

# MARYLAND COMBAT VETERAN



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

**SEPT - OCT 2016**

**VOLUME 40, NO. 2**

## State Commander



T. C. Williams

Comrades,

I am saddened to report the passing of, Past State Commander, Elwood S. Knight Jr. Woody was a much beloved Commander from the Eastern Shore Area. The Department provided full honors at his viewing on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

National Convention is over and the new Commander-In-Chief, Brian Duffy, has begun his program year. His project for the year is Mental Health and Suicide

prevention.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the personnel who worked our hospitality room at Charlotte: Percy and Marcie Elliott and Tom and Marion Rippon; you all did a great job.

Most of the long road travel is over, only the CICs Homecoming remains. I have started post visitations so don't be surprised if you see me in your area. These are meet and greets and a time to listen to your concerns.

Summer is coming to an end and it is time that we all get down to work on our core programs. Membership should be a top priority for everyone as it is the lifeblood of the organization. In addition it is the time of year that the yellow urban assault vehicles return to the highways and by-ways, so caution is advised in order to protect their little passengers.

POW/MIA Day is approaching on September 16<sup>th</sup>, all Posts should observe and report their activity regarding their observance of this event.



Make sure that you and yours are registered to vote. The elections are coming soon, and if you don't vote you forfeit your right to complain.

Remember choose the harder right over the easier wrong.

*T.C. Williams*  
Commander



## *The State Honor Guard*

The State Honor Guard's origins began in 1969 when 5 comrades from VFW Wicomico Memorial Post 10159 marched in a VFW sponsored Loyalty Day Parade in Salisbury, Maryland. As a result of many positive complements given the marching comrades, they decided to form a Post Color Guard, marching in their personal government issued class A uniforms for 2 years before they were able to raise the funds to purchase their own distinctive uniforms.

In 2003, the VFW Post 10159 Color Guard was selected to be the "back-up" Honor Guard for the State of Maryland Honor Guard. They served in that capacity for 5 years traveling throughout Maryland with the State Commanders serving during that period.

In 2008 the Color Guard of VFW Post 10159 was selected to be the official VFW State Honor Guard for the Department of Maryland. In this capacity they travel hundreds of miles annually in service of our State Commanders, accompanying the State Commander at all official functions, including but not limited to; meetings of the Department Councils of Administration, VFW Memorial services for fallen comrades, awards ceremonies i.e. Loyalty Day, Buddy Poppy, VOD/Patriot's Pen, Independence, Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies.



They also play a significant role at the State Convention in Ocean City, Maryland. In addition, they accompany the State Commander to the VFW National Convention, proudly representing the State of Maryland in public ceremonies sponsored by the National Convention.



Our State Honor Guard is composed of the following dedicated and persevering comrades, Col. Reginald J. Elzey, Lt. Col Calvin J. Mitchell, Cpt. Robert C. Mitchell, Cpt. William M. Price, Jr., Dennis Fairell, William T. Dennis, James R. Simpson, Dwight W. Watson, Warner Curtis, Carlos Darman, William Barkley and Gregory Smith.

Throughout the years the State Honor Guard has worked tirelessly and successfully representing our great organization and we owe them our gratitude and respect. The next time you see them, walk up to them and give them a well-deserved "Thank You".

## State Sr. Vice Commander



William Miller

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters;

Well, here we are roughly 25% through our Administrative Year. I'm hoping that you are all working your membership and other Programs hard. We need to do all we can in all our Programs to ensure Commander T.C. Williams attains All-American State Commander status. 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

District Commanders received the program parameters at the last C of A.

The upcoming months hold many Program opportunities: Patriots Day, POW/MIA, and the VFW Anniversary plus Veterans Day not farther out. All Posts should be planning ceremonies for these occasions. And don't forget to report them on your Community Activities Report under Americanism. Hopefully I'll hear of some of these ceremonies so I can attend them if my schedule allows.

Looking forward to all your successes on behalf of our Veterans and I'll see you around the state!

