certificates, monetary awards, and a 2x3 foot flag to Edgar High students Tegan Knetter (left center) and Anabel Blocker (right center) for their participation in the Voice of Democracy essay contest. *Thanks again Dale!*



Patriot's Pen Awards presented by Plover VFW Post 10262 Commander Barbara McCloy (left) and Post SVC John Cansino (right), included (from left), Hadassah Uitenbroek (1st); Alice Brown (2nd); Mikayla Smith (3rd). *Thank you Debbie Manthey!*



Also receiving recognition by Plover VFW Post 10262 were Voice of Democracy winners (center, l to r): Samantha Schoepke (1st); Marisa Pliske (2nd); Kaiden Painter (3rd), with Post Cdr. Barbara McCloy and SVC John Cansino doing the honors. *Thanks again Deb!*



VFW Post 10544 QM Wilfred "Twiggy" Johnson and Auxiliary 10544 Secretary Sally Lamers presented the top Kimberly Middle School Patriot's Pen Awards to (center, l to r): Kaashvi Kasera (2nd); Lexi Siegesmund (3rd); Erin Conrad (1st) on Veterans Day. *Thanks Sally!*

## 2025-26 Voice of Democracy Theme AND 2025-26 Patriot's Pen Theme

*"How Are You Showing Patriotism  
and Support for Our Country?"*

Visit: [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) OR [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)  
for info and entry forms



As Secretary, my two top priorities are advocating for programs that benefit Wisconsin's Veterans and strengthening the vital partnerships that make our work possible. That is why I am so grateful for the relationship we've built with the VFW. Together, we are stronger, and that strength is essential in protecting and supporting our most vulnerable Veterans.

Governor Evers shares this commitment to strong partnerships. That's why he has once again submitted a budget that includes funding for the expanded Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP). This innovative initiative — one of the first of its kind in the nation — demonstrates the power of collaboration in delivering life-changing services to Wisconsin Veterans.

VORP bridges the gaps that too often leave Veterans struggling alone. VORP outreach coordinators work with County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers, law enforcement, nonprofits, VSOs, and other community organizations to connect Veterans to vital resources. They help Veterans secure housing, access mental healthcare, find employment, and navigate complex systems. Importantly, they don't wait for Veterans to come to them — they meet the Veteran wherever they are, traveling across the state, building trust, and breaking down barriers.

Currently, VORP operates in 16 regions, each with a dedicated coordinator providing case management and community-based support. In addition, we have four Clinical Coordinators and two Program Supervisors who play a key role in delivering these services. However, funding from Governor Evers's ARPA allocation, which

## James Bond

Secretary,  
Wisconsin  
Department of  
Veterans Affairs



supports seven of these positions, is set to expire. We've requested general-purpose revenue to sustain these roles.

Without this critical funding, we will have to return to 11 Regions and two Clinical Coordinators. That reduction would mean longer wait times, delayed mental health assessments, and slower responses in getting Veterans into housing and treatment. Fully funding the expanded program means more lives saved and more dignity restored. It's the right thing to do to honor the promise we made to those who served.

VORP is just one way the WDVA helps Veterans overcome challenges. We believe no Veteran should have to face them alone. That's why your advocacy — and the VFW's commitment to ensuring no Veteran is left behind — matters so much.

We encourage you to contact your elected State Representatives to support programs like VORP, so Veterans know we have their backs. You can find your Legislator online at [legis.wisconsin.gov](https://legis.wisconsin.gov).

I am grateful for the VFW's vocal support in keeping Veteran support programs fully funded and supported in the Badger State. Thank you!

## UPCOMING GOLF OUTINGS SAVE THE DATE

Another fun summer and fall "out on the links" — register today before these great events fill up!

