



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN

The Official Publication of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

vfwmd.org

September—October 2020

Volume 44—No. 2



THOMAS L. RIPPON
COMMANDER
STATE OF MARYLAND VFW

Comrades, Sisters & Brothers,

Many thanks to my post Delmar Memorial 8276 for the Fantastic Home Coming they presented to me and Felicia with the help of her Auxiliary. The weather was great and quite a few people braved the “Bay Bridge Traffic” in August to celebrate with us and again I say thank you.

Getting down to the business of the operation of the Department, There are New Post Officers and some officers already in chairs of leadership that need a refresher to know how to carry out the duties of the offices they hold and I need help getting the required O.T.I. done for the 2020-2021 year, I’m asking for the Program Chairman, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander along with the Department Officers and the District Commanders to come together for a “Virtual “O.T.I. Bring your ideas to the next Council Meeting in September at VFW Post 521 for the purpose of how we can get it done and I hope to have a leader for this endeavor.

We missed the Convention in Ocean City and had big plans for Reno and now we are all more than tired of this COVID -19 Virus, but as Veterans we have to remember the Mission of the VFW to foster Camaraderie among our members as we have overcome matters as bad or worse, while keeping ourselves safe and looking out for comrades with buddy checks we can succeed and be an ‘All American’ Department again.

Take care—Until next time...

Tom



JAMES F. WADE, SR.
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
STATE OF MARYLAND VFW

Hello VFW, Auxiliary & Cootie Members,

I want to express my gratitude to everyone for their vote of confidence allowing me to be your representative as Senior Vice Commander for the Veteran of Foreign Wars, Department of Maryland supporting the many Veterans and their families. This truly an honor, and I am highly grateful for the new opportunity. Thanks for having faith in me and my capabilities. I am looking forward to working closely with all of you. I've been amazed how energized and dedicated our volunteer force has been and continue to strive towards taking care of our Veterans and their Families.

I have never been prouder to belong to an organization that truly cares for its members and fellow man and woman. Moving forward and lessons learned. I believe this situation has helped us to embrace technology that is at our fingertips, most of us by now have utilized some sort of video conferencing to conduct business or even to talk to family and can see the potential it has in our organization. It will

never replace the face to face meeting, but may it can easily improve upon it by allowing those members that may be physically unable to attend a meeting still feel like they are part of the team.

Comrades, these have been challenging times for all of us. But we cannot lose perspective. As our Mayors and County Council Members are trying to figure out how to ease back into a new normal. Please stay positive and continue to work within your Posts as well within your Communities let your members know that VFW is going strong.

"It is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever – the one who recognizes the challenges and does something about it." – Vince Lombardi

Please remember those brave men and women heroes who lost their lives and also to those men and women who risked their lives during September 9, 2011. Never Forgotten and Always Remembered. Also, please follow social distancing when in public and to wear face masks not just for your safety but also for others as well. Continue to support our Department Commander's Special Project! The October 2020 Eastern Conference has been cancelled and is being rescheduled for next year October 2021 at Ocean City, MD, more information pending.

See SVC, Page 5

STATE COMMANDER
Thomas L. Rippon

ADJUTANT
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WEBSITE
www.vfwmd.org



VFW
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



BRIAN LANKFORD
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
STATE OF MARYLAND VFW

Comrades,

Greetings fellow Veterans and Family Members. The Eastern VFW Conference for 2020 was cancel due to COVID-19, which was to be held in Ocean City. That's the bad news, now for the good news we will host the conference in 2021.

Please continue to check in on our Members and all veterans you know, for that matter. Especially during this time of social distancing and isolation. It's seems to me that depression and suicide numbers are going up.

Our founding fathers didn't always do everything right, but their ideals were right. One being that all men are created equal. Let me say that we are a diverse,

and inclusive organization. It is sickening to watch some media/news, some government officials, and some individuals try to divide this great nation, that so many of us dedicated our lives to defending.

I hope this news letter finds each of you well. It was great seeing so many of you at the Commander's and President's homecoming.

Respectfully Submitted
Bryan M Lankford
Junior Vice Commander



TIFFANY DANIEL
CHAPLAIN
STATE OF MARYLAND
VFW

Comrades,
As I prepare this article it becomes apparent that we will have had Labor Day, an Election of a lifetime, Veterans Day and possibly Thanksgiving before we publish another. As we get used to this new normal, I realize I miss my family, friends, comrades and even colleagues. Gee, even some items of my winter wardrobe are still out because I did not wear them to work. And it was then that it hit me, a new year is lurking right around the corner.