*Bill Miller*



## State Jr. Vice Commander



Denise Perry

Comrades,

I hope all of you had a nice restful summer. Now we have to get to work. The membership year has already started. The Department has a great program to increase membership. Contact the State Membership chairman or the State Quartermaster for all of the details. The Department will be part of the "Veterans Muster" at the Senior Expo at the Timonium Fairgrounds on Oct 26-27<sup>th</sup>.

I attended the Junior Vice Commander and Quartermaster Conference last month. We learned a lot of technical information and about some of the new things that are coming in the next few weeks.

- VFW Mental Wellness Campaign – On October 8, 2016, the VFW and Give an Hour will be hosting the first annual "Day to Change Direction," which will be a day to share resources with your Post members to **"Know the Five Signs"** of emotional distress, then join together to complete a community service project of your choosing. I included the link to get more information about the program and you can contact Lynn Rolf III, Director of programs at (816) 968-1116. (See the National Message on this subject on page 5 of this newsletter)  
<http://www.changedirection.org/VFW-service-project>
- VFW Foundation - The VFW Foundation will be offering new Post and Community Grants this year. Check the VFW Foundation site for more information.  
<http://www.vfwfoundation.org/>



- Programs – The VFW is rolling out a new site for Transition and Employment. Here's the link for a sneak peek at the new site. It will be fully operational in a few weeks.

<http://www.vfw.org/Assistance/Transition-and-Employment/>

There will be a Virtual Job Fair on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

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

I will be attending the Nation Legislative Conference September 12-15. I will be lobbying the Maryland delegation on the Issues listed below:

- Ending Sequestration – Budget caps and Sequestration means less benefits and services and a burden for veterans and service members and their families.
- Caregiver Benefits – Provide caregiver benefits to veterans from all eras.
- Toxic Exposure – Expand research for veterans and family members who suffer from diseases and illness from Toxic Exposure.
- GI Benefits – Budget caps and Sequestration are causing Congress to look at the GI bill to pay for other programs

I receive a monthly listing of Town Hall meetings that Representatives and Senators hold in the community. I can send it out to you if you would like to attend. I can also send you copies of the current talking points. Send me an email at ([deniseperryea@gmail.com](mailto:deniseperryea@gmail.com)). Don't forget to sign up for action corps. <http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/>

*Denise Perry*

## **State Chief of Staff**



**Keith Kaider**

Comrades,

July was a busy month traveling with the Commander to District Meetings, the National Convention in Charlotte and the Yellow Ribbon event in Baltimore. For me, a highlight of the National Convention was my chance to meet all the State Commanders as I passed to them the small package of items from our Commander.

The Commander's Homecoming was held on August 6<sup>th</sup> at Post 8950 in Lanham. Thank you all who came. Bravo Zulu to Post 8950 for the great job they did in decorating and coordinating the event.

Going forward, the Commander's emphasis is on membership. With the Commander-in-Chief pushing us to use social media to reach a younger audience, I offer this youtube video as a way to introduce potential members to who we are and what we do. The link to the video is: <http://youtu.be/J8s-b0YxxTM>. Or you can search on Youtube for "VFW Recruiting"

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)

## ***FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS***

Good morning, VFW and Auxiliary leaders:

On August 8, Brian Duffy and Colette Bishop told us all about the Mental Wellness Campaign and "A Day to Change Direction," the day of action with Give an Hour and the Campaign to Change Direction. Here are more details so you can join on with this effort and execute a quality event.

### **First, the ask for October 8 is two-fold:**

- Conduct a community service project of your choosing. If October 8 does not work for you, or if you already have something similar planned, that is fine. The goal is to have as many community events on or around October 8 as possible.
- Discuss mental wellness in the context of "Know the Five Signs" of emotional stress. This can be done by a Post Surgeon, a local mental health care provider, a Give an Hour volunteer, or a VA care provider. If you want to know how to find someone to assist, please let us know. We will provide the necessary info in the coming weeks to Post/Department leadership who sign up to participate on October 8.

