

# THE MARYLAND VIV COMBAT VETERAN

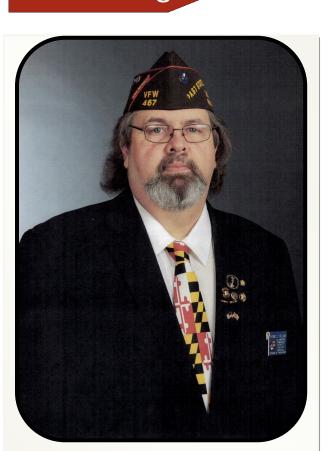
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March-April 2020

Volume 43—No. 5

# ONE FORCE ONE MISSION



Thomas Williams, Commander Dept. of MD Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dear Comrades,

I want to thank all the posts in the Department of Maryland - right now we are 97.54% in membership and Maryland is second in the nation! Everyone has done a great job. But, success comes with a price - LOL. When I started this year as commander I made a pledge to my membership chairman. If we make 100% in membership, I'll shave off my beard. It's going to be cold in the fall riding my motorcycle without facial fur.

Our Department is short on the Unmet Needs Program national donations. I am asking that each Post consider donating \$100 to the Unmet Needs Program. Also, all Dis-

trict and Post Commanders please make sure you've purchased your Buddy Poppies.

Congratulations to VFW Post 327, who celebrated their 100th Anniversary. I attended their ceremony and the post and auxiliary did a wonderful job with their celebration.

In February our Past Department Commander and present Department Quartermaster, STATE COMMANDER

Denise Perry, was honored at The Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Banquet. I was honored to be able to wit-

SEABEES
"CAN DO!"
2019-2020

Commander, Page 3



James F. Wade, Sr. Jr. Vice Commander Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades,

### VFW NATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure National Security through maximum military strength
- To speed the Rehabilitation of the nation's disabled and needy veterans
- To assist the Widow and Orphans and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans
- To promote Americanism through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

## Hello Comrades,

During my traveling throughout the State to various District meetings and Post meetings, I hear a lot of the same problems, issues and concerns, coming from our Districts and those various Posts. I acknowledge that our great organization isn't perfect. I know there are things that could run better or smoother. There is always something to improve upon or make better. This is not just an issue within our organization. I see this in all organizations, whether it's a Veterans organization, another nonprofit, and even large companies. Nothing will be perfect, but we can certainly strive to make it better for the entire organization.

I am putting a challenge out to all VFW members. This is everyone with the Department of Maryland and any other Department that they may read the VFW Department of Maryland's Combat Veteran's Newsletter. The challenge is TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION! My biggest disappointment is when a member tells me that coming up with the solution needs to be handled by District Officers, or State Officers, and even National Headquarters. If you as a member have a problem with how something is getting done with our organization, then please contact me, so we can work together towards a solution. We were all members of the military and even though we knew there were problems with our units, we worked hard to find solutions that would make things better for everyone. Since we left the military doesn't mean that we quit doing what made us who we are as leaders. It doesn't mean we sit

See Jr. Vice, Page 4

# STATE COMMANDER

Thomas C. Williams

### ADJUTANT

Arthur Westbrook

### **EDITOR**

Jacquelyn Kimball

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Send all communications for publication to MDVFWCombatVet@comcast.net. Deadline for submissions is on the 20th, during the months of June, August, September, December, February and April.

# WEBSITE

www.vfwmd.org



### **Commander**, from page 1

ness her receive The Thomas Wynn Veteran of the Year Award. Congratulations Denise!

On February 26<sup>th</sup> I'll be met with the top brass of the 5th Regiment National Guard in Baltimore where we discussed how the VFW can help them. The Guard has three units overseas right now. It's not just about helping our comrades overseas, but supporting their families back home. I'll have more information at the next C of A meeting.

Governor Hogan is putting service officers at the DMV now. The first one is in Glen Burnie, followed by Salisbury and Hagerstown. This should take some of the workload off our service office.

