

MARYLAND COMBAT VETERAN



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U. S.

JAN - FEB 2017

VOLUME 40, NO. 4

State Commander



T. C. Williams

Comrades,

"Choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong"

I wish you and yours a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. Hope your Holiday met all of your expectations.

Membership as of December 31, 2016 is 88.10% with 2,452 members to pay. We have time to work on this, but we have to work at it. We have eight (8) posts that have reached 100%. Congratulations to them. Early in the year it was stated that to qualify for a 100% jacket, 100% had to be obtained by December 31, 2016. This date has been extended to February 28, 2017 due to the subscription dues program. Jackets will be awarded at the Convention. Keep on top of your program and keep recruiting. It would be great to see 50 or more posts at 100%.

Early in December I was invited to be interviewed for the Bowie Public Television monthly Veterans Program. If you are interested in viewing this riveting, 30 minute, cinematic epoch, it may be viewed through the following link: https://youtu.be/ju_hVrQDKOc. There is an underscore character between ju and h.

Thanks to Bob West and Ray Chaterly for the invite.

We have the VOD and Patriots Pen Banquet on the 29th of January at Post 8950 on Good Luck Road. It would be nice if all the District Commanders or their representative could be present to escort their respective winners.

Don't forget the Commanders Special Project. Donations are a bit slow.

T.C. Williams
Commander



Commander's Special Project

Caring for the
Families of Fallen
and Wounded
Special Operations
Forces

www.specialops.org



The Special Operations Warrior Foundation is the proud recipient of ten consecutive four-star ratings

State Sr. Vice Commander



William Miller

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters;

Happy New Year!

Here's hoping that 2017 is a Banner Year for the Department of Maryland. Now that all the festivities are done, it's time to knuckle down and work our programs hard. Use the Department sponsored 50/50 Life Program to gain new members and convert annuals. If you aren't familiar with the program, give your Post or District Commander a shout. The program has

been used well to convert current annual members, but we need to use it for new members as well.

The Department now stands at 88.10%, well behind the 90% goal set by the State Commander for the end of December. Let's start talking up our VFW accomplishments and get new members to bolster our numbers.

As for Program Reporting, don't forget to report our efforts on the Community Activities Report and get them downtown to be recorded.

Again, Happy 2017, and I hope to see you around the Great State of Maryland.

Bill Miller



State Chief of Staff



Keith Kaider

Comrades,

November was a busy month. It was a pleasure to accompany the State Commander to the Eastern States Conference in Camp Hill, PA. It was my first time at Eastern States and I especially enjoyed the Flying Squadron presentations on Saturday afternoon. Between Staff Meetings, Council of Administration meetings, my home Post activities and Veterans Day ceremonies, the month flew by.

Going forward, the State Commander has tasked me to schedule a visit for him and me to as many of the Maryland VFW Posts as possible starting in January. I look forward to meeting many more of my comrades as we make these trips.

Remember that the Commander's top priority continues to be MEMBERSHIP. I hope, by now, everyone is aware of the 50% life membership initiative. The Department has answered the question, "What can the Department do for membership". Now is the time for us all to promote that program and fill our Posts with life members.

Please don't forget the Commander's Special Project. Free secondary education for children of Fallen Special Operation Forces and other family services are provided through the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

Save the date March 18, 2017. The Commander's and President's Testimonial at Post 6506 in Rosedale. See the flyer sent by the State Adjutant for details.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Council of Administration meeting in January.

In Comradeship,
Keith Kaider

State Quartermaster



D. Harvey Cunningham

Comrades,

The Department 50% Life Membership Program is going well. I told everyone at the last Council of Administration meeting that we discourage the use of a credit card to pay the Veterans half. The Department cannot process credit cards. Credit Cards cannot be used online with National for the 50% program, which means they have to be sent to National for processing. This

can sometimes take over a month. As of this writing we have converted 107 Annual members to Life Membership. The total cost so far is \$ 16,148.00. The Council of Administration approved the program for a three (3) year period at a maximum expense of \$50,000.00.