**Second, please have your Posts and Auxiliaries contact us via email to confirm plans to participate in the October 8 event or a previously scheduled Mental Health Awareness event: [LRolf@vfw.org](mailto:LRolf@vfw.org).** We want to have a solid list of participants by September 9, 2016 to report to our Give an Hour partners for coordination of local resources. This list should include the following information:

- Post/Auxiliary Name/Number
- Post/Auxiliary Address
- Central Point of Contact Name and valid email for each
- Numbers of Post/Auxiliary anticipated to be participating

Third, please familiarize yourself with the Campaign to Change Direction and their training on "Know the Five Signs." This can be done via the website:

<https://www.knowthefivesigns.org/tools/oc/Bo/KnowTheFiveSigns>.

**We also highly encourage you to consider signing a pledge to support the Campaign to Change Direction as a Post, Auxiliary, or Department,** which you can do via this link, and signing up as a "Military" supporter: <http://www.changedirection.org/make-a-pledge/partner-pledge/>

Finally, leading up to the event, we will provide you with links to resources to help you before, during, and after your event. These resources will be provided courtesy of our partners with Give an Hour, and will be available once you have signed on to participate in "A Day to Change Direction." We will also ask for specifics about the community service project and anticipated volunteer participation.

We hope this is enough information to get you started on making "A Day to Change Direction" a success. If you have any questions about the Mental Wellness Campaign or this specific event, please contact us.

Yours in Comradeship,

Lynn Rolf  
Programs Director  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
[LRolf@vfw.org](mailto:LRolf@vfw.org)

Cara Day  
Director of Programs and Communications  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
[cday@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:cday@vfwauxiliary.org)



## State Adjutant



Douglas MacArthur

Comrades;

Well, the Department and the National Conventions are now history. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate D10 Commander D. Harvey Cunningham, Post 3285 Commander Hugh Warner, Post 6506 Commander J. J. Everett and Post 8185 Commander Bruce Edwards, and their Quartermasters for making All State. On the National level, John R. Webb VFW & Auxiliary Post 3285 received the Outstanding Community Service award for Maryland and

Post 3285 Commander Hugh Warner received the honor of All American Commander. Hard work really does pay off

I am also happy to report that all 2016 Convention delegate fees have been paid in full. Thank you to John Gistedt and the Registration Committee for all of their hard work making this a reality.

I have been asked to remind you to please get your reports into your Program Chairmen in a timely manner. Reports have been slow coming so far this year. Let's get on top of this before you fall too far behind.

Department has been receiving notifications of additions/corrections/changes to the Directory. Please make the changes below to your 16-17 Directory:

- Post(s) marked as District 17 should be District 2 (but you really already knew that, right?)
- Chaplain Ron James' e-mail is [vfwchaplain@verizon.net](mailto:vfwchaplain@verizon.net)
- S.O. Mary Walters e-mail is [mary.walters313@va.gov](mailto:mary.walters313@va.gov)
- Post 10081 meets at: Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum, 11000 Crain Highway, Newburg, MD 20664
- District 1 meets at 13:00hrs on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

- Policeman/Fireman/Paramedic of the Year Chairman should be: Ed Holland, 301-848-3476, [hollandnmd@aol.com](mailto:hollandnmd@aol.com)
- Post 6027 Post e-mail should be [vfw6027@gmail.com](mailto:vfw6027@gmail.com)
- Post 6027 Commander's email [srbensley@gmail.com](mailto:srbensley@gmail.com)
- Post 465 Quartermaster's email [jimrich@zoominternet.net](mailto:jimrich@zoominternet.net)
- Post 9451 has a name change approved and pending from National **from** Clifford B. Sissler VFW Post 9451 **to** Oldtown Memorial VFW Post 9451

Future change notifications will be posted monthly to the website once we reorganize the webpage.

**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 21, 2017** - The Department of MD VFW and VFW Auxiliary are working on a Joint Fundraiser to benefit VFW Maryland for Wounded Warriors and other Veterans Programs. We will be hosting a Golf Tournament at Ruggles Golf Course, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. This event will be open to all and you don't have to be a golfer to participate. More information will be forthcoming along with registration and donations forms in the near future. So plan on getting that foursome together for some fun to benefit a truly worthy cause!



Our next CoA meeting will be on September 17, 2016 at Port Deposit Post 8185 starting at 12pm – Summer Uniform. The Commander will be making a visit to the Perry Point VA Carnival immediately afterward and all are welcome to join in.

