

# MARYLAND COMBAT VETERAN



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

**MAR - APR 2017**

**VOLUME 40, NO. 5**

## State Commander



T. C. Williams

Comrades,

Here it is already March, nine months into this administration. I will say that we are far below my target goals for Membership and the Special Project. Membership is at 92% the goal was to be at 98%. The Commander in Chief has challenged each Department to be at 95% by Saint Patrick' Day, possibly because he is Irish. This is an achievable goal. We will need 3 percentage points at 206 per point or 618

paid-ups by March 17th. There are 15 posts in the Department that need fewer than 15 members to reach 100%. We have given you the Life Member Buy Program. How about giving the Department those annual members to achieve this goal?

You the Membership elected the Officers of your Post, District, and Department to be the caretakers of this organization and to see that the important work is carried out. It is up to us to do everything in our power to alleviate the plight of the Veteran, his widow, and orphaned children, to see that those in need get the proper attention.

Elections are on the near horizon and I would ask that the elected officers are those who WANT to do the job and that proper election reports and warrants are all correctly submitted.

The Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy contests are over and the national winner standings will be available on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. I will disseminate this information as soon as I return from the Legislative Conference. Congratulations go out to District 7 and those assigned Posts for offering up both winners, and the Department Chairmen Mike and Mike. Great Job comrades.

The Testimonial is on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Post 6506. The Council of Administration to follow on the 19th at Post 6506. Hope to see a lot of you there. The following weekend, on Saturday March 25, the Department will be performing a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery.

Remember to pick the harder right over the easier wrong.



*T.C. Williams*  
Commander

## State Sr. Vice Commander



William Miller

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters;

This year is quickly disappearing. Many of the programs are winding down, but the one program we need to work on, and can until June 30<sup>th</sup>, is Membership. As of this writing, the Department of Maryland only needs 1741 members to be 100%. Many Posts only need 10 to 15 for the White Hat requirement of 100% membership. It can be done comrades! Use the 50/50 Membership program to get new members. If you don't know what that is, contact your

Post or District Commander, or contact me at [millerbill406@gmail.com](mailto:millerbill406@gmail.com). Get your Membership committees to contact those who have not paid yet.

On another note, I will be running for, and hopefully obtain, the high office of State Commander in June. Many of you have been asking the State Adjutant about my Motto and my Logo for the shirt. My motto for the year will be **"Giving Star-Spangled Veteran Service Daily"** and the Logo on my shirt is pictured here. The Shape of Fort McHenry, The Home of the Star-Spangled Banner", filled in with the Maryland State Flag, with the National colors flying overhead.



I will have Shirt Order forms available at the C of A, and it is also available on the State Web Site at [vfwmd.org](http://vfwmd.org) in the members' section. All Shirt Orders received by 31 March will be delivered at the Ocean in June. There will be no shirts available for sale at the Ocean, however orders will be taken. No orders will be accepted after the July C of A, so get your order in now.

Please address any other questions or concerns to me at the email above.

**"Giving Star-Spangled Veteran Service Daily"**

*Bill Miller*

## State Jr. Vice Commander



Denise Perry

Comrades,

I want to thank the VFW and Auxiliary members who sent cards, flowers, and gifts when my mother passed in November. We are truly One VFW. We are approaching the end of our year. Most of the programs have been completed. The number one program left is Membership. I know we talk about where we are for Membership as a Department, but everything starts at the

Post level. Being a 100% Post, District or Department is more than an award, a hat, or a pin. We need both the new ideas and support from new and reinstated members.

### ***VFW National Legislative Committee***

I attended the 2017 VFW National Legislative Conference. I met with all eight Congressmen and our two Senators or their staff. I want to thank the Auxiliary for joining me in my meetings. Our number one issue continues to be Sequestration and Budget Caps. Some of the other issues or bills we pushed for are to fix the Appeals Back Log and Expand Caregiver benefits to include pre - 9/11 veterans. Ending concurrent receipt of Military Retiree and VA Disability pay and the Survivor Benefit (SBP)/Dependent and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Offset is another bill that will help veterans and their families. I attached our 2017 Priority Goals below for more information about Legislation. I also have a link to join Action Corp.



You will receive The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved

when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

<http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps>.