### Thursday, June 5, 2025 Wisconsin Veterans Village Assoc. 4th Annual Rocky Bleier Golf Classic

- Royal St. Patrick's Golf Links, 201 Royal Saint Pats Dr., Wrightstown, WI 54180
- Check-in: 8:00 – 9:30 am; Opening: 9:30-10:00 am; Shotgun start: 10:00 am
- Registration and info at: [wisvva.org](https://www.wisvva.org)

### Tuesday, June 10, 2025 De Pere Chamber Foundation & De Pere VFW 2113 Golf Outing Supporting Veterans & Youth Programs

- Hilly Haven GC, 5911 Cty. Rd. PP, De Pere, WI 54115
- Check-in: 8:00 – 9:00 am; Shotgun start: 10:00 am
- Call 920-360-0356 or email Dan Ammerman at: [daniel1983ph@gmail.com](mailto:daniel1983ph@gmail.com) for info.

### Monday, June 16, 2025 Center for Veterans Issues (CVI) 4th Annual Golf Outing

- River Club of Mequon, 12400 N. Ville Du Parc Dr., Mequon, WI 53092
- Registration: 9:00 am; Shotgun Start: 11:00 am
- Registration now open at: [cvivet.org](https://www.cviet.org). Hurry, this one usually sells out!

### Monday, July 14, 2025 WI Veterans Museum Foundation 21st Annual Golf Outing

- The Oaks GC, 4740 Pierceville Rd., Cottage Grove, WI 53527
- 9:00 am – 5:30 pm
- Registration now open at: [wisvetsmuseum.com](https://www.wisvetsmuseum.com)

### Monday, August 25, 2025 13th Annual Fisher House Wisconsin Golf Outing

- Destination Geneva National, 1221 Geneva National Ave. S, Lake Geneva, WI 53147
- Registration: 7:30-9:30 am; Tee off: 10:00 am.
- Registration now open at: [fisherhousewi.org](https://www.fisherhousewi.org).

### Saturday, September 6, 2025 VFW Post 10262 20th Annual Golf Scramble

- Wisconsin River Golf Club, 705 West River Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481
- Registration: 10:00 am; Shotgun start: 12 noon; After golf, dinner at Post 10262
- Registration now open at: [plovervfw.org](https://www.plovervfw.org).

### Thursday, September 11, 2025 VFW Post 3319 5th Annual "Golf with a Vet"

- Countryside GC, W726 Weiler Rd., Kaukauna, WI 54130-8870
- Registration: 8:30-10:00 am; Shotgun start: 10:30 am
- Visit: [golfwithavet.com](https://golfwithavet.com) or call Dennis Schmidt (920-475-5777) or Gary Wolf (920-810-1779).

## GOLF OUTINGS



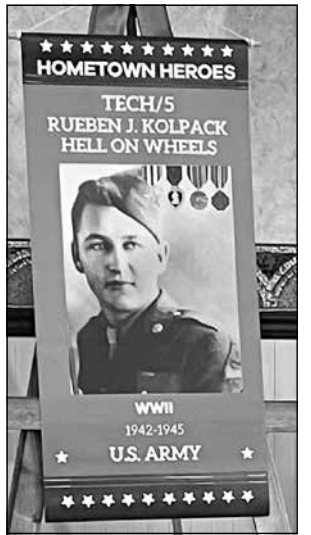
Rueben received many certificates honoring his service.

## Post 2653 Celebrates Veteran Rueben Kolpack

Antigo area Veterans and citizens alike got to see, hear and shake the hand of history and freedom when WWII Army Veteran Rueben J. Kolpack turned 104 years old on March 19. Assigned to the 2nd Armored Division as a Radio Operator, Rueben saw duty in Africa, Normandy, Northern France and Central Europe. He was

awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. Antigo VFW Post 2653 and Birnamwood American Legion 341 Post members were among the many well-wishers.

Keep on going Rueben as you work on 105, and thank you for your service as part of our "Greatest Generation". Thanks to Post 2653 Adjutant Mike Piller!



Gathered behind Rueben (from left) are: three unnamed Birnamwood AL members; VFW members Dale Oatman; Randy Adair (Langlade CVSO); Butch Chrudimski; Mike Piller; Brian Summ; Jim Benishek.