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*

## State Quartermaster



**D. Harvey Cunningham**

Comrades,

As I write this article I have been Quartermaster for approx. 2 months. The transition has been made a lot easier with the help of our Jr. Vice Commander and our Adjutant. I will be leaving in a couple of days for the Quartermaster Conference in Kansas City, MO. and hope to learn a lot at National Headquarters.

As you all know Quartermaster Bonds are due by August 31, 2016. If you have not sent in your Bond application, please do so as soon as possible. Do not forget if you do not get your bond through the Department, please send proof of Bond coverage to the Department as soon as possible.

As we move forward into the 2016-2017 year, there are some changes from National. A decision was made at the Jr. Vice Commander and Quartermaster's Conference in August that effective September 1, 2016, all Departments would receive dues payments on a monthly basis. Also, the decision was made to make it mandatory for Posts to sign up for dues payment by ACH. A resolution was to be presented to the National Council of Administration when it met the end of August. If approved, National will send a letter to each Post that is currently not on ACH to inform them that they have until December 31, 2016 to sign up. National has provided a list of those posts along with the ACH form which I will be sending out to those on the list under separate cover in the event that you would like to get this taken care of sooner rather than later.

I am also the membership Coordinator for Commander Williams and his "Jump in and help a Vet Team". I know that this time of the year it is easy to forget about membership. But the longer you put off working membership the less your chance of meeting your Post and District Goals for the year. It should be the goal of every Post in the Department to be 100% in membership this year.

*D. Harvey Cunningham*

## State Judge Advocate



**Victor Fuentealba**

Comrades,

The 117th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was more notable for its guest speakers rather than its business sessions.. Both presidential candidates spoke, one on Monday and the other on Tuesday to a room packed with delegates.

There were only eleven proposed changes to the National By-Laws and only four were adopted. The most important change was the adoption of B-11 which states that effective December 31, 2016, all Men's Auxiliary Charters shall be canceled and the units disbanded. Surprisingly, there was very little debate on this significant change and it was adopted with little opposition.

Seventeen proposed amendments to the Manual of Procedure were considered and nine were adopted. Five changes to the Ritual were considered and three were adopted. Compared to the many previous National Conventions that I have attended, I would say that this was one of the least controversial in many years.

With the elimination of the Men's Auxiliaries, it is now of extreme importance that those members who are eligible, join the existing Auxiliaries so that they can continue to assist their affiliated Posts as they have in the past.. Our Auxiliaries are an important part of our organization and we must continue to assist them and work with them for the betterment of our Department, Districts and Posts.



*Vic Fuentealba*



## State Chaplain



**Rev. Ron James**

Comrades,

Please plan to go to a 9/11 Remembrance Service. It was a terrible tragedy for our country. Over 3000 citizens died that day!

God is a big part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars procedures, and our daily routine. I often think of the old saying: "There are no atheists in a foxhole!" I think of the United States of America as a foxhole during the past few years, and consider how there

should be no atheist among us.

This nation was founded on religious freedom, not the freedom of the few to not let the majority practice their religion. A few are trying to get the "UNDER GOD" removed from the pledge of allegiance. If this happens, then "In God we Trust" will soon be off our currency.

Crosses are being taken down as a result of a few people being vocal. Prayers are already out of schools, and people are not letting their children join the scouts because of the reference to God in the Oath. Let's keep God in the U.S.

The only large religious holiday this period is Yum Kippur on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have USS Cole services on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.

I am always available to each member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their family. 24/7 (410) 829-6308.

*Rev. Ron James*



## State Surgeon



**Roy Lare**

Comrades,

Hi, it's Roy again. Last month I neglected to thank everybody for voting me to this office. I'll do my very best to keep you informed.

**What is Cancer?** Cancer can start any place in the body. It starts when cells grow out of control and crowd out normal cells. This makes it hard for the body to work the way it should.

Cancer is not just one disease. There are many types of cancer. Cancer can start in the lungs, the breast, the colon, or even in the blood. Cancers are alike in some ways, but they are different in the ways they grow and spread. The cells in our bodies all have certain jobs to do. Normal cells divide in an orderly way. They die when they are worn out or damaged, and new cells take their place. Cancer is when the cells start to grow out of control. The cancer cells keep on growing and making new cells. They crowd out normal cells. This causes problems in the part of the body where the cancer started.