*Denise Perry*

# VFW 2017 PRIORITY GOALS

## Support Today's Veterans & Military

Help us ensure an adequate VA system will be there for the millions of current and future veterans.

When you visit your congressional representatives, please stress these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 115th Congress. These goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary to find out who your congressional representatives are, visit the VFW website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and click on the Advocacy Grassroots Efforts.

## Play a Role in the Process

Ensure that these Priority Goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW's Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter at [www.vfw.org/weekly](http://www.vfw.org/weekly).



## — 2017 — Priority Goals

**Washington Office**  
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
Tel. (202)543-2239  
Fax (202)543-2961

**National Headquarters**  
406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Tel. (816)754-3390  
Fax (816)968-1199



## — 2017 — Priority Goals



### Budget

Congress must fully fund VA and DOD programs and services. To achieve this, Congress must:

- End budget sequestration and adjust outdated budget caps.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Authorize public/private partnerships for VA's infrastructure needs.

### Work Force Development and Accountability

To attract and maintain a quality workforce Congress and VA must:

- Improve hiring authorities to recruit and retain a high quality workforce.
- Provide quality training programs for employees and managers.
- Quickly investigate, discipline and remove employees who underperform or endanger veterans' lives.

### Health Care

Congress and VA must ensure that veterans receive timely access to high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric care at no added cost to veterans by:

- Conducting demand/capacity analyses in each community.
- Consolidating VA's community care programs into a single, integrated system.
- Modernizing VA's scheduling system.
- Expanding current caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras.
- Strengthening VA and DOD mental health programs.
- Expanding gender-specific programs and competencies.

- Providing care and benefits to veterans and family members impacted by toxic exposures.
- Improving research for Traumatic Brain Injuries.
- Improving the review process for veterans with Other-Than-Honorable discharges.
- Preventing the increase of pharmaceutical co-payments.

### Compensation and Benefits

Timely and accurate disability ratings are the gateway to compensation and other benefits. To ensure veterans and their dependents have access to these earned benefits Congress and VA must:

- Reform the appeals process.
- Accept private medical evidence when processing disability compensation claims.
- Require treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Extend presumptive conditions for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI and toxic exposures.
- Expand nursing home eligibility for all veterans.
- Increase burial allowances, expand marker medalion eligibility, and include spouses' information on all headstones.

### Education, Employment and Transition Assistance

To ensure veterans have an opportunity to obtain meaningful employment after leaving military service, they must have access to:

- High quality and sustainable education benefits.
- Strong employment and training programs.
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment services throughout their lifetimes.
- Small business development opportunities.
- Civilian credentials or academic credit for the professional training they receive during service.
- Government hiring and contracting opportunities.
- A national veterans treatment court advocate within VA.
- Homeless reintegration programs.

### Defense/Homeland Security

Congress, DOD and Department of Homeland Security must fully support U.S. troops and their mission to fight the war on terrorism and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world by:

- Halting the development and/or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Fully fund and deploy a U.S. missile defense system.
- Securing America's borders.

### Military Quality of Life

Congress and DOD must maintain a quality and comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force. To achieve this they must:

- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Pass full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation.
- Eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset for surviving military retiree spouses.

### POW/MIA

Congress and DOD must make POW/MIA recovery a national priority by:

- Ensuring the POW/MIA Accounting mission is fully funded.
- Expanding partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.

NOTE: This brochure can be downloaded from the VFW website for distribution.



## State Adjutant



Douglas MacArthur

Comrades;

I would like to announce the winners and congratulate all of the participants in the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Contests. We had great participation this year and I hope the participants who did not win, will return next year for another try at that First place award.