## Post 7534 Supports Tiny Homes



Duck Creek VFW Post 7534 in the Village of Howard donated \$2,600 earlier this year to Veterans 1st of Northeast WI (NEW) to help build tiny homes for homeless Veterans. The first ten homes will be built by this fall.

In the back row (from left) are: Bruce Sorensen; John Wierer; Rodney Fifield. Middle row (from left): Tim Hazen; Al Serfeldt; Mike Sheedy; Dale Vaughn; Randy Bond; John Sarns. And in front (from left): Bruce Jagodinsky; Mark Pirlot; Gail Nohr of Veterans 1st of NEW; Greg Schuelke. Thanks Bruce!



## BITS & PIECES

*A compendium of things new and noteworthy ...*

- More proof that “*All it takes is to ASK*”. Electric City VFW Post 3319 Commander Mike Weaver saw the story about C-in-C Al Lipphardt’s pins in the March *NEWS*, and called National HQ to secure some for his Post’s Honor Guard. We understand they were received within a few days and presented to the Kaukauna team at their April meeting.
- *Congratulations* to Herbert E. McLaughlin VFW Post 2723 of Shawano on the recent groundbreaking for your new building. With the positive identification of Post namesake, WWII KIA Pvt. Herbert McLaughlin recently, the future looks bright for Post 2723!
- *A heartfelt salute to Jack Voight*, President of Vets & Friends Coffee House, on the dedication of a permanent Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on April 30, the 50th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. The Wall honors the 1,249 Wisconsinites KIA during the Vietnam War. See it behind the Vets & Friends Coffee House building, 2508 N. Richmond, Appleton.
- **HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO THE VFW NATIONAL HOME!** Please see the event flyer detailing the **VFW National Home Community Celebration** scheduled for **June 28, 2025** elsewhere in this issue. *If your Post or Auxiliary has not donated to the National Home regularly, perhaps this special birthday year would be a great way to start a new tradition!*

## Holmen Post 7908 Leads the Way for a New Wisconsin License Plate

Post 7908 in Holmen, Wisconsin is leading the charge to create a new Wisconsin vehicle plate to commemorate our Missing in Action. The design is being finalized, but tentative plans are for a blackout plate proudly displaying the POW-MIA emblem and the words



“NOT FORGOTTEN” on the lower portion of the plate.

Like the “In God We Trust” plate and others, the proposed plates will include an annual \$25 donation with vehicle registration. Collected funds will be used to maintain the POW-MIA flags at Wisconsin Rest Areas and all remaining funds will be donated directly to the UW MIA Recovery and Identification Project.

The first step is a petition requiring 500 signatures from Wisconsin residents who plan to register a vehicle with the proposed plates, AND a single payment of \$15,500 for the start-

up fee. Post 7908 Officers are still figuring out the best way to collect the donations and signatures but please watch for more details.

For more information, contact Post 7908 Commander Matt Barbour at 608-931-6965 or [matthew.t.barbour@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.t.barbour@gmail.com) or JVC Barry Larson at 608-356-9471 or [barry-cwo@yahoo.com](mailto:barry-cwo@yahoo.com).

## EVENTS AND DEADLINES

May 23	<b>Deadline</b> for 2025 State Convention Registration and Meals.
June 8	<b>2025 Flag Day – Waubeka, WI</b> (See flyer on page 5) and more info at <b>FLAG DAY in Waubeka 2025</b> .
June 11-14	<b>VFW/VFWA Dept. of Wisconsin State Conventions</b> – Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI 53562 (See page 3 Planning Calendar for Hotel reservation info, and <a href="http://vfwwi.org">vfwwi.org</a> to register by May 23, 2025!)
June 16	<b>Deadline</b> for July/August 2025 Wisconsin VFW NEWS (Printed and mailed)
June 27	<b>Deadline</b> for July Kickoff Meal Registration (See page 15 or online at <b>KICKOFF MEAL REGISTRATION</b> .)
July 11-12	<b>2025-2026 Program Kickoff/Council of Administration</b> – Hotel Mead & Conf. Ctr., Wis. Rapids, WI (See detailed info on page 15.)
July 31	<b>Deadline</b> for Post Audits to State Headquarters
August 9-13	<b>VFW/VFWA National Conventions</b> – Columbus, OH (Visit: <a href="http://vfw.org">vfw.org</a> and <a href="http://vfwauxiliary.org">vfwauxiliary.org</a> for hotel and registration info.)
August 14-17	<b>106th MOC Supreme Scratch and 64th MOCA Convention</b> – Wyndham Hotel and Events Center, Columbus, OH (Visit: <a href="http://lotcs.org">lotcs.org</a> for info.)
October 17-19	<b>2025 Big Ten Conference</b> – Isle Casino Hotel & Quad Cities Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf, IA (Visit: <a href="http://vfwia.org">vfwia.org</a> for Registration forms and Hotel information.)