We're getting ready to "storm the hill" during the Legislative Conference the first week of March. Our national lawmakers are so geographically close that we in Maryland should have a great show of force. Please make an effort to attend, as this is one of the ways we help our veterans - by influencing Capitol Hill about veteran's causes. If you are attending please wear your Maryland tie or scarf. I want the Department of Maryland to standout.

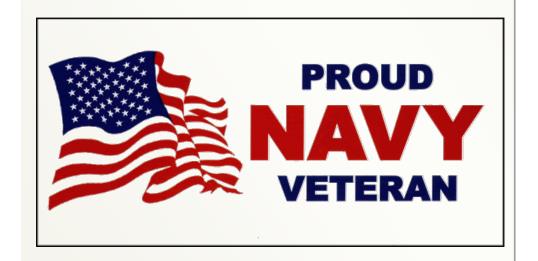
All District and Post Commanders make sure your paperwork is up to date for Department Convention. Don't wait until the last minute. **No paperwork - no vote**.

Just remember, **ONE FORCE—ONE MISSION**. See you at the Testimonial Dinner. President Cynthia and I are looking forward to a great celebration of our accomplishments.

Yours in Comradeship,

Thomas C. Williams

Thomas C. Williams, USNR State Commander



## Jr. Vice, from page 2

back and let others handle things. Let's get back to finding solutions to make our organization better. We are the premier combat Veterans Organization in this country and we need to continually work together to keep it that way.

I would like thank all the Department Chair Persons for doing an outstanding job with the selections of personnel that will represent the State of Maryland for the following areas:

Department Chair, Youth Activities: Comrade Dr. Christine Sandoval for a great job with the Patriot's Pen; Voice of Democracy; Loyalty Day Q&A Contest; Buddy Poppy Q&A Contest; and Youth Activities Department Chair Per-Comrade William Barkley "Tooson: Tall" for a great job with the Teacher's Award.

Also, I want to thank all Maryland's VFW and Auxiliary Posts, both Commanders and Presidents as well as those individuals who worked and volunteered their time behind the scenes in order to make everything happen. Just letting you know that you all are "Appreciated"!

I wanted to include a quote from our

Commander-in-Chief Williams "Doc" Schmitz from VFW Feb 2020 magazine, Vol 107 No 5.:

Ouote: "The Commander-in-Chief recalling a one Vietnam we cannot regrettably, call a VFW member. etnam War Veteran Joe Orr, who passed away last year, was denied membership at a VFW Post in Colorado and Texas when he returned from war. It's a loss we can never recover. and I'm personally outraged as a fellow Vietnam Vet that it occurred in the first place. Unfortunately, we can't make it right with Mr. Orr, but we can make sure it never happens again. Black Veterans, as well as all minority veterans are welcome in VFW. Anyone who is willing to put on the uniform of the U.S. military, defend the nation and earn a VFW qualifying award has every right to be a member of our great organization. We want \*them\* all to join." Unquote

My added quote from this article is \*(both Women and Men)\*

"Continue to Support our Department Commander"

In Comradeship, Family First; Veteran Always

James F. Wade, Sr.

Jr. Vice Commander



Judge Advocate Dept. of MD VFW

Comrades.

Any proposed amendments to either the Department By -Laws or the National By-Laws must be submitted in writing to Department Head\quarters no later than the close of business on Wednesday, April 15th, 2020. If you have any questions or need assisin tance preparing an amendment, feel free contact me and I will glad to assist you.

Vic Fuentealba



# From The Desk of the Surgeon

As we are all looking forward to the Department 100th Maryland Convention, please continue to recruit new and younger members.

**Brian Lankford** Surgeon Dept. of MD VFW

As a whole all District's Surgeons and

most Post Surgeons are doing an outstanding job. My Wife and I will be traveling to a few Posts in Western Maryland in the next few months. I want to thank each one of you for your continued support.