Membership: As of today the Department is at 88.10%. The goal for every Post should be 100% on December 31. Most of us will not meet this goal, but we must continue to work. Remember the membership year runs until 6/30/2017; we still have time for you to make your 100%. We now have Eight (8) Posts that are 100% in the Department.

Effective 1/1/2017 the Internal Revenue Service will adjust the mileage rates that many of us use for our travel and other reports. They will be:

- 53.5 cents per mile for business miles driven, down from 54 cents.
- 17 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 19 cents.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable

Yours in comradeship,

D. Harvey Cunningham

State Judge Advocate



Victor Fuentealba

Comrades,

With a new President and many new members of Congress taking office in January, no none can predict what the future holds for veterans benefits. Based on the speech that President-elect Trump gave at the VFW National Convention, our interests will be in good hands.

The Maryland General Assembly also will be convening in January and from all reports, the State is facing some financial problems. Our annual effort to increase the exemption from State income tax on veterans retirement income will probably be again facing an uphill battle. In any case, I and the Joint Veterans Committee will be keeping a watchful eye on the coming session and I will keep you informed of any significant developments that might affect you and our other members.

.Vic Fuentealba



MARYLAND COMBAT VETERAN

Publisher/Editor: Linda MacArthur, PSP

The newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Department of Maryland, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 101 North Gay Street, Room J, Baltimore, MD 21202 combatvet16-17@comcast.net

State Chaplain



Rev. Ron James

Comrades,

First let me remind all of the holidays in the next two months.



January 1, Last Day of Chanukah,

January 16, Martin Luther King Day

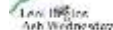


February 14, Valentine's Day.

February 28, Mardi Gras,



March 1, Ash Wednesday,



March 17, St. Patrick's Day



I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am the Program Chair for Youth Programs. Please get a Boy or Girl Scout to the Department. I know that every week almost every county in the State has a new Eagle Scout. Let the VFW give these Scouts some recognition.

Please do not forget that there are still warriors in troubled areas of the world. I hope you sent something to them for the holidays to let them know we were thinking of their sacrifice. If you did not send something "to the troops" during the holidays, PLEASE send them something now. Packages from HOME are always enjoyed when you are so far away. I remember gifts from family at Christmas when I was in Vietnam. I also remember things that came after Christmas, and it was like having another holiday.

I say a small prayer each night for our military, and their dependents. I am always available to anyone who needs, or wants a Chaplain. Call me ANYTIME (410) 829-6308 or email: VFWchaplain@verizon.net" I work for YOU, the Veteran. God Bless All

REV. RON JAMES

State Surgeon



Roy Lare

Comrades,

Veterans Services

Veterans of the United States armed forces may be eligible for a broad range of programs and services provided by the VA. Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions, and certain benefits require service during wartime. If you are [new to the VA](#), the [Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet](#) will help you get started.

Health Care

VA's [health care](#) offers a variety of services, information, and benefits. As the nation's largest integrated health care system, VA operates more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics; community living centers; domiciliary; readjustment counseling center; and various other facilities.

Benefits & Services

VA administers a variety of [benefits and services](#) that provide financial and other forms of assistance to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Major benefits include Veterans' compensation, Veterans' pension, survivors' benefits, rehabilitation and employment assistance, education assistance, home loan guaranties, and life insurance coverage.

Burial and Memorials

[Burial and memorial](#) benefits are available for eligible service members, Veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and eligible family members. Service includes interment, headstones and markers, and Presidential memorial certificates. VA operates 128 national cemeteries in the United States and Puerto Rico, together with oversight and management of 33 soldiers' lots, confederate cemeteries, and monument sites.

Roy Lare

410-754-8707 roylare@gmail.com

Copied from the VA site of benefits.

EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

Celebrating 50 Years



Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dorie Miller Post No. 5367

50th Anniversary Celebration



Sunday, November 20, 2016

Heritage United Church of Christ

3106 Liberty Heights Ave.

Baltimore, Maryland 21215



We Salute A Hero

World War II Hero

1919-1943



Dorie Miller

Dorie "Doris" Miller was born in Waco, Texas on October 12, 1919. He worked with his father on a farm as a sharecropper until he enlisted in the U. S. Navy as Mess Attendant, Third Class at Dallas, Texas on September 16, 1939. Dorie Miller was waiting tables in the junior officer's mess hall when the call to battle stations was sounded aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia. America was at peace, but this was no drill. The date was December 7, 1941, and the West Virginia laid at anchor in Pearl Harbor. In the next few hours, Miller, a Negro mess man first class, persevered and received fame as one of World War II's first heroes. By the time Miller reached the deck, torpedoes already had ripped into the battleships Arizona and Oklahoma anchored nearby. Then, bombs smashed and mortally wounded the West Virginia's commander. Knocked down by the explosion, Miller scrambled back to his feet and carried the injured officer to cover. Then, as a hail of bullets laced the battleship's deck, Miller raced back to an unmanned machine gun. He had never been trained in the use of the weapon. Official Navy policy at that time relegated Negro sailors exclusively to the mess man's branch for the "Best interest in general ship efficiency."

Despite this, Miller blasted away at the Japanese and before the battle ended he had shot down four enemy planes. Dorie Miller was awarded the Navy's highest honor, the Navy Cross, for his heroism that day. The citation from Admiral Chester W. Nimitz commended him for "distinguished devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and disregard of his personal safety during an attack." He was awarded the Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal, entitled to the American Defense Medal, Fleet Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. A Navy destroyer was named in tribute to Petty Officer Dorie Miller. After it was over, his ship sank and the fleet crippled, Miller found himself assigned to another ship, again as a mess man. Now a mess attendant third class, December, 1943, he was aboard the aircraft carrier Liscombe Bay when it was torpedoed and sank in the South Pacific. He was listed as killed in action. He was ship's cook third class when officially presumed dead November 25, 1944.

A display on Dorie Miller is now in the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D. C.

Dorie Miller VFW Post No. 5367

In 1965, a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was organized by John H. Carter, Sr. A charter was awarded to them from the National Headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. In Witness on the 20th day of February 1966 and signed by Julian Dickerson, Adjutant General and Andy Boog, Commander-in-Chief.

Comrade Commander John H. Carter, Sr. was the first Commander of Dorie Miller Post No. 5367, V.F.W. The post consisted of fifty-four chartered members at that time. From 1967-1981, the following commanders have served the chair at least one or more time: Charles C. Butler, John H. Carter, Sr., John G. Herbert, William C. Quille (deceased 1-1-84), Frederick Furlow (deceased 1-26-84), Oscar L. Savage, George F. Randall, Thomas X. Yorkshire, Vernon J. Carter 1981-1983, Robert H. Roach 1983-1984 and Commander Robert H. Roach 1984-1985. There have been several Commanders over the years. Presently there is Commander Robert L. Reed, Sr. who has served in that capacity several times.


Dorie Miller Post No. 5367 V.F.W. has been very active such as but not limited to the following: sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens, co-sponsored with Walter Green Post No. 14 American Legion, Inc. in giving Christmas baskets to the needy; volunteered at the V.A. Hospitals; faithful Chairmen of the following Committees: Americanism, Buddy Poppy, Youth Activity, Loyalty Day, Environmentalist, Voice of Democracy, Drug Abuse, Community Service, Safety, Surgeon, Membership, MR & PH, Cerebral Palsy, Memorial Service and Auxiliary Liaison. Comrade Charles C. Carter has served as Historian.