FROM THE EDITOR

“As we embark on this season of renewal and growth, let’s embrace the opportunities it presents and tackle our responsibilities with determination and pride. Together, we can accomplish great things and make a meaningful difference in our community and beyond.”  
~ SVC Mary Ann Christopherson,  
May/June 2024 NEWS

**Marla Morgan**  
Editor  
**VFW**  
715-384-2500  
[wivfweditor@gmail.com](mailto:wivfweditor@gmail.com)

As I complete year twelve as Editor of the *WI VFW NEWS*, it’s an extra-bittersweet time, with a roller coaster of emotions.

Just one year ago, we published Mary Ann’s final column with the above closing paragraph, and then she was gone from us eleven days later. It has been an honor to continue the mission in her memory, recalling her words of encouragement for all of us.

Of course, by now you have seen the other reason for my “discombobulation” on page 6. I’m still trying to wrap my head around how a man so slight in stature, was such a large presence in my life, our house and our adventures together. Rest in peace dear Bill. Please send a laugh now and then, so I know you are keeping watch. Meanwhile, I’ll just keep telling the stories.

There are lots of details on upcoming events in this issue, especially the State Conventions coming up all too quickly June 11-14, and the 2025 – 2026 Kickoff Weekend about one month after that. Make sure you have all of your registrations and reservations made – the deadlines are upon us!

Usually at this time of year, we have a National Publications Award to brag about, but as of this writing, no news yet. Stay tuned. We will still present the annual Department Publications Contest Awards to the six winners listed below, at the State Convention. Congratulations to all – I hope you will also get some National recognition too.

I would be seriously remiss if I did not thank Ty Gonyo and his amazing team at Berlin Journal Newspapers, for all of their incredible work and their standard of excellence, that make the *WI VFW NEWS* a shining reality. Rather than just using a “text box” with a border, they create so many inspiring and energizing items that make us sit up and take notice. It is a blessing to have some words and a “concept”, magically turn into such a great publication. You. Folks. Rock.

And thank ALL of YOU who continue to supply this publication with those incredible items that *Inform, Inspire and Invite*. It can’t happen without you first. Let’s keep it going.

“Journey to Healing Together” ■ “Honoring Veterans Together”

2025 Department Publications Contest Results			
Post Membership Category	Award	Post #/City	Editor
Small (up to 100 members)	First	2113, De Pere	Randy Hansen
	Second	8338, Barron	Greg Roth
	Third	6709, Waupun	Kevin L. Iverson
Medium (101-200 members)	None entered		
Large (201+ members)	First	1318, Madison	Gundel Metz
	Second	388, Wausau	Curt Dahlke
	Third	7591, Madison-Day	Cole Slominski

## Suicide Prevention is Everyone’s Responsibility

### There’s Plenty You Can Do to Save a Life!

#### Four Critical Questions

1. Do you know how to recognize the signs of distress?
2. Do you know how to initiate a conversation with someone exhibiting signs of distress or depression?
3. Would you be able to ask someone about their suicidal thoughts?
4. Do you know how to help someone who is contemplating death by suicide?

If you answered “No” to any of these questions, the free online **R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention Training** is for you!