Cancer cells can also spread to other parts of the body. For instance, cancer cells in the lung can travel to the bones and grow there. When cancer cells spread, it's called metastasis (meh-TAS-tuh-sis). When lung cancer spreads to the bones, it's still called lung cancer. To doctors, the cancer cells in the bones look just like the ones from the lung. It's not called bone cancer unless it started in the bones. More about cancer next month.

It has been extremely hot the last few weeks, so watch yourself and your family. Take plenty of precautions in the summer. We are probably griping about the heat, but it won't be long and we will wish we had some of it back. December. January. BRR !!!

*Roy Lare*



## State Inspector



**Bobby Brown**

Comrades,

During our State Convention I had the opportunity to talk with the Inspector General, Doc Schmitz. First thing I asked him was, as Inspector General, what is his major concern; he told me that he felt that his number one priority was to ensure that each member of the VFW understood and appreciated the importance of our collective adherence to the By-Laws, Procedures and Rituals

of our organization. He advised me that each Department Inspector should demonstrate strong support to the Department Commander by ensuring that each Post and District abides by the established standards set forth in the By-Laws and Procedures. As Inspectors we must scrutinize each inspection report and attempt to identify the strengths and weakness of each Post and District and recommend corrective action to the Department Commander when required.

As a result of our conversation, State Inspector with Inspector General, I realized Doc Schmitz and I were on the same page. We both strongly believe in the VFW and all it stands for. We understand that our organization depends on the regulations and administrative requirements that were established by the leaders that served before us. We understand that we must promote the adherence to the "hard stuff", the "paper work stuff" and the "computer stuff", if we are to remain as the nation's premier Veteran's Service Organization. We must do all the "hard stuff" and we must do it in accordance with our by-laws and procedures. I am asking each Post and District Inspector to follow Commander T.C. Williams' motto "Choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong." We have deadlines to meet and guidelines to follow, inspections and audits to complete. My faith and confidence in each and every one of us dictates that as a team we will excel!



In comradeship,  
*Bobby Brown*

## **Meet the New National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief**



**Vincent "B.J." Lawrence**  
**Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Vincent "B.J." Lawrence was elected junior vice commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 27, 2016, at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

B.J. served with the United States Army from 1983 to 1986, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Korea, where he earned the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Upon joining VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, he immediately began to dedicate his efforts toward moving the organization forward into the new millennium and beyond. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected to command his Post, District and the VFW Department of New Mexico, as well as serving on the National Appeals Committee, and as vice chairman of the National Legislative Committee. He was also elected to the VFW National Council of Administration in 2009.

During the 2010 VFW National Convention, he joined the ranks of a select few when he was recognized for his distinctive membership recruiting achievements on the Post, District and Department levels by earning the coveted designation of "VFW Triple Crown Winner."

B.J. attended the New Mexico State Law Enforcement Academy, New Mexico Firefighters Academy, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Narcotics Enforcement School. He served his community as a police officer for several years, including time as an undercover agent. Prior to his retirement in 2015, he was a private investigator and owner of Lawrence Investigations.

In 2008 he became a Legacy Gold Life member. He is also a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and the Military Order of the Cootie.

B.J. and his wife, Mary, reside in Alamogordo, N.M.

-VFW-



# COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING 8/6/16





## PRESIDENT'S HOMECOMING 8/20/16





# EVENTS AROUND THE STATE



## YOU'RE A WINNER

*We thank you for participating in our parade this year. We hope you enjoyed being part of our celebration and hope you will be able to be with us next year on*

**Sunday, July 2, 2017**

*to help us celebrate our 67th year.*

*Congratulations on being chosen a winner by our judges. Thank you for making our parade possible.*



*Havre de Grace  
Independence  
Celebration Committee*



**Congratulations to Weedon-Elliott VFW & Auxiliary Post 8126 who placed Fourth in their division of the parade on July 3<sup>rd</sup> for their decorated float!**



Aberdeen VFW & Auxiliary Post 10028 hosted Col. Gary West at a dinner and flag ceremony on Thursday evening August 18<sup>th</sup> at their Post home as he traveled across the State of MD raising money for the "Folds of Honor" charity which provides educational scholarships for the children and spouses of fallen and disabled service men and women.