Within the past 50 years, the Dorie Miller Ladies Auxiliary of 5367 was re-established. One of the past Presidents was Wilhelmina Weeks (deceased 6-4-09). The Auxiliary ceased to exist due to the membership dying out. In 2012, the Dorie Miller Ladies Auxiliary received a new charter with twenty-two members which included: Felicia Weeks, Margaret Bolden, Kathleen Green, Marian Harmon, Annette Benn-Reed, Dorothy Jenkins, Marian Wylie, Charlene Knight, Mary Weeks, Denise Weeks-Magras, Dr. Joyce M. Thomas, Melinda Mack, Stephanie Avery, Judith Fitch, Jacqueline Fitch, Doris Brodhuist, Gloria Dorsey, Gwendolyn Reed, Rosalind David, Patricia Price, Laura E. Ross and Sandra Simmons. It has since been renamed Dorie Miller VFW Auxiliary as the membership now encompasses males and females.


The Auxiliary has been busy with the following programs: Americanism, Hospital, Legislature, Veteran and Family Support, Youth, Scholarship, Membership, and Cancer. Highlights of projects are as follows: Annual High Tea and Chinese Auction; Annual Applebee's Fundraiser; sponsor monthly Bingo at Catonsville Commons Nursing Home, Attend Memorial Services at VA Hospitals and National Veteran Cemeteries; donated clothing, a bench, etc. for Loch Raven VA and other VA hospitals; provides goods and services to Homeless Veterans; host Veteran Day activities at: John Wesley United Methodist Church; Heritage United Church of Christ; and Catonsville Commons Nursing Home.

Two Dorie Miller VFW Post 5367 members (Commander Robert L. Reed, Sr. and Comrade Angela LaPrade) go down in history as they are among numerous other Veterans recorded in the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. "The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war."

Upcoming Events





Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars And Its Auxiliaries



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS DINNER

Sunday, January 29th, 2017 at 1:00 PM
Free State VFW Post 8950
9800 Good Luck Rd. Lanham, MD 20706

Come out and show your support for our students
as they express their opinion on this year's themes,
"My Responsibility To America" and "The
America I Believe In"

Testimonial Dinner

to Honor

*T. C. Williams, State Commander &
Betty Stahm, State President*



Charles Evering VFW Post 6506
4777 Philadelphia Road, Baltimore, MD 21237
Saturday, March 18, 2017
6:00 PM until 11:00 PM

Social Hour — 6:00pm ★ *Draft Beer, House Wine, Soda* ★ *Cash Bar for Other*
Cold Hor D'oeuvres with Fresh Raw Vegetable Display & Assorted Cheeses

Dinner — 7:00 PM
Choice of Entrée (select one)

Beef Bourguignon — Beef braised in red wine sauce served with Mushrooms, Onions,
Baby Carrots and Mashed Potatoes

Chicken Chesapeake — Baked Chicken Breast cutlet topped with Lump Crab Cream Sauce,
served over Rice with Sauteed Green Beans.
Rolls with Butter and Dessert served with each dinner.

Entertainment by DJ Addiction - Bob Cross

\$45.00 Each Guest — Tables of Eight (8)

For More Information Please Contact Chairpersons:
Keith Kalder, VFW Testimonial Chair — 301-651-0798 — dketh@comcast.net
Pam Edmiston, VFWA Testimonial Chair — 410-866-4793 — parrrela.edmiston@comcast.net

Ticket Order

Please make your checks payable to **VFW Department of MD**; Earmark "Testimonial" and mail to:
Thomas Kimball, PSC - 1019 Queen Avenue - Salisbury, MD 21801
443-235-0742 - thomaskimball@comcast.net

Contact Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Send Tickets to (Name) _____

(Address) _____

No. of Tickets Requested _____ X \$45 = \$ _____

No. of Beef Entrees _____ **No. of Chicken Entrees** _____

Guest desiring to be seated at the same table **MUST** send in their ticket request together.
Please coordinate prior to submitting your request or we may not be able to accommodate you.
Please write legibly.

VFW Auxiliary State President



Betty Stahm

Dear Brothers, Sisters
and Comrades,



YOU DID IT!!!!!! What a Great way to start 2017!