I wish to open with a farewell from Jim Jenkins, National Chaplain 2019-2020
Western Conference Chaplain, Kansas State Chaplain 2009-2020.

As leaders, the topics of the day may cause great concern, and we may often feel outside our boundaries as we indulge with our friends, family and comrades in hard conversations. On the days where we feel we are not equipped or possibly overwhelmed, we can rest in the fact that the same Holy Spirit that existed years ago, is still standing by to receive our prayers. While times like this are frustrating and unnerving, current events have opened up a unique pocket in time where we can choose faith. We can choose to trust that God is taking care of what's ahead, despite having no idea what that may look like.

God wants to do something unique in my heart and in yours too, and the process gives him fertile ground to do important work in our hearts, our relationships, and our very lives while we wait for the time to come. Waiting can be a sacred space. It does not have to be passive or inactive. Actually, it can be filled with heartfelt anticipation and deep intention, and even sprinkled with joy.

The further you get from the beginning of the wait, the closer you are to what will become yours. A time is coming.

I'd like to share a Daily Devotion from Lutheran Hour Ministries

See Chaplain, Page 4

"Permission to Love Yourself"

August 14, 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

Just about every friend I have is on a diet right now. Even the neighborhood kids aren't eating as many Twinkies, for some reason. I don't know about you, but I feel absolutely starved while watching TV ads for pepperoni pizza, extra-moist desserts, and old-fashioned lemonade. More often than not though, the TV turns right around and makes me feel fat and guilty by touting diet plans and exercise machines.

If all of us were satisfied with ourselves, it probably wouldn't take long until diet products passed out of our lives forever. But most of us are not satisfied with ourselves. Maybe it's because all kinds of people are only too glad to tell us what we're doing wrong. Sometimes the advice is free. Often we pay \$14.95 for the privilege of reading a book listing our faults and telling us how to get rid of our hang-ups.

"Assert yourself!" "Vegetarians have more fun!" "Learn to say no!" "Learn to say yes!" "Jog your way to nirvana for fun and profit!" Yep, we've heard them all before, more than a few hundred times.

Are you satisfied with yourself? I hope so, because God made only one of you. You are very precious to Him. "What you are is God's gift to you," as the modern proverb goes, and God's gifts are always worthwhile (see James 1:17).

The adage ends, of course, with "What you make of yourself is your gift to God." While our culture is fixated on outward appearances, I seem to have a case of terminal acne. I may not exit adolescence until I'm 40. If we let ourselves become paralyzed by society's demands though, we won't have much time to work on making ourselves gifts to God.

Loving yourself doesn't mean "anything goes," and letting yourself go with it. Setting goals for both the short and long term helps me assert self-discipline and makes for better days ahead. Also, in deciding upon goals,

it's good to keep in mind that God sees not as man sees. As it is written in 1 Samuel: "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b).

What would you like your life to be like? Do you love yourself enough to make change possible? Jesus calls us to Himself, so we can live our best life possible. He has told us, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:10b-11).

By Jesus' loving work on my behalf—living, dying, and rising from the grave to new life—He has made all who trust in Him by faith victorious over life, with all its demands and expectations. Jesus loves me, and because He loves me, I can love me, too.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we are all made in Your image. Teach us to love ourselves, even when we feel unlovely. In Jesus' Name. Amen.
October 1978 issue, "Loving Me," by Jane Fryar

Reflection Questions:

1. Has your image of self changed since pandemic restrictions have begun?
2. How does God keep us blameless until the coming of Jesus?
3. How do you try to be the best you can be for God?

T. Daniel

Always Say A Prayer
(ASAP)

THE MARYLAND VFW COMBAT VETERAN
WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS FROM DEPARTMENT
VFW & AUXILIARY OFFICERS, DISTRICT
VFW & AUXILIARY OFFICERS, POST AND
AUXILIARIES.

I would like if all District Commanders please continue to communicate with your Post Commanders by keeping them informed of information which comes from Department. Post Commanders, please understand that communications works both ways as well.

Family First; Veteran Always!!
James F. Wade Sr.
VFW Department Senior Vice Commander
240-401-7429
jfwadesr.vfw@yahoo.com



**CONGRATULATIONS!! To PDP CYNTHIA DAVIS
CIRCE OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENT 2019-2020**



TAKE A DIVE FOR OUR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

AUXILIARY NEWS



FELICIA WEEKS
PRESIDENT
DEPT. OF MARYLAND VFW AUXILIARY

Greetings Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

Can you believe that we are already three months into this Auxiliary year? We are working in a different format to get our message out about our organization and what we do for our Veterans and their Families. All the while practicing social distancing. The State Commander Tom Rippon and I were able to celebrate our Homecoming at the Delmar Memorial VFW Post with so many of you on August 8th. I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend as well as those who had a willing heart but were unable to make it. I was truly honored to see so many of you and hear of some new ideas on how you have been working your programs.