### Voice of Democracy Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Colton Ramsey, MACA, Mt. Airy, D7 Post 10076  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Grace Mottley, John Carroll School, D5, Post 8672  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Malia James, Leonardtowne High School, D1, Post 9376

### And all the other Voice of Democracy participants:

Kyle Zhu, Richard Montgomery High School, D2, Post 2562  
Levi Demers, Calvary Christian Academy, D3, Post 6775  
Marcello Russo, Easton High School, D4, Post 5246  
Aidan Wang, The Severn School, D6, Post 160  
Jadyn Gomez, Bohemia Manor High School, D10, Post 7687  
Dakota Cromer, The Seed School of Baltimore, D11, Post 10078  
Kent Chesley, Salem Christian Academy, D14, Post 6506  
Madison MacDougal, James M. Bennett High School, D16, Post 8276

### Patriot's Pen Winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Srikar Bala, Clarksville Middle School, D7, Post 7472  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Lera Wilson, Rock Bridge Academy, D6 Post 304  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Gavin Gray, Bennett Middle School, D16, Post 2996

### And all the other Patriot's Pen participants:

Gabrielle Moore, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, D1, Post 8810  
Kamrya Howard, St. Marys of the Assumption, D2, Post 7757  
Gavin Kinnie, Westmar Lonaconing, D3, Post 9451  
Abby Bilbrough, Chesapeake Christian School, D4, Post 5118

Erica Honadel, Southampton Middle School, D5, Post 8672  
Jael Xavier, Mount Aviat Academy, D10, Post 8175  
Chloe Zheng, Maree G. Farring School, D11, Post 6458  
Brandon Baux, Golden Ring Middle School, D14, Post 6506

Throughout this newsletter you will see flyers for the Testimonial (there is still time to get your ticket requests in), and here you will find a donation letter for the First Annual Golf Tournament co-sponsored by the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. Time is creeping up fast so please get either your monetary donation or your in-kind donation which will be used for the raffles and door prizes in to Department Headquarters as soon as possible. We appreciate your generosity and want you to understand that the first 50% of proceeds benefit the VFW Maryland for Wounded Warriors program. The other 50% will be split evenly between the VFW and VFW Auxiliary to benefit other programs as needed. We need your support for this Fundraiser to be successful, so get your donations or your Team applications in today!

Our next CoA meeting will be on March 19, 2017 at Charles Evinger VFW Post 6506 starting at 12pm – VFW Uniform (Blue & Gray with Commander's (or other) tie).

The Annual Raffle tickets have been mailed and we are receiving returns on a daily basis. If you would like more tickets, please do not hesitate to contact me at Department headquarters. Remember, the "Early Bird" drawing will be after the CoA on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 410-752-6474. Please forward all faxes to the Department Hqtrs at 410-783-2939.

In Comradeship,  
*Doug MacArthur*



NO ONE DOES MORE



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary State of Maryland First Annual Golf Tournament

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

December 19, 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters;

We are pleased to announce that the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are hosting their FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. The Tournament will be held on April 21, 2017 at Ruggles Golf Course at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

In addition to providing a networking atmosphere for our members and guests each year our golf outing serves as a core fundraiser. Funds raised are used for the VFW MD Wounded Warrior Program and our VFW and VFW Auxiliary.

We are offering you the opportunity to showcase your Post, Auxiliary or Business at this event. Please consider enhancing your Post, Auxiliary or Business's visibility by "Sponsoring a Hole". All Hole Sponsors will have a sign prominently displayed at the tee! As is a tradition in these tournament events, we would like to hold a raffle for prizes such as clothing, hats, sporting event tickets, golf equipment, etc. Contributions of raffle items are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged at the event.

We want to make this first year a successful one. Thank you in advance for your consideration and continued support of our Military. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Pam Edmiston at 443-831-7728 or Doug MacArthur at 410-459-1275.

Please detach and return your completed form to:

VFW Department of Maryland War Memorial Building, Room J 101 North Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Checks should be made payable to: VFW Dept of MD and earmarked "Golf Tournament" All donations are tax-exempt; our Tax ID is 52-0517415.



Yes! We will sponsor a Hole for \$100.00! Our check number \_\_\_\_\_ payable to VFW Dept of MD is enclosed.

Please provide the following information for your sign:

(Post, Auxiliary or Business Name)

Your Name

Yes! Will contribute a Raffle Item! The item will be: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ to arrange for delivery.

To be properly acknowledged during the tournament, please return this form as soon as possible before April 7, 2017. Thank you.

National Representatives to Visit Commander and President's Testimonial and Council Meetings in March



Debra Anderson, National Quartermaster General will be the guest of the Department of MD VFW at the Commander's and President's Testimonial on March 18, 2017.