Next Series Begins

Oct 28

Two Time Options:

11:30 am or 6:00 pm

Central Time

•Get Informed

•Get Involved

•Save a Life

The **R.A.C.E.** Suicide Prevention training is three one-hour sessions delivered on three consecutive Tuesdays starting 28 October. The training is applicable for anyone, including you! The training prepares you to **Recognize** the often subtle signs of distress. You will learn how to **Ask** the person about any suicidal thoughts, demonstrate that you **Care** and ways to offer Hope that can help the person to choose life versus death. The last step in the **R.A.C.E.** model is learning different **Escort** options so the person receives professional care. Let’s work together to Save Lives—One Life at a Time!

**Register Today at**  
[www.RACESuicidePrevention.us](http://www.RACESuicidePrevention.us)

Be the lifeline.

In Partnership With  
**HEALING WARRIOR HEARTS**



THE BOOK CORNER

# For the Love of a Girl

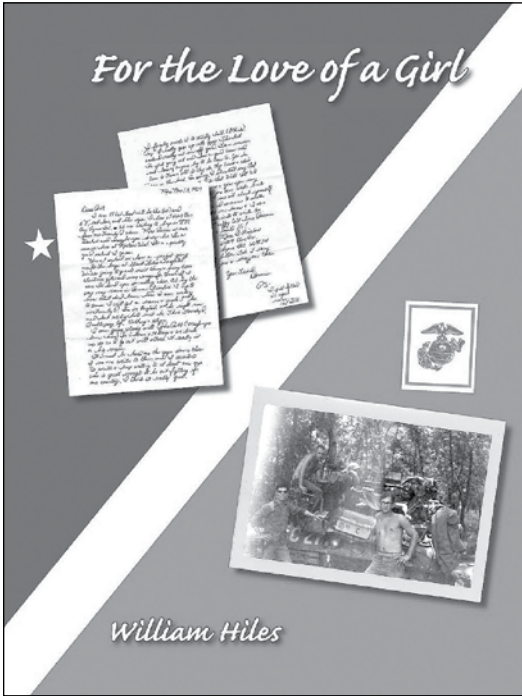
by William Hiles

Self-published in 2006 with Trafford Publishing of Bloomington, IN, *“For the Love of a Girl”* chronicles author Bill Herstowski’s (pen name William Hiles) life growing up on the South side of Chicago in the 1950s, to his time with the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam, to life afterwards. Or as he put it to me in his note with the book:

*“The book began as a short page to explain to my wife, kids, family and friends, my unappealing attitude towards life with rare smiles and bad attitude. It was the war I fought in as an Ontos Platoon Radio man in 1967 and 1968. But I wanted the world to see my failures and succeeds [sic] and the quite unmatched meeting of me and my mate on a special leave which I’ll never forget, so the story began at my beginning in Chicago, IL. In the 1950s.”*

From that “short page” came 234 pages of quite the fascinating tale: “It began in my sophomore year at Morton West, days engrossed with the assassination of JFK, my eternal vigilance, patriotism. Enlisting with our Marine Corps was my only answer, though immensely protested by the love I sacrificed and abandoned. Launched by brutal training then jungle warfare with a heavily armored tracked vehicle platoon and a radio on my back, my life disarrayed until special leave to Chicago guided me to the girl met by pure chance. Her I also left, for the finality of a 19 month tour, resuming with the Hue City offensive that shook the country and the world. But, this girl waited.”

*“For the Love of a Girl”* may be purchased at [Trafford Publishing](#) or [Amazon](#).



## Ryan Funeral Home Honors in De Pere



What began as a “50/50” cost split with VFW Post 2113 in De Pere to update the Veterans Honor Wall, turned into a “95/5”, with Ryan Funeral Home generously funding the bulk of the beautiful new tribute. Items include nine framed 14” x 14” custom-made service banners, including three combat service support agencies; descriptions of each service; a stained-glass honor roll; cased flags and other special items. What a stunning display to honor and remember. Thanks to Post 2113 QM Randy Hansen –AND Ryan Funeral Home!