Department of Maryland, you truly pulled out all the bells and whistles to welcome VFW National President Sandi Onstwedder. A few weeks ago, National President Sandi stated that she would still like to visit Maryland, and if she only met five members, she would be happy. I am pleased to report that at the airport and Outback Restaurant, to the Maryland Veteran Museum, to St. Mary City, and finally onto her Banquet, we had no less than fifteen people at every visit. She was able to witness the recruitment of one VFW member, one auxiliary member and two additional potential auxiliary members. Words cannot express the sincere love and gratitude Maryland showed Madam National President. With that I want to thank each one of you.

Peace and Blessings,
Felicia Weeks

VFW Auxiliary Department President
2020-2021



LIBBY DALLATEZZA
SECRETARY
STATE OF MARYLAND VFW
AUXILIARY

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

Our Department President Felicia and her Chairmen are at work making the best of a bad situation with this nuisance pandemic. Promoting the VFW Auxiliary programs has required some creative thinking and the Department of Maryland is “on it” with a busy September and October.

| Schedule of VFW Auxiliary Meetings and Events | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| Sept. 1 | District 10 Official Visit | Elkton Memorial VFW Post #8175 | 6:00 pm |
| Sept. 11 | CAFÉ & Nat'l Pres Celebration | VFW National Home for Children | Cancelled |
| Sept. 19 | District 14 Official Visit | Wells McComas VFW Post #2678 | 12:00 meal 1:00 meeting |
| Sept. 20 | District 3 Official Visit | Queens Pt. Mem. VFW Post #6775 | 1:00 pm |
| Sept. 26 | District 1 Official Visit | Patuxent River NAS VFW Post #2632 | 12:00 noon |
| Sept. 27 | Council of Admin. Meeting | Patuxent River NAS VFW Post #2632 | 12:00 noon |
| Oct. 10 | District 16 Official Visit | Eastside Memorial VFW Post #2996 | 1:00 pm |
| Oct. 4 | District 4 Official Visit | E.E.Streets Mem. VFW Post #5118 | 1:00 pm |
| Oct. 13 | District 11 Official Visit | Brooklyn-Curtis Bay VFW Post #2916 | 6:30 meal 7:00 meeting |
| Oct. 17 | District 2 Official Visit | Free State VFW Post #8950 | 1:00 pm |
| Oct. 18 | District 5 Official Visit | Harford Co. Mem. VFW Post #5337 | 1:00 pm |
| Oct. 30 & 31 | Eastern Conference | Princess Royal, Ocean City | Postponed |

Congratulations to 2019-2020 President Cynthia Davis and her Chairmen for their awards received via video presentations by the 2019-2020 National Ambassadors.

President Cynthia Davis received the “Circle of Excellence” award for the Department of Maryland.

Americanism: Terry Dawson
 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

Chief of Staff/Extension: Betty Stahm
 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

Legislative: VaNette Jones
 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

Youth Activities: Camilla Williams
 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

Buddy Poppy/National Home for Children: Lyn MacArthur
 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

Historian Media Relations: Libby DallaTezza
 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

Scholarships: Nancy Shenk
 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

See *Secretary*, Page 8

The following program chairmen were recognized:

Lyn MacArthur – Buddy Poppy/National Home for Children Award #2 Best Promotion of Community Outreach and/or involvement of the Buddy Poppy through distribution education and publicity.

Betty Stahm – Chief of Staff/Extension Award #2 – Best strategic counsel/guidance/advise related to strengthening & rejuvenating an Auxiliary, District or Department.

Award for Members - Mentoring for Leadership
Citation awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place member in each Department who is instrumental in fulfilling the role as a mentor leader.

3rd Place **Barbara Lawrence** (10081),
2nd Place **Carole Betro** (8276)
1st Place **Cheri Brown** (7687)



Lois Callahan
National Guard

Lois Callahan of Little Rock, Arkansas, was elected to the office of National Guard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary for the 2020-2021 Program Year.

She is now in the first of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2025-2026.

A Life Member of Thaddeus H. Caraway Auxiliary 2278 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President, National Youth Activities Ambassador and National Legislative Ambassador.