The Department of Maryland has reached 100% Plus One in Membership! Well actually plus 456 as of this writing (12/31/2016) which brings us to 105.58%. On December 17th we were the first Department in the Country to reach 100%.

A GREAT BIG "Thank You" to our Department Treasurer and Membership/Leadership Chairman, Carole Betro, who worked endlessly to make this happen. I truly appreciate ALL your hard work. Libby DallaTezza, we are so Grateful that you are our National Certified Recruiter Trainer. You are always ready to share all of your knowledge to make us the Best Recruiters that we can be to grow our great Organization. Carole and Libby both assured me that we would be 100% before Christmas. I guess they have a direct line to Santa Claus. I also want to "Thank" all the Auxiliary Presidents and Auxiliary Membership Teams who responded to us and helped us reach this great accomplishment. Also thanks to the Auxiliary Treasurers who sent in their transmittals in a timely manner to help us reach our goal. No one does more for Veterans than the Veterans of Foreign Wars with its Auxiliary by their side. Thank you to all members of the VFW Auxiliary - Department of Maryland for your "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes"!!!!!! I am so Proud of You!!!!

However our work is not done. We still have continuous members that have not paid their dues. As of December 31st they are no longer a member in good standing. Please reach out to these members. We certainly do not want them to lose their years of service with us. We cannot forget those who have helped us become the great organization that we are. Make that phone call. You may find that your member needs your help. Maybe because of illness or their financial situation they are unable to pay their dues. That's where we come in to help by using our relief fund to help a member in need.

Department Secretary Lyn MacArthur, has been working behind the scenes to keep tally of each member of the former Men's Auxiliary in the State that have already joined the VFW Auxiliary. To date (12/29/2016) we have 1,346 male members. I can tell you that we still have a lot of prospective members out there. We will put this spreadsheet together and email to each Auxiliary the contact information we have from your former Men's Auxiliary. We need to continue to grow each Auxiliary. You ask why it is so important to grow our Department. Well, they are called Veterans! We need each and every dollar to go towards helping and supporting our Veterans. A paying member is an active member! Your dues money is put towards helping our American Heroes. Our membership numbers are also used in our Legislative causes for our Veterans and their families in Washington, DC.

This issue of Combat Vet I would like to feature our Legislative, Membership/Leadership & Scholarship Programs.

Legislative - We need to have our voices heard loud and clear. Priority Goals reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to help with problems facing our Veterans and our Military. Study the issues and "Train" our legislators to work for our Veterans and their families.

Membership & Leadership - We need to be Auxiliary Ambassadors to attract new members and share why we work for our Veterans. Make sure to welcome our brothers a seat on our train. We are proud of who we are and what we do for our Veterans

Scholarships - What a great opportunity for our youth and our members. Reach out to your local schools and PTA. Make sure to include resources other than our schools. Having family members who are teachers, I know firsthand the work that is involved in being an educator. It's not that they do not want to help, it's just hard for them to find the time. Try contacting your church, scouts, community centers, workplace and family members. Fast approaching is the Patriotic Art Contest and the Continuous Education Scholarship deadlines.

It is hard to believe that it is January and that we have 6 months already behind us. Truly I am sad that my year is moving so fast. Our Chairman have been doing such a great job with their programs. I am very pleased with their promotions and their motivation.

In closing, I want to express how very proud I am to say that I am the State President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Department of Maryland. Our members do make this an easy title to hold. Your endless work and commitment to our Veterans will always be remembered. Let's continue to make 2016-17 the very best that it can be.

*With Warm Regards,
Betty Stahn
410.598.5895*



VFW Auxiliary National Certified Recruiter Trainer



Libby DallaTezza

"AWESOME JOB" to the Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary!!!

Not only have we surpassed our annual goal, but we were First in the Nation to reach 100% plus 1 member. In fact, we are currently at 105.58% in membership and now have 1,366 male members in the Department of Maryland!