## Post 5778 Holds Vietnam Vet Event



Frank and Michael Baran VFW Post 5778 in Phillips hosted Wausau author Mike O’Connor as the featured speaker at their 2025 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day. O’Connor shared stories from his books *Ace of Aces: the Dick Bong Story*, and *Badger Aces*. Both have been featured in the *WI VFW NEWS*. All in attendance found the presentation fascinating. Mike can be reached at 715-848-0160 or [mconnor@dwave.net](mailto:mconnor@dwave.net) to book a presentation for any group. Thanks to Post 5778 SVC Mike Frazier!

## Raffle Calendar Winners

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
Mar. 7	6604	R. Ernst	Fond du Lac	\$50
	12531	R. Gardner	La Valle	\$50
	9570	J. Lenz	St. Nazianz	\$50
	1533	P. Sholes	Beloit	\$50
	6839	J. Mueller	Chilton	\$50
	5975	C. Weisenser	Janesville	\$50
Mar. 14	3477	C. Geisler	Hartland	\$50
	11808	A. Hembrock	Weyerhaeuser	\$50
	1362	B. Schaaf	Cuba City	\$50
	10544	J. Meni	Gwinn, MI	\$50
	7854	F. Riegert	Appleton	\$50
	9169	D. Ammerman	De Pere	\$50
Mar. 21	11914	D. Webster	Altoona	\$50
	11546	J. Barber	Rhineland	\$50
	11220	R. Raschke	Chippewa Falls	\$300
	12912	G. Harna	Menomonie	\$50
	3001	B. Faanes	Sun Prairie	\$50
	11952	I. Hanson	Viroqua	\$50
Mar. 28	213	M. Kahlhamer	Mayville	\$50
	11359	D. Henke	Withee	\$50
	6377	C. Roethel	Howards Grove	\$50
	10334	J. Visnovac	Owen	\$50
	7319	VFW Post 2534	Wis. Rapids	\$50
	3271	K. Ceman	Markesan	\$50

Date	Ticket	Name	City	Prize
Apr. 4	2809	F. Bellin	Reedsville	\$100
	3110	D. Kovalaske	Randolph	\$50
	8311	J. Springstroh	Freedom	\$50
	3061	A. Flores	Cambridge	\$50
	14263	L. Stam	Waupun	\$50
	12044	D. Kluge	Baraboo	\$50
Apr. 11	6110	K. Mielke	Lomira	\$50
	7108	F. Raschka	Stevens Point	\$500
	3223	P. Hartwick	Beaver Dam	\$50
	11588	S. Tippet	Minocqua	\$50
	1643	D. Larsen	Beloit	\$50
	5218	M. Rogowski	Muskego	\$50
Apr. 18	13290	M. Krueger	Cambridge	\$50
	9482	R. Frish	Chilton	\$50
	2029	K. Fritsch	Wauwatosa	\$50
	3416	J. Jarrett	Oconomowoc	\$50
	8253	M. Hawkins	Green Bay	\$50
	10723	H. Walker	Cameron	\$50
Apr. 25	13431	Y. Hubbard	Almena	\$50
	7560	VFW Post 388	Wausau	\$50
	12046	K. Kluge	Baraboo	\$50
	4753	S. Wisniewski	Delavan	\$50
	118	J. Sherman	Cambridge	\$50
	980	M. Dettart	White Lake	\$50

Raffle Winners are also posted on the VFW State Website – [vfwwi.org](http://vfwwi.org) – following the Friday drawings at VFW State Headquarters. On the website home page, click on **NEWS**, then scroll down and click on **VFW RAFFLE CALENDAR NEWS**.

## Congratulations to our 2025 Frank Brown Scholarship Recipients All received \$500 Awards

Gavin Cepress, Stratford  
Jim Frandsen, Tomah  
Luke Herink, Roberts  
Amanda Hoeft, Cashton  
Allie McKay James, Camp Douglas  
Cameron Paulsrud, Oregon  
Nicholas Ritchie, Appleton  
Margaret Salmon, Kenosha  
Tyler Sonie, Tomah  
Luke Tempski, Sparta

## Thank you to these Wisconsin Posts for their support of the VFW NEWS.

For more information on Post Booster Ads, contact Editor Marla J. Morgan at: [wivfweditor@gmail.com](mailto:wivfweditor@gmail.com).