She joined on the eligibility of her father, Ruben Tamariz, who served in the U.S. Army in Korea and Vietnam. Lois has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary since 1990.

Lois retired after a 26-year career as a Pediatric Occupational Therapist. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, cooking and baking, and DIY home

improvement projects. She is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children, and is also a member of University of Central Arkansas Alumni Association and Gateway Church.

Lois and husband Terry's family includes two adult children and four grandchildren.

NATIONAL DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER #3

Cecelia Watkins will be visiting our Department at the Council of Administration meeting on Sunday, September 27th at VFW Post #2632 at 12:00. Cecelia represents the Departments of Maryland and New Jersey.



REMINDER: It is important to remember that any changes in President, Secretary or Treasurer or meeting location/day/time should be reported to me immediately.

Department of Maryland “ET” Extension Team



Members of this ‘ET’ Extension Team
will be appointed to Mentor and Strengthen Your Auxiliary

Struggling/Failing Auxiliaries

- No Elections – or input of Installations into MALTA
- No MALTA input or transmittals of Membership
- No Audits/Reports/Obligations
- Concerns by District Presidents
- Concern too big for the District President to handle

Connecting - With the Auxiliary

- The Dept. President or Chief of Staff/Extension Chairman will connect with the members of the struggling Auxiliary to inform them of the **ET Team member/members** who will be assisting them in the rebuilding of the Auxiliary.

Educating – In all areas of the Auxiliary - Mentoring

WHY IS THIS “ET TEAM”...SO IMPORTANT

The Future of our Organization is in Jeopardy

If we don't exist....who will be there to serve
the needs of our Veterans

If we don't exist....who will be there to voice
the needs of our Veterans

If we don't exist...who will be there to fight
for the needs of our Veterans

**WE NEED TO REBUILD AND STRENGTHEN
OUR ORGANIZATION...CALL TODAY FOR HELP**

Sandi Kriebel, PNP
Department Chief of Staff/Extension
443-745-9206 - kwizoz@verizon.net

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Good Job Award

Can Be Presented to Any Member
of the
Auxiliary/District/Department

Please make sure that this presentation represents the good job that all the Auxiliary/District/Department members are doing. Fillable “Good Job Award” can be found on the Auxiliary website – Login onto Malta – under Resources - Take photos and please send the presentation report/photos to me:

Sandi Kriebel, Dept. Chief of Staff/Extension
16 Sanibel Lane
Chambersburg, PA 17201
kwizoz@verizon.net
443-745-9206





New Members

Welcoming New Members to Your Auxiliary

Thanking new members?

Thanking new members for joining our organization can go a long way in making them feel welcome right off the bat. Send a personal email or hand-written note (see sample letter) or even take a moment to call and thank each new member for joining your Auxiliary.

- Send a new member “welcome” gift or packet. This could include a logo item from our organization, or an up dated newsletter or calendar of events.
- List new members in your email newsletter under a “Welcome New Members!” to make them feel appreciated.
- Appoint a “Welcome Committee”.

Are you making new members feel at home?

Help new members feel comfortable right away by letting them know how our organization works, what to expect next, and where to go for information. Some examples of what information to include in your thank you letter, email or “welcome” packet:

- Remind them of the benefits they will now receive as a member (Cancer Grants, etc.)
- Let them know what communications they can expect to receive from you and National, and how often they will receive those communications.
- Ask them to add you to their “safe sender” list so they will not miss any information from the Aux. Dept/Natl. (Nalt. Aux E-Newsletter/Action Corp Weekly)
- Direct them to online resources, from the Auxiliary National Website – under the MALTA login.
- Be sure to give them any instructions on how to log in and how to set up any user profiles.
- Assign a mentor to help them get to know the organization and feel more welcome.
- Make sure they know who to contact at your auxiliary or where to go online if they have questions or would like to give feedback about their new member experience.

These may seem like simple gestures, but people can decide if they are going to participate in our organization long-term within the first days, and even minutes, of joining our organization. Be positive and wear a smile. Make sure the members love our organization right off the bat, and you will keep them around for the long haul!