My intent is the same as it was at the beginning of the year, that every Post is successful and informed. My plans for the 2020-2021 VFW year are to submit a resolution and run for Department Junior Vice. Therefore I will not be seeking reelection as State Surgeon. I can not think of a greater Organization that does more good for Veterans. Thanks again and I look forward to continuing to serve you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian M. Lankford

Brvan M. Lankford VFW Dept. of Maryland Surgeon 410-924-9899

lankfordtrkinc@gmail.com

Bryan Lankford on FaceBook and Messenger



Tiffany Daniel Chaplain Dept. of MD VFW



# 'Be Prepared'

## Spiritual leaders can help tackle PTSD concern

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is a gripping concern for our nation's veterans. For me personally, belief in God is what gave me victory over PTSD.

Prior to my encounter with God I tried dealing with my PTSD by drinking heavily. I know that belief in God is not the cure-all for PTSD, but it can help.

Much has been written about PTSD therapies such as with dogs, horses, dancing, artistic painting and mental counseling. I discount none of these as they have helped countless numbers of individuals.

However, I contend that faith in God can aid in these processes to give complete healing. God wants our devotion to Him. He wants us to trust in Him, to follow His instruction and as we do, He will guide us through the day.

If you need help - regardless of your faith, belief or unbelief - I encourage you to seek out your VFW Post chaplain, a pastor, priest or rabbi for help and guidance.

These spiritual leaders are there to help you regardless of what you believe or do not believe and will keep your information confidential.

I encourage Post and Auxiliary Chaplains to know the resources in your communities who you can refer your members and or family members to for help if you are unable to provide such help.

Resources may be a church or synagogue of their faith, a place for mental or physical health or a meeting with a VFW Service Officer. Or perhaps it's a referral to a local food pantry or ideas on where to go for help with one of the above-mentioned therapies.

Just be prepared to offer whatever help you can. Together we can end the stigma associated with PTSD.

Editor's Note: This article is courtesy of VFW National Chaplain Jim Jenkins, and is featured in the January/February 2020 issue of VFW Checkpoint. If you're a Post, District or Department Commander and aren't receiving the Checkpoint e-newsletter, please contact the VFW magazine at magazine@vfw.org.

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# DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW & AUXILIARY VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SLATE OF CONTESTANTS



FIRST PLACE
SECOND PLACE
THIRD PLACE

Christopher W. Dodd
Christopher L. Pondoc
Kathleen Martinez
Camara A. Kelly
Josh D. Howsare
Celine Burke
Julia Walz
Emuna Seinfeld
Mackenzie M. Click

Aaron B. Cave

Karli D. Abbott

District 4-VFW Post 5118

District 6-VFW Post 304

District 7-VFW Post 3285

District 1-VFW Post 8810

District 2-VFW Post 8950

District 3-VFW Post 6775

District 5-VFW Post 10080

District 10-VFW Post 8175

District 11-VFW Post 3065

District 14-VFW Post 9083

District 16-VFW Post 8276

# DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND VFW & AUXILIARY PATRIOT'S PEN SLATE OF CONTESTANTS



FIRST PLACE
SECOND PLACE
THIRD PLACE

Marisa M. Ossinger
Kadie D. Matthews
Lucy K. Wood
Brooke Sylvestre
Kate Adelman
Josiah J. Crouch
Tommy W. Dietrich
Sarah G. Voigt
Meredith Burkhardt
Joslynn R. Metz

Julianna C. Morelli

District 7-VFW Post 467
District 3-VFW Post 6775
District 1-VFW Post 10081
District 2-VFW Post 350
District 4-VFW Post 5118
District 5-VFW Post 6054
District 6-VFW Post 160

District 10-VFW Post 8175

District 11-VFW Post 1858

District 16-VFW Post 8276





# **DENISE PERRY**

2020 VETERAN
OF THE YEAR

40TH ANNUAL BUFFALO SOLDIER BANQUET

MORGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 15TH







# Auxiliary News





Brothers, Sisters & Comrades,

In this issue, I would like to share with you an event, that I was honored to attend. On February 11, 2020, VFW Auxiliary 341 hosted a Naturalization Ceremony at the United States Federal Court Building in Washington D.C. 113 People became United States Citizens that day. I was honored to share a congratulatory message welcoming them as fellow Americans. It was a wonderful day. Here are some pictures from the event.