Debra will also be joining us for the Council of Administration meeting to be held on March 19, 2017 at Charles Evering Post 6506, Rosedale, MD at 12:00 noon.



Lorraine Cannon, National Council Member Number 3

will be the guest of the Department of MD VFW Auxiliary and representative of the National Organization at the Commander's and President's Testimonial on March 18, 2017.



Lorraine will also be joining us for the Council of Administration meeting to be held on March 19, 2017 at Charles Evering Post 6506, Rosedale, MD at 12:00 noon. All Officers, District Presidents and Department Chairmen are asked to attend this meeting, but it is also open to every Auxiliary Member in the Department of Maryland. Greetings are appropriate for her visit.

## State Quartermaster



**D. Harvey Cunningham**

Comrades,

The Department 50% Life Membership Program is going well. I would just like to repeat 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 the end of February 2017 we have 167 New or Converted Life Members. The total cost as of February 28, 2017 is \$ 26,972.16. The Council of Administration approved the program for a 3 years period at a maximum expense of \$50,000.00.

Membership: As of today the Department is at 92.56%. The goal for every Post should be 100%. The deadline for membership jackets was changed to February 28, 2017. As of now we have 15 Post Commanders qualified for Jackets. Remember the membership year runs until 6/30/2017, we still have time for you to make your 100%. We now have 15 Posts that are 100% in the Department. In the last month the Department of Maryland moved up in the National Standings from 27th to 21st. Let's keep on it, work those unpaid lists and make the Department of Maryland 100%.

As most of you already know, I will be a candidate for State Quartermaster at the State Convention again this year. I would like to ask you all for your support. Thank you.

Yours in comradeship,

*D. Harvey Cunningham*



## State Chief of Staff



**Keith Kaider**

Comrades,

In January and February it has been my pleasure to accompany the State Commander on his visits to several Post Meetings. It has been a great experience to see how each Post conducts their meeting. While the basics are provided in our By-laws and Rituals, each Post's presentation has a unique flavor that I enjoyed observing. The Commander and I will continue these visits during March and April.

Please make your reservations and plan to attend the Commander's Testimonial March 18<sup>th</sup> at Post 6506. I have gathered some material from TC's family and a service comrade to provide some anecdotes about our Commander. I hope to see many of you there.

I also hope you will join the Commander and Auxiliary President when they present a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington on March 25<sup>th</sup>. I hope to have passes (from those who have relatives buried in Arlington) that we can use to get everyone close to the Tomb without having to take the Tram. I will provide details at the Testimonial and the March Council of Administration.

In Comradeship,  
*Keith Kaider*

### 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](mailto:combatvet16-17@comcast.net)

# Upcoming Events Around the State

**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

**Special Menu — 6:00pm** ★ **Drill Beer, House Wine, Soda** ★ **Cash Bar for Other**  
Cold Hot D'esserts with Fresh Raw Vegetable Display & Assorted Cheeses

**Dinner — 7:00 PM**  
Choice of Entree (select one)  
**Beef Bourguignon** — Beef braised in red wine sauce served with Mushrooms, Onions,  
Baby Carrots and Mashed Potatoes

**Chicken Chesapeake** — Baked Chicken Breast sauté topped with Lump Crab Green Beans,  
served over Rice with Sautéed 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:**  
Beth Kubes, VFW Testimonial Chair — 410-511-0798 — bethk@comcast.net  
Pam Edmiston, VFW Testimonial Chair — 410-666-6799 — pam.edmiston@comcast.net

**Ticket Order:**  
Please make your checks payable to: **VFW Department of MD**, Formwork "Testimonial" and mail to:  
**Thomas Winkler, PSC - 3819 Quince Avenue - Solisbury, MD 21881**  
**443-333-0742 - thomawinkler@comcast.net**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Ticket to Please: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address: \_\_\_\_\_)  
No. of Tickets Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ 7 390 - 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of Beef Entree \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Chicken Entree \_\_\_\_\_**

Seating desiring to be seated at the same table MUST send in their ticket request together.  
Please consider prior to submitting your request or we may not be able to accommodate you.  
Please verify table.