Keep Up the Great Work!



Now that you have your School of Instruction Degree,
you can further your education by attending the
Department of Maryland
Recruiting Class and Online Auxiliary Academy Class
Instructed by National Recruiter Trainer Libby DallaTezza

January 22, 2017

2pm

Molleville Farm VFW Post 467

519 Poole Road

Westminster MD 21157

*Advance Registration Required - Return below form by January 14, 2017 to Libby DallaTezza via email or USPS

Prize will be awarded to the Auxiliary with the MOST 1ST TIME ATTENDEES!

All 1st Time Attendees will be placed in a Drawing



School of Instruction 2016 Part 2 Registration Form
Return form by January 14, 2017 to Libby DallaTezza via email or USPS
Libby DallaTezza 1751 Keysville Road South Keymar MD 21757
vfwauxrecruiter4md@comcast.net

Auxiliary Name: _____	Post Number: _____
Contact Person: _____	Phone/Cell# _____
Email Address: _____	Number of Attendees _____

VFW Auxiliary Secretary



Linda MacArthur

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had a very good Holiday. I know we had a house full on both Christmas day and New Year's day. It was terrific spending time with family and friends.

As we start into the New Year, there are a few things that we need to pay careful attention to.

First, the Life Membership fees changed effective January 1st. A copy of the new Application was sent out in the January mailer along with a Brochure order form. Please destroy your old membership brochures and applications and order new ones as soon as possible.

Next, I ask all Auxiliary Presidents and Secretaries to review the information regarding election, installation and delegates (all levels) that was provided at the School of Instruction in June. These forms are also on the CD and Flash Card (with forms that are fillable if you have that capability). Please don't wait until the last minute if you have a problem with forms or questions. You can contact myself, Treasurer Betro, Chief of Staff Edmiston with your questions or concerns. Remember, according to National Bylaws, Article VIII, Sec 804A, Bullet #2, Elective Officers shall be nominated and elected at a regular business meeting in April and Article VIII, Sec 806A, Bullet #1 – Installation – Auxiliary Officers shall be installed in the respective offices not more than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the convening of the Department Convention (Tuesday, June 6, 2017). So your officers can be installed any time after April 6, 2017.

It would be helpful if you read Article VIII before your election and installation of officers. (Starts on page 67 of the National Podium Book - By-Laws section).

The Department VOD/Patriot Pen Banquet is coming up on Sunday, January 29th, 2017 at Post 8950 in Lanham, MD. Please come out to support your District winner. Post, Auxiliary and District members, you should follow-through with your winner. Let them know that they are important to you and that you are rooting for them to be selected as the Department winner. It is so sad to see a District winner with no one from their Post, Auxiliary or District even at the event.

The Commander's and President's Testimonial flyer is included in this newsletter (page 7). If you haven't brought it up at your Auxiliary meeting, please do so as soon as possible. And share with your Post Commander. If you are requesting tickets and want to sit together at the same table, please send your ticket requests all together to PSC Tom Kimball. If you don't submit your ticket request together, there is no guarantee that you will be seated together. We hope that you will come out and congratulate our Commander and President for their achievements thus far this year!

We are gearing up for our first joint fundraiser in April and thank you to those who have already sent in their donation as a Hole sponsor. We would like for every Auxiliary to donate that \$100 to sponsor a Hole on the golf course. Your Auxiliary name (or whatever you would like) will be placed on a sign for all to see. So let's get that recognition and help the Department of MD raise those funds for our Wounded Warrior and other programs that benefit our Veterans. If you would like to donate an item for the raffle or door prizes, you still must submit the form (in the January mailer or found on page 3 of this newsletter). If you have questions, please contact Co-chair Pam Edmiston at pamela.edmiston@comcast.net.

Please stay warm and safe during the upcoming winter months. Watch out for the ice and snow (hopefully we won't see too much of either).

Loyally,
Lyn MacArthur