Congratulations Maryland...You did it again! You pushed and pushed and pushed and we were able to achieve the 100%+1 by December 31ST. To each and every Auxiliary THANK YOU!!! We are currently 4th in the Nation. Way to go Maryland! YOU ROCK!

National awarded each Auxiliary \$50 that reached 100% + by January 31, 2020. I just got back from the Mid-Year Conference in Hawaii, and I want you to know I let everyone know how great Maryland is.

Cynthia Davis





Betty J. Stahm, PDP Chief of Staff

Brothers & Sisters,

Aloha from the beautiful island of Oahu, Hawaii. It is a pleasure traveling with Madam President Cynthia and the Department of Maryland entourage. What a privilege to participate in the Celebrating America's Freedom Event (C.A.F.E.) and attend the National Mid-Year Conference.

These events are very special to me for two reasons. It is an honor to be the Dept. of MD VFW Aux. National Ambassador for Buddy Poppy and VFW National Home for Children, but

most importantly because I am a member of VFW Auxiliary to Charles Evering VFW Post 6506. Many of you may not know that Charles Evering was a Rosedale Hometown Hero born April 19, 1926. As a Private First Class, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corp. during World War II, Charles was killed in Action on June 24,1944 at Saipan, Marianas Island at the age of 18. Charles served our Country for about 6 months when his life came to an end. Private Evering is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. It was very overwhelming to place Buddy Poppies and American Flags at his gravesite. "Thank You" Charles for your service! A life taken too soon as he honorably served our Country. And now that you know the rest of the story, you can relate to "Why" we do what we do! There are many stories like Charles' story.

That being said, this is why it is very important to be a Healthy Auxiliary, one that continuously supports our Veterans, Our Active Military and their Families. We need to participate in all National Programs, build our membership and fight for our Veterans Rights. One Family, One Cause! As

we work as a team we must report all that we do to our Department Chairman. We all have our differences but when it comes to that Auxiliary Room, all indifferences should be left outside.

It is hard to believe that the Auxiliary year is 34's of the way through. However there is still time to complete any requirements that will earn you a "Healthy Auxiliary" Award. Certificates will be awarded at our Council of Administration meeting in March. This will be the same criteria published earlier in the monthly mailers. The next awards will be handed out at our State Convention. At the end of our Auxiliary year, I will be ecstatic to have ALL Auxiliaries claiming this status. "Serving our Veterans with Aloha" and "Staying Connected to our Veterans" is what we do; all day, every day.

Yours in Comradeship,

Betty Stahn Betty Stahm

Chief of Staff





Cheri Brown, JVP Membership Chairman Dept. of MD VFW Aux.

# **VFW Auxiliary Eligibility**



\*Step - and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

# VFW Dept of Maryland Auxiliary Membership & Recruitment Cheri J. Brown, Chairman 2019-20

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the VFW Dept of Maryland Auxiliary for achieving 100% plus!! **CONGRATULATIONS** to each auxiliary that has reached 100% plus! We asked and you did it! Thank you!

There are auxiliaries that are so close to achieving 100% plus. You Can Do It! Contact your members that have not paid and remind them what a great organization we have. Thank them for their years of membership!

"An annual continuous member MUST have his or her 2020 dues received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by June 30, 2020 in order to maintain his or her continuous years of membership within the organization. There is no longer a "reinstate" category for membership".

**INVITE** new members to join our organization. Send new members "Welcome information" and keep them informed of meetings and activities. **INCLUDE** your members in activities to make them feel part of the auxiliary. **INVEST** in the future of your auxiliary. Mentor your members and encourage them to attend meetings and functions.

Celebrate your members that have reached a milestone (ex: 5,10,15,20,25 years membership) by paying their dues or giving them a Lifetime Membership!