MCVET  
"Veterans Helping Veterans"  
"No Veteran Should be Homeless"



**Rock Around The Clock!!**  
**Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 8 pm till**  
**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> Midnight**


The Port Deposit VFW Auxiliary, Post 5185, is sponsoring a rock around the clock event to benefit The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, Inc. (MCVET). This event features 24 hours of non-stop music by your favorite local DJs. So get yourself a sponsor and dance for our veterans!

**RAFFLES! SILENT AUCTION ITEMS! WHISKEY WHEEL! WINE WHEEL!**


**ADMISSION: \$2.00 DONATION AT THE DOOR**

**DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT 4PM-8PM \$26.00 PER PERSON**


**CONTACT POST 5185 AT 410-642-9917 OR EVENT COORDINATOR, BOB CROSS 443-334-1187 FOR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SEE LIST OF EVENTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFO)**



VFW POST 521 AUXILIARY  
Invites you to join us for a  
**FASHION SHOW  
& AFTERNOON TEA**  
A Portion of the Proceeds  
will Benefit MCVET



**DATE: MARCH 11, 2017**  
**TIME: 1:00 - 4:00PM**  
**LOCATION: VFW POST 521**  
**284 TOLLGATE RD.**  
**OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117**  
**TICKETS: \$25**  
**INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS,**  
**VENDORS & CHANCE AT PRIZES!**  
**FOR TICKETS CALL: 410-526-6543**



**COMMITTED TO OFFERING A  
MILITARY-TRIC (TRIPLE) SEAMLESS  
CONTRIBUTION OF CARE  
THAT HELPS VETERANS IN NEED  
TRANSITION FROM DEPENDENT TO  
INDEPENDENT LIVING.**



**Don't Be Late  
Don't Be Late  
For A Very Important Date!**

Slide Down the Rabbit Hole on **April 2, 2017**  
We are having a Tea Party at **1pm**  
It starts until who knows when  
We will laugh and have fun  
Please join us at VFW Post 6506  
Until the party is done  
We will be wearing a hat  
You wear one too  
For we will have prizes for that  
It's a Mad Hatter Tea Party  
Please mark the date  
RSVP so your presence is planned  
We hope you will join us in Wonderland!

VFW Auxiliary Post 6506  
8777 Philadelphia Road Rosedale MD 21237  
Menu to include: Soup, Scones, Tea Sandwiches and Dessert  
\$15.00 Paid in Advance \$20.00 Tickets at the Door  
Includes Tickets for Chinese Auction

For more information: Betty Stahm 410.598.3295 bjtahm226@hotmail.com  
or Pam Edmiston 410.666.4793 aunjama@comcast.net  
For Reservations please call Cass Kropp 410.666.6185

## VFW Auxiliary State President



Betty Stahm

Dear Brothers, Sisters  
and Comrades,



There are no words to describe the pride I have for the VFW Auxiliary - Department of Maryland. We have accomplished so much this year. Our work is being noticed by our National Organization and by my fellow Department Presidents. It doesn't get much better than "Team Maryland"!

Our membership finished out February at 110.03%. Thank You to Carole Betro, PDP/Department Treasurer, for continuously working so hard at getting the continuous members to pay their dues. As we are bringing in our new members we cannot forget those who have been members for many years. Again I say pick up the phone and contact your unpaid members. It has been reported by National that it takes an average of 6 touches to get a continuous member to pay their dues.

Also in February, the Department was notified by our National Organization that our own Libby DallaTezza, Maryland's National Certified Recruiter Trainer, had achieved the final level – Level 11 – of the Achievement & Reward Program for our National Certified Recruiter Trainers. Libby is the second National Certified Recruiter Trainer to reach this final level. To achieve Level 11, Libby trained at least 60 VFW/VFW Auxiliary members who each recruited 5 members. With this honor the Department of Maryland was awarded \$500 to be deposited to the Department of Maryland's National Certified Recruiter Trainer Budget for the 2016-2017 program year. Way to go Libby!