The Flag of Special Agent Thomas A. Crowell – Maryland was raised at VFW Post 10028, lowered to Half Staff and then he was saluted. Afterwards, all 16 American flags representing states from Maine to Florida and the District of Columbia were unfolded and refolded by VFW & Auxiliary members. Signatures of the flag folders were included with each flag and will be given to each states recipient when the flag is presented. Attendees were then invited to sign the lead car.

Special Agent Thomas A. Crowell, 36, was assigned to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Detachment 301, Scott AFB, MO. He was killed near Balad Air Base, Iraq from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. Special Agent Crowell's family resides in Maryland and his son is a Folds of Honor Children's Fund Scholarship recipient.



## VFW Auxiliary State President



Betty Stahm

Brothers and Sisters,

"All Aboard!.....Well, ya comin' Where?  
To help our Veterans, of course.

### ***This is the VFW Auxiliary Express"!***

Many of you may already know and as stated in the August VFW Auxiliary newsletter, the VFW voted at its National Convention to remove the section of its Bylaws that allows the formation of Men's

Auxiliaries. As of January 1, 2017, there will no longer be any Men's Auxiliaries. We know that this is a great disappointment to many people. It is the hope of the VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland, that members of the Men's Auxiliary, if eligible, will join the VFW Auxiliary. The VFW Auxiliary has a nationwide network of half a million members who have the structure and programs in place to serve Veterans and the Military longer, bigger and better than most Veterans service organization in this country. This decision is about Family. This is about unity. The VFW Family doesn't need more factions. It doesn't need segments and cliques and divisions. It needs to be 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. And their family members love them, want to support them and also need that tie to a larger community that understands their life. We don't need more awards or programs to take home. 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.

To date the VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland has had 440+ male members join us. The total of male members that have joined across the country is currently at 13,870+. It is now one organization with ONE CAUSE.....Our Veterans!

To the VFW Auxiliaries across the great State of Maryland, I urge you to invite and welcome our brothers into our organization with open arms. Their Veteran, their Hero made them eligible to join us as we together support and serve our Veterans, our Military and their families. Be mentors to our brothers and to all new members. We have years of experience showing "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes". Together we will make a difference.

This issue of Combat Vet I would like to feature our **Americanism Program**. The definition of "Americanism" was originated by the Commanders-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the National Commanders of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans of the World Wars at a conference held in Washington D.C.; in February 1927. "Americanism is an unflinching love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity".

Our Program Goals this year are:

Flag Education,  
Promote Patriotism,  
POW/MIA Recognition and the  
SMART/Maher National Citizenship Education  
Teacher Award.

We in the Auxiliary take pride every day of the true Patriotism of our Veterans and that is why we do what we do. It is our American Heroes, our Veterans who served to keep us free and to live the life we have become so accustomed to.

We have a lot of events coming up in the next few months and we invite everyone to attend. I am looking forward to the Department visits to all Districts. It has been an exciting few months and I look forward to working with you and for you as we strive to be the best we can be.....Full Steam Ahead!



With Warm Regards,

Betty Stahm

410.598.5895



## FAQ (Frequently Asked Question)

Many have asked about Men's Auxiliary members "transferring" to the VFW Auxiliary and/or why they have to show eligibility.

A former Men's Auxiliary member CANNOT transfer to the VFW Auxiliary. They belonged to a state-run organization under their Department that was in no way affiliated with the VFW Auxiliary.

**According to our Bylaws, ALL new members (regardless of past membership in any other organization) MUST fill out an application, show proof of eligibility, pay dues and be voted on. There are no exceptions to this. The chart below shows eligibility requirements.**

### Circle of Eligibility



## VFW Auxiliary National Certified Recruiter Trainer



Libby DallaTezza

This Flyer will be in your September mailer. While there is no cost, you do need to register so we know how many to expect. Coffee and Cake will be served.