It has been so exciting to watch the percentages of the auxiliaries and to see your dedication to the auxiliary. Keep up the good work! Let's take the VFW Dept of Maryland Auxiliary to the top! Maryland Proud!!!

Thanks! Cheri J. Brown, Chairman





To our Nation's Veterans:

Throughout our history, you have rallied time and again to protect and serve your family, neighbors, and friends. Your leadership, patriotism, and entrepreneurship exemplify the American spirit.

As Article I Section II of the Constitution directs, every 10 years, we conduct a census to determine representation in Congress. Think of it as a national roll call. The next national roll call is coming, and we must hear from you. The 2020 Census is a mission-critical opportunity to make your numbers known. This opportunity only comes once a decade, so 2020 will be the time to make sure your community is counted.

We need your help! Please get your community prepared by taking the following steps:

- **JOIN OUR TEAM**. We want to hire Veterans for temporary census jobs. Apply to work as a census taker at 2020census.gov/jobs. If you know others who are looking for work, please spread the word.
- RAISE AWARENESS. Tell other Veterans how the 2020 Census impacts services they rely on. Discuss this at Veteran service organization chapter meetings or the next Veteran gathering you attend.
- PARTNER WITH US. Visit 2020census.gov/partners to learn more, become a partner, and download materials to share with other Veteran leaders, business owners, and nonprofit partners in your community.
- RESPOND TO THE CENSUS. Mark Census Day, April 1, 2020, on your calendar, and plan to respond to the short census questionnaire for your household as soon as you can. Mailings will go out, and the online response portal will open in mid-March. You can choose your preferred method of response: securely online, over the phone, or by mail.

Veterans benefit directly when their communities are counted correctly. Billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year based on census data that support education, housing, health care, hospitals, fire stations, and more. An accurate count is especially crucial for Veterans in rural communities, those with disabilities, and those at risk of homelessness. Data from the 2020 Census will also help the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs plan programs and assess emerging needs for Veterans.

To get started, visit 2020census.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Dillingham
Director, United States Census Bureau



# SEATING STILL AVAILABLE

# Testimonial Dinner Pelebrating CYNTHIA DAVIS THOMAS WILLIAMS STATE PRESIDENT STATE COMMANDER Molleville Farm VFW Post 467 • 519 Poole Road • Westminster, MD 21157 Saturday—March 14, 2020 5:00 PM until 10:00 PM Social Hour (Cash Bar/Free Soft Drinks)—5:00 PM Dinner (Buffet Style)—6:30 PM

Appetizer: Vegetable Tray, Assorted Cheeses, Crab Dip, Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Pretzels and Chips. Dinner: Vegetable Lasagna, Roast Beef, Fried Shrimp, Chicken Marsala, Buttered Red Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, Brussels Sprouts, Green Beans, Rolls, Butter, Ice Tea, and Coffee. Dessert: Cake and Cookies.

Tickets—\$40 Per Guest Table of Eight Guest—\$320 Table of 16 Guest—\$640 For Tickets Send Request to: Tom Kimball, PSC • 1019 Queen Avenue • Salisbury, MD 21801 Please make your checks payable to the Department of Maryland VFW 443-235-0742 • thomaskimball@comcast.net

Love Gifts will be accepted for the

duest desiring to be seated together MUST send heir money together. We may not be able to onor your seating request if money is not sent ether. Thank you for your cooperation



# **Testimonial Lodging**

**Days Inn Westminster** 25 South Cranberry Road Westminster, MD 21157 410.857.0500

Room Rates \$75 + Tax Per Night Room Rate Deadline March 1, 2020 Rooms held until 4PM

> **Group Name** VFW Maryland



# 2020 National Veterans Day Poster Contest

Calling all artists! The 2020 National Veterans Day Poster Contest is underway. Each year the Veterans Day National Committee publishes a commemorative Veterans Day poster. The Committee selects a poster from artwork submitted by artists nationwide. It also distributes the winning design to VA facilities, military installations around the world, and across cities and towns in our nation. It then serves as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery. Over the years these posters have illustrated the rich history of our country's service men and women. The poster reflects our pride and patriotism in saluting Veterans while providing the thematic artistry for the year.