I would like to thank Sandi Kriebel, Lyn MacArthur, Pam Edmiston, Libby DallaTezza, Dr. Joyce Thomas and Charlene Knight for accompanying me to represent the Department of Maryland at the National Mid-Year Conference. What a showing we made. We were recognized at the Conference for achieving 100% plus one in Membership, one of twelve Departments to accomplish this before February 15th. At the Ambassador's presentation the following

Department Chairmen were recognized for their Outstanding promotions - Jo Ann Bush, Veterans and Family Support; Mary Cardinal-Vogt, Legislative; and, Party Patty Palmer (as Martine Arndt called her) Youth Activities. It was noted by your Ambassador what a great job you are doing as Department Chairman. Thank you to each and every one of you for a job well done!

To finish out the month, we were notified that our Patriot's Pen contestant Srikar Bala placed 11th in the National Veterans of Foreign Wars Competition. Srikar was awarded the Grace Minnick Memorial Award in the amount of \$1,250.00. On February 27th I had the great honor of escorting along with State Commander T.C. Williams, our Voice of Democracy Contestant Colton Ramsey to the stage in Washington, D.C. for the announcement of the National Winners. We are pleased to announce that Colton was awarded 2nd place with a \$16,000.00 Scholarship. The VFW Auxiliary - Department of Maryland is so VERY PROUD of both young men. Thank you for your patriotism and representing our State.



Commander Williams and President Stahm  
escort MD Winner Colton Ramsey at the National  
Parade of Winners in Washington, D.C.



In this issue of the Combat Vet I would like to feature our Veterans and Family Support and Youth Activities Programs.

**Veterans and Family Support** - All programs compliment this program. Our duty to our Veterans and their families are first and foremost. When planning your events remember to include family events as well. There are more and more young Vets with families. This is what it truly comes down to; the Veteran and the Family. We know now that what affects the Veteran affects the family. Veterans join the VFW for the comradeship and understanding that only military service can foster. Their family members love them, want to support them and also need that tie to a larger community that understands their life. We need each other. We need the VFW Family to stand up and fight for what's right for Veterans and their families on Capitol Hill because it matters. We need the VFW Family to surround one another when hardship strikes because it will. We need the VFW Family to stand as one to show our fellow citizens that patriotism and love of country is a beautiful thing because it is.

**Youth Activities** - The Youth of today are our Future Leaders and Members of tomorrow. Reach out to them and include them in our programs. Share with them what our Veterans have done for them. Contact local youth groups to have them participate in your events.

We have accomplished so much this year. How rewarding it is when someone comes up to me to comment what a great job Maryland is doing this year. It is because of each and every one of you and your dedication to our Veterans. It saddens me that the end of the Auxiliary Year is fast approaching and it will not be long until I am a PDP. Keep that Train a Rollin' for our Veterans until we get to our final goals. *Be that Little Train that could!* Together we are accomplishing great things. We Are.....The Department of Maryland!!!!!!!



With Warm Regards,  
*Betty Stahn*  
410.598.5895



## **VFW Auxiliary Secretary**



Linda MacArthur

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

Time is growing short for Nominations and Elections for 2017-2018. I again 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, or 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 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. There are still tickets available. If you are requesting tickets and want to sit together at the same table, please send your ticket requests with check 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 or gotten a "team" together. We would like for every Auxiliary to donate \$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 March mailer or found on page 5 of this newsletter). If you have questions, please contact Co-chair Pam Edmiston at [pamela.edmiston@comcast.net](mailto:pamela.edmiston@comcast.net). Time is drawing short so if you plan to participate, please get your check in as soon as possible. It would be a shame to have to cancel this fundraiser due to lack of VFW and VFW Auxiliary support.

Just returning from the Mid-Year Conference Cruise and a trip to Disney World in Florida (when they were having one of the warmest weeks in history) I must say this cold weather is a real shock to the system. Please stay warm and safe. .

Loyally,  
Lyn MacArthur



St. Patrick's  
Day

### 2016-2017 Schedule of Events

2016	Event	Location	Time
Mar 18	Comander & President's Testimonial	Charles Evering Post 6506, Rosedale, MD	TBA
Mar 19	Council of Administration Meeting	Charles Evering Post 6506, Rosedale, MD	12:00 pm
Apr 21	Joint VFW & AUX Golf Outing Fundraiser	Ruggles Golf Course, APG, MD	TBA
June 5-8	Maryland State Convention	Princess Royale, Ocean City, MD	
Jul 22-26	National Convention	New Orleans, LA	

This is a work in progress. Last updated 2/28/16.7