## PEWAUKEE MEMORIAL POST 9537

Meetings — Third Wed. of the month  
Post open 4:00-8:00 p.m., Mon-Wed-Fri.  
HOME OF THE STATE HONOR GUARD  
The greatest little Post in the State

11/21

## GROSS-YAKSH Post 6498

Home Post of  
Past Cdrs-in-Chief  
Walter G. Hogan  
and the late  
Tommy “T” Tradewell


11/21



THINGS TO DO

Wisconsin Veterans  
of Foreign Wars News





# TRADITIONS


STORIES OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY & COMMUNITY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## 175 Years of Stories 6 Branches of Service Together in a New Exhibit

View “Traditions: Stories of Service to Country & Community” to see how Wisconsin veterans helped build a nation during and after service.

### March 14 - July 6, 2025



**WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM**

30 W. Mifflin St. | Madison  
WisVetsMuseum.com  
*Free Admission*

1.833.839.8387 VFWSTORE.ORG  
Prices valid through 8/31/2025  
Plus Shipping & Handling



VFWSTORE.ORG

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Silver with red VFW Logo.  
Polyester.  
60 x 28". Made in the USA.  
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**VFW COOLING TOWEL**  
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Cool fiber.  
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**LIFE MEMBER CARD** Include your name, Life Member number and date, Post number, city and state.  
Aluminum.  
Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.  
1125 \$12.00




**ZIPPO® LIGHTER AND ETCHED LOGO CASE** Limited Edition, numbered case. Single torch insert, push-button ignition. Adjustable blue flame height. Shipped with no butane. Cannot request specific number. No returns. 1092 \$54.00



**SILVER AND GOLD COIN SET** 1.5" 0.999 silver coin (made in the USA) and 1.5" 24K gold-plated coin (imported). Comes in hard black clamshell vinyl-covered case.  
1948 \$149.95






## DONATE to VFW of Wisconsin Programs, including the WI VFW NEWS

When you donate, rest assured those funds will stay right here in Wisconsin.

You're helping Veterans, Service Members and their families in our own backyard.

Thank you for all you do for your fellow Veterans.





## VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION

**August 3, 2025  
10am-3pm**



**Exhibits • Lunch • Movie • Camaraderie**

**LUNCH: 11AM-1PM**  
An RSVP is required before July 25. To RSVP, please email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.org](mailto:museum@thehighground.org) or call 715-743-4224.

**PRESENTATION: 1PM** Pamela Alwin Fullerton presents the documentary “Honor in the Air” about her brother, Vietnam Huey Pilot, Captain Scott Alwin. Captain Scott Alwin, the son of a Wisconsin minister and one of 16 siblings, served as a helicopter pilot with the Army's 68th Assault Helicopter Company during the Vietnam War. During his five tours in Vietnam he was awarded 136 Air Medals, Vietnam Republic Medals, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, and Distinguished Flying Crosses.

For updates to the schedule, visit our website:  
[thehighground.us/events/vietnam-veterans-reunion-2025](https://thehighground.us/events/vietnam-veterans-reunion-2025)

If you would like to sponsor the lunch, please email Theresa at [museum@thehighground.org](mailto:museum@thehighground.org) or call 715-743-4224.

The Highground



W7031 Ridge Road, Neillsville, Wisconsin 54456 | 715-743-4224 | [thehighground.us](https://thehighground.us)





CVI President Greg Fritsch (left) demonstrates the van's features for Cdr. Ron Ramos; NCM and PSC Cory Geisler; SVC Ty Letto and Auxiliary Dept. President Cheryl Woodards.

## New CVI Van Hits the Road

It's always nice to see the wonderful results of our Department fund-raising challenges. During the 2021-2022 Cory Geisler Command year, the first Joint Special Project raised \$30,000 toward the purchase and maintenance of a new van for the Center for Veterans Issues (CVI) in Milwaukee. CVI President Greg Fritsch visited VFW State HQ recently to show off all the bells and whistles on the new vehicle, which will transport Veterans to and from their VA appointments. Lookin' good! Photos courtesy of Adam Wallace and Tom Heath.