Looking forward to see you on November 12<sup>th</sup>!



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 and  
Department President Betty Stahm

**November 12, 2016**  
**11am to 2pm**  
**Lt Peter G. Zouck VFW Post 521**  
**214 Tollgate Road**  
**Owings Mills MD 21117**

\*Advance Registration Required - Return below form by October 31, 2016 to Libby DallaTezza via email or USPS

Class is being offered at No Charge. Coffee and Cake will be served

Recruiting Kit will be awarded to the Auxiliary with the MOST ATTENDEES!

All Attendees will be placed in Drawings for Recruiting "Tools"

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School of Instruction 2016 Part 2 Registration Form  
Return form by October 31, 2016 to Libby DallaTezza via email or USPS  
Libby DallaTezza 1751 Keyville Road South Keyster MD 21157  
vfwauxrecruiter4md@comcast.net

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

*Libby DallaTezza*



## VFW Auxiliary Secretary



Linda MacArthur

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

Well, President Stahm, her Officers and her Chairmen are back at work promoting our Programs and planning Official visits. The Department calendar for September and October is getting fuller every day. Please take a moment to review the calendar and plan on attending your Official District visit and other events that are in your area.

### 2016-2017 Schedule of Events

2015	Event	Location	Time
Sept 7	District 10 Official Visit	Elkton Memorial Post 8175, Elkton, MD	6:00 Dinner – 7:00 Mtg (WED)
Sept 10	District 3 Official Visit	Queens Point Memorial Post 6775, McCoolle, MD	1pm – (Sat) – Recruiter Trng at 11am
Sept 17	Celebrating America's Freedom Event CAFE	Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Keystone, SD	
Sept 24	District 1 Official Visit	Patuxent River NAS Post 2632, California, MD	12:00pm (SAT)
Sept 24	District 1 Picnic/Recruiter Training	Patuxent River NAS Post 2632, California, MD	After District Mtg
Oct 1	District 2 Official Visit	TBD	TBD (SAT)
Oct 8	District 6 Official Visit	Ft. Smallwood Post 2462, Ft. Smallwood, MD	1:00PM (SAT)
Oct 11	District 11 Official Visit	Brooklyn Curtis Bay Post 2916, Brooklyn MD	6:00 Dinner – 7:00 Mtg (TUES)
Oct 12	USS Cole Wreath Laying	Harford Memorial Gardens (Joshua Parlett) Antietam National Cemetery (Patrick Roy) St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Craig Wibberley)	12:00pm (WED) 12:00pm 1:00pm (After Antietam)
Oct 15	C of A Meeting	William D. Byron Post 1936, Hagerstown, MD	1:00pm (SAT)
Oct 23-25	Ladies Auxiliary Jr. Vice Conference	VFW National Headquarters, Kansas City, MO	
Oct 29	District 5 Official Visit	Darlington-Dublin VFW 10146, Street, MD	1:00pm (SAT)
Nov 12	SOI Graduate School – Recruiting Class and Online Academy Class	Lt Peter G Zouck Post 521, 214 Tollgate Rd., Owings Mills, MD (No cost – but registration required) SEE Flyer	11:00am – 2:00pm (SAT)
Nov 18-20	Eastern States Conference	Camp Hill, PA	
Nov 20-22	National President's Visit		
Nov 20	Meet & Greet		TBA - SUN Evening
Nov 21	Tour of McVets (Downtown Baltimore)	Meeting location to be announced	TBA - MON
Nov 21	Dinner and fun	Yingling-Ridgely Post 7472	MON Evening
Dec 4	Auxiliary Christmas Conference	E. E. Streets Memorial VFW Post 5118, Easton, MD	TBD (SUN)
Dec 10	District 7 Official Visit	Monocacy Valley Memorial Post 6918, Taneytown, MD	10:00am (SAT)
Dec 17	District 14 Official Visit	TBD	TBD (SAT)
Jan 22	District 4 Official Visit	Grasomville Post 7464	1:00pm (SUN)
Jan 23-25	Ladies Auxiliary Sr. Vice Conference	Kansas City, MO	
Jan 29	Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Banquet	TBA	TBA
Feb 20-25	Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference	Western Caribbean 5 Night Cruise	
Feb 26 – Mar 2	Legislative Conf & VOD Parade of Winners	Washington, DC	
Mar 18	Commander & President's Testimonial	Charles Evering Post 6506	TBA
Mar 19	AUX – Council of Administration Meeting	Charles Evering Post 6506	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	