The theme for Veterans Day 2020 is: "Vision: Veterans in Focus." All Veterans make a sacrifice to serve their country, whether physically, emotionally, or by being away from their loved ones and missing important life moments. As the saying goes, hind-sight is always 20/20. Looking back on centuries of Veterans' service and sacrifice and what we have learned from the past, we must always maintain the vision for the future of Veterans. Putting the Veteran at the center, on Veterans Day we continue to honor all who served, while focusing on the needs of the next generation of Veterans.

### **Submission Guidelines**

- Be 18" x 24" at 300 dots per inch, scale down submissions to 9"x12."
- The design will be used for a 1" x 1.5" lapel pin. Simple designs look best scaled down to lapel pins. If you'd like to submit a modified design for the lapel pin based off the original poster design, you may do so.
- Submissions are not restricted to "human centric" presentations, such as a joint color guard. Imagery of American icons, monuments or scenery can qualify, for example, the American flag.
- Representative of all Veterans who served. The Committee may select a particular submission but ask the artist to make modifications to the original design. The Committee may require additional changes prior to printing.
- Design must include the words: Veterans Day, November 11, 2020" and "Honoring all who served."
- Include sufficient information to demonstrate that the image is the work of the artist and is not copyrighted material (i.e. photos and concepts).

Successful designs are very simple with minimal imagery and verbiage. To view examples of past winning submissions visit: http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp.

Submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files by email to vetsday@va.gov or send copies of artwork on a CD with artwork files to:

Veterans Day National Committee (002D) Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20420

### Deadline

The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2020. The Veterans Day National Committee will convene a selection sub-committee in May 2020 to review submissions and make a final selection.

Questions? - contact the Veterans Day Coordinator at vetsday@va.gov.



Top row, from left, teacher Karen Glass, VFW Commander Kenley Timms, Past Department Auxiliary President Jackie Kimball, VFW Auxiliary President Cynthia Davis, VFW District 4 Auxiliary President Betty Ann Johnson, Historian Libby Dallatezza and auxiliary member Bernice Hall throw a surprise pizza party for second-grade students at Chapel District Elementary School on Thursday.

# VFW Auxiliary president surprises second-graders



Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary President Cynthia Davis surprises second-grade students with pizza on Thursday, Dec. 19.

# Class created artwork for Easton post

By CANDICE SPECTOR

cspector@chespub.com

cordova - As a thank you to the Chapel District Elementary School second-graders who made decorations for the Easton Veterans of Foreign Wars building. Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary President Cynthia Davis surprised them with a pizza party on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Karen Glass, the teacher behind the project aimed at raising awareness to veterans among the children, invited her students to draw and color people onto cardboard cutouts that would later be displayed as a backdrop during the annual Christmas Conference on dren," she said to the students. "I Dec. 8 at the Easton VFW.

conference, and "everyone from about our veterans and staying all over the state of Maryland in attendance were in awe over what these children did," said Betty Ann Timms, who also was at the pizza Johnson, VFW District 4 auxiliary president

Johnson said Davis was "overwhelmed to tears" when she saw the artwork, which spelled out the auxiliary president's theme this year, "Staying Connected to Our Veterans."

Davis presented four pizzas to the group of excited students and said it was important to her to come thank the kids in person for their artwork, which will be on display until after Christmas.

"You all are some awesome chiljust wanted to come to thank you Nearly 100 people attended the for spending the time to think connected with our veterans."

VFW Commander party, said to the children, "On behalf of the VFW. I want to thank your teacher for what she's doing."

"She's bringing attention of veterans to the class," Timms said. "It's so nice."

Past Department Auxiliary President Jackie Kimball, Historian Libby Dallatezza and auxiliary member Bernice Hall also came to thank the children, and supported Davis as she presented the students with certificates for their work.