Love the signage on the new van!

## Post 7694 Steps Up Big with Sauk Prairie Donation



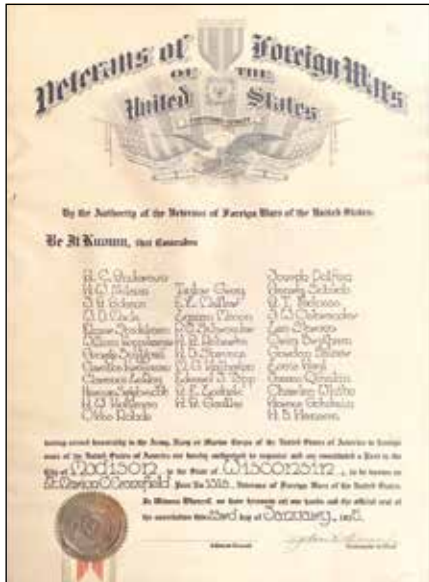
Lachmund-Cramer VFW Post 7694 donated in a big way recently to support the Village of Sauk City, with an \$88,185 contribution toward newly installed metal bleachers at the Chuck Hall Memorial Baseball Park. With convenient handrails, stepping and space for handicapped seating, they are a welcome replacement to the previous wooden bleachers. Here, Post 7694 member Don Ballweg (left) presents the big check to Village President James Anderson and Recreation Director John Lehan, prior to a Sauk Prairie HS baseball game. The donation goes a long way toward the \$103,000 total price tag. Great job Post 7694! Thanks to Bart Mauch of VFW Post 7694.

## Post 1318 Celebrates a Century of Service

Lt. Marion C. Cranefield VFW Post 1318 in Madison held a well-attended dinner to celebrate their 100th Anniversary in early April, after holding a more casual Open House event in January. The Post namesake was a Madison native and WWI Veteran, KIA in July 1918 at the age of 22, during the Battle of Grimpettes Woods, near Château-Thierry, France. Initially buried in France, his remains were disinterred in 1921 and brought home to Madison and the Forest Hill Cemetery. Post 1318 was mustered January 23, 1925. Thanks to Post QM and PSC Gundel Metz for info and photos.



Post 1318 Commander Steve Eisenhower (left) displays the Post's Century Award while State SVC Ty Letto looks on and Post member, WWII Veteran Karl Kleemann, assists. Karl served with Bravo Battery, 485th AAA Battalion in the Pacific, participating in the liberation of the Philippines. A 77-year member of the Post, he has served as Guard for decades, still attending the monthly Post meetings and other activities. We wish him continued good health as he prepares to celebrate his 102nd birthday this summer!



The youngest member of Post 1318, Lauren Tamura (left), and nearly 102-years-young Karl Kleemann cut the anniversary cake as Post Cdr. Eisenhower looks on.

## Post 10430 Marks 50th Anniversary

Clinton Memorial VFW Post 10430 received its Golden Anniversary Certificate at the District 1 Spring meeting in Twin Lakes. The Post was chartered on April 6, 1975. From left are: D1 Cdr. James Cairo, and Post 10430 members Mike Morouney, Jim Schumacher, Don Long, Roger Dearth and Duane Johnson. Thanks to D1 Commander James Cairo.



## Phillips Outdoor Supports Holmen VFW



Local business Phillips Outdoor Services owner Ben Phillips recently recognized VFW Post 7908 in Holmen for their outstanding efforts in supporting Veterans. A check of \$500 was donated to the Post at their General Membership meeting in April. From left are: Oren Brown; Tim Carrier; Barry Larson; Dean Nedvidek; Tyson Phillips; Cdr. Matthew Barbour (back row); Ben Phillips; Harold Hubert; Larry Hoyer. With thanks to Post 7908 JVC Barry Larson.