Sandi Kriebel, PNP
Chief of Staff/Extension, Dept. of MD
kwizoz@verizon.net - 443-745-9206



2020-2021

President's Special Project Maryland Vet Centers

Life isn't always easy after a deployment. That is where Vet Centers can help. Vet Centers across Maryland provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat Veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide Veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a Veteran returns from combat. Services for a Veteran may include individual and group counseling in areas such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. All services are free of cost and are strictly confidential. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma. **“We understand, and most of all, we care.”**



Send all **REPORTS** of your Special Project activities to:

Dr. Joyce M. Thomas, PDP
P.O. Box 5945
Pikesville, MD 21282
thomas.joycem@gmail.com



To order your Special Project pins:

Auxiliary _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

| How Many | Unit Price | Amount |
|----------|-------------|--------|
| | \$3.00 each | \$ |

Send to Department Treasurer:

Carole Betro, PDP
26595 Blue Jay Lane
Hebron, MD 21830



This Coronavirus Can Not Take Away From Who We Are....and What We Need To Do

Wear Mask....Wash Hands...Social Distance



Continue Monthly Meeting (Very Important)

Using the following:

- Follow Federal/State/County/City Guidelines
- Hold meetings in person, Zoom or Teleconferencing
- Contact all members on how meetings will be held - Date/Time/Agenda (By Post Cards, Emails, Personal Phone Calls, Newsletters, Social Media)
- Run the meetings according to the bylaws
- Encourage participation: Listen to creative suggestions
Reports and Be Positive
- Keep meetings within 1 hour
- Need help setting up a meeting...don't know how? Contact Dept. Secretary Libby DallaTezza @ 410-259-1967 or call: Sandi @ 443-745-9206
- Don't be afraid to ask for help and/or guidance. I am one phone call away.

Sandi Kriebel
Dept. of MD Chief of Staff/Extension
443745-9206

Can We Get Through This Coronavirus Pandemic

YES...WE CAN! We are going through a difficult time in our country and in our organization, but since 1914 service to our veterans of this country and our communities have never stopped us from our commitment of "*Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes*". It did not stop us during the 1918 epidemic; World Wars I & II, other wars and conflicts; depression; inflations and disasters.....**let it not stop us now! WE CAN DO THIS!**

Our veterans fought, sacrificed and died for this country and were determined that we the American people would live a life of **FREEDOM**. Every day we need to remember that, and never stop dedicating and committing ourselves to "*Serve Those Who Served Us*".

Let's never lose sight of why we are members of the VFW Auxiliary. UNITE...and pull together as a TEAM. Put aside your differences. Let nothing stand in our way of doing what is needed and what is right. Be safe, wear masks, social distance, follow your states guidelines, use Zoom or teleconference, if needed.....and get the job done. Be creative, think outside of the box and do what you do best - serve veterans and their families.

Creative Corner



Don't get discouraged or give up. There are lots of new and creative ways to make things work and to serve our Veterans, their families, and our communities:

- If you are unable to do your volunteer work or make your monthly visits to the VA Medical Centers: donate the expenses you would normally spend on your snacks or canteen books to the VA. You can still send reading books, puzzles, word 'n' search books, pencils, etc.
- Sponsor a "Parade on Wheels". Decorate your cars with patriotic decorations and signs....like "United We Stand"..."God Bless America"..."Get Out To Vote"...Thank Veterans... Go throughout your community on holidays such as Patriots & Veterans Day.....Voting Day. It is all reportable. Be creative and use social media.
- For Veterans Day...do a "Flag of Honor" for families who want to pay special tribute to a Veteran/s. Display them in a heavy populated area or your Post Home/Mission BQ. Charge a fee to the family for the cost of the flag and small plaque. At the end of the display it is theirs to take home.
- 1st Responders....sponsor a luncheon/dinner at your local firehouse. Have students and the community make up "Thank You" posters. Have the food catered or delivered.

Sandi Kriebel, PNP
Dept. of MD Chief of Staff/Extension
443-745-9206

Need Help...Call
Need Encouragement...Call
I will be there for you!



Maryland VFW Post

P S F Z Z D K D K P K K C G M M I M G A J M Y X Z C Y D P A
 V M Y I G S B U N Z O A F F L Y O O M M F Y M D H P O A Z R
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ADAMS EPP
ANNAPOLIS
BROOKLYN CURTIS BAY
CABIN JOHN
CHESAPEAKE CITY
CHOPTANK
COLONEL HARRY L COOPER
DARLINGTON DUBLIN
DELMAR MEMORIAL
DOCTOR CHARLES FRANK
DORIE MILLER
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ELKTON MEMORIAL
FEDERALSBURG
FREE STATE
GARRETT COUNTY
GUNPOWDER
HENRY HART
J PAUL DUKE JR
LARGO KETTERING
LT PETER G ZOUCK
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SHERIDAN HOOD
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THE COUNTIES FOUR
WICOMICO COUNTY