This is a work in progress. Last updated 8/31/16.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate IPDP Chris Koel and her Chairmen for the awards they received at the National Convention in Charlotte, NC in July:

**Chief of Staff:** Mary Cardinal Vogt

Awd #2 – Best Promotion using Healthy Auxiliary Materials

Awd #3 – Outstanding Performance

**Hospital:** Joyce Thomas

Awd #2 – Best Promotion of Hospital Volunteer Recruitment

**Membership:** Lee Lewis

Awd #12 – Outstanding Performance Runner-Up

**Scholarships:** Pam Edmiston

Awd #3 - Outstanding Performance Runner-Up

**Youth Activities:** Leola Bogdan

Awd #2 – Best Promotion of Youth Supporting our Veterans Citations

Awd #3 – Outstanding Performance

The Department also received a plaque from the National Home for Children.

During the National Convention the following actions were taken on the resolutions that were presented for vote:

- Life Membership Proposed Fee Increase – The Life Membership Proposed Fee increase was amended and the increase will be 15 percent in each category to be effective January 1, 2017.
- Section 101 – Reduce Eligibility Age for Members – DID NOT PASS
- Section 103 – Admission Fees and Dues – DID NOT PASS
- Section 202 – Reconcile Time Frame to Match VFW National Bylaws – PASSED
- Section 803 and 804E – Position of National Secretary-Treasurer – DID NOT PASS
- Section 809E – Vacancy in the Office of National District Council Member – DID NOT PASS
- Section 917 – Incorporation – PASSED
- Good of the Order – Uniforms – DID NOT PASS

The full resolution content was sent to your 2015-16 Auxiliary Officers last spring. If you would like to read more about the resolutions, you can visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).

Below is a copy of the bio distributed by National for the new National Guard who was elected at the Convention in Charlotte. As you may or may not know, there were four VFW Auxiliary members from the Southern Conference who were nominated. Congratulations to Jean Hamil on her election as National Guard.



## Jean Hamil

*National Guard*

*2016-2017*

Jean Hamil of Orlando, Florida, was elected National Guard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 103<sup>rd</sup> National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on July 27, 2016.

She is now in the first of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2021-2022.

A Life member of East Seminole County VFW Auxiliary 10139, she joined on the eligibility of her father, George W. Nunnery, a Korean War veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1973.

She has served the Auxiliary in several capacities including Auxiliary, District and State President. On the national level she has served as National District Council Member, National Director of the Membership program and is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA).

Jean is employed as a Manager, Food Safety & Environmental Compliance for A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

In her spare time she enjoys quilting, spending time with friends and traveling. She belongs to the Florida Cabin Fever Quilters Guild and also a small group of "Quilting Angels" who make quilts for veterans at the Orlando VA Healthcare Center, for children temporarily located at Safe House, and seniors in Seminole County.



Congratulations also go out to our own Sandi Kriebel, PDP and member of Auxiliary 7472. Sandi was elected National Jr. Vice President in Charlotte, moving her another step closer to the National Presidency which she will hold in 2018-2019.

Changes to the Auxiliary Directory will be going out in the September mailer. It is important to remember that any changes in President, Secretary or Treasurer should be reported immediately to either myself or Carole Betro, Department Treasurer.



*Lyn MacArthur*



**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
&  
AUXILIARY**

**EASTERN STATE CONFERENCE**

**NOVEMBER 18-20, 2016**



**RADISSON HOTEL HARRISBURG  
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CAMP HILL, PA 17011  
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For more information, please contact VFW Adjutant Doug MacArthur at [dugmac@comcast.net](mailto:dugmac@comcast.net) or VFW Auxiliary Secretary Lyn MacArthur at [lindamac55@comcast.net](mailto:lindamac55@comcast.net). (Additional information will also be in the VFW Auxiliary September Mailer)