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Series:	Speech File Backup Files
Subseries:	Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number:	13659
Folder ID Number:	13659-006

Folder Title:
Veterans of Foreign Wars--Washingto n Conference 3/6/89 [OA 6343] [2]

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LA SMG 2 page I

January 23, 1989

President George Bush
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

Do not let the old, elderly, sick, disabled, homeless, Veterans and disabled Vets down. They have paid their dues over and over. Most of the elderly and GI's came up in the dust bowl days, so give them credit for their time. They also gave what they could at that time and during the war days. Most of them gave what they could of themselves and raised money for the war. So I ask you not to give the Congress and all the staff a raise. Do not cut social security, medicare, pensions or any help for the elderly. Do not take health care, pensions or compensation from the veterans or disabled vets. Do not close the hospitals or nursing care centers for the veterans. Most of these people are not properly taken care of and it is not altogether their fault. I am an

old disabled vet so I know what I am talking about. I am at the bottom of the totem pole for compensation and social security. I worked in the third largest steel plant in the U.S., a defense plant in California and was drafted. My disability after the war did not let me go back to my job, so I became a farmer. I still farm with my disability, but it is very hard to make a living at age 69. There is plenty of fat in the rest of the government to cut corners, so I ask you again not to cut these benefits. I also came from a broken home, so was cold and hungry as a kid.

This will be my first and last letter to you Mr. President; and also to the Senators and Representatives in South Dakota. There are so many odds against an old person, especially when you are no longer needed or wanted. You feel like you have become a "has been". In plain words. we the elderly do the best we can, we are a has been, we are not in the main stream no more, we are not needed any more, we are not an asset to society, we are a

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Letter	Clifford Clark to POTUS, re: benefits for the elderly and disabled veterans; personal information redacted. (1 pp.)	01/23/89	P-6, (b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File, Backup
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Veterans of Foreign Wars - Washington Conference 3/6/89 [2]

Date Closed: 9/21/2004	**OA/ID Number:** 06343
FOIA/SYS Case #:	
Re-review Case #: 2004-2265-S	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	
MR Case #:	**Appeal Case #:**
MR Disposition:	**Appeal Disposition:**
Disposition Date:	**Disposition Date:**

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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(b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
(b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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(b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
(b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
(b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

burden.

President Bush, we wish you and your family the very best in your new job and especially for all the hard decisions you have to make during your presidency.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely Yours,
Clifford Clark

[redacted]

P-6, (b)(6)

LA.

Vet sample to Lillie

Jan 23, 1989

Dear President Bush,

Greg Petersmeyer

Boy! Are we glad you won out over the ACLU candidate. I had all my bongs and purple hearts in a coffee can and was all set to give them the deep sip out in the swamp. I really meant it. But it was not even close, thank the Good Lord for that.

Sir I dont use fancy stationery, my spelling is not to hot and my punctuation is a disaster about to happen. However I do pay my taxes on time, In raising my Daughter to be a good American, and I used to toss a mean grenade, so maybe the good folks who screen your mail will let this slip through.

Mr. President you really got in a good zinger on "Big Mike" when you asked him if you could have a ride in his Tank. By Golly I got a real belly laugh out of that one, and Im still laughing. All of us Conservatives thank you for that one.

It looks like the American People are going to be twice blessed with your election, once from you and once from Mrs. Bush. Mrs. Bush is Mom and apple pie. Mrs. Bush is the all American lady, mother, wife and Grandmother. She does carry her self very well and has a neat sense of humor. She is sort of a female "Cool Hand Luke" and we just love her.

Well Sir they said you could not dance, you were not your own man. You did not have a sense of humor and you were not a tough person. Hog Wash! They are all wrong and on all counts. Before its over, 8 years from now, you will go down as our best President since Teddy R. and F.D.R., one of our best ever. I have great faith in you President Bush and thank the Good Lord you came along just when this Country needs you the most.

I have a feeling Sir that you are in for a tough scrap. Would it not be a wonderfull idea - if we were allowed to send over all our left Wing Democrats to help out in the USSR. Sort of a lend lease plan as it were. I will sleep better to night dreaming about it.

Mr. President to be honest with you I never, ever thaught I would dare write to the President of the USofA. The closest I ever got to a politician was when Senator Claude Pepper visited a young, wounded, Marine Sgt. in the Naval hospital in Japan in 1950. We had just come out of the Frozen Chosin operation and this nice old Gent took a liking to me I guess. We talked for over an hour and he told me get ahold of him if I ever had any questions concerning America or how it was supposed to be run. I never did of Course but I will always remember him. He was and is a fine old Gentleman.

Sir you remarked on your thousand points of light. It had a nice ring to it and I like it. Would you consider this: There are about 1000 of us old timers that formed an organization called the Chosin Few. We 1000 are the U.S. Marines of the 1st Marine Division and the 41st Royal Marine Commandos who fought our way into that frozen hell and back out. Our Logo is a very bright light, the North Star, on a blue background. We would be honored if we could be your first official point of light in your thousand points of light.

I dont say this lightly Mr. President as it was the best thing any of us has ever done. It proved what Americans are all about; and we are proud.

I would like to remark on your Vice President. Mr. Quale got a terrific thrashing from the Left Wing, the Liberals, and our left leaning T.V. He did nothing wrong and I feel he is a decent person who deserves much better than he got. Mr. Quale may not be a JFK-and thats good; JFK was not all he was cracked up to be. I would give five hundred bucks and my good pack mule if you could give Vice President Quale a good, hard chore to do and he did it very well, thus making those people eat a whole bunch of Crow. That would give me another good nights sleep.

President Bush - we do not trust the Russians, no time and no way. I hope we do not have to take another sucker punch from the Russian Bear. Sir, we are had by those people every time we turn around. I cant imagine any one being fooled by them. Maybe Jim Wright and Senator Dodd, but for sure no self respecting Marine ever would. Im sure you, as a Combat Hero of WW II, are not about to be taken in.

You know Mr. President, its the little guy out here on the South Fourty who is the real strength of America. We fix the bayonets, we toss the grenades, we go into the teeth of enemy fire and we do not falter. We take the hill and weep, deep in our heart, where no one can see, for our fallen Comrades. We win and yet we lose, again and again, and yet again.

We see our Country torn apart by race hatred, by drugs, by liberal garbage, by bad schooling. We see graft and corruption at the highest level. We are afraid of our medical bills and do not trust the system. Its a bitter brew we have in our hearts Mr. President, and yet all you have to do is ask of us and we will fight - again, and again, and yet again.

You see Sir; Im a first generation American, my people were from Norway and Denmark. Mother gave 3 sons to 3 different wars and it did her in. But oh how my parents loved this Country, as did her sons and Im passing it on to my 14 year old daughter. We care, maybe deeper than some. In my 60 yrs. thats the best thing I ever learned - Be a good American.

Well Sir I would like to thank yaw for yaur time. I guess a couple of wars under my belt and some years in the Corps dals not make me an expert on any thing, but I had some things to say.

Mr. President - when the going gets tough, just do as one of aur former Navel heros did; and it goes like this:

Dam the torpedos Sir - full speed ahead.

God Bless and Good Luck.

With Respect,

Don Hansen
Naples, Idaho

FROM COOPER T. HOLT

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

OF THE UNITED STATES

200 MARYLAND AVENUE N.E. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

To Ms. Stephanie Blessey
Old Executive Office Building - 111
Washington, D. C. 20500

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September 8, 1988, Thursday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section B; Page 10, Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 738 words

HEADLINE: Bush, Before the Legion, Vows a Strong Defense

BYLINE: By GERALD M. BOYD, Special to the New York Times

DATELINE: LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 7

BODY:

Warning that the United States is ''not out of the woods'' in dealing with the Soviet Union, Vice President Bush today urged the continued modernization of American nuclear forces as the only way to achieve further arms reductions.

Mr. Bush's remarks at the American Legion Convention here were characterized by campaign aides as a far tougher and more realistic approach to international relations than has been offered by Gov. Michael S. Dukakis, the Democratic nominee.

''Let me be clear, I do not question his patriotism,'' Mr. Bush, the Republican nominee, said of Mr. Dukakis. ''But patriotism is not the issue. The issue is how best to deter war, to keep the peace and to fulfill our country's unique responsibility as leader of the free world.''

Mr. Bush appeared far more subdued than he did delivering a similar speech two weeks ago to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His reception today was also more reserved.

No Defense of Quayle

He made no mentioned of Senator Dan Quayle, his running mate, as he had done before the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he had issued an impassioned defense of the Indiana Senator's decision to enter the National Guard almost 20 years ago at the height of the Vietnam War.

''There was no particular reason for not doing so,'' said Sheila Tate, Mr. Bush's press secretary. ''Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn't.''

Mr. Bush quoted from a variety of leaders, such as John F. Kennedy and Winston Churchill, in arguing that his military policies were more realistic than those of Mr. Dukakis.

''Perhaps John F. Kennedy said it best,'' he said at one point. '' 'Bad domestic policy could get us defeated, bad foreign policy could get us killed.' ''

Suggesting that Churchill had ''put it best,'' he quoted the former Prime Minister as saying, '' 'Before we cast away the solid assurances of national armaments for self-presevation, we must be certain that our temple is built,

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not upon shifting sands, or quagmires, but upon the rock.' ''

''My friends, I will keep America's defenses built upon rock,'' Mr. Bush said.

The Republican nominee's said that his foreign policy will be based on four pillars: pride, realism, strength and engagement. Such an approach, he said, had led to the agreement with Moscow to destroy intermediate range nuclear missiles, a theme Mr. Bush has sounded frequently.

He Warns of New Weapons

Mr. Bush is scheduled to travel to Marshall, Tex., Thursday to witness the first destruction of American missiles. But despite the progress, Mr. Bush warned that the United States must contine to keep its nuclear forces ''up to date.''

''We're not out of the woods yet,'' he said. ''The Soviets are now deploying two new ICBM's, the SS-24 and SS-25. So even with perestroika, reform, Soviet military modernization, including their own research into strategic defense, has not slackened. Soviet military spending continues to rise.''

Mr. Bush argued, ''Only a willingness to modernize gives the Soviet Union the incentive to negotiate real arms reduction.''

Mr. Dukakis, who is scheduled to address the American Legion Thursday, was assailed by Mr. Bush and by President Reagan, who appeared before the group on Tuesday. The Republicans have been attempting to portray the Massachusetts Governor as naive on foreign policy.

Clarification on Missile Defense

The Vice President also attempted to address a perception among some conservative Republicans that he is wavering on deployment of a defense system against nuclear missiles, which Mr. Reagan calls his Strategic Defense Initiative.

Mr. Bush said he supported research and ''evaluating the full range of promising S.D.I. technologies and then by deploying those that work.''

Mr. Bush's text included the word ''testing,'' in addition to research, but he did not speak the word. Testing has emerged as a major issue because of concern among some Congressmen that the testing would violate the Antiballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union.

Despite the failure to use the word, Dennis Ross, a senior foreign policy adviser to the Bush campaign, said the Republican nominee supported testing. Mr. Ross said the type of deployment would depend on what the research determined.

''What the nature of the strategy to deploy will be dictated by the technology,'' he said, adding that such issues as cost efficiency and reliability would enter into the decision.

GRAPHIC: photo of Vice President Bush (AP)

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1988; ARMS CONTROL AND LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT; UNITED STATES ARMAMENT AND DEFENSE; UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

ORGANIZATION: AMERICAN LEGION

NAME: BUSH, GEORGE (VICE PRES); BOYD, GERALD M

GEOGRAPHIC: UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS (USSR)

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2350
NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS (1971)
1275 K St., N.W., Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005 Tel.: (202) 898-1100
Members: 77,000

A multi-partisan, non-profit membership organization that helps more women get elected and appointed to public office, the National Women's Political Caucus' ultimate goal is parity at all levels of government. The Coalition for Women's Appointments is a project of the Caucus.

Irene Natividad ..... *National Chair*
Lillie Richardella ..... *Exec. Director*

2360
NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND - WASHINGTON OFFICE (1970)
1712 N St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036 Tel.: (202) 785-4166

A non-profit, public interest law firm specializing in Indian law: treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, land claims and natural resources. Headquartered in Boulder, CO.

Henry Sockbeson ..... *Directing Attorney*

2370
OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE (1980)
730 11th St., N.W., #300
Washington, DC 20001 Tel.: (202) 783-6686
Budget: $800,000 *Members:* 20,000

The national headquarters of a grass roots membership organization focusing exclusively on the concerns of mid-life and older women, OWL works for policy changes to correct the inequities faced by older women. It provides mutual support to members and works to foster a positive image of aging.

Joan Kuriansky ..... *Exec. Director*

2380
ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN (1977)
1525 O St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20005 Tel.: (202) 328-3185
Employees: 3

OCAW is a non-profit service organization seeking to integrate Chinese American women into the mainstream of women's activities and programs. It was created to address a number of issues and concerns including: equal employment and training opportunities at the professional and non-professional levels; stereotypes, racial discrimination and restrictive traditional beliefs; assistance to poverty stricken recent immigrants; and access to leadership and policy-making positions. (Only Washington area officers are listed.)

Julia Chang Bloch ..... *Chair*
Faith Lee Breen ..... *V. President, Programs*
Cynthia Tam ..... *V. President, Finance*
Virginia Cheung ..... *Treasurer*
Nancy Hwang ..... *Secretary*
Pauline Woo Tsui ..... *Exec. Director*

2390
ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS (1973)
2025 Eye St., N.W., Suite 926
Washington, DC 20006 Tel.: (202) 223-5500
Budget: $120,000 *Members:* 5,000

A national non-profit educational and civic organization of concerned Chinese Americans. Encourages active participation by Chinese Americans in all areas of civic life. Works to end discriminatory immigration quotas and other aspects of inequality of treatment or opportunity for Chinese and other Asian Americans. Seeks enhanced cultural opportunities and an end to traditional stereotypes and prejudices.

Melinda Yee ..... *Exec. Director*

2400
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA (1947)
801 18th St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20006 Tel.: (202) 872-1300
Members: 12,500

Helps paralyzed veterans with spinal cord injuries or disease, as well all disabled individuals and veterans. Has over 40 chapters and subchapters throughout the country.

R. Jack Powell ..... *Exec. Director*
Fred Bigood ..... *Assoc. Exec. Director, Administration*
Gordon Mansfield ..... *Assoc. Exec. Director, Government Relations*
Dr. John Mather ..... *Assoc. Exec. Director, Medical and Research Affairs*
Victor S. McCoy Sr. ..... *Assoc. Exec. Director, Veterans Benefits*
Robert L. Nelson ..... *General Counsel*
Joseph A. Sternburg ..... *C.F.O.*
Linda Mansfield ..... *Director, Development*
Andrew Fleming ..... *Director, Sports and Recreation*
Philip Rabin ..... *Director, Public Education and Communication*
David Orris ..... *Director, Information Management Systems*
Kim Beasley ..... *Director, Architecture and Barrier Free Design*
Dr. Donald L. Custis ..... *Senior Medical Advisor*
Douglas Vollmer ..... *National Legislative Director*
David Capozzi ..... *National Advocacy Director*

2410
PENSION RIGHTS CENTER (1976)
918 16th St., N.W., Suite 704
Washington, DC 20006 Tel.: (202) 296-3776

Concerned with the rights of individuals dependent on pension programs for a secure retirement. Educates the public, represents pensioner interests before government agencies/courts and serves as an information clearinghouse.

Karen W. Ferguson ..... *Director*

2430
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES - WASHINGTON OFFICE (1899)
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002 Tel.: (202) 543-2239
Members: 2.2 million

National veterans organization headquartered in Kansas City, MO. Adopts resolutions and policy statements. Staff members located in VFW Washington office lobby and provide testimony to Congress.

Cooper T. Holt ..... *Exec. Director*
Frederico Juarbe Jr. ..... *Director, Nat'l Veterans Service*
William G. Smith ..... *Director, Public Affairs*
Kenneth A. Steadman ..... *Director, Nat'l Security & Foreign Affairs*
James N. Magill ..... *Director, Nat'l Legislative Service*

2440
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA (1978)
2001 S St., N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20009 Tel.: (202) 332-2700
Members: 36,000

A national service organization with over 450 chapters and state councils. Primarily concerned with Vietnam Veterans and their families. VVA was recognied by the Veteran's Administration as a service organization in 1981. It was also granted a congressional charter in May, 1986.

Mary R. Stout ..... *President and Board Member*
Richard O'Dell ..... *V. President and Board Member*
Tom Corey ..... *Secretary and Board Member*
John Messmore ..... *Treasurer and Board Member*
Wayne F. Smith ..... *Director, Membership Services*
Michael Leaveck ..... *Director, Public Affairs*
David F. Addlestone ..... *Director, Legal Services*

2450
WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB (1922)
1526 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036 Tel.: (202) 232-7363
Members: 2,000

Established primarily to educate its members in political science and the study of the processes of democracy and the procedures of government.

Jean Jensen ..... *President*
Janet Koch ..... *V. President, Administration*
Shirley S. Henderson ..... *V. President, Development*
Phyllis Fineshriber ..... *V. President, Programs*

terans, veterans' life insurance, med-
veterans' hospitals, health care pro-
patient programs, readjustment to
e, housing loans, special loans for
' housing, employment, cemetery
benefits and state veterans' homes,
tional assistance for survivors of de-
erans. Oversees operations of the Vet-
inistration.

ietnam Era Veterans in Congress (p.

nmental:

Veterans Committee, 1717 Massa-
Ave. N.W. 20036; 667-0090. June A.
executive director.

hip: veterans of the World Wars, the
Var, and the Vietnam War. Monitors
affecting veterans.

Conference of Employment Security
, 444 N. Capitol St. N.W. 20001; 628-
an Lafferman, assistant director.

legislation and regulations regarding
ent and training programs in support
ms, particularly the involvement of
loyment security agencies.

Var Veterans of U.S.A., 1811 R St.
009; 265-6280. Steve Shaw, national
e director.

ed by the Veterans Administration to
terans with claims for benefits. Offers
s in community relations and service,
ffairs, and veterans' affairs; monitors
n and regulations affecting veterans.

Corps League, 956 N. Monroe St.,
n, Va. 22201; 524-1137. Robert N. For-
ecutive director.

ship: active duty, retired, and reserve
Corps groups. Chartered by Congress to
terans with claims for benefits; operates
eer service program in Veterans Admin-
hospitals.

Order of the Purple Heart of the
5413-B Backlick Rd., Springfield, Va.
42-5360. Frank A. Athanason, adjutant

rship: veterans awarded the Purple
or combat wounds. Chartered by Con-
assist veterans with claims for benefits;
s service and welfare work on behalf of
l and needy veterans and their families.

Officers Assn., 201 N. Washington St.,
dria, Va. 22314; 549-2311. Vice Adm.
Thomas J. Kilcline (USN, ret.), president.

Membership: retired commissioned or warrant officers of the uniformed services. Assists members, their dependents, and survivors with service status and retirement problems; provides employment assistance. Monitors legislation affecting veterans affairs and military compensation issues.

Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., 941 N. Capitol St. N.E. 20002; 275-1388. James G. King, national commander.

Fraternal organization of veterans of actual wartime service in World War I. Chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits; maintains representatives in Veterans Administration hospitals. Holds annual national conference.

Vietnam Veterans of America, 2001 S St. N.W. 20009; 332-2700. Mary Stout, president. Toll-free Agent Orange hotline, (800) 645-1355 (except in New York), (800) 832-1303 (New York).

Membership: Vietnam era veterans. Provides information concerning legislation that affects Vietnam era veterans and their families.

See also Naval Reserve Assn. (p. 483)

Appeals of VA Decisions

Agencies:

Veterans Administration, Board of Veterans Appeals, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. 20420; 233-3001. Kenneth E. Eaton, chairman.

Reviews and makes final decisions on claims for veterans' benefits on appeal from VA field offices.

Non-governmental:

American Legion National Organization, Claims Service, 1608 K St. N.W. 20006; 861-2762. Harold T. Kelly, assistant director.

Membership: honorably discharged wartime veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Assists veterans with appeals before the Veterans Administration for benefits claims.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Appeals, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. 20420; 233-3343. George Estry, chief appeals consultant.

Assists veterans, their dependents, and survivors with appeals before the Veterans Administration for benefits claims.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Legal Services, 2001 S St. N.W. 20009; 686-2599. David Addlestone, director.

Assists Vietnam veterans with appeals before the Veterans Administration for benefits claims.

See also veterans' service organizations in Veterans, Benefits, Compensation, and Pensions, below.

Benefits, Compensation, and Pensions

Agencies:

Veterans Administration, Compensation and Pension Service, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. 20420; 233-2264. Vacant, director.

Administers disability payments.

See also Veterans, General, agencies section (p. 489)

Congress:

See Veterans, General, Congress section (p. 489)

Non-governmental:

Most of the following private veterans' service organizations are either chartered by Congress or recognized by the Veterans Administration (VA) to assist veterans in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for benefits under laws administered by the VA; congressionally chartered groups must conform to certain federal regulations of incorporation and must submit annual reports to Congress; groups recognized by the VA do not. Both types of groups must assist all veterans, not just their members.

American Legion National Organization, 1608 K St. N.W. 20006; 861-2711. Mylio S. Kraja, executive director.

Membership: honorably discharged wartime veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

American National Red Cross, Service to the Armed Forces and Veterans, 17th and D Sts. N.W. 20006; 639-3586. Sally MacDonald, manager.

Assists veterans and dependents with claims for benefits.

American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, 4647 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, Md.

20706; 459-9600. Morgan S. Ruph, national executive director.

Chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits; informs members of eligibility for benefits; sponsors visits to disabled veterans in Veterans Administration facilities.

Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Assn., Fort Myer, Arlington, Va. 22211; 522-3060. Bradley J. Snyder, president.

Private service organization. Recognized by the Veterans Administration to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

Blinded Veterans Assn., 1726 M St. N.W. 20036; 223-3066. Sumner A. Vale, director of administration.

Seeks out blinded veterans to make them aware of benefits and services available to them; chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

Catholic War Veterans U.S.A., 419 N. Lee St., Alexandria, Va. 22314; 549-3622. Paul P. Zawicki, national commander.

Performs community service programs for children; offers scholarships; supports benefits for Vietnam veterans commensurate with those of World War II veterans; recognized by the Veterans Administration to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

Disabled American Veterans, 807 Maine Ave. S.W. 20024; 554-3501. Charles E. Joeckel, executive director.

Assists families of disabled veterans; chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

Fleet Reserve Assn., 1303 New Hampshire Ave. N.W. 20036; 785-2768. Robert W. Nolan, national executive secretary.

Membership: active duty, reserve, and retired Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel. Recognized by the Veterans Administration to assist veterans and widows with benefit claims.

Non-Commissioned Officers Assn., 225 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314; 549-0311. Charles R. Jackson, vice president, government affairs.

Provides legislative assistance; accredited by the Veterans Administration to assist veterans and widows with claims for benefits.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, 801 18th St. N.W. 20006; 872-1300. R. Jack Powell, executive director.

Distributes information on special education for paralyzed veterans; supports and raises funds for research; chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

United Spanish War Veterans, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. (mailing address: P.O. Box 1915, Washington, D.C. 20013); 347-1898. Beulah M. Cope, adjutant general.

Assists Spanish-American War veterans, their spouses, and children with pensions and benefits; chartered by Congress.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, National Veterans Service, 200 Maryland Ave. N.E. 20002; 543-2239. Fred Juarbe, director,

Chartered by Congress to assist veterans with claims for benefits.

See also Veterans, General, non-governmental section (p. 490)

Burial Benefits

Agencies:

Veterans Administration, Compensation and Pension Service, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. 20420; 233-2264. Vacant, director.

Handles claims for burial and plot allowances by veterans' survivors.

Veterans Administration, Memorial Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. 20420; 233-5202. Wilfred L. Ebel, chief; Harold F. Graber, director, state cemetery grants, 233-2313.

Administers VA national cemeteries; furnishes markers and headstones for deceased veterans; administers grants to states to establish, expand, and improve veterans' cemeteries.

Congress:

See Veterans, General, Congress section (p. 489)

Non-governmental:

See veterans' service organizations in Veterans, Benefits, Compensation, and Pensions (p. 491)

Business Assistance

Agencies:

Farmers Home Administration (Agriculture Dept.), Farmer Programs, 14th St. and Independence Ave. S.W. 20250; 447-4671. Glenn J. Hertzler Jr., assistant administrator.

Gives preference to honorably discharged veter

ans in processing their applications for FHA farm loans.

Small Business Administration, Veterans Affairs, 1441 L St. N.W. 20416; 653-8220. Dick E. Ellis, director.

Coordinates programs to give special consideration to veterans in loan, counseling, procurement, and training programs.

Correction of Military Records

See also Military Grievances, Discipline, and Appeals, Correction of Military Records (p. 464); Review Boards (p. 466)

Agencies:

Defense Dept., Legislation and Legal Policy, The Pentagon 20301; 697-3387. Col. Fred K. Green (USA), director.

Civilian office that coordinates policy for the correction of military records boards and discharge review boards of the various armed services.

Non-governmental:

American Legion National Organization, Review and Correction Boards Unit, 1608 K St. N.W. 20006; 861-2764. Francis J. Henry, supervisor.

Membership: honorably discharged wartime veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Represents before the Defense Dept. veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges and to correct alleged errors in military records.

American National Red Cross, Discharge Review Services, The Pentagon 20310; 695-5130. J. A. MacInnis, coordinator.

Represents before the Defense Dept. veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges and to correct their military records.

American Veterans Committee, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. 20036; 667-0090. June A. Willenz, executive director.

Membership: veterans of the World Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Represents before the Defense Dept. veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges.

Disabled American Veterans, 807 Maine Ave. S.W. 20024; 554-3501. Charles E. Joeckel, executive director.

Represents before the Defense Dept. veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges and to correct alleged errors in military records.

Marine Corps League, 956 N. Monroe St., Arlington, Va. 22201; 524-1137. Robert N. Forsyth, executive director.

Membership: active duty, retired, and reserve Marine Corps groups. Represents before the Defense Dept. veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges.

National Veterans' Legal Services Project, 2001 S St. N.W. 20009; 686-2741. Keith D. Snyder, director.

Offers guidance on upgrading of less-than-honorable discharges.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Military Claims, 200 Maryland Ave. N.E. 20002; 543-2239. Robert Manhan, chief.

Represents before the Defense Dept. veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Legal Services, 2001 S St. N.W. 20009; 686-2599. David Addlestone, director.

Represents before the Defense Dept. Vietnam veterans seeking to upgrade less-than-honorable discharges and to correct alleged errors in military records.

See also veterans' service organizations in Veterans, Benefits, Compensation, and Pensions (p. 491)

Education and Vocational Rehabilitation

Agencies:

Education Dept., Veterans Educational Outreach Program, 7th and D Sts. S.W. 20202; 732-4406. Neil McArthur, program manager.

Provides postsecondary institutions with funds, based on their eligible veterans' enrollment. Institutions receiving funds must maintain a veterans' affairs office and provide veterans with outreach, recruitment, counseling, and special education programs.

Veterans Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Service, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W. 20420; 233-5154. Dennis R. Wyant, director.

Administers vocational rehabilitation and counseling programs, including financial support for education, disabled veterans and the spouses

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March 21, 1981, Saturday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section 1; Page 10, Column 3; National Desk

LENGTH: 460 words

HEADLINE: WHITE HOUSE WITHDRAWS SUPPORT OF LONG ISLANDER TO BE V.A. HEAD

BYLINE: By IRVIN MOLOTSKY, Special to the New York Times

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, March 20

BODY:

The Reagan Administration has decided not to nominate John Behan, a Vietnam War amputee from Long Island, to head the Veterans Administration, a White House official said today.

The decision to withdraw the nomination of Mr. Behan, the official said, resulted from protests by politically active veterans' groups and their allies in Congress who asserted that Mr. Behan, a New York State Assemblyman, lacked the managerial skill and power to fight for veterans' programs.

Reached at his home in Montauk, L.I., Mr. Behan said that he had not been notified of the decision by the White House and expressed disappointment.

Mr. Behan said it was his understanding that the most forceful opposition to his appointment had come from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Behan and three Congressional aides who asked not to be identified said that his chief opponent was Cooper T. Holt, executive director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mr. Holt did not respond to a telephoned request for comment.

Other Names Proposed

When the White House disclosed plans last month to name Mr. Behan, the V.F.W. leadership recommended a candidate, William Ayres, a former Congressman from Ohio, the White House and Congressional sources said.

Mr. Ayres was also opposed, one of the Congressional aides said, and two more candidates were proposed and supported by other members of Congress. ''Those four people sort of killed each other off,'' the aide said.

The Administration decided against nominating Mr. Behan and the three challengers and instead began interviewing new candidates this week.

Mr. Behan said he would be available to the Veterans Administration ''to try to help the Vietnam era veteran and work with the new administrator, whoever he is.''

An Achiever in Athletics

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Mr. Behan, who is 36 years old, won varsity letters in three sports when he attended East Hampton, L.I., High School. He joined the Marine Corps after he graduated in 1963.

In 1966, while on patrol in Vietnam, Mr. Behan was wounded and both legs were amputated above the knee. Mr. Behan was a member of the United States Wheelchair Team at the Pan-American Games in Lima, Peru, in 1972 and at the Wheelchair Olympics in Toronto in 1976.

He has won gold medals in the discus, shot-put and javelin events and he holds the world record for the javelin event among wheelchair athletes.

As a member of the New York Assembly, Mr. Behan organized the Vietnam Veterans Caucus in the Legislature to draw attention to the needs of veterans of that conflict, particularly those exposed to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange.

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS AND EXECUTIVE CHANGES; VETERANS; UNITED STATES POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

NAME: REAGAN, RONALD WILSON (PRES)

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Stephanie:

P/S. check with the VFW organization to see what types of community programs/ projects they are involved in (any to do with drugs?)

Also, pls. find out how many Veterans there are — # must be 10 million or more....

Thanks,

Dan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Stephanie:

Can you get me
copies of the following
2 Reagan speeches:

1) Moscow St. University
2) Notre Dame U.

Thanks,

Dan Mc

4 → 3/4/81
3/29/83
4/19/83
4/3/81

2/24/89 VFW Speech

Kennedy Quarterback

KM → veterans affairs
VA → priorities → Bill Anderson
Advance → norm. questions

Cooper Holt, ED of VFW, Washington office
543-2239 200 Maryland Ave. NE

Library of Mss

Publications VA Library 976

VFW Magazine
Washington Action Reporter → 810 Vermont
National Headquarters

Readers Guide

Christian Century 2/25/87
"A VFW Post with a Spiritual Vision"
p. 193-4

✓ People 12/5/88 Viet Vet finds peace in Vietnam
p. 156-63

✓ Esquire Nov. 88 p. 64+ Comm. of Viet. Vet what kgs

✓ People 10/24/88 p. 119 Viet Vet helps Soviet Vet

✓ Forbes 7/11/88 p. 135-6 Nam returnees make good

✓ The New Yorker 2/8/88 p. 71-81 Reunion of U.S. & German Vets

✓ Reader's Digest 4/88 p. 65-7 Encouragement to Nam amputee

2.2 mill.
750,000 ladies aux. → cancer research
10,000 communities

Youth
Boys Scouts

Drugs
brochures
coloring books
speakers

Natl. Convention Report

Cooper Holt – is retiring in Sept. - sending bio; thinks GB wants to mention it.

2100 messenger lobby @ receptionist desk
of VFW

Quotes
~~start~~ strength quotes

Correspondence
veterans letter

VFW → JPP

drugs

enlist them in the war against drugs

I'm calling on you to enlist in the war . - - - -

Have fought for your country once

def 4 veterans are wasted for the news

mandatory - exortation

ask Bennett for 2 specifics

joint program

Drug
x 2992 673-2636
2613

Chrmn of Drug Council of VFW on dias w/ GB

2/23/89 V.A. Library

Headline Issues:
VFW 2/89 Central America
English as official language
Homeless Veterans

p. 43 (2/89) Walk-a-thon to buy a narcotics dog
p. 64 jokes
p. 4. Larry Rivers, Derwinski & Bush meet
p. 8 Walla Walla, Washington; Christmas spirit

p. 30 (10/88) collecting money for Korean War Memorial

Corresp 2304; Mail Analysis 6600 - Mrs Bell → letters of Vet.

Quotes

Oxford Dict.
defense: Anon 7:16, Anon 5:1; Homer 254:2,
Roy 515:22; Burke 109:23

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.
Const. of the UN Educ. Scientific & Cultural Organization

Defense not defiance
Motto of the Volunteers Movement 1857

This is the one best omen, to fight in defense of one's country.

2/24/89

VFW

Advance:

Earl Stock

Commander in Chief's theme: "For America: Whatever it takes!"

Drugs abuse:

Chairman - Paul Fleurdelys

Director - Joseph D. Ross

[(615) 320-1700 Rm. 1001]

VFW slogan: "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

Defense budget

1990-93

0%
1%
1%
2%
} growth

OMB
Comptroller

89 - 5.7% of GNP

90 - 5.5%
91 - 5.4%
92 - 5.3%
93 - 5.2%
94 - 5.1%

Histor. Tables
P. 140

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1989

MEMORANDUM

RE: Drug Initiatives in VFW Speech

---

* Call veterans to enlist in the "War on Drugs" by getting involved in volunteer programs in their communities. Programs include:

- DARE
- Chaperone parties
- Community meetings with the clergy and law enforcement officers
- Lobbying for anti-drug legislation in their states and city councils
- Teaching or pushing for anti-drug curriculum in elementary and high schools
- Asking the police department how you can help.
-(Call upon the Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and teams they coach to fight drugs)
-(Volunteer at inner-city schools)

* Meet with Drug Czar Bennett to enlist the VFW in an anti-drug war.

VFW

2/28/89

Volunteer Initiatives
Chaperone parties
Comm. meetings w/ clergy & police
Lobby for local anti-drug legislation
anti-drug curriculum
ask your local police dept. how you can help

push for & teach →

Think about being involved & give them a few examples

inviting them and all Americans to get involved in drugs

Call upon Boy Scouts & 4-H clubs to get involved.

3/2/89 VFW Speech

4624 David Morrison

~~OMB~~ → historical table ~~& read~~

~~Adv.~~ → who to acknowledge

~~David Tell~~ → to o.k.

VFW material

Winston Churchill quote

Bartletts on Churchill

~~742~~, 781, ~~442~~, 743

VFW - Bill Smith 543-2239

2/27/89

VFW

Advance → nobody's been assigned yet

David Tall → will call me back

2/28/89

volunteer to man a desk to free up an officer for drug patrol → justice

- declared a task force.
- volunteer at inner-city schools
- take a look around neighborhoods make sure children have right constellation of aspirations, community of adults to foster those positive feelings.

VFW

- Jim Burke pres. of Johnson & Johnson private sector initiatives for drug abuse

BB will be confirmed as 1st drug czar by how he must come up w/ a policy to win war on drugs.

- I'm asking you to do the same in your committee

mention ½ dozen volunteer initiatives

DARE

NAME	OFFICE	Bus. Phone	Home Ph
Bill Smith	VFW WASH	543-2239	250-9602
Leo Tomeu	WH staff	456-7565	
Bob Risney	WH Comm	395-6310	395-2000
Tim McCarthy	USSS	395-4112	395-2000 x833
Maj Bruce Caughman	WH Mil Office	456-2150	395-2000
Mitch Price	USSS	395-4011	273-8239
Bob MADEL	USSS/TSD	336-8460	249-6927
Stephanie Blessey	Speechwriting	456-7750	483-4914
DOUG WEAD	WH staff SAP	456 7142	703/920 2843
Barry Hammond	SWH Coordinato	328-2913	483-2253
Bob Drescher	SWH Security/Dir	328 2000	552303(
Bob SCHULIEN	USSS-WFO	634-5100	250-5333
Leo Andrew	VFW	543-2239	780-7820
ELI VIONJVICH	SHERATON WASH.	328-2000	270-5022

AREA CODE 202
543-2239

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES

WILLIAM G. SMITH
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON OFFICE
200 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

Tower's service.

NAVY ENSIGN?

Combat — medals.

545-6700

695-5261

697-7200

Kim Gorvin

age of 17 during WWII in 1943, June 17 - March 25, 1946 & saw combat
served time on Sunbird
~~SAW~~ combat on gunboat in West. Pacific
Sect. Doll's off. Boatswains mate
Jeff Tackem deck responsibilities
~~6937~~ sat going in 67
~~695-6882~~
697-7491

Remained in Reserve, until he earned the rank of Master Chief Boatswain's Mate
Transferred to Ret. Reserve on Feb. 1, 1989

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1989

MEMORANDUM

RE: Drug Initiatives in VFW Speech proposed by David Tell

---

* Call veterans to enlist in the "War on Drugs" by getting involved in volunteer programs in their communities. Programs include:

- DARE ?
- Chaperone parties ?!
- Community meetings with the clergy and law enforcement officers ✓
- Lobbying for anti-drug legislation in their states and city councils ✓
- Teaching or pushing for anti-drug curriculum in elementary and high schools ✓✓
- Asking the police department how you can help. ✓✓✓
- (Call upon the Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and teams they coach to fight drugs) ✓✓
- (Volunteer at inner-city schools) ✓✓✓

* Meet with Drug Czar Bennett to enlist the VFW in an anti-drug war.

✓ = good

✓✓ = very good

✓✓✓ = excellent

?! = I wonder about this

? = no idea

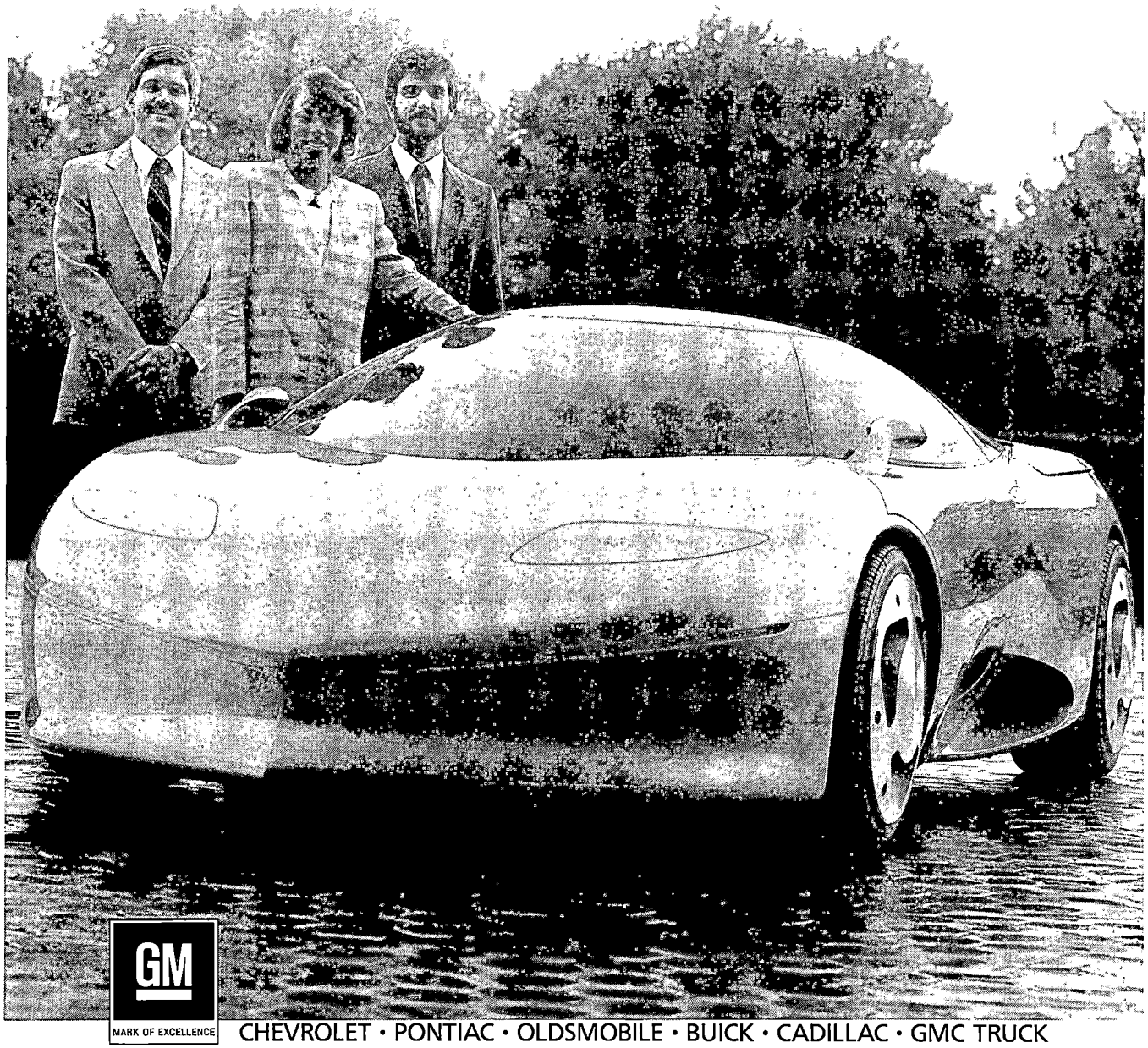
C H I C A G O
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
89th
NATIONAL CONVENTION

The vision of youth is helping shape the future at General Motors.

At General Motors we listen to the ideas of our young people. Their commitment to excellence and their fresh, innovative thinking help guide us in a changing automotive world. And their dreams will become our cars and trucks of tomorrow.

Innovators such as Eric Clough (right), a creative designer who helped design this advanced version of a two-seater sports car. Marietta Kearney, an interior creative designer who specializes in both current and advanced models. And Dave Riegner, project engineer, who is working with new composite materials that will save weight and help make tomorrow's cars more durable. Their vision, and that of thousands of other young experts, is helping create the foundation for the automobiles we build today and the ones we'll build in the future.

All of us at General Motors salute this commitment to excellence.



GM
MARK OF EXCELLENCE

CHEVROLET • PONTIAC • OLDSMOBILE • BUICK • CADILLAC • GMC TRUCK

NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND THEIR JOB SECURITY.

But that's just the position volunteers in the National Guard and Reserve find themselves in every day. They're torn between serving their country and serving their employers.

We can't afford for them to have that dilemma. The Guard and Reserve makes up a full one third of our nation's defense, which means without them our country would be a lot weaker.

When they ask for one weekend a month and at least two weeks a year for training, give them all the support you can.

It may be the only time you benefit more from employees not being at work than when they are.

Protect their future while they protect yours.

For more information, write Employer Support, Arlington, VA 22209. Or call 1-800-336-4590.

Ad Council

ESGR

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD & RESERVE

CONVENTION HOTEL DIRECTORY

Chicago Hilton	561-0500
Chicago Marriott	836-0100
Palmer House	726-7500
McCormick Center	791-4900
Essex Inn	939-2800
Americana Congress	427-3800
Blackstone	427-4300

ALABAMA
Palmer House

ALASKA
Marriott

ARIZONA
Palmer House

ARKANSAS
Hilton

CALIFORNIA
Hilton

COLORADO
Palmer House

CONNECTICUT
Hilton

DELAWARE
Hilton

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Hilton

EUROPE
Hilton

FLORIDA
Palmer House

GEORGIA
Marriott

HAWAII
Hilton

IDAHO
Marriott

ILLINOIS
Hilton-Essex Inn-Blackstone

INDIANA
Essex Inn-Blackstone

IOWA
Palmer House

KANSAS
Hilton

KENTUCKY
Palmer House

LOUISIANA
Hilton

MAINE
Marriott

MARYLAND
Hilton

MASSACHUSETTS
Hilton

MICHIGAN
Marriott

MINNESOTA
Marriott

MISSISSIPPI
Palmer House

MISSOURI
Palmer House

MONTANA
Hilton

NEBRASKA
Marriott

NEVADA
Palmer House

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Marriott

NEW JERSEY
Hilton

NEW MEXICO
Hilton

NEW YORK
Hilton

NORTH CAROLINA
Marriott

NORTH DAKOTA
Palmer House

OHIO
Palmer House-Blackstone

OKLAHOMA
Palmer House

OREGON
Palmer House

PACIFIC AREA
Hilton

PANAMA CANAL
Hilton

PENNSYLVANIA
Marriott

RHODE ISLAND
Palmer House

SOUTH CAROLINA
Marriott

SOUTH DAKOTA
Palmer House

TENNESSEE
Palmer House

TEXAS
Palmer House

UTAH
Palmer House

VERMONT
Palmer House

VIRGINIA
Palmer House

WASHINGTON
Marriott

WEST VIRGINIA
Palmer House

WISCONSIN
Hilton

WYOMING
Palmer House

NATIONAL VFW HEADQUARTERS
Hilton

NATIONAL VFW CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS
Hilton

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY HEADQUARTERS
Marriott

NATIONAL MOC HEADQUARTERS
Americana Congress

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events are scheduled for the Chicago Hilton Hotel unless otherwise noted.

Friday August 19

9 a.m. **Registration-VFW** ..... **Continental Room**

Saturday August 20

9 a.m. **Registration-VFW** ..... **Continental Room**
9 a.m. **National Veterans Service Committee** ..... **Private Dining Room**
2 p.m. **VFW Council of Administration** ..... **Waldorf Room**
4 p.m. **Catholic Mass** ..... **Williford Rooms A & B**
4 p.m. **Protestant Vesper Service** ..... **Private Dining Room 7**

Sunday August 21

8 a.m. **Catholic Church Service** ..... **Williford Rooms A & B**
8 a.m. **Protestant Church Service** ..... **Williford Room C**
9 a.m. **Registration-VFW** ..... **Continental Room**
9 a.m. **Annual Memorial Service** ..... **Arie Crown Theatre, McCormick Place**
(Buses will leave from designated hotel locations to the McCormick Place and return after the service; no charge)
12:00 noon **Awards Luncheon** ..... **International Ballroom**
3 p.m. **Convention Committee Meetings:**
Parade Meeting (Parade Committee and Department Commanders) ..... **Astoria Room**
Committee on Veterans Service ..... **Williford Room C**
Committee on National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure & Ritual ..... **Waldorf Room**
9 p.m. **Eastern Conference Caucus** ..... **Wiliford Room**
Western Conference Caucus ..... **International Ballroom South**
Southern Conference Caucus ..... **Grand Ballroom**
Big Ten Conference Caucus ..... **International Ballroom North**

Monday August 22

9 a.m. **Registration-VFW** ..... **Continental Room**
9 a.m. **Joint Opening Session** ..... **Arie Crown Theatre, McCormick Place**
(Buses will leave from designated hotel locations to the McCormick Place and return after the session; no charge)
2 p.m. **Convention Committee Meetings:**
Americanism, Community Activities, Loyalty, Safety and Youth Activities ..... **Williford Room B**
By-Laws, Rules, Procedure & Ritual ..... **Astoria Room**
Finance & Internal Organization ..... **Williford Room A**
General Resolutions ..... **Private Dining Room 2**
National Security & Foreign Affairs ..... **Waldorf Room**
Veteran & Legislative Committee ..... **Williford Room C**
Convention Rules ..... **Private Dining Room 3**
6 p.m. **Reception for Distinguished Guests** ..... **Boulevard Rooms A-B-C**
(By invitation only)
6 p.m. **General Reception** ..... **Grand Ballroom**
7 p.m. **Distinguished Guests Banquet** ..... **International Ballroom**

Tuesday August 23

9 a.m.	**Registration-VFW**	**Continental Room**
9 a.m.	**VFW Business Session**	**International Ballroom**
2:30 p.m.	**Post Development Meeting**	**Astoria Room**
2:30 p.m.	**VAVS Conference**	**Waldorf Room**
7 p.m.	**Annual Military Parade**	**Michigan Avenue**

Wednesday August 24

7 a.m.	**All American Commanders Breakfast**	**Williford Room**
9 a.m.	**Registration-VFW**	**Continental Room**
9 a.m.	**VFW Business Session**	**International Ballroom**
2 p.m.	**VFW Ritual Team Competition**	**Astoria Room**
2 p.m.	**VFW Membership Workshop**	**Waldorf Room**

Thursday August 25

9 a.m.	**Registration-VFW**	**Continental Room**
9 a.m.	**VFW Business Session**	**International Ballroom**
2 p.m.	**VFW Programs**	**Astoria Room**
2 p.m.	**National Home Meeting**	**Williford Room A & B**
3 p.m.	**Department Commanders & National Officers Reception (By invitation only)**	**Williford Room C**
7 p.m.	**Eastern Conference Banquet**	**Grand Ballroom**
	Western Conference Banquet	**Grand Ballroom, Marriott Hotel**
	Big Ten Conference Banquet	**Grand Ballroom, Palmer House**
	Dixie Banquet	**International Ballroom**

Friday August 26

9 a.m.	**Registration-VFW**	**Continental Room**
9 a.m.	**VFW Election & Installation of Officers**	**International Ballroom**
2 p.m.	**VFW Council of Administration**	**Waldorf Room**
8:30 p.m.	**Commander-in-Chief & National President's Reception**	**International Ballroom**

VFW Convention Headquarters	**Conference Room 5J**
VFW National Headquarters	**Continental Room**
VFW Registration	**Continental Room**
VFW Supply Department	**Continental Room**
VFW Displays & Exhibits	**Continental Room & South Lobby**
Military Displays & Exhibits	**Continental Room & South Lobby**
Public Relations & Press Headquarters	**Marquette Room**
Distinguished Guests Headquarters	**Joliet Room**
VIP (holding room)	**Boulevard Room A**
Parade & Contest Headquarters	**Conference Room 4D**
Transportation Headquarters	**Private Dining Room 6**
Non-denominational chapel	**Private Dining Room 7**
First Aid Headquarters	**Private Dining Room 5**

GREETINGS

President Ronald Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 5, 1988

It is an honor to extend warmest greetings to the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as you gather in Chicago for your 89th Annual Convention.

Although I am unable to be with you at this special time, I want to assure each of you that I deeply appreciate the enormous beneficial impact your organization has had on our Nation. I will always be grateful to you for the wonderful support that you have shown me and my Administration during these last eight years.

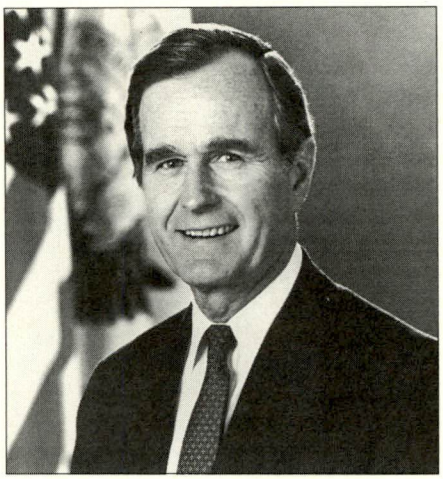
We Americans owe far more than we can ever repay to those of you who have answered the call to defend the liberty of our Republic. Wherever you served, in whatever capacity, you lived up to our trust, willingly shouldering the burdens and doing what had to be done. Millions of you endured terrible hardships, and made tremendous sacrifices, so that your fellow citizens might live in freedom. Some of your brothers paid the ultimate price. Many of our heroes now sleep in the soil of lands far from home, but they are never far from our thoughts. We will never forget them.

It is an honor to salute each of you on the occasion of this final meeting during my time in office and to thank you for your continuing dedication and commitment to flag and country. God bless you, and God bless America!

Ronald Reagan

GREETINGS

Vice President George Bush



THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1988

TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS CONFERENCE

It is an honor for me to extend greetings to everyone gathered for the 89th Annual Convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The freedom we enjoy as Americans has been won at great cost, and all Americans owe a lasting debt of gratitude to our nation's veterans. Through the many programs and activities of this fine organization, you keep alive our awareness of this debt as you advance the welfare of the men and women who served in our Armed Forces.

As a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, (in Houston's Post #4344) I am proud of the work our organization has done. This work, truly, is a credit to the United States of America.

Barbara joins me in sending you our best wishes for an enjoyable and successful national convention and for continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

George Bush

GREETINGS

United States Senator Paul Simon

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 20, 1988

Dear Fellow VFW Members:

I'm pleased to be able to welcome you to Chicago for the 89th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

While you're here I hope you will be able to sample many of the "Magnificent Miles" our great city has to offer.

I'm proud to be a Life Member of VFW and a partner with you in many legislative battles over the years.

I speak for all Illinoisians in expressing gratitude to you for your allegiance to this nation -- to the preservation of freedom at home and abroad. For all of us in Illinois, it is an honor that you have chosen to gather here, and may your days in Chicago be productive and memorable.

My best wishes.

Cordially,

Paul Simon
United States Senator

GREETINGS

United States Senator Alan J. Dixon

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August, 1988

Dear VFW Members:

On behalf of the people of Chicago and all Illinoisans, it is my great pleasure to welcome the 89th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We are proud to have the opportunity to host this most important meeting. We hope that our hospitality can begin to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the contributions you have made, and continue to make, to the freedom and security of our great nation.

As a veteran and a member of the United States Senate Armed Services Committee, I am particularly aware of the dedicated efforts of those who have sacrificed for America during times of peace and times of war.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable convention.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Dixon
United States Senator/Illinois

GREETINGS

Governor James R. Thompson

STATE OF ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SPRINGFIELD 62706

August 22, 1988

Greetings:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, it gives me great pleasure to send greetings to everyone attending the VFW National Convention. I want to personally thank you for choosing Illinois and the City of Chicago as the site of your convention. I am sure that as you discover Chicago's hospitality and the excitement of the "Windy City," you will be glad you chose Chicago to host your convention.

I commend your dedication and strong sense of duty to your country; you are greatly appreciated and admired by the people you have served. You have given much to your country through your selfless and persistent endeavors to protect and improve it, even to the point of risking your life.

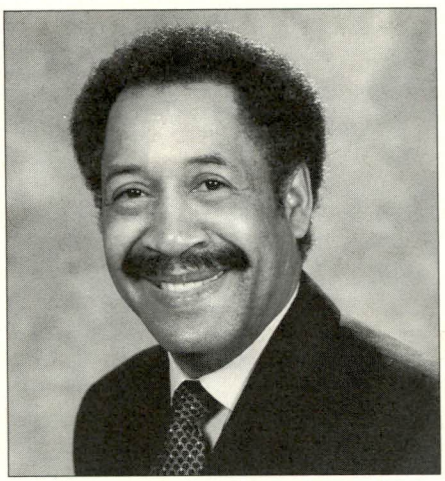
Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable convention.

Sincerely,

James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR

GREETINGS

Acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer



CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 11, 1988

Dear Commander in Chief Stock:

As Mayor of the City of Chicago, as well as personally, I am very pleased to extend a cordial welcome to you, the delegates, families and friends of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on the occasion of your Eighty Ninth National Convention - August 19-26, 1988, here in Chicago.

Chicago is proud of its reputation as "Convention Capital of the Nation." We are quite confident that the unparalleled facilties of our city will enhance the success of your meeting bringing about the maximum in attendance.

During the few moments available to you during your business and technical sessions, please be assured that there are many regular and special events in the city for your mutual enjoyment and interest.

We hope your group will return to Chicago many times in the future.

Sincerely,

Eugene Sawyer

ACTING MAYOR

CONVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GREETINGS FROM THE 89TH NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Chicago is a great city. Those of us who live in Chicago or its environs believe it is the greatest city in the world. It is a manufacturing center, a transportation hub and the core of America's vast heartland.

As delegates to the 89th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, you will find our people generous and willing to help you in any way they can.

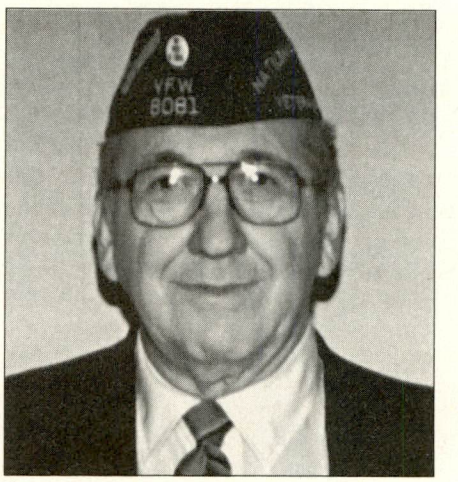
This is the sixth time since the end of World War II that the VFW has met in Chicago, so you can see that our organization likes Chicago, and Chicago likes the VFW.

Many of you will remember Chicago from your service days. The Navy's Great Lakes Training Center is not far away, nor is Fort Sheridan. If you did not serve in the Chicago area, you probably did pass through our city on your way overseas and had a chance to enjoy the hospitality for which Chicago is so richly and justly famous.

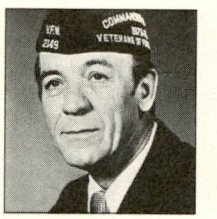
While you are here, be sure to take advantage of some of the attractions our city has to offer. Chicago is noted for its museums, its shopping facilities, its glittering nightlife and its world class restaurants catering to every taste.

It is an honor to welcome all of you to Chicago. You may be sure that we will do all in our power to make your visit pleasant and memorable.

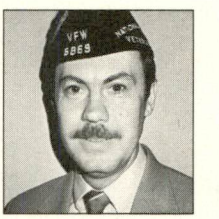
Vernon Soukup
Chairman, Board of Directors



Vernon Soukup
Chairman

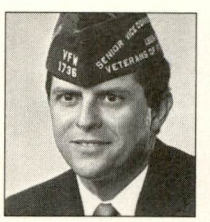


Ray Soden
Vice Chairman

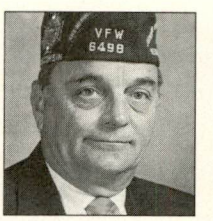


George Cramer
Secretary-Treasurer

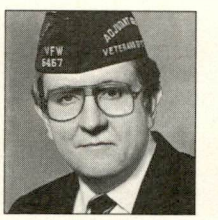
Earl L. Stock, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief



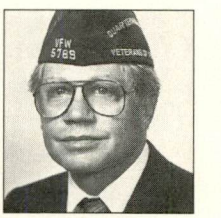
Larry W. Rivers
Sr. Vice
Commander-in-Chief



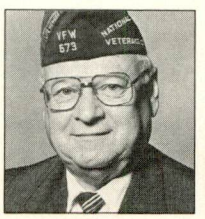
Walter G. Hogan
Jr. Vice
Commander-in-Chief



Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General



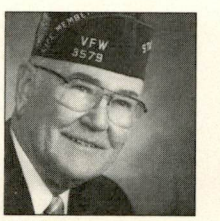
Herbert W. Irwin
Quartermaster General



Omar Kendall
Convention Director

Dwight Tanner, Jr.
Member

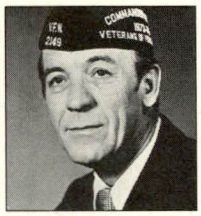
Robert McMahon
Member



Ed Gjirtsen
Member

Eugene Lewandowski
Member

CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN



Ray Soden
Distinguished Guests

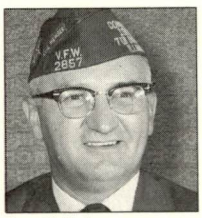
Robert McMahon
Parade

Arthur Harrison
Transportation

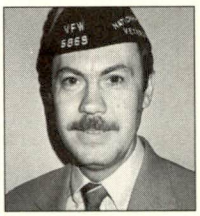
Jack McCraith
Meeting Halls and Info.

Dwight Tanner, Jr.
Memorial Service

Ed Gjirtsen
Advance Registration

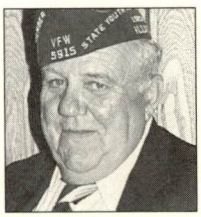


Donald Palmer
MOC Liaison



George Cramer
Finance

Henry Majewski
Contests



Walter Such
Signs

Eugene Lewandowski
Military Coordinator

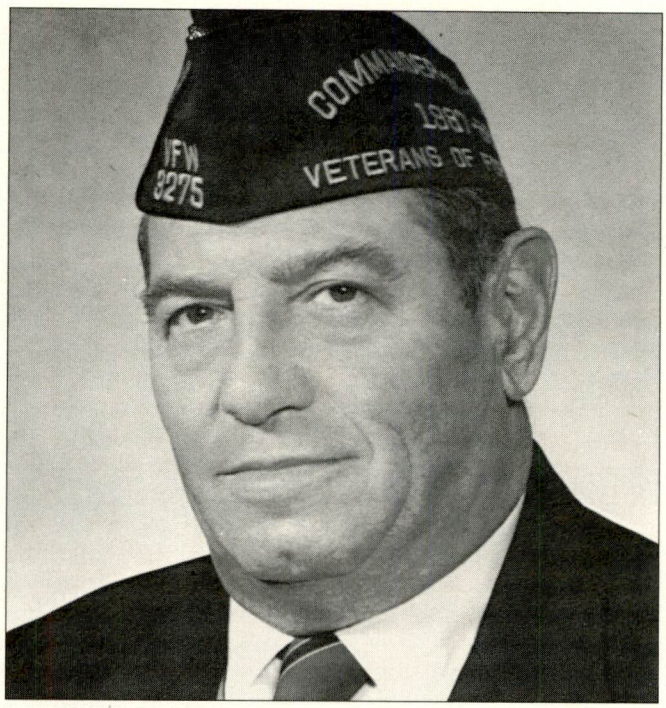
Carl Di Grazia
Medical

As we assemble in Chicago for our 89th National Convention, we are charged with the responsibility of considering a vast array of resolutions. They will provide our great organization with the firm foundation for continued improvements in veterans' entitlements, for a national defense that will make the United States so strong that no aggressor will dare attack, for an America imbued with the ideals for which we and those who came before us fought so valiantly and for continued growth.

It is only through our traditionally reasoned approach to the challenges in the years that lie ahead that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States can be sure of overcoming whatever obstacles may stand in the way of achieving the goals you, the delegates to this 89th National Convention, set for this organization for the 1988-89 year.

In assessing the future, we must be ever-mindful of the heavy burden we bear as veterans. We have served our country in time of national peril. In this, we take great pride. At the same time, however, we must remember that most Americans have not had this opportunity. Therefore, it is up to us, as veterans, to impress on our fellow citizens what that service entailed and what the needs of veterans are.

Now on the threshold of the 90th birthday of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, our great organization has set a glorious record in all its endeavors. It is up to us at this 89th National Convention to set the agenda for the future to assure that the coming years will be as memorable.



Earl L. Stock, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief

Yours in Comradeship,

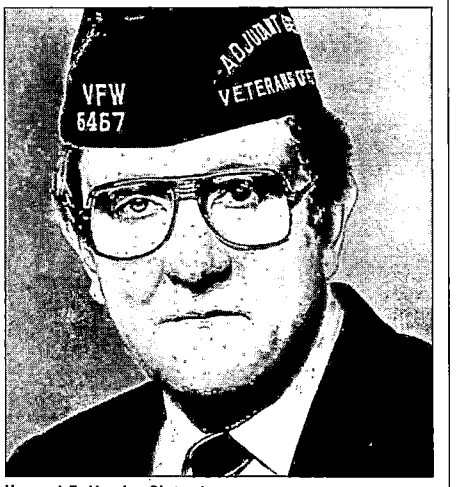
Earl L. Stock, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief

In assessing the future, we must be ever-mindful of the heavy burden we bear as veterans. We have served our country in time of national peril.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

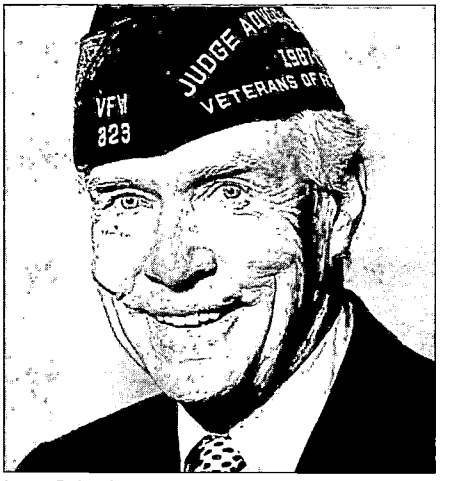
Larry W. Rivers
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Walter G. Hogan
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief



Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General

Herbert W. Irwin
Quartermaster General

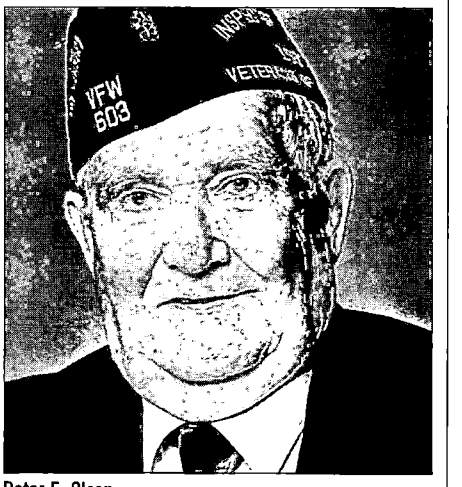


James B. Lund
Judge Advocate General

Dr. Philip J. Begley, Jr.
Surgeon General

Bishop Boyd W. Winterton
National Chaplain

Paul E. Wampler, Jr.
National Chief of Staff



Peter E. Olson
Inspector General

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Norman G. Staab
Past Commander-in-Chief

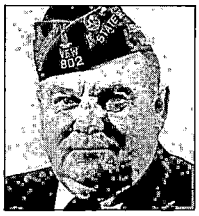
Curtis E. Brown
Dist. 1 (ME, NH, VT)
1987-89

Louis Reale
Dist. 2 (MA, CT)
1986-88

James R. Ross
Dist. 3 (MD, RI)
1987-89

John J. Lieb
Dist. 4 (DC, DE, EU)
1986-88

John P. Walker, Jr.*
Dist. 5 (MO, IN)
1987-89

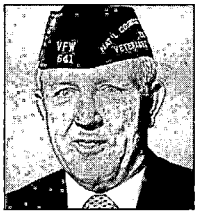


George Magurany
Dist. 5 (IN, MO)
Serving unexpired term

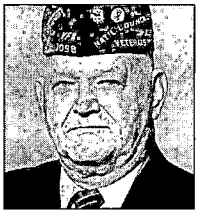
Otis N. Berry
Dist. 6 (WV, VA)
1986-88

George B. Simons
Dist. 7 (TN, KY)
1987-89

George H. Pugh
Dist. 8 (GA, AL)
1986-88



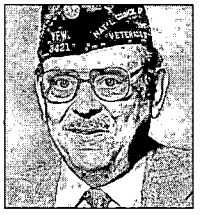
Henry S. Allen, Sr.
Dist. 9 (SC, NC)
1987-89



Robert B. Thomas
Dist. 10 (OK, AR)
1986-88

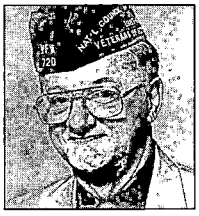
Charles Arndt
Dist. 11 (WI, IA)
1987-89

Paul S. Aaberg
Dist. 12 (SD, ND, WY)
1986-88



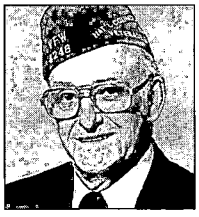
Earl Stiner, Jr.
Dist. 13 (NE, KS)
1987-89

Jack C. Hulslander
Dist. 14 (MT, WA, ID)
1986-88

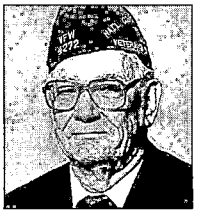


Christian L. Hammond
Dist. 15 (NM, CO, AZ)
1987-89

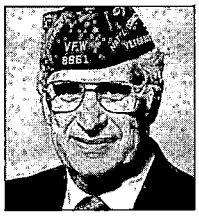
Louis Balasanos
Dist. 16 (PC, PAC, AK, HI)
1986-88



Patrick L. Jordan
Dist. 17 (UT, NV, OR)
1987-89

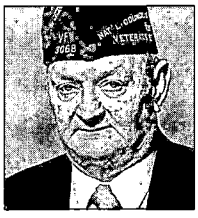


A. O. Cummings
Dist. 19 (LA, MS)
1987-89



Tavio Angelo
Dist. A (PA)
1987-89

Thomas Morgan
Dist. B (IL)
1987-89



Charles J. Schnobrich
Dist. C (NY)
1987-89

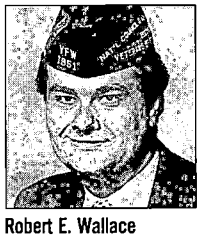
Glen A. Rohr
Dist. D (OH)
1986-88

Patrick T. Bohmer
Dist. E (MN)
1986-88

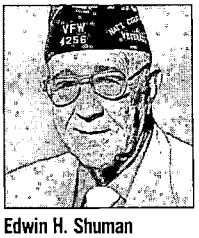
Irving Wendt
Dist. F (MI)
1987-89

C. W. Kelly
Dist. G (CA)
1987-89

Robert J. Lyons, Sr.
Dist. H (TX)
1986-88



Robert E. Wallace
Dist. I (NJ)
1987-89



Edwin H. Shuman
Dist. J (FL)
1987-89

*Deceased

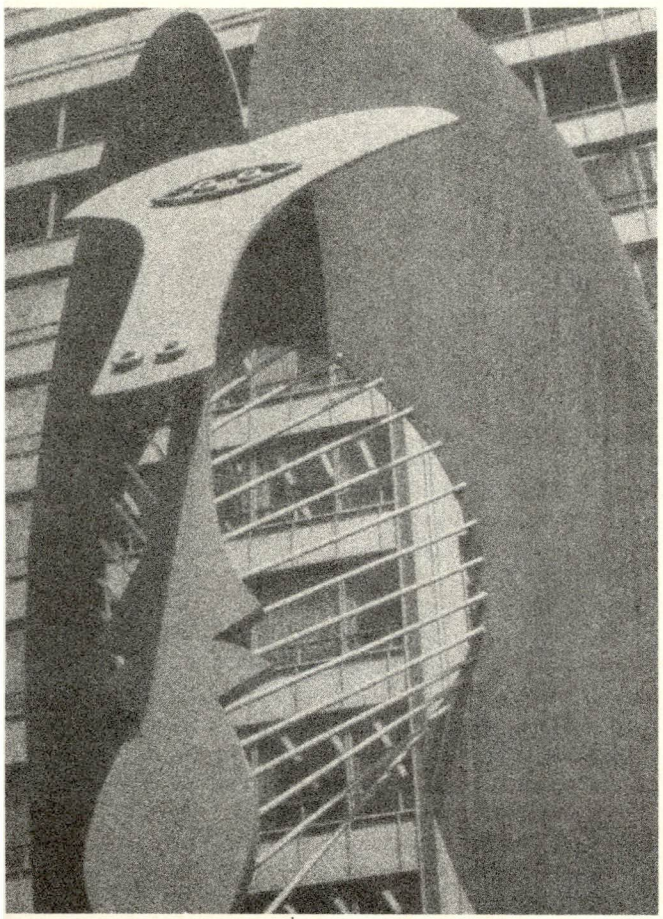
CHICAGO WELCOMES YOU

Few other cities offer as much for convention delegates to do or see when business sessions have concluded for the day as Chicago.

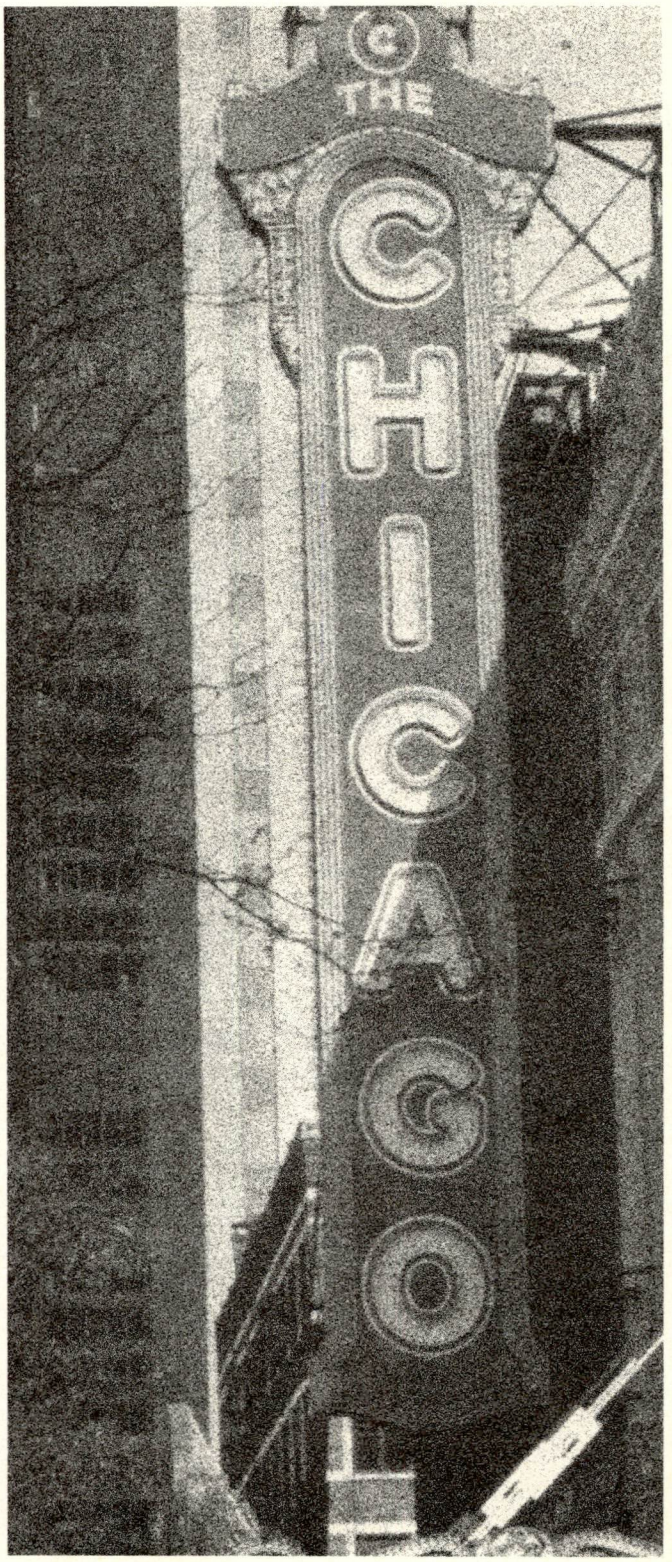
Restaurants of all types abound, appealing to even the most jaded palates. To the standard Chinese, Italian and Hellenic have been added Afghan, Cajun, Korean, Mexican, Thai, Indian and Armenian. One of the city's most famous restaurants features traditional German dishes.

Shopping has made the Miracle Mile and the State Street Mall world-famous for the type, quality and variety of the merchandise available.

Museums are devoted to scientific, industrial and artistic interests. Even ethnicity is recognized in a variety of museums.

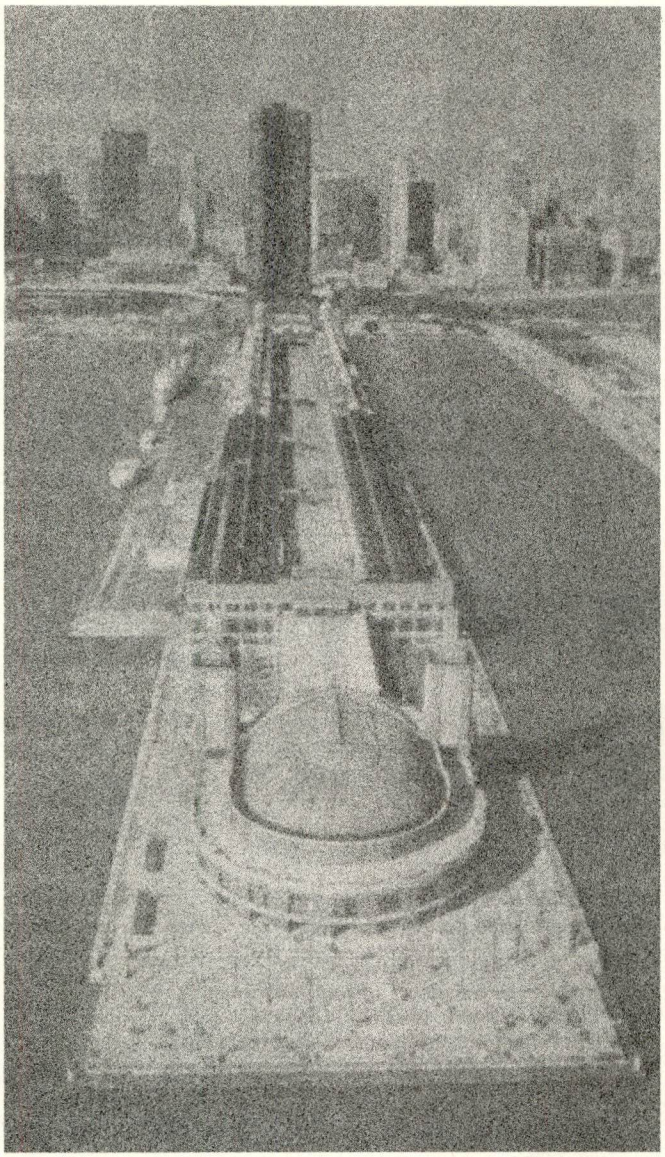


This Picasso sculpture has won worldwide acclaim.

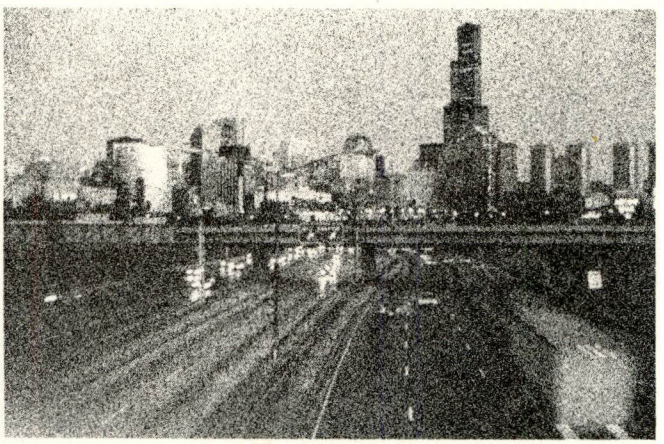


The Chicago Theater.

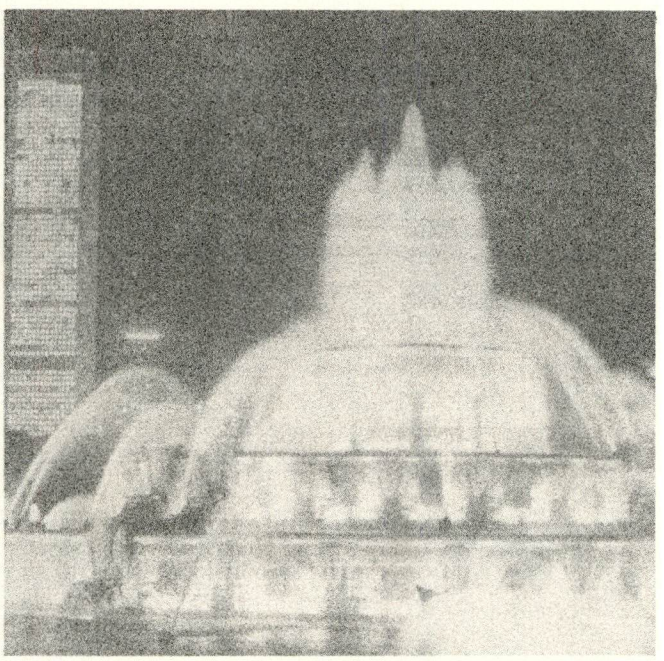
CHICAGO WELCOMES YOU



The Navy Pier is one of Chicago's most noted attractions.



This is the view of downtown from the Kennedy Expressway.



The Buckingham Fountain shimmers at night.

'FOR AMERICA, WHATEVER IT TAKES'

Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., elected at the 88th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in New Orleans, chose as his theme "For America, Whatever It Takes" to emphasize the organization's dedication to its purposes set forth in its Congressional Charter.

These are a strong national defense, care for veterans and survivors, love of country and aid for disabled and needy veterans.

Further, undergirding these chartered aims, Commander-in-Chief Stock worked with National committees at the beginning of his administration to develop Priority Goals in areas of veterans' concerns. The Priority Goals were based on resolutions passed by delegates to the 88th National Convention.

Commander-in-Chief Stock, immediately after his election, alerted Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George P. Shultz of VFW positions on national security and foreign affairs, particularly in view of what have been perceived as Soviet policy changes leading to a more open and less belligerent Soviet Union under Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

With the signing of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty with the USSR at the Washington Summit meeting between President Reagan and Gorbachev, Commander-in-Chief Stock urged Senate ratification of the instrument.

The reason he cited was that the INF Treaty contains provisions for verification of compliance that VFW resolutions called for. The Commander-in-Chief, however, warned against being beguiled by Gorbachev's genial demeanor and apparent openness in contrast to the hostility of his predecessors. In short, action, not words, should be the dominant factor in assessing changes under *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

When Secretary of Defense Weinberger resigned to be succeeded by Frank C. Carlucci, Stock had high praise for Weinberger and expressed the hope that under Secretary Carlucci the same close relationship with the VFW would continue.

At the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, President Reagan addressed the National officers and committee members, praising the VFW for its strong stand in support of the anti-Sandinista Nicaraguan resistance and efforts to gain passage in Congress of legislation to provide the Contras with the money to continue the struggle.

Commander-in-Chief Stock told a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees that the 1989 VA budget, while seeming to be higher than this year's, actually was inadequate to provide current services.

Throughout the year also, Commander-in-Chief Stock worked constantly to gain passage of a bill backed by Reagan, that would elevate the VA to Cabinet-level and make the VA an executive-branch department. The bill overwhelmingly passed the House, and Senate and now is in a conference committee.

This bill would fulfill a longstanding VFW priority goal and give the VA ready access to the President. It would recognize the role veterans have played in protecting the nation's freedom.

Stock's work, complemented by the efforts of VFW members on every echelon of the organization, culminated in the 33rd straight year of membership growth.

Not only is this gain indicative of the reaction of eligible American veterans to the VFW's role as their spokesman, but it is a tribute to the dedication of VFW members who consistently bend every effort toward increasing the organization's membership. Their hard work and old-fashioned door-to-door and telephone campaigns, plus the vast array of programs sponsored by this organization, once again made the difference.

Founded in 1899, the VFW includes veterans of all American wars of this century, plus numerous "peace

time" campaigns and expeditions. Time and time again, therefore, it has proved that there is no generation gap in the VFW.

With 10,000 Posts, more than 2 million members and programs designed to aid youth, improve communities, foster patriotism and assure a strong national defense, the VFW is looking forward to another successful year in 1988-89.

In 1936 Congress chartered the VFW as a fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational organization "to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans . . . to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

In its 89 years, the VFW has numbered among its members many of the nation's foremost military leaders, as well as six Presidents: Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford. Teddy Roosevelt joined after he left the White House. Each was unstinting in his praise of the VFW.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars traces its beginnings to 1899 when Spanish-American War veterans in Columbus, Ohio, and Denver, Colo., met separately to form organizations that would work for the veterans of that era. This was especially important since the government provided little for them in benefits or care, even for the disabled or those who had contracted tropical diseases.

The U.S. entered World War I in 1917 and approximately 2 million served overseas. Even after World War I, there were only seven years between 1918 and U.S. involvement in World War II in which no American earned a campaign medal making him eligible for VFW membership.

Between the two wars, VFW membership grew rapidly. For example, in 1916 it was only about 5,000, but by 1940 it had climbed to more than 200,000. After World War II, it reached 1.5 million and has been increasing each year. It is now more than 2 million, of whom a fourth are Vietnam veterans.

Since the Spanish-American War, government assistance to veterans has increased tremendously, largely at the urging of the VFW, which contends that the cost of veterans' benefits should be included in the cost of war.

The outbreak of World War II came as no surprise to the VFW, which had for years been warning against the rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany's aggressive intentions.

For World War II veterans, the VFW advocated a wide range of benefits, which later became the GI Bill of Rights, the basis also for much legislation relating to Korean and Vietnam War veterans. While supporting the GI Bill, the VFW advocated even further benefits for veterans who would not be able to take advantage of the GI Bill's provisions.

In the post-war years, the VFW warned against Soviet designs on the free world and the danger of Communist subversion. Through VFW efforts, Congress established Loyalty Day, observed annually on May 1, to counteract Communist May Day.

With the invasion of South Korea by the Communist North Koreans, the VFW went to work to design entitlements for the Americans who went to fight there. The VFW also supported Presidential efforts to halt the spread of Castro's Communism in Latin America.

During the Vietnam War, the VFW advocated a more vigorous prosecution to prevent further bloodshed. The VFW also was active in the campaign for the release or humane treatment of American prisoners of the Communists in Southeast Asia. It continues to demand an accounting of prisoners and missing.

Expanded entitlements for veterans, a VA budget adequate to provide proper medical and hospital care and a greater public esteem for Vietnam veterans have been constant demands of the VFW.

For the VFW, the age,the rank, the gender or the war in which the veteran fought is not a concern. The organization regards all veterans of overseas service as being special and needing the government's compassionate concern.

PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF

AMERICAN VETERANS OF FOREIGN SERVICE

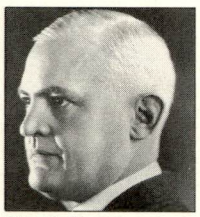
James C. Putnam* 1899-00
Maj. Will S. White* 1900-02
James Romanis* 1902-05
George Metzger* 1905-06
Charles H. Devereaux* 1906-07
David T. Nevin* 1907-08
J. Alfred Judge* 1908-09
J. Alfred Judge* 1909-10
Robert G. Woodside* 1910-13

AMERICAN VETERANS OF FOREIGN SERVICE (EASTERN BRANCH)

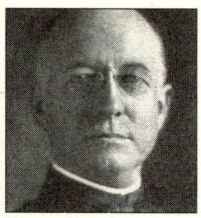
Capt. Robert S. Hansbury* 1903-04
H. O. Kelley* 1904-05

ARMY OF THE PHILIPPINES, CUBA AND PUERTO RICO

Gen. Francis V. Greene* 1900-01
Gen. Irving Hale* 1901-03
Gen. Charles King* 1903-04
Gen. Wilder S. Metcalf* 1904-05
Col. Alfred S. Frost* 1905-06
Gen. Arthur MacArthur* 1906-07
Capt. H. A. Crow* 1907-08
Maj. P.J.H. Farrell* 1908-09
Col. Charles L. Jewett* 1909-10
A. H. Anderson* 1910-11
F. Warner Karling* 1911-13



Rice W. Means*
1913-14
Colorado



Thomas Crago*
1914-15
Pennsylvania

Gus Hartung*
1915-16
Colorado

Albert Rabing*
1916-17
New York

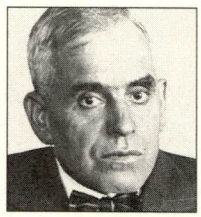
William Ralston*
1917-18
Pennsylvania

F. Warner Karling*
1918-19-20
Missouri

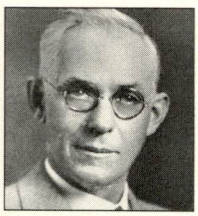
Robert G. Woodside*
1920-21-22
Pennsylvania

Tillinghast Huston*
1922-23
New York

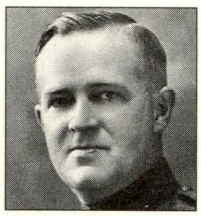
Lloyd M. Brett*
1923-24
Washington, D.C.



John H. Dunn*
1924-25
Massachusetts

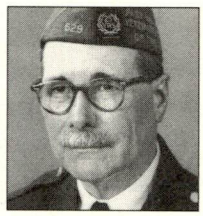


Fred Stover*
1925-26
Pennsylvania



Theodore Stitt*
1926-27
New York

Frank T. Strayer*
1927-28
Indiana



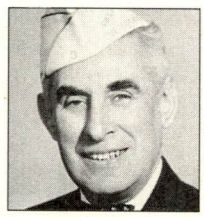
Eugene P. Carver*
1928-29
Massachusetts

Hezekiah N. Duff*
1929-30
Michigan

Paul C. Wolman*
1930-31
Maryland

Darold D. DeCoe*
1931-32
California

Robert E. Coontz*
1932-33
Washington, D.C.



James E. Van Zandt*
1933-34-35-36
Pennsylvania

Bernard W. Kearney*
1936-37
New York

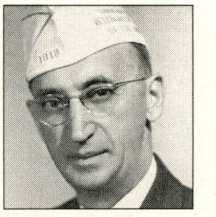
PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF

Scott P. Squyres*
1937-38
Oklahoma

Eugene I. Van Antwerp*
1938-39
Michigan

Otis N. Brown*
1939-40
North Carolina

Joseph C. Menendez*
1940-41
Louisiana



Max Singer*
1941-42
Massachusetts

Robert T. Merrill
1942-43
Montana

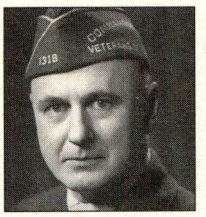
Carl J. Schoeninger*
1943-44
Michigan

Jean A. Brunner*
1944-45
New York

Joseph M. Stack*
1945-46
Pennsylvania

Louis E. Starr*
1946-47
Oregon

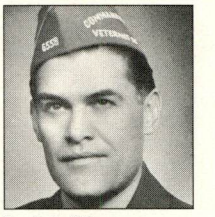
Ray H. Brannaman*
1947-48
Colorado



Lyall T. Beggs*
1948-49
Wisconsin

Clyde A. Lewis
1949-50
New York

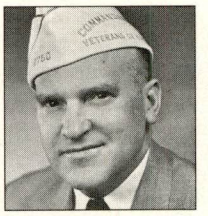
Charles C. Ralls*
1950-51
Washington



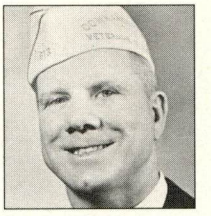
Frank C. Hilton
1951-52
Pennsylvania

James W. Cothran*
1952-53
South Carolina

Wayne E. Richards*
1953-54
Kansas



Merton B. Tice
1954-55
South Dakota



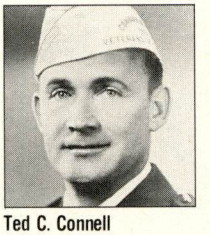
Timothy J. Murphy
1955-56
Massachusetts

Cooper T. Holt
1956-57
Tennessee

Richard L. Roudebush
1957-58
Indiana

John W. Mahan
1958-59
Montana

Louis G. Feldmann
1959-60
Pennsylvania

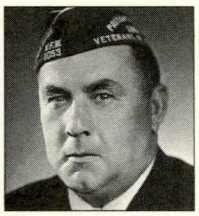


Ted C. Connell
1960-61
Texas

Robert E. Hansen
1961-62
Minnesota

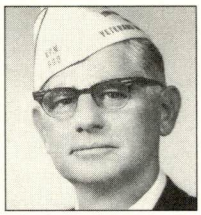
*Deceased

PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF



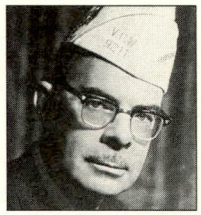
Byron B. Gentry
1962-63
California

Joseph J. Lombardo
1963-64
New York



John A. Jenkins*
1964-65
Alabama

Andy Borg
1965-66
Wisconsin

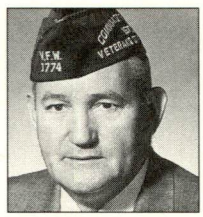


Leslie M. Fry
1966-67
Nevada

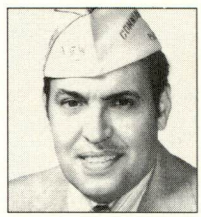
Joseph A. Scerra
1967-68
Massachusetts

Richard W. Homan
1968-69
West Virginia

Raymond A. Gallagher
1969-70
South Dakota

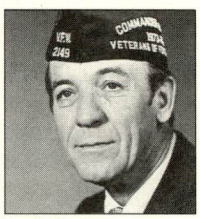


H. R. Rainwater
1970-71
California



Joseph L. Vicites*
1971-72
Pennsylvania

Patrick E. Carr
1972-73
Louisiana



Ray R. Soden
1973-74
Illinois

John J. Stang
1974-75
Kansas

Thomas C. Walker
1975-76
Connecticut

R. D. (Bulldog) Smith
1976-77
Georgia

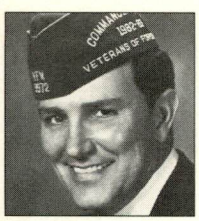
John Wasylik
1977-78
Ohio

Eric Sandstrom
1978-79
Washington

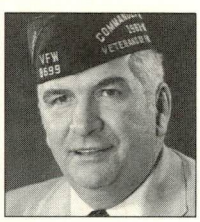
Howard E. Vander Clute
1979-80
New Jersey

T. C. Selman*
1980-81
Texas (Died in Office)

Arthur J. Fellwock
1980-81-82
Indiana

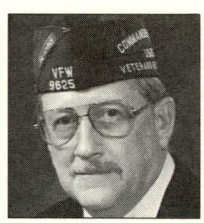


James R. Currieo
1982-83
Arizona

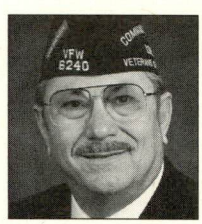


Clifford G. Olson, Jr.
1983-84
Massachusetts

Billy Ray Cameron
1984-85
North Carolina



John S. Staum
1985-86
Minnesota



Norman G. Staab
1986-87
Kansas

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 75th National Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

This is a very special convention for the Ladies Auxiliary and I am glad you are here to join in the celebration. I hope you will find it informative as well as fun and that it will serve as a reward for your job well done during this past year.

It is because of your dedication and your willingness to recruit just one more member or to accept one additional duty that we have surpassed last year's achievements and have set new records in our programs. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Ladies Auxiliary for your role in helping us provide much-needed services FOR THE PEOPLE of America during this past year.

I feel fortunate that I was able to meet so many new Sisters during my year, and I will remember your friendship as well as the warm hospitality shown to me on all my visits for many years to come.

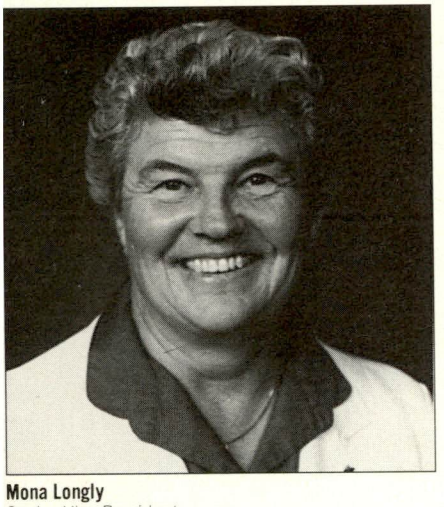
As we enter our 75th year of service, it is humbling to reflect on the hundreds of others who have served before us and the responsibility we now hold for continuing our service to veterans and others in our communities. Together I know we can meet the challenge FOR THE PEOPLE!

Sincerely,

Joan Katkus
National President

Joan Katkus
President

LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL OFFICERS



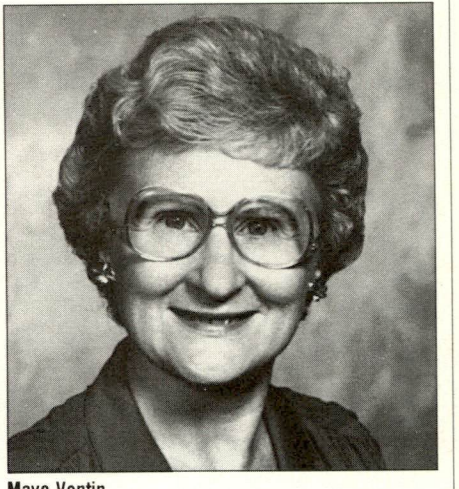
Mona Longly
Senior Vice-President

Alice Hutto
Junior Vice-President

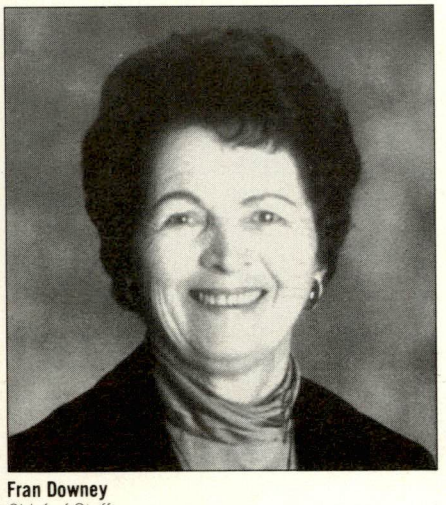
Glenn Grossman
Secretary-Treasurer

Frances Booth
Chaplain

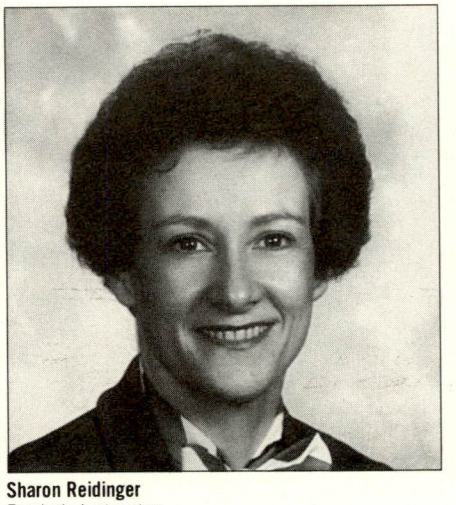
Mary Sears
Conductress



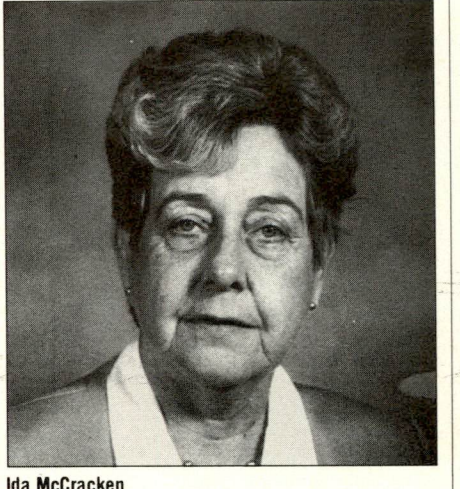
Maye Vontin
Guard



Fran Downey
Chief of Staff



Sharon Reidinger
Patriotic Instructor



Ida McCracken
Historian

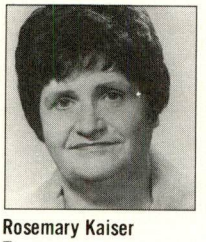
LADIES AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Frances Roche
Convention Director

Norma Hayne
Chairman

Eileen Tanner
Co-Chairman

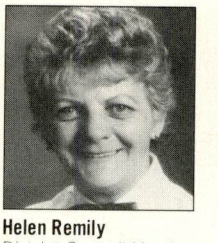
Alice Tatosian
Secretary



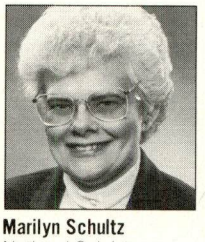
Rosemary Kaiser
Treasurer

Glenn Grossman
National Secretary-Treasurer

Sophia Goldstein
Past National President

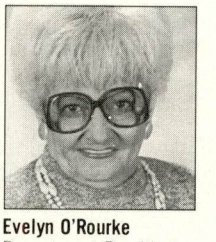


Helen Remily
District Council Member



Marilyn Schultz
National Soloist

Harriet Cagle
Past Department President



Evelyn O'Rourke
Department President

LADIES AUXILIARY

National President Joan Katkus

AUXILIARY REPORT

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars now has 750,014 members working FOR THE PEOPLE of this great nation. That's an increase of 4,804 over last year making this the 33rd consecutive year of growth for our organization.

Auxiliary's Programs

We also continue to set records in the funds raised for our Cancer Aid and Research program which came to $2,968,474.70. Our success in this program enables us to provide grants to help Sisters who have cancer as well as to contribute to our country's research effort.

This year we awarded $1,763,200 in 5,681 grants to members. In addition, we awarded funds for research as follows: $25,000 at my Homecoming to Providence Hospital in Anchorage; $15,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.; and $15,000 to the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. At this convention, $5,000 will be presented for research to the University of Illinois, and $10,000 for educational materials will be presented to the American Cancer Society and will be accepted by actress Martha Smith.

Three postdoctoral fellowships were awarded to: John W. Ludlow, Ph.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass., Thomas A. Simpson, Jr., M.D., Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Alabama, Birmingham; and Michael B. Kastan, M.D., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, Baltimore, Md.

A contribution of $5,000 was made to the Ronald McDonald House to cover the cost of a room in the new house being built in Kansas City, Mo. We also donated $5,000 to help cover the cost of transportation during the 8th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games which were held in San Antonio, Texas.

Our Junior Girls Scholarship program was increased this year, with the first place $3,000 awarded to Denise Cushaney, Unit #2149, Bensenville, Ill. and second place $2,000 to Tracie Cutbirth, Unit #3990, Paris, Texas. In addition, 11 Junior Girls who received first-place in their states and whose applications were entered in the national competition also received $100 each.

Our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition awards also were increased to $1,500—first place, $1,000—second, $500—third, $300—fourth, and $200—fifth. The top five winning entries will be on display during this convention.

Six Auxiliaries were honored with the National Distinguished Community Service Award and 23 received the Outstanding Community Service Citation for their efforts to provide unique and worthy services to their communities.

Five students from the VFW National Home received monetary gifts from the Auxiliary upon their graduation from high school and one upon his graduation from college.

In addition, this year we sold 7,590,580 Buddy Poppies, volunteered 3.8 million hours in the Hospital and VAVS program, and provided numerous services For the People.

Mid-Year Conference

A highlight of the year was our Mid-Year Conference at the Omni Hotel in Charleston, S.C. Participants met actor Eddie Albert, who received the BETTER WORLD AWARD. He charmed those in attendance with his eloquent recital of his favorite poetry. Accompanying the award was $5,000 which he donated to the Plaza de la Raza Cultural Center in Los Angeles, an organization begun by his late wife to help students of all ages and financial means receive an education in the arts.

Statue of Liberty

The 101st birthday observance of the Statue of Liberty's Commemoration was marked on Oct. 28. I was proud to present $2,500 to purchase United States Flags as the gift from the Auxiliary at our 51st celebration.

Official Visits

As National President, I visited 51 Departments as well as the Auxiliaries in Guam, Japan, and Taiwan. It was a marvelous experience to meet so many people from different areas and realize that we are all Sisters in the Auxiliary with our bond of service and friendship.

While in the Far East, I also met with our friends of the Vocational Assistance Commission in the Republic of China and the Korean Veterans Association and was briefed at several military installations.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to recognizing Martha Smith with the SERVE AMERICA AWARD and giving $10,000 to the American Cancer Society, at this convention, we will honor Mother Clara Hale as the UNSUNG HEROINE of 1988, for helping children born to drug addicts. We will also present $10,000 to the National Kidney Foundation.

Our 1987-88 team can be very pleased with our program results and the new records we have set. After all, those statistics represent thousands of individuals who have benefited from our services. The Ladies Auxiliary is truly FOR THE PEOPLE.

75th NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Friday August 19

12 Noon-4 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
12 Noon-4 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

Saturday August 20

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
10 a.m. **Council of Administration Meeting** ..... Ballroom E 5th Fl. Marriott
1:30 p.m. **Community Activities Workshop** ..... Ballroom E 5th Fl. Marriott
Safety Workshop ..... Ballroom G-H 5th Fl. Marriott
3 p.m. **Ritual Rehearsal** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott
4 p.m. **Catholic Mass** ..... Ballroom F-G-H 5th Fl. Marriott

Sunday August 21

8:00 a.m. **Devotional Service** ..... Ballroom F-G-H 5th Fl. Marriott
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
9 a.m. **Joint Memorial Service with VFW** ..... Arie Crown Theatre, McCormick Place
12 Noon **Awards Luncheon** ..... International Ballroom Hilton Hotel
1:30 p.m. **45-Years Plus Reception** ..... Lincolnshire II 5th Fl. Marriott
3 p.m. **Auxiliary Opening Ceremony** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott

Welcome by Frances Roche, National Convention Director. **Tribute by Local Committee, Norma Hayne,** National Convention Chairman. **Presentation:** National President by Local Committee. **Presentation: Aides-de-Camp** by Donna Ouart, National Membership Director. **Presentation:** Past National Presidents by Fran Downey. **Presentation:** 45-Years Plus members by Aides-de-Camp and Donna Ouart, National Membership Director.

8 p.m. **Auxiliary Conference Meetings**
Big Ten States ..... Grand Ballroom III 7th Fl. Marriott
Eastern States ..... Grand Ballroom I 7th Fl. Marriott
Southern States ..... Grand Ballroom II 7th Fl. Marriott
Western States ..... Ballroom E 5th Fl. Marriott

Monday August 22

8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott
9 a.m. **Joint Opening Session with VFW** ..... Arie Crown Theatre, McCormick Place
1 p.m. **National President's Luncheon** (by invitation only) ..... Grand Ballroom I, Marriott
3 p.m. **Publicity Workshop** ..... Ballroom F-G-H 5th Fl. Marriott
3 p.m. **Page Meeting** ..... Miami Room, 5th Fl. Marriott
3 p.m. **Assistant Guard Meeting** ..... Scottsdale Room, 5th Fl. Marriott
7 p.m. **Distinguished Guest Banquet** ..... International Ballroom, Hilton Hotel

Tuesday August 23

7 a.m. **Flag Presentation Rehearsal** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

8:30 a.m. **Auxiliary Business Session** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott

Ritualistic Opening. Rules Committee (National Rules and Convention appointments are printed in the National Officers' and Directors' Report Book in packet). **National Program Awards. Presentation:** Voice of Democracy Scholarship Winner. **Presentation:** Junior Girls Units Scholarship Winner. **Presentation:** Young American Creative Patriotic Art Winner. **Presentation:** Department Presidents with Flags and Banners by Sharon Reidinger, National Patriotic Instructor.

2 p.m. **Hospital and VAVS Workshop** ..... Ballroom F-G-H 5th Fl. Marriott

7 p.m. **Annual Military Parade** ..... Michigan Avenue

Wednesday August 24

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

8:30 a.m. **Auxiliary Business Session** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott

National Program Awards. Presentation: UNSUNG HERIONE AWARD to MOTHER CLARA HALE. **Presentation:** Cancer Aid & Research Grant to the University of Illinois. **Special Guest.** SERVE AMERICA AWARD to MARTHA SMITH and $10,000 for American Cancer Society. **Greetings** from Allied Organizations. Memorial Service. **Memorial Address** by Harriet Timmons.

2 p.m. **Cancer Workshop** ..... Ballroom F-G-H 5th Fl. Marriott

Thursday August 25

7 a.m. **Past Councilors' Club Breakfast** ..... Ballroom E 5th Fl. Marriott

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Registration (Credentials)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Registration (Advance)** ..... Ballroom A-B-C-D 5th Fl. Marriott

8:30 a.m. **Auxiliary Business Session** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott

National Program Awards. Visit by Commander-in-Chief. Special Guest. 1989 Membership Kick-off. Nomination of Officers.

7 p.m. **Conference Banquets**

Big Ten States ..... Grand Ballroom, Palmer House

Eastern States ..... Grand Ballroom, Hilton

Dixie Banquet ..... International Ballroom, Hilton

Western States ..... Grand Ballroom, Marriott

Friday August 26

8:30 a.m. **Auxiliary Business Session** ..... Grand Ballroom 7th Fl. Marriott

Greetings from Alaska. Unfinished Business. New Business. Re-open Nomination for Officers. **Election of Officers.** Announcement of Appointed Officers. Installation of Officers. New President's Acceptance Speech. **Presentation:** Past National President's Pin. Ritualistic Closing.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE

GREETINGS FROM THE SUPREME COMMANDER AND THE SUPREME OFFICERS

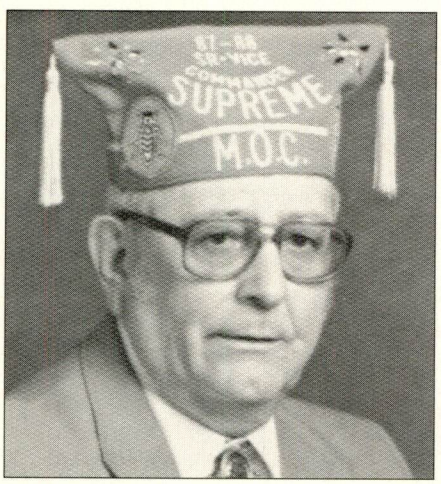
We are greatly honored and pleased to extend our heartiest greetings and best wishes to the 89th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Untied States and its Ladies Auxiliary for most successful and enjoyable conventions.

During the past year, the Military Order of the Cootie, in support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, has continued our VFW-MOC Supreme Programs of VFW Booster, Hospital, Blood, Christie J. Braun Memorial Scholarship and Athletic Program and our Special Projects Fund for the VFW National Home.

We extend our deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., and his staff for their continued splendid cooperation which has contributed greatly to a successful, united team.

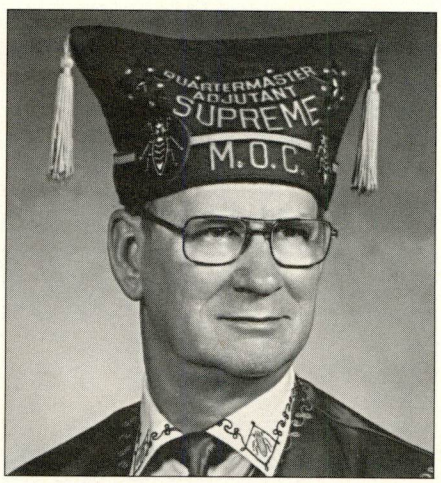
It is with great pride and pleasure to emphasize our continued dedication and support to the parent organization and its Auxiliary for their principles and objectives.

Albert S. Thomas, Jr.
Supreme Commander



Robert Cortright
Supreme Senior Vice Commander

Thomas Atkins
Supreme Junior Vice Commander



M. W. Welliver
Supreme Quartermaster/Adjutant

SUPREME PUP TENT
MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE 69TH SUPREME SCRATCH

AMERICANA CONGRESS HOTEL

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday August 22, 23 & 24

9 a.m.—4 p.m. **MOC Registration, Advance & Regular—Conrad Hilton Hotel**

Tuesday August 23

7 p.m. (stepoff) **MOC & MOCA Participation in VFW 89th National Convention Parade. Authorized Units only.**

Thursday August 25

8 a.m.—5 p.m. **MOC Registration—3rd Floor Escalator Foyer, Americana Congress Hotel**

9 a.m.—12 Noon **MOC Committee Meetings:**
By-Laws Committee—Lake Shore Room
Resolutions Committee—Seminar Room
Ritual Committee—Columbian Room
Hospital Committee & Blood Committee—Grant Park Room
Rules Committee—Chairman's Room
Year Book Committee—Music Room
VFW National Home Committee—Victorian Room
Special Project Committee
Audit Committee—Supreme QM Suite
Chaplain of the Year Award—Chairman's Room

12:30 p.m.—3 p.m. **Supreme Hospital Visitation—VA Medical Center**
Busses leave Americana Congress Hotel promptly at 12:30 p.m.

4 p.m.—6 p.m. **MOC Old Council Meeting—Buckingham Room**

9 p.m.—10:30 p.m. **Supreme Commander & President Reception—To be announced**

Friday August 26

8 a.m.—5 p.m. **MOC Registration—3rd Floor Escalator Foyer, Americana Congress Hotel**

7 a.m.—9 a.m. **MOC Awards Breakfast**

10 a.m.—12 Noon **MOC Seminar, Grand & Pup Tent Officers—Oxford Room**

1:30 p.m.—5 p.m. **MOC 69th Supreme Scratch-Opening Session—Gold Room**

7 p.m.—8:30 p.m. **MOC-MOCA Joint Memorial Service—Windsor/Alcove**

9 p.m. **MOC Caucus Meetings—Assignment of rooms by Caucus Chairman**

Saturday August 27

8 a.m.—Noon **MOC Registration—3rd Floor Escalator Foyer, Americana Congress Hotel**

10 a.m.—Noon **MOC-MOCA Joint Session—Windsor/Alcove**

1 p.m.—4:30 p.m. **MOC 69th Supreme Scratch Reconvenes—Windsor/Alcove**

6 p.m.—7 p.m. **MOC-MOCA Supreme Scratch Banquet Reception—Francis I**

7 p.m.—9 p.m. **Supreme Banquet—Gold Room**

9 p.m. **Joint Installation of Officers—Gold Room**

10 p.m. **Reception by Supreme Commander & President—To be announced**

Sunday August 28

7 a.m.—8:45 a.m. **MOC Press Association Breakfast—To be announced.**
8:45 a.m.—9:15 a.m. **Cootie Prayer Service—To be announced by the Supreme Chaplain**
9:15 a.m.—12 Noon **Supreme MOC New Council Meeting—Buckingham Room**

Supreme MOC Headquarters, Storage & Security Police—Washington & Shelby Rooms.

SUPREME AUXILIARY MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE 27TH SUPREME CONVENTION

Tuesday August 23

7 p.m. (stepoff) **MOC & MOCA Participation in VFW 89th National Convention Parade. Authorized units only.**

Thursday August 25

1 p.m.—5 p.m. **MOCA Registration—Rendezvous Room**
8 a.m.—9 a.m. **MOCA Floor Practice—Great Hall**
9 a.m.—Noon **MOCA Meeting—Great Hall**
12:30 p.m.—3 p.m. **Supreme Hospital Visitation—VA Medical Center**
Busses leave Americana Congress Hotel promptly at 12:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m. **MOCA Old Council Meeting—Windsor Room**
9 a.m.—10:30 p.m. **Supreme Commander & President Reception (To be announced)**

Friday August 26

8 a.m.—5 p.m. **MOCA Registration—Rendezvous Room**
8 a.m.—Noon **MOCA 27th Supreme Auxiliary Convention—Great Hall**
1 a.m.—5 p.m. **MOCA Reconvenes 27th Supreme Auxiliary Convention—Rendezvous Room**
7 p.m.—8:30 p.m. **MOC-MOCA Joint Memorial Service—Windsor/Alcove**
9 p.m. **MOCA Caucus Meetings—By Assignment**

Saturday August 27

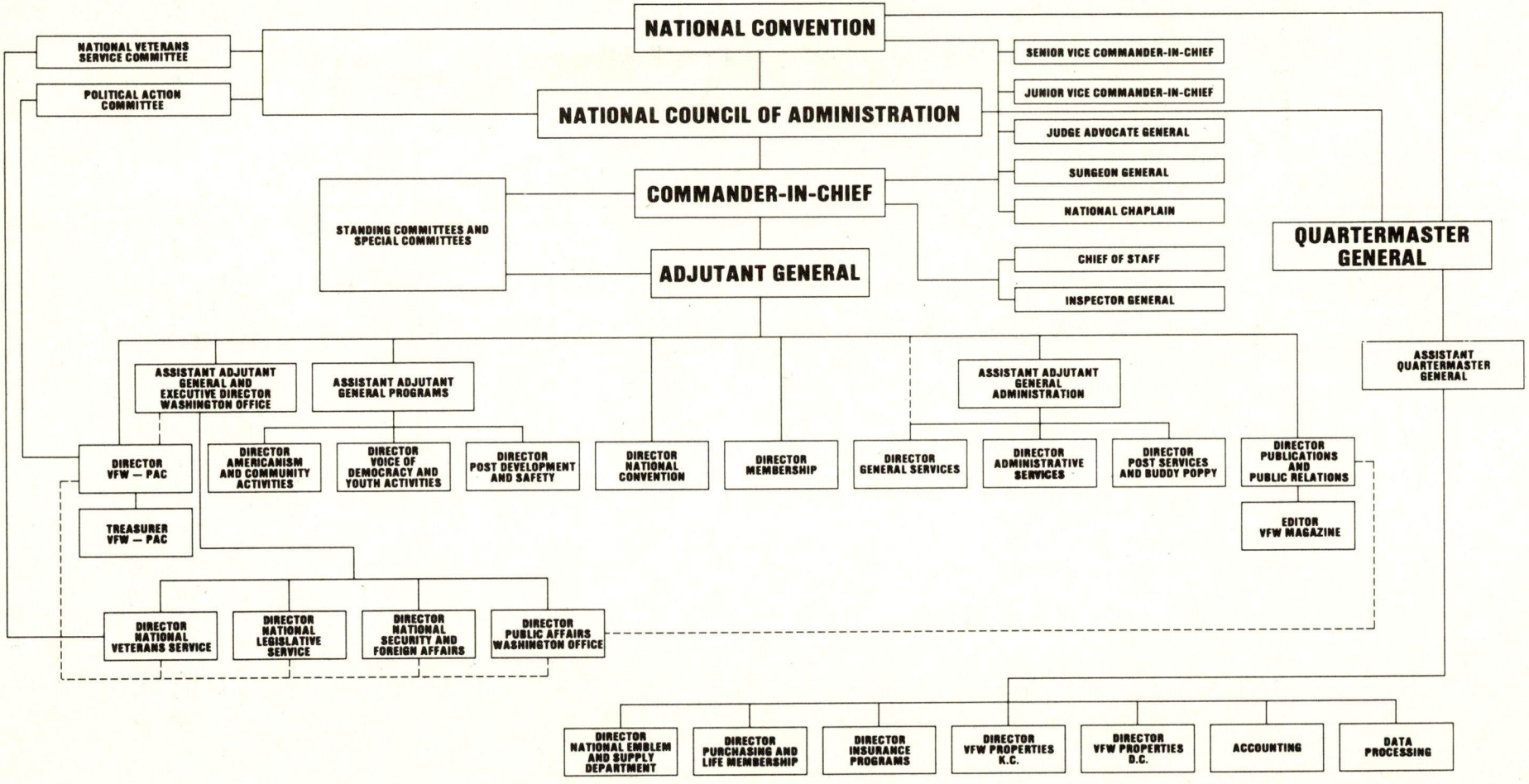
8 a.m.—11 a.m. **MOC Registration—Rendezvous Room**
8:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m. **MOCA 27th Supreme Auxiliary Convention—Great Hall**
10 a.m.—Noon **MOC-MOCA Joint Session**
12:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. **MOCA 27th Supreme Auxiliary Convention Reconvenes—Great Hall**
6 p.m.—7 p.m. **MOC-MOCA Supreme Scratch Banquet Reception—Francis I Room**
7 p.m.—9 p.m. **Supreme Banquet—Gold Room**
9 p.m. **Joint Installation of Officers—Gold Room**
10 p.m. **Reception by Supreme Commander & President (To be announced)**

Sunday August 28

7 a.m.—8:45 a.m. **MOC Press Association Breakfast (To be announced)**
8:45 a.m.—9:15 a.m. **Cootie Prayer Service, (To be announced by the Supreme Chaplain)**
9:15 a.m.—Noon **MOCA New Council Meeting—Windsor Room**

Supreme MOCA Headquarters Storage—Francis Room.
Committee Room—Belmont Room.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



MEMBER BENEFITS

National Service Programs

Service Officer Programs

National, State and Post Service Officers are ready and willing to provide expert help and assistance to each and every member wishing to file a claim or needing information relating to hospital care, education, pension or other benefits to which you may be entitled. For information and assistance, contact your Post Service Officer or write to National Service Officer, VFW Washington Office, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002

Legislative Services

Through the VFW National Legislative Service Office in Washington, D.C., and each State Legislative Committee, the VFW fights to protect veterans' benefits that you are now receiving or may be entitled to in the future. In fact, every major veterans' law now on the books was either initiated or strongly supported by the VFW through its Legislative Services activities: Enactment of compensation, pension, hospital and bonus benefits for World War I veterans and the GI Bill of Rights for veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, to name just a few. For more information on VFW Legislative Service, write to National Legislative Director, VFW Washington Office, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

National Home

The National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., is a residential child-care facility whose campus and programs have been developed and funded by the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. The sole purpose of the National Home since its founding in 1927 is to provide love, care and education for orphaned or dependent children of VFW and Auxiliary members. Admission to the National Home is free. For more information, write to VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

Community Activities

Community service activities provide every VFW and Auxiliary member opportunities to participate in programs designed to benefit your city, town or neighborhood, and organizations, institutions, or individuals not affiliated with the VFW or the Auxiliary. Community Activities are based on the American tradition of people helping people. To learn more about Community Activities and how you can participate in the program or programs of your choice, talk with your Post's Community Activities Chairman or write to National Community Activities Director, VFW National Headquarters, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

VFW Magazine

VFW Magazine is published and distributed by mail to every member. It's a high-quality, color publication that provides factual information of interest and importance to all members, as well as timely, inspirational articles on a broad range of topics. Regular features include Mail Call, Washington Wire, Reunions, Command Post and more.

Your inquiries and suggestions are invited. Write to Editor, VFW Magazine, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. To change your mailing address, notify VFW Magazine Circulation Department at the same address. Include your old and new address and Post number.

Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW

The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW has a membership of more than 745,000 proud Americans belonging to and working through more than 7,000 local Auxiliaries. Members are involved in an outstanding variety of patriotic, community and public service programs and annually volunteer over 19 million hours of service. Members have also contributed over $26 million to communities, states, nation, veterans, elderly and youth.

Auxiliary members participate in conventions and conferences on National, Department, and District levels. To be eligible to join the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW, candidates must be a close relative of a veteran of honorable service in the U.S. Armed Services authorized to wear a campaign medal or ribbon for overseas service. For more information, write to National Headquarters, Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Voluntary Member Benefits

VFW members have the opportunity to take advantage of excellent pricing and service when buying various goods and services for home, work, travel and everyday living. The VFW Member Benefit Department receives and evaluates requests from many companies to offer a wide variety of goods and services to all members. Some earn our endorsement; most do not. Only those that meet our high standards for quality, fair pricing and service after the sale are awarded the "Official Seal of Approval."

VFW Insurance Programs

As a VFW member, you are entitled to economical group rates for a variety of excellent Supplementary Life, Health and Accident Insurance Plans. Today, more than 2-million members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW are covered under various Sponsored Supplemental Insurance Plans. And over the years, more than $170,000,000 in benefits have been paid to participating members!

■ $2,500 Personal Accident Protection

This is a new, improved version of our $1,000 All-Risk Personal Accident Protection Plan that increases the maximum benefit payable by $1,500 (while under age 70) for Accidental Death occurring while traveling on any licensed public conveyance for hire to or from (or while attending) any VFW-Sponsored event—Post, Department, District or National. This important protection is provided at no cost to every member in good standing. Maximum coverage for members under age 70 is $2,500; $1,250 for members age 70-74; $625 for members age 75 and over. To get this valuable coverage, ask your Post Quartermaster for a beneficiary form, fill it out and return it to the VFW Insurance Department.

Coverage is not effective while you are outside the United States or Canada for 30 consecutive days or more while serving in the Armed Forces.

■ Group Term Life Insurance

This outstanding plan offers a special Simplified Issue Benefit feature which allows you to apply for up to $15,000 (depending on your age) term life protection without a medical exam or detailed health questions. And once you're insured under the Simplified Issue Benefit, you can apply to increase your coverage to as much as $50,000 (depending on your age). Coverage for your spouse and dependent child(ren) is also available.

■ Cash Value Life Insurance

This is whole life coverage that builds cash value over time with double benefits for accidental death before age 65. The benefit amount depends on your age when you apply and the number of units you select.

■ Hospital Benefit Plan

Thousands of VFW members are insured under this excellent plan. Among its many benefits and features are: Your choice of $150, $100, $80, $60, $40 or $20 a day benefit amount. Double benefits for up to 8 days per confinement in an intensive care unit while you're under 65. Family protection option. Benefits paid directly to you. No waiting period.

■ Medicare Supplement Plan

VFW members eligible for Medicare can choose either our Comprehensive Plan or the Economy Plan. Dollar for dollar, these VFW-Sponsored Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans are among the best available. The Comprehensive Plan covers virtually all expenses Medicare leaves for you to pay. The Economy Plan provides the essential benefits necessary to supplement Parts A and B, but costs considerably less. Spouse coverage is available (if eligible for Medicare).

■ National Life Insurance

The VFW-Sponsored National Life Insurance Plan offers Term Life protection up to $65,105 for members under age 60. There's a special plan for members 60-70. You may apply for coverage for your spouse and eligible dependent child(ren).

■ Cancer Expense Assistance Plan

This plan offers guaranteed acceptance to VFW members who have never had cancer, regardless of age. It pays scheduled benefits toward the cost of treating cancer.

■ Post Accident

Your Post may choose one of two plans. Each plan provides a lump sum benefit amount for loss of life and/or dismemberment due to accident. See your Post Quartermaster for details.

To get free information on all VFW-Sponsored Insurance Plans, applications, beneficiary forms, advice and/or assistance in filing a claim, to change address or beneficiary, or any other aspect of any VFW-Sponsored Supplemental Insurance Plan, write to Director, VFW Insurance Department, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. Or call toll-free 1-800-821-2606 (In Missouri, call toll-free 1-800-237-1765. In Kansas City, MO and its environs, call: 561-2338). Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Central Time, any business day.

Discount Prescription Drug and Vitamin Program

Through special arrangement with National Pharmacies, Inc., VFW and Auxiliary members can save 30% and more on prescription drugs and vitamins. Registered pharmacists ensure excellent quality control. All incoming orders are mailed postage-paid to your door—normally within 48-hours of receipt and carry a 30-day unconditional guarantee. An automatic reminder service tells you when it's time to reorder, and a year-end statement is provided for tax and insurance purposes.

Registration is free. To register for this outstanding program and get your free drug and vitamin information and your free I.D. card, write to National Pharmacies, Inc., P.O. Box 1000, Elmwood Park, NJ 07407.

Discount Merchandise Buying Program Brand-Name Merchandise At Low Prices.

Our Member Benefit Department has made arrangements with Purchase Power, Inc., to provide one of the finest discount buying programs in America for VFW members. Purchase Power negotiates extraordinary discounts on major appliances, home entertainment items, home furnishings, gifts and many other big-ticket items, even exercise equipment. Each purchase is backed by this guarantee: "If you buy a product for $150 or more through Purchase Power and within 30 days find the same item for less, Purchase Power requires that the participating dealer mail you double the difference in price." This guarantee covers advertised sales, discount houses and other buying plans. (Silver and gold items not covered by this guarantee.)

VFW members who want to participate in this outstanding service pay only $5 per year. Even this annual fee is on a money-back guarantee if not completely satisfied. To sign-up for Purchase Power, send your name, address and VFW Post Number, along with your check made payable to VFW Purchase Power in an envelope to the following address: VFW Purchase Power, Member Benefit Department, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

VFW Travel Service

Next time you travel, use the VFW Travel Service to get reduced rates on airline tickets, cruises and travel packages. Write: VFW Travel Service, Broadway at 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. Or call TOLL-FREE 1-800-325-9377. In Missouri, call COLLECT 816-968-1123. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Central Time, any business day.

American International Rent-A-Car (AI). Call 1-800-527-0202 and identify yourself as a VFW member. When arriving at an airport served by AI, dial 1-800-I-AM-HERE for courtesy van pick-up and escort to your rental car. Show your VFW membership card at the office.

Avis. Call 1-800-331-1212. Give VFW Identification Number: AWD-A/A 993500.

Hertz. Call 1-800-654-3011. VFW Identification Number is CDPD-164126.

National. Call 1-800-CAR-RENT. VFW Identification Number is 5180005.

Snappy Car Rental. Call 1-800-321-7159 (1-800-321-0736 in Ohio), identify yourself as a VFW member and give the VFW special ID number — 003120. All rentals, except in Florida, feature 150 miles per day at no additional charge.

Ramada Inn. Call for advance reservations directly to the Ramada Inn of your choice or call 1-800-2-RAMADA (1-800-272-6232) for reservations anywhere in the U.S. Give the VFW ID number 918-761-0001. Discounts may vary by location.

Regal 8 Inns. Present your VFW membership card at check-in at any participating Regal 8 Inn for a 10% discount off published room rates. 1-800-851-8888 for reservations.

Holiday Inn "Priority Club." VFW members can join Priority Club, Holiday Inn Hotels' frequent guest program, for a one-time charge of only $5, ½ off the regular $10 enrollment fee. Priority Club members earn points redeemable for Holiday Inn Guest Certificates, luxury merchandise, airline travel and car rentals. Members also receive special privileges and benefits each time they stay at any Holiday Inn or Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel. Member benefits include: Guaranteed Corporate Room Rates, Express Reservations and Check-In, Extended Check-Out until 2 p.m., Free Weekday Newspaper, Complimentary Morning Coffee or Tea and MORE! Contact VFW Travel Service for your Priority Club Application.

Carnival Cruise Lines. Special rates for VFW members and families on the "Most Famous Cruise Line in the World." For information and rates call the VFW Travel Service Toll-Free Number.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NATIONAL HOME

There's no place like your VFW National Home.

For over 60 years, the VFW National Home has been more than a stopping off place for hundreds of widows, orphans and dependents. They remember it as home!

Each year, dozens of them return to the campus to say "thanks for caring." When they needed it most, VFW, through its generous support, was there extending a helping hand.

Like any home, the National Home needs three things to make it work: people, money and caring.

If you know a family who can use a helping hand . . .

If you can make a contribution or wish to become a Life Member of the VFW National Home . . .

If you care enough to preserve the tradition of serving the needy dependents of our comrades and sisters . . .

Please call or write today: VFW National Home,
3573 Waverly Road South, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827-9799 (517) 663-1521.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Earl L. Stock, Jr.

Two and a half years ago, we put together plans for the 1987-88 Commander-in-Chief's year. This being our 200th anniversary of the Constitution, what struggles and problems in the erosion of veterans' entitlements would we be faced with.

Our men's and ladies' response in membership and programs has been overwhelming. Along with our friends in Congress who were aware of our veterans' concerns, we joined forces with other veterans' organizations to prevent further cuts and added new veterans' legislation affecting all our veterans and their family members.

Even President Reagan had a sympathetic understanding of veterans' concerns, signing on May 20 more than 80 pieces of veterans' legislation. A few are the Radiation-Exposed Veterans' Compensation Act of 1988, Public Law 100-321, and the Veterans' Benefit and Service Act, now Public Law 100-322.

I can now report that the Employment, Training and Counseling Veterans' Amendments of 1988 is now Public Law 100-323.

At one time, it appeared that this legislation was dead for veterans. But we explained to the President that when people are put to work, it puts money into the treasury instead of being taken out. It was our joint effort, along with our continuous membership growth, that made the difference in convincing the President to sign this bill into law.

We made sure that all veterans would be considered, including our active military and retired military persons who have successfully preserved and protected our Constitution for the past 200 years in the name of democracy and freedom.

Yes, we have earned the entitlements by defending and protecting the peace for all Americans and for the free world.

We are disappointed that we are still without a Cabinet post for the Veterans Administration. Our President, however, is supporting this legislation, and if we can get it through the conferees, this will conclude a fine year.

President Reagan's early endorsement, along with a friendly Congress, has been most helpful for this long overdue and needed post.

We enjoyed a close working relationship with other veterans' organizations when it came time to fight back on cuts as well as new veterans' entitlements. I am most grateful for this support.

Yes, it has been an exciting and rewarding experience serving as your Commander-in-Chief. I owe so many a deep and sincere gratitude. I shall never forget the

opportunity you have given me to serve our country and our veterans and America in working for improvements in veterans' programs and entitlements as well as for the growth of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Without all of you working as a team, we could never have accomplished our mission.

The support of my entire corps of officers and the National Council of Administration was very much appreciated. The Kansas City staff and the Washington people have given me total support and sometimes doing the nearly impossible in getting material out into the field.

Persons like Howard Vander Clute, Herb Irwin, Edward Burnham, Cooper Holt, Frederico Juarbe, Benny Bachand and Joe Ross, to name a few of our office staff, gave advice, put the material together and saw that our other very capable staff members put the programs into action.

Thank you all so much for your support and dedication to our nation's veterans and our country, America.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Gertrude and John Ray for all their help and support, along with the New York VFW Department Headquarters, the VFW Service Officers and their staff.

I must thank my District 3 people, under the guidance of John Ray, and the entire membership of the New York Department who provided a Homecoming that was a first class festivity from its beginning to its completion. Thank you, one and all.

To the entire national membership of our ladies and men, I can never thank you all enough for your support and the hospitality you provided Jean and me and the many wonderful gifts. Your generosity will always be remembered.

To Joan Katkus, a wonderful National President and her officers and staff who made it so easy for me to work with, thank you, girls, for all your support and help.

I was blessed with a fine young man as my Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Larry W. Rivers, and Wally Hogan as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Thank you both for your wisdom, the long hours and travel and most of all for the team effort which has made this year successful.

And in conclusion, it would never have been possible had I not had the support of my lovely, understanding wife, Jean. Darling, I shall always be grateful for your love and the sacrifices you have made in my long periods away from home and the griefs and joys we have shared.

Yes, you and our wonderful children made it all possible for me do what only a very few have the opportunity to experience. Thank all of you for this opportunity to do For America, Whatever It Takes.

Shortly after Commander-in-Chief Stock met with President Reagan, the President announced his support for the bill that would raise the Veterans Administration to Cabinet level. The bill passed the House and then the Senate, both overwhelmingly, and is now in a conference committee.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Larry W. Rivers

This past year has been the greatest period of my life

When I was elected to serve you as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the 87th National Convention, I was thrilled because I was given the opportunity to serve the marvelous people who make up the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Then came the 88th National Convention, and you elected me Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, and for the past year I have been a member of Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock's team.

His leadership, emphasizing that we will do whatever it takes for America to be strong in national defense and compassionate in its treatment of and concern for veterans, has been an inspiration to us all and especially to me.

So let me express my gratitude to Commander-in-Chief Stock for his counsel, wisdom and guidance as we all have worked the past year to make certain that this 1987-88 year would be the greatest in the history of our great organization.

Serving you great Americans who are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and meeting so many of you in my travels across this nation have proved to me once again that you are the finest. You have demonstrated your loyalty to our country by your service, and you continue to do so by your willingness to do whatever you are asked and to do it right.

This past year has been so filled with excitement that I hardly know where to begin in making my report to you. In Washington, witnessing the legislative process gave me new insight into the complexities of winning passage of specific bills. In Washington also, I was able to meet with Congressional leaders who are so vital to us as we work for veterans.

Frequent visits to Kansas City provided me with even greater appreciation for the work done at our National Headquarters on both the Adjutant General's and Quartermaster General's sides.

On overseas trips, I was fortunate in being able to meet with authorities on conditions in the countries to our south in Latin America, so vital to our security, and to view at firsthand the struggle for democracy those people are working so valiantly to achieve.

Visiting the refugee camps in Thailand showed me the privation and hardship people are willing to endure in order to live in freedom and just how precious this is to so many people. We should never take it lightly. But veterans like yourselves, from your own experience, hardly need to be reminded of this simple fact of life.

The annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington was indeed an event that was stamped indelibly on my memory. The great outpouring of enthusiasm that I witnessed at all the meetings, especially the General Session when President Reagan visited and addressed us. Then there was the Congressional Dinner where Rep. Bill Nichols and the Voice of Democracy first-place winner spoke. These events certainly went far toward making my year complete.

For all of this, I am deeply grateful to each of you. Electing me your Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, you have enabled me to share with you the hopes and dreams, the joys and even the sadness that often marks our lives as we worked to make the future even finer than the present.

Special thanks for all his aid go, first, of course, to Commander-in-Chief Stock. Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Hogan has my gratitude for his untiring help. Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., has been tireless in his assistance as has Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin. Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, of the Washington Office, has been equally generous.

Now let us look to 1988-89.

On overseas trips, I was fortunate in being able to meet with authorities on conditions in the countries to our south in Latin America.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Walter G. Hogan

It doesn't seem possible that my year as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is near completion. It has been a year of extensive travel in the United States and abroad, a year of broadening my knowledge, a wonderful year of making new friends and renewing old friendships

Of the nations abroad, those in Central America constitute a hotspot of political strife. Civil war continues to run rampant. We must be ever alert to the perils poised on our southern border. As mandated by you, the membership, we will persevere in our support of democracy in these countries.

One of the most poignant visits was to the refugee camps in Thailand. There we witnessed the plight of nearly 250,000 people who were seeking freedom from an unjust system of government. To see this only heightened our appreciation of America and all its freedoms.

At home on the legislative scene, we are unrelenting in our efforts to perpetuate veterans' entitlements. We are on the threshold of having the Veterans Administration elevated to a Cabinet position, a goal long sought after by our organization.

In traveling to many of our Departments, I was inspired by meeting comrades of such quality. They show initiative and concern toward the growth of our organization and the quality of its programs. Because of that enthusiasm and tireless effort and because of the unified belief in our organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will endure. We represent honor, confidence and total loyalty to veterans and their families.

I sincerely thank my own Department of Wisconsin for its encouragement and support. My year as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief was made easier because of the leadership and counsel of Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., and the guidance of Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers. I am very grateful for the cooperation of Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin, Executive Director of the Washington Office Cooper T. Holt and their excellent staffs.

As we head to Chicago for our National Convention, let us dedicate ourselves to the deliberation of the many issues to come before us and make the sound decisions that are required of us to heighten the awareness of our organization and our policies.

You are the organization, and it has been a honor to serve as your Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. Always remember that we are all "FOR AMERICA, WHATEVER IT TAKES."

We must be ever alert to the perils poised on our southern border. As mandated by you, the membership, we will persevere in our support of democracy in these countries.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Chartered By An Act Of Congress)

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

BALANCE SHEET, MAY 31, 1988

	NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL PUBLICATION FUNDS	COMMUNITY AND VETERANS SERVICE FUND (Restricted)	KANSAS CITY PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS FUND (Restricted)	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND (Restricted)
ASSETS				
Cash and temporary cash investments	$ 11,190,258	$ 1,450,818	$ 200,000	
Securities held and managed by Trustee — at cost (market value - $16,428,482 for National Headquarters and National Publications Funds and $82,673,207 for Life Membership Fund)	16,211,606			$ 79,993,044
Receivables	286,624	751,002		
Accrued interest receivable on cash and securities held by Trustee	430,609			1,854,270
Due from National Headquarters Fund		4,941,976		951,760
Inventories	1,084,303	474,676		
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment (less accumulated depreciation — $1,625,809)	1,382,500			
National Headquarters property — Kansas City, Missouri:				
Land	1,041,703			
Building and improvements (less accumulated depreciation — $1,900,933)	2,164,051			
Other improvements — unamortized portion	1,883,830			
National Memorial Building property — Washington, D.C. — Land, building, and improvements	2,362,312			
Prepaid and deferred charges	923,216	18,090		
TOTAL	$ 38,961,012	$ 7,636,562	$ 200,000	$ 82,799,074
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Accounts payable	$ 523,325	$ 4,452,505		
Accrued liabilities	54,935			
Other liabilities	813,533	87,384		
Due to Community and Veterans Service Fund	4,941,976			
Due to Life Membership Fund	951,760			
Deferred credits:				
National dues allocable to subsequent periods	5,168,498			
Insurance programs		792,596		
Fund balances	26,506,985	2,304,077	$ 200,000	$ 82,799,074
TOTAL	$ 38,961,012	$ 7,636,562	$ 200,000	$ 82,799,074

See the notes to financial statements.

AUDITORS' OPINION

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States:

We have examined the balance sheet of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States — Office of the Quartermaster General as of May 31, 1988 and the related summary of income and changes in fund balances and summary of expenses for the nine months then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States —Office of the Quartermaster General at May 31, 1988, and the results of its operations and the changes in its fund balances for the nine months then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

Deloitte, Haskins & Sells
Kansas City, Missouri
June 21, 1988

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED MAY 31, 1988

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND NATIONAL PUBLICATION FUNDS

INCOME:	
National dues	$ 6,690,347
Contributions from VFW Ladies Auxiliary	140,000
VFW Magazine advertising	1,939,361
Supply Department — net income	846,821
Property Operations — net loss	(504,737)
Interest earned	1,786,618
Other	112,022
Total income	11,010,432
EXPENSES (See summary)	9,032,710
INCOME BEFORE OTHER CHARGES	1,977,722
OTHER CHARGES — Net charges applicable to prior periods	(38,415)
NET INCOME	1,939,307
FUND BALANCES, SEPTEMBER 1, 1987	24,567,678
FUND BALANCES, MAY 31, 1988	$ 26,506,985

SPECIAL FUNDS (RESTRICTED)

COMMUNITY AND VETERANS SERVICE FUND:

Income:	
National Insurance Program	$ 3,810,461
Poppy Department operations	295,697
Miscellaneous	2,239
Total	4,108,397
Expenses:	
Community and Veterans Service Programs (See summary)	2,007,449
Allocation of National Headquarters Fund and National Publication Fund expenses	2,359,589
Total	4,367,038
Decrease in Fund Balance	(258,641)
Fund Balance, September 1, 1987	2,562,718
FUND BALANCE, MAY 31, 1988	$ 2,304,077

KANSAS CITY PROPERTIES MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND

Fund Balance, September 1, 1987 and May 31, 1988	$ 200,000

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND:

Receipts:	
Life membership fees	$ 4,404,554
Interest and dividends on investments	6,412,046
Total	10,816,600
Expenses:	
1988 annual dues of life members	6,911,412
Administrative expenses	149,673
Trustee's charges	36,242
Total	7,097,327
Increase in Fund Balance	3,719,273
Fund Balance, September 1, 1987	79,079,801
FUND BALANCE, MAY 31, 1988	$ 82,799,074

See the notes to financial statements.

88th NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is a summary of receipts and disbursements pertaining to the VFW's 88th National Convention which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana:

CASH RECEIPTS:

Registration	$ 92,757.00	
Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW	26,000.00	
New Orleans Tourist & Convention Commission	30,000.00	
Awards Luncheon Ticket Sales	30,422.50	
Distinguished Guest Banquet Ticket Sales	51,945.00	
Concessions and Miscellaneous	12,250.00	
Total Receipts		$ 243,374.50

DISBURSEMENTS:

Audio-Visual	$ 29,687.09	
Awards Luncheon	30,105.00	
Badges & Signs	14,794.85	
Convention Committee & Director's Expense	8,915.67	
Distinguished Guest & National Officers' Expense	30,528.80	
Distinguished Guest Banquet	62,876.47	
Meeting Halls and Set-Up	55,278.84	
On-Site Transportation	5,378.25	
Parade and Contest Expense	1,321.25	
Postage and Freight	1,072.31	
Printing and Paper	3,826.01	
Professional Services	11,513.35	
Stationery & Office Supplies/Equipment Rental	3,855.93	
Miscellaneous	3,193.51	
Total Disbursements		262,347.33
EXCESS OF DISBURSEMENTS OVER RECEIPTS		$ 18,972.83

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
SOURCE OF REVENUE

Budgeted income for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1988, is $19,674,311 compared to $18,077,715 for the previous year. The following schedule shows the proportionate composition of this year's budgeted income by department:

	Percentage of Total Revenue
Dues	45.7
Group Insurance Programs	25.4
VFW Magazine Receipts	12.0
Interest on Investments	11.8
Emblem & Supply Department	5.3
Property Operation — Net Loss	(2.7)
All other sources	2.5
Total	100.0%

MEMBERSHIP AND NATIONAL DUES

The current budget is based on dues income of 2,052,000 members, which includes 578,226 Life Members. As of June 17, 1988, annual dues have been paid on 2,047,576 members which is 6,049 more than at the same date last year and the highest in the Organization's eighty-nine year history. Dues are paid on a calendar year basis, therefore, one-third of the dues collected is set aside in a reserve applicable to the next fiscal year.

VFW INSURANCE PROGRAMS

The National Organization first sponsored a group insurance program in 1962. Over the years we have added a variety of programs, and at the present time we have nine. The most recent additions are an Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance program and a Medicare Supplement Economy plan. Details of these and other insurance programs appear elsewhere in this official program.

National Headquarters receives an administrative expense reimbursement for handling the billing, collection of premiums, policy issuance, etc. For the current nine months ended May 31, 1988, the net income from this source is $3,810,461 compared to $3,598,450 for the same period last year. In addition, the administrative expense reimbursement from the National Life Insurance program, which is not included in the above figures, is distributed to VFW Departments. Since 1971, VFW Departments have received approximately $2,437,000 for the assistance they give us in the advertising and promotion of that program.

Beginning in June of 1983, a new insurance underwriter increased our reimbursement for administration of the programs and as a result of this increase, coupled with a growing expertise in mass marketing, our annual net income from the insurance programs has more than tripled. In 1986, the underwriting was transferred to the North American Life & Casualty Insurance Company and its subsidiary, Preferred Life Insurance of New York. The amount reimbursed to VFW National Headquarters for administration of the programs remains the same. This new company receives the highest (A+) rating possible from the A.M. Best Company, an independent insurance industry analyst.

The reception of the new accidental death program has been very good because the first $2,500 of coverage is at no cost to the member and requires only that the member send in a beneficiary card which has been provided in the dues notice mailing. This new program has been a valuable addition to our membership program as well. Each of the other programs has been well received over the years, and they all offer a valuable incentive for belonging to the Organization.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL

MEMBER BENEFIT PROGRAMS

We have attempted to design a member benefit program for our members, and all of these programs—including the insurance programs previously mentioned, are optional with the member and cost him nothing unless he elects to use them. In the spring of 1982, we announced a prescription drug program. Some of our members who do not otherwise have access to a discount source for prescription drugs have found this program very useful. In 1983 we announced a travel service (hotels, motels, rental cars, etc.) and a discount merchandise purchase service.

Details of our insurance programs, and these additional member benefits, have been included in a "Member Benefit Handbook" which has been mailed to all members during the period June-July 1988.

Again, our insurance and other member benefit programs are available to our members at what we believe is a fair cost, but cost the member nothing unless, at his option, he wishes to utilize them.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

From the inception of the program in 1950 through May 31, 1988, members purchasing a life membership total 689,256. During the same period, 112,236 became inactive due to death, etc., leaving 577,020 names on the active list.

During this past year, 51,027 members paid $6,397,839 to become Life Members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

May 31, 1988

Fees Collected Jan. 1, 1951 to May 31, 1988		$77,966,248
Total dues paid Post, Department and National	$53,098,749	
Add — Administrative Expenses since 1-1-51	2,193,294	
	55,292,043	
Income from Investments (Incl. gains and losses from sale of securities)	$60,124,869	
Excess of Income over Disbursements		4,832,826
Reserve for Future Dues Payments and Expenses		$82,799,074
Total Investments in Trust Funds		$79,993,044
Temporary Investments and Cash on Hand		2,806,030
Total Investments and Cash		$82,799,074

Note: The estimated Dues Payment due 8-31-88 is $7,125,732.

Life Member fees have been set actuarially so that the fee life member applicants pay, plus the investment income from it, will equal the VFW dues for the life of the Life Member. Since the Life Member Program began, we have had three separate plans, Plan A, B & C. Each Plan had a different fee schedule with a different dues payout. The sole purpose in changing plans was to bring the dues payout more in line with the dues structure for annual members.

Because investment income in the last several years has substantially exceeded that which was originally anticipated when the fees were set, the Board of Trustees has been able to increase the Life Member dues payout three of the last six years. It must be remembered, however, that the Board has the right to reduce the payout to that originally set in the By-Laws, should it become necessary because of financial and economic conditions.

For the 1989 dues payment, the dues payout will remain the same, at $12.00 on each Life Member. After the 1989 payment, an additional $13.3 million over the required amount will have been paid to Posts, Departments and National Headquarters since 1982.

All levels of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have benefited from the well managed and financially sound Life Membership Trust. Not only has the total number of Life Members increased substantially over the past few years, but the financial condition of National Headquarters and each Post and Department has been helped by the increased payouts.

VFW EMBLEM AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
Nine months ending May 31,

	1988	1987	1986	1985
Net Sales	$ 3,557,523	$ 3,212,706	$ 3,050,545	$ 2,952,720
Cost of Sales	1,930,989	1,755,978	1,719,146	1,703,356
Gross Profit	1,626,534	1,456,728	1,331,399	1,249,364
EXPENSES				
Salaries	229,277	227,313	212,480	203,306
Advertising	26,223	33,296	20,583	4,268
Catalog Expense	48,848	41,070	37,611	58,178
Electricity	11,364	10,895	9,700	9,153
Postage	194,372	161,568	156,879	142,234
Shipping Supplies	21,662	11,502	13,167	16,564
Rent	61,500	61,500	54,000	54,000
Data Processing Allocation	46,913	55,841	53,307	49,467
Other	45,463	41,879	40,613	32,364
Total Expenses	685,622	644,864	598,340	569,534
Net Income Before Commissions	940,912	811,864	733,059	679,830
Less Commissions to Departments	94,091	81,186	73,306	67,983
NET INCOME	$ 846,821	$ 730,678	$ 659,753	$ 611,847

Section 715 of the By-Laws states that 10% of the net profits of supplies sold within a Department shall be paid to such Department within thirty days following the close of each fiscal period. The Quartermaster General will be mailing these payments to the Departments in September. The 1989 Supply Catalog will be mailed to Posts and Departments in August.

Net income from the Supply Department and Group Insurance Programs, and interest income earned from investments, total over eight million dollars annually and help substantially in meeting the monetary needs of all VFW programs. Still, the bulk of our income is from membership dues, so we are like a retired person on a fixed income. Expenses for printing, postage, travel and our many other activities continue to rise. VFW magazine expenses, alone, represent over a quarter of our total outlay. Many of the costs of printing the magazine, including postage and paper, are not within our own control. While inflation has somewhat abated, it has had a tremendous effect on us over the years.

Our financial statements as of May 31, 1988, indicate that we are having another good year. The August 31 surplus cannot be predicted, but is generally more than that of May 31 of each year. One of the biggest uncertainties is the cost of the National Convention, which will be enormous by any standard. We have had a surplus every year since 1962, and we believe that this year will be no exception.

I would like to express my thanks to the National Officers, the members of the National Council of Administration and the Budget & Finance Committee who have contributed substantially to making 1987-88 a very fine year.

I hope that this report gives you some indication of the financial stability of your VFW National Headquarters. A solid financial base is essential to support our VFW goals which are common to units at all levels of our Organization. While there are many other things to be done, I urge you to pay attention to the finances of your particular unit and leave it in better shape than when you came on board.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

James B. Lund

Seasoned combat veterans Paratrooper Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., Marine Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, and Infantryman Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter F. Hogan lead the attack for the Veterans of Foreign Wars supported by Quartermaster Gen. Herb Irwin and Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.; Surgeon Gen. Philip J. Begley cares for our health, and National Chaplain Boyd W. Winterton guides us spiritually and morally. These leaders are of great assistance to your rear echeloner Judge Advocate General.

Effective national leadership visits to our Departments, Posts and world's "hot spots" stimulate VFW vitality and growth. Publications on veterans' benefits, Congressional testimony and national security from our Washington Office and advice to our many committees from National Headquarters in Kansas City, together with the newest studies on membership growth and extension of claims service, guide us to success in VFW aims and objectives.

Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt eloquently addressed the Minnesota governor and legislators who gathered with 12,000 veterans and Auxiliary members on the Minnesota capitol steps and "lit the candle" to have state veterans' homes returned to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Advice and counsel from District 8 National Council Member Robert B. Thomas, of Oklahoma, was helpful. Visits by Chief Stock, Adjutant Gen. Vander Clute and Assistant Adjutant Gen. Curtis Jewell to Minnesota have spurred courage and membership through a banner year culminating in the dedication of the Fort Snelling VA Replacement Hospital. Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, in his visits to Minnesota, has called it the newest, largest and best equipped in the Free World.

Buildup of funds obtained from charitable gambling should be watched to avoid Internal Revenue Service confrontation.

Extreme caution is urged in the use of VFW courts-martial. Prior consultation for discussion and possible arbitration of disputes before instituting courts-martial would serve the good of the order.

Support from my Department and the Big Ten Conference has made it possible for me to serve as your JAG.

SURGEON GENERAL

Dr. Philip J. Begley

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars as Surgeon General for the past year. The year has gone by so fast that I have probably left undone many things that I should have done, and I have probably done a few things that I should have not done. However, "The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on."

In general, it has been a good year for the VFW. Membership is holding up. Our record for service to veterans and for community service is untarnished. The chief concern I have is the increasing mortality rates for us World War II veterans. I would like to urge all veterans to have regular blood pressure checks and to limit salt and, if at all possible, to abstain from the use of tobacco. I am of the opinion that veterans over 60 can have their life-span extended by following this advice.

Because of the increasing age of the largest group of our veterans, nursing homes are becoming more and more important. The VA does not have enough nursing homes and should strive to increase the number and availability of nursing home beds.

My own state, Kentucky, has passed enabling legislation for a veterans' nursing home, and we hope to begin construction in the next 12 to 18 months. We need both state-supported and VA-supported nursing homes in order to help our government keep its commitments to that special class of citizen — the veteran.

During the year, I have visited a few hospitals, have assisted some veterans with their claims and have held offices in the Post, District and State organizations, as well as on the National level. My major disappointment for the year was having to miss the Washington Conference and National Council of Administration meeting because of illness.

I have been impressed with the organization and efficiency of our officers in Kansas City and Washington. We are extremely fortunate to have two able administrators, our Adjutant General, Howard E. Vander Clute, and probably one of the most respected men in Washington, Cooper T. Holt. I feel fortunate to have known and associated with them.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Bishop Boyd W. Winterton

I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to comrades and ladies of Atomic Post 4355 and the Department of Utah for encouragement and support leading to my election last Aug. 23 in New Orleans.

My wife, Bonnie, and I had just arrived home from the National Convention, only to be on our way to Albany, N.Y., as guests of the Commander-in-Chief for his gala homecoming celebration, under the genial chairmanship of John Ray. We partook of the activities of three action-packed days, including a homecoming banquet, a night at the races (OTB teletheater) and several special tours of historic sites.

Attendance at two National Council of Administration meetings in New Orleans and Kansas City, respectively, enabled me to gain insight, increased understanding and appreciation for the inter-relationships among National Officers, National District Council members and National Directors. I would like to express appreciation to the many services provided me during the past year, particularly by the Adjutant General and his staff and the National Directorate personnel.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 1987, shall always be a day to remember as comrades, ladies, family and friends came to my homecoming at Post 4355. Telephone conversations from Past National Chaplains Schneider, Braun and Reinewald were deeply appreciated. Nov. 6-8 was also a homecoming of sorts, returning to comrades and friends of the Western Conference at Wichita, Kans. Being able to thank personally Past Commanders-in-Chief Staab, Currieo and Stang for their acts of kindness and guidance made the occasion even more special.

Nov. 30 through Dec. 3, I attended a conference at Hampton, Va., for all Chiefs of Chaplain Service, VA Medical Centers, U.S.A. I was honored, as VFW National Chaplain, to speak on: What Has Membership in Veterans' Service Organizations to Offer the VA Chaplaincy?

The Mid-Winter Conference, March 4-8, in Washington, D.C., was an inspiration to all who attended. The Voice of Democracy finals, responses at the religious services provided, attendance at the Congressional Banquet and being present as Commander-in-Chief Stock appeared before the joint hearing for House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees were heartwarming and most meaningful. Finally, being an arm's length away, as it were, from the President of the United States as he approached the platform to address those assembled was exciting and memorable.

The week of March 6-13 with the Commander-in-Chief and staff, and all who qualified for the membership trip to Epcot, Disney World, Kennedy Space Center and a Caribbean cruise aboard the SS Oceanic is described by one adjective: Superlative! When we first boarded the Oceanic, the cruise director said, "Prepare to be pampered." And pampered we were for four fun-packed days, an unforgettable experience.

Bonnie and I have just returned from Kenosha, Wis., where we were guests of Post 1865 for the 26th Annual National Chaplain's Day festivities. We were received at the airport by Kenosha's outstanding Honor Guard, as well as Post, Department and National VIPs, including Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Hogan. Then we proceeded in a nine-passenger limousine with a Kenosha County Sheriff's escort. All this proved to be the mere beginning of three incredible days over the Memorial Day weekend. Saturday's Order of the Day included a chartered fishing excursion on Lake Michigan and a traditional banquet that evening where the Chaplain was honored as the evening's speaker. It isn't often that a Chaplain is speechless, but I was for a moment when presented with a portrait of myself by world-class artist, George Pollard, a member of Post 1865. Sunday, I was privileged to deliver the sermon at Memorial United Methodist Church Worship Service. Sunday and Monday, I was invited to participate in two Community Memorial Services and a Post Flag Service. Upon boarding the plane in Milwaukee, we told Chairman Kloet and his lovely wife, Audrey, "We are going home, but our hearts remain in Kenosha."

Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., made an official visit to the state of Utah May 30 to June 2. His visits to the VA Medical Center, with the mayor of Salt Lake City, the governor of the state of Utah and Church officials were highly effective and well received. At a dinner hosted by Utah's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, the Chief commended local military and veterans' organizations for their unanimity in gaining legislative approval for a Veterans' Memorial Park. I consider it a signal honor to have served as a Team member with Earl L. Stock, Jr., this past year, a man who lives what he believes: For America, Whatever It Takes!

CHIEF OF STAFF

Paul E. Wampler, Jr.

Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, who has led us to another successful year in achieving our goals on virtually all levels of VFW activity, appointed me Chief of Staff at the conclusion of the 88th National Convention in New Orleans.

Over the past year, I have worked to justify the confidence he placed in me 12 months ago when he assigned to me the duties of this appointive office.

One of the principal functions of the Chief of Staff is to oversee the Post Development program. Under the directorship of Joe Ross, 277 new Posts were chartered between July 1, 1987, and May 18, of this year.

This gain represents an increase of nine over the previous year. Leading the Departments is California with 34, comprising 1,183 new and reinstated members. In all, the new and reinstated members added to the VFW this year total 10,144. Only 13 Departments failed to add any new Posts.

Since the old Post Extension program was begun in 1965-66 and later renamed Post Development, more than 5,335 new Posts have been established. The retention rate is 77.14%. This record should silence critics of the program.

Over the past year, I have had the honor to participate in numerous VFW activities, meetings and conferences. At each one, I have been overwhelmed by the courtesy and generosity shown me by hosts and hostesses and other participants in these events. To each of you, let me express my most heartfelt thanks.

This report would not be complete without a special mention of Comrade Ross. His work as Post Development Director this past year has been exceptionally beneficial to the National organization, and he has been most cooperative with me.

Most of all, however, I must thank Commander-in-Chief Stock for appointing me to this office and enabling me to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars as an organization of men and women who served their country overseas.

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan, Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin and Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt and their staffs have been outstanding in assisting me in carrying out the functions of Chief of Staff. To all of them, I must express my gratitude.

But I am equally grateful to each of you in the VFW for helping to make this one of the greatest years in the history of our organization and demonstrating that we will do "For America, Whatever It Takes."

INSPECTOR GENERAL

Peter E. Olson

It has been a privilege and a distinct honor to serve the past 12 months as Inspector General. I sincerely thank Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock for the opportunity to gain a greater knowledge of our outstanding organization. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my many years as a VFW member.

To the National Organization and its staff, I am grateful for the guidance and complete cooperation extended to me during the past year. I am convinced that the principles and purposes of this organization are the greatest in the world. Your dedicated leadership is appreciated.

Post Inspection Reports are most important. They indicate whether or not a Post needs assistance to avoid what might well become a serious problem. The progress made in Post Inspections has been most gratifying, and virtually all Posts have been inspected. Dedicated District and Department Inspectors are responsible for this accomplishment. Thank you for a successful and enjoyable year.

The opportunity to travel and represent the National organization and our great Commander-in-Chief has been most worthwhile. The many courtesies and warm hospitality extended to me throughout the year and the many friendships developed always will be cherished.

To serve under Commander-in-Chief Stock, who is an inspiration to all who know him, is an honor I will never forget. Thank you, Comrade Earl, for a memorable year. Leadership like yours has enabled the VFW to reach its goal of "For America, Whatever It Takes."

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Executive Director Cooper T. Holt

At the conclusion of the 88th National Convention in New Orleans last year, Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock reappointed me Assistant Adjutant General and Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Washington Office.

Your VFW Washington Office consists of five separate services: Administrative, National Veterans Service, National Legislative Service, National Security and Foreign Affairs, and Public Affairs. Each of these offices represents service to veterans that no other veterans' group offers in the nation's capital. I was directed to coordinate all activities of these offices and to represent the Commander-in-Chief personally in contacts with Congressional, governmental and military leaders.

The primary work of your Washington Office staff is to carry out to a successful conclusion the mandates which you, the member, offer, debate and pass at our National Convention. I am the first to remind you that we are not always successful in this endeavor, but you can be sure we are always trying.

As all of you know, I, for one, cannot express my gratitude enough for the work you do. Many times it is a thankless job. But I want you all to know we in the Washington Office appreciate and value your efforts. It is not just the VFW that appreciates your work; the Congress knows you are out there too.

I am going to confine my remarks in this report to veterans' programs, and I am going to talk about Congress and what it is doing and not doing.

It is no secret that the VFW has had its work cut out for it this Congress. Making the VA a cabinet level department, obtaining compensation and health care for atomic veterans, realizing adequate funding for veterans' health care, strengthening employment and educational programs, and resisting the attacks on veterans' entitlements by anti-veteran factions are just some of the issues on which the VFW has taken a strong and active stand.

It is a tough, uphill battle, but we are resolved, and I am proud to say that the interests of this nation's veterans have been well represented. But something very curious is going on. It seems that whenever the VFW comes forward to take a stand, we encounter this increasingly shrill cry: "There go those professional veterans again!"

For example, when the VFW let it be known in no uncertain terms that we supported elevating the VA to a cabinet-level department and that we did not want the legislation diluted or distorted with amendments, the piercing cry of "the professional veterans are causing trouble" could be unmistakably heard. When we took a stand for awarding this nation's atomic veterans compensation for certain disabilities, we were accosted once again with "watch out for those professional veterans." When we spoke strongly in favor of providing VA health care to poor and impoverished veterans for non-service connected disabilities, the alarm of "those professional veterans are on the prowl" was quickly raised. Time and time again, when we step forward to protect this nation's veterans' hard-earned entitlements, we are decried as being a bunch of professional veterans with altogether too much clout.

True enough, the VFW is justifiably proud of the work it has done on behalf of America's military veterans. We are neither afraid nor ashamed to do whatever it takes so veterans may enjoy the recognition they deserve for having set aside personal gain and ambition in order to ensure America's freedom. Yes, we have won some tough battles against the anti-veteran factions in this country; we have worked hard and long and will continue to do so; but too much clout, too much influence with the Administration and the Congress? I don't think so. Furthermore, if the pejorative accusation of professional veterans means a patriotic American who has proudly served his or her country and who is ready, willing and able to fight for what is right, then we should all gladly accept the designation as a badge of our commitment and patriotism and redouble our work on behalf of veterans and the nation.

Our advocacy is strong, but it is firmly grounded in representing the facts of veterans' service and sacrifice to an always grateful, yet sometimes forgetful nation. We do

not lobby on behalf of special interests or unearned and undeserved programs—we only ask for that which a grateful American people, through ceremony and law, have shown to be what the veterans justly deserve. Put another way, we win because we persevere and our cause is just. But we surely do not have too much clout.

One proof of this lies in the problems we are now confronting with the proposed VA budget. At first glance, the Administration's proposed $30.1 billion VA budget at least would seem to be in keeping with the objective of providing veterans with a current services budget. But a more thorough review reveals this spending plan to be painfully inadequate and far below what is even necessary to keep pace with inflation.

The deception lies in the fact that even though the requested budget authority is larger than the current year's authority, it includes $1.6 billion for expenditures from VA-managed trust funds which do not, in fact, require appropriations. Furthermore, $1.5 billion is included in the budget for proposed legislation of which about $1.3 billion is to be used to fund the Administration's so-called credit reform plan.

This plan is nothing more than a scheme to require Congress to appropriate money equal to the estimated subsidy value (the additional amount OMB claims a VA loan is worth to an individual) of the loans it makes or guarantees. Along with using actual appropriations dollars to cover the OMB-estimated paper losses, once the appropriation is used up, the VA will not be allowed to guarantee any more loans without an additional appropriation. This would cap the program effectively and potentially prevent untold thousands of veterans from getting VA loans. The money earmarked for the credit reform scheme also inflates the VA budget and makes it appear to be much larger than it actually is.

So when the misleading numbers and deceptive rhetoric are washed away, we are faced with a VA budget woefully inadequate to the task of caring for this nation's veterans. For example, overall health-care funding would increase by only 2% over the 1988 level. At a time when the number of veterans requiring inpatient, outpatient and long-term care is on the rise, the proposed FY '89 health-care budget, adjusted for inflation, is a full $370 million short of even providing for current health-care services by the VA. In fact, total expenditures for discretionary items in the VA budget would rise by only 1.8% over the 1988 level even though inflation is projected to be 4.5% in 1989.

The VA Home Loan Program, one of the most beneficial veterans' programs in existence, also would fall under the budget-cutter's ax. Even though the current strained economic climate has resulted in the loan guaranty program suffering a dramatic increase in foreclosures and in the amount of time foreclosed properties must be managed and maintained by the VA, FY '89 budget calls for a reduction of 75 loan guaranty personnel.

The entire Veterans Administration falls under the Administration's proposed budgetary assault. Despite a demonstrated need for an additional 3,500 nursing-home beds by 1992, the VA is slated to receive only 120 new beds in FY '89. In an area of major concern to this nation's Vietnam veterans, the Veterans Administration Vet Center Program would suffer a reduction of 79 full time employees and a budget cut of $4.7 million. Additionally, the Administration has declined to seek additional funding for the Veterans' Job Training Act. This invaluable employment program has placed almost 60,000 Vietnam Era and Korean War veterans into jobs and is now just about completely out of money. Of major concern to all veterans and particularly to older veterans is the fact that there will be a more than $34 million reduction in money available to purchase new medical equipment, and the funding for facility construction, modernization and renovation would be reduced by $22 million.

The Administration's FY '89 budget calls for the elimination of 2,439 VA employees. At a time when the demands on the VA health-care system are rapidly on the rise, 1,782 health-care employees would be eliminated. The Department of Veterans Benefits would be forced to eliminate 492 employees, including 248 regional office claims adjudicators. Conceivably, in spite of the fact that over the past five years the VA has struggled to handle claims in a prompt manner, the Administration would eliminate over 7% of the already overtaxed regional office

claims work force.

Also of major concern is the issue of judicial review. Judicial review of veterans' claims has been before Congress for many years. Since the 94th Congress, proposals have been introduced to afford veterans the right to their day in court.

The VFW is acutely aware of the fact that the VA is one of the few client agencies, one that awards monetary compensation and various other benefits to individuals and whose decisions are final with no further legal recourse available to its claims.

Accordingly, the VFW has adopted a position supporting judicial review of VA benefit determinations only in instances concerning questions of law and regulation. This position is fully in keeping with the determination made by the Special Committee appointed in 1981 by the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to study and evaluate the question of judicial review. The voting delegates to the most recent National Convention reaffirmed this longstanding position by approving Resolution 613, Judicial Review.

The VFW believes this carefully circumscribed position allows a proper means of redressing erroneous VA benefit determinations through the courts while not threatening to undermine the VA's own highly successful appeals mechanism. Accordingly, the VFW recently testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in favor of a bill which adheres to the mandates of our current resolution. As called for in VFW Resolution 613, this legislation provides for judicial review of law and regulation and would not allow a challenge to a VA decision involving a question of fact. The bill also would give much more independence to the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals, an action which we believe will alleviate apprehension among some veterans when having their cases presented to the BVA. We are resolved to advance successfully the VFW's position on this critical issue before the Congress.

During the past year, I have been assigned by your Commander-in-Chief to attend conferences, National Council of Administration meetings, various mid-winter conferences and state conventions, as well as other official functions. I have presented the needs of your Washington Office before the National Budget Committee and members of the National Council of Administration. I had the privilege of participating in the Senior Vice Commanders' and Adjutant-Quartermasters' meetings in Kansas City and attending staff meetings called by the Commander-in-Chief to discuss VFW programs.

It was my distinct pleasure to address the Ladies Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference in Charleston, S.C., and to attend various functions in Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Arizona, Minnesota, Tennessee and Wisconsin. It was also my honor to attend the Eastern Conference meeting held in Wilmington, Del., and the Southern Conferences in Columbia, S.C., and Oklahoma City, Okla. In addition, it was my pleasure during the past year to represent the Washington Office at Flying Squadron meetings in Dallas, Memphis, Richmond and Atlanta.

I was also asked to accompany Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Wally Hogan on a tour of Central America and the Caribbean that included fact-finding trips to Mexico, El Salvador and Grenada.

I have had the opportunity to represent personally Commander-in-Chief Stock in contacts with Congressional, governmental and military leaders; to assist in planning meetings of the National Security and Foreign Affairs, National Legislative, Civil Service and Employment, National Awards and Citations Committees and the annual Washington Conference and to arrange visits of distinguished guests to the National Convention and appointments for the Commander-in-Chief with government leaders.

Finally, I am most grateful to Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Larry W. Rivers, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Walter Hogan, Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., and Quartermaster Gen. Herbert Irwin for their many courtesies to this office. To the entire membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I wish to convey my deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve you. ◆

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, ADMINISTRATION

Edward L. Burnham

The Assistant Adjutant General, Administration, is tasked with the assignment of assisting the Adjutant General in conducting and managing the administrative and executive functions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His responsibilities include supervision of Administrative Services, General Services and Post Services and the Buddy Poppy division at National Headquarters.

The functions of this office are wide-ranging and include such diverse tasks as monitoring and reviewing Department budgets and financial reports; reviewing By-Laws and Corporation documents of subordinate units for compliance with the National By-Laws; preparation of administrative pamphlets and forms required for internal and external use; composition and preparation of National Awards, citations and letters of commendation; the publication annually of the VFW Constitution, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual following the National Convention; filing of statutory Congressional and State reports; publication and dissemination of the National Headquarters Bulletins, General Orders and Special Orders; validation of requests for surplus military equipment; maintenance of historical and legal files; dissemination of summaries and preservation of proceedings of the National Convention and Council of Administration meetings; establishment and maintenance of eligibility files of National Officers; insuring the proper recording of names and addresses of National Department and Post Officers and all other established and administrative functions required for the proper and efficient operation of the organization.

Department Quartermasters have been observant in forwarding quarterly and annual financial reports and budgets required by the National By-Laws. All reports are carefully reviewed and monitored by the Administrative Staff of the Adjutant General. Every effort is made to clarify any financial matters perceived to be unclear and to provide on-site assistance to Quartermasters who request or need help. The records will show that most Departments have adopted sound money-management procedures and policies, and we are pleased to note that most Quartermasters fulfill their responsibility to keep their Councils of Administration informed of their Department's financial status as the By-Laws require. Special briefings are conducted by the Administrative Staff at National Headquarters for beginning Department Adjutants/Quartermasters.

As statutory requirements of doing business increase in complexity, the need for maintaining records and up-to-date and approved By-Laws at every level becomes increasingly urgent. The Commander-in-Chief's Statement of Policy for the operation, management and control of Post canteens/clubs addresses these concerns and VFW requirements for such operations. The wide acceptance of this policy has served to strengthen canteen/club operations. As financial responsibility laws become more restrictive, there is a compelling need for subordinate units to insure that Articles of Incorporation have been submitted through channels to the Adjutant General for the review of the Commander-in-Chief in accordance with the National By-Laws and then properly recorded with the appropriate state authority. Approved By-Laws serve to smooth out internal Post operations, while Articles of Incorporation provide for the corporate entity of the Post and afford individual members protection from legal obligations of the Post. All Posts should have current by-laws and valid Articles of Incorporation reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief and filed with the secretary of state of their respective states.

Other administrative matters under the supervision of the Assistant Adjutant General, Administration, include the resolution of questions concerning membership eligibility, review of court-martial proceedings and appeals for the Commander-in-Chief, research in the preparation of Commander-in-Chief rulings, handling questions concerning emblematic matters and the unauthorized reproduction and/or use of the VFW name and emblem and membership lists.

Credentials for the National Convention, resolutions and proposed amendments to the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual submitted by National Officers and Department Conventions are processed, printed and disseminated under the direction of the Assistant Adjutant General, Administration.

My special thanks go to Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr. and Quartermaster Gen. Herbert W. Irwin, as well as to the National and Department Officers with whom I have worked this past year.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, PROGRAMS

Curtis M. Jewell

Once again the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has met the challenge of keeping intact its record of continuous membership growth. For the 33rd consecutive year, the VFW increased its membership. But it has not been easy, for 1988 can be characterized as a year of ups and downs as far as membership is concerned. At this writing, we have had a moderate increase in membership that should remain through the balance of the year.

Possibly we have reached crossroads as far as membership is concerned. Questions arise as to whether we should change the format of our membership program, design new methods of recruitment or initiate modern marketing techniques to meet the challenge of the future. Some of the plans I have mentioned will be incorporated in next year's membership program which already has been announced. It is anticipated they will prove productive.

Pride in our accomplishments of the past should inspire current and future leaders to greater effort as we approach a new year in membership and the other programs the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary carry on.

Dr. Kenneth Wells, former president of Freedoms Foundation, expressed the work the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary perform as "a concept . . . an idea . . . a rallying point . . . a center of patriotic concern and love of fellowman such as the world has never seen." And it is. This fact stands out in bold relief as one views the work VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members perform each year in carrying on programs that benefit veterans and their families, as well as other segments of our nation's population.

The fact that the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary continue to grow in numbers reflects the image and prestige our organization commands. The donation of more than 100 million hours and $90 million to community service projects during the past year by VFW and Auxiliary units attests to this fact. More than 950,000 people have availed themselves of the VFW Drive to Survive educational training program since its inception in 1973. Thirty million bicycles have been reflectorized with Lite-A-Bike tape as a safeguard against bicycle accidents since 1963.

More important to the future of our country is the fact that VFW Posts sponsor more than 1,100 Boy Scout Troops, countless Sons of VFW Units and Boys Clubs and Junior and Special Olympic programs throughout the country.

The Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest continues to attract more than 250,000 high school students each year, as they vie for scholarship awards that assist them in gaining higher education, thus increasing their value as American citizens and tomorrow's leaders.

More than 1,200 VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members contribute 1.5 million hours of volunteer service to the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) program every year. In addition to this service, VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cootie and members of its Ladies Auxiliary donate countless hours entertaining and visiting veterans in VA local hospitals throughout the country.

The impact of community service work VFW members perform is endless and bodes well for the future of our organization as we compete with other organizations for the time and talents of people who want to join an organization that pursues the American dream of building a better life for the citizens of this nation.

Voluntarism, as we know it, has been a way of life since this country was founded more than two centuries ago. In fact, America's independence is the direct result of a volunteer militia that fought and won our freedom in 1776, thus establishing the grass roots of volunteer forces in this country. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has continued to extend this philosophy during its 89 years of existence.

Work of this nature cannot be accomplished without leadership. The VFW is fortunate to have had leaders who contributed their time, effort and talents that allowed us to grow over the past 89 years.

We must continue to seek out the best leadership available and improve the service and development of procedures that will guarantee the future success of our organization.

Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars is a mark of distinction. The privilege of serving as a leader at any level is even greater. It displays a confidence and trust, by others, in recognizing the leadership qualities of an individual. Individuals who are elected, or appointed, to positions of leadership should not betray that trust but should grasp the opportunity to serve the VFW to the best of their ability.

I am confident the leaders and members of our organization can and will accept the challenge of writing new record-shattering chapters in the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as WE REMEMBER the past and build for the future of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Director John J. Senk, Jr.

The volume and scope of duties and responsibilities assigned to Administrative Services are ever expanding and changing. These include assisting the Adjutant General and Assistant Adjutant General, Administration, in the day-to-day administrative functions of the organization.

Department budgets and financial reports of each Department's financial operation are reviewed and monitored for compliance with the National By-Laws.

One of a Post's most important historical documents is its offical charter. Once a Post is instituted, it becomes the responsibility of Administrative Services to correspond with the newly formed Post to insure that the official charter is engrossed correctly and issued as expeditiously as possible. Complete and accurate records are maintained on microfilm to facilitate the preparation of a replacement charter should the original become lost or destroyed.

Section 209 of the National By-Laws provides the authority and procedure for two or more Posts to consolidate. When this occurs, Administrative Services initiates the necessary paperwork to correct the records at National Headquarters to reflect the consolidation, and a Certificate of Charter is engrossed and issued reciting the facts of the consolidation.

Upon receipt of a written request for a Life Membership Perpetual Charter, the membership records are reviewed to verify that the Post has the requisite 25 Life Members. Once the membership figures are verified, a charter number is assigned and the Life Membership Perpetual Charter is prepared and mailed to Department Headquarters for presentation.

Administrative Services has been assigned the responsibility of processing requests, preparing applicable orders and maintaining permanent files for the Adjutant General on all suspension and cancellation actions. It is Administrative Services' duty to keep the Adjutant General apprised of any and all corrective action taken during periods of suspension to return the Post to good working order.

The complexity of doing business in today's society is ever expanding and the realities of people's ever-increasing litigiousness today call for steps to be taken to protect the individual members of Posts. In order to accomplish this, we strongly urge each and every Post to incorporate in compliance with Section 708 of the National By-Laws and in accordance with the laws of the state in which it is located. The Director of Administrative Services works closely with the Assistant Adjutant General, Administration, in reviewing and processing Articles of Incorporation for the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief. After Articles of Incorporation have been approved by the Commander-in-Chief, it is necessary for the Posts to file the approved incorporation papers with the agency of their state government having jurisdiction.

More and more Posts are realizing the need to adopt Post by-laws and club rules in order to properly handle individual problems that arise. The National By-Laws provide that the Commander-in-Chief must approve all By-Laws or amendments to existing By-Laws before they become effective. The Director of Administrative Services again works closely with the Assistant Adjutant General, Administration, in reviewing Post by-laws and club rules to insure that there is no conflict with National By-Laws and the documents are in proper form for the approval of the Commander-in-Chief.

VFW Travel Services Department is administered by the Director of Administrative Services. The establishment of this department has insured the lowest possible airfares for anyone traveling on VFW business or personal pleasure. The toll-free number was announced in the Member Benefit Handbook allowing the entire membership to take advantage of our VFW travel services.

The goal of Administrative Services and the entire administrative staff is to serve the needs of our membership better and to allow the VFW to be For America, Whatever It Takes.

AMERICANISM

Chairman Paul R. Phillips, Jr.
Director Raymond N. Price

Once again the people of the United States will go to the polls in November to decide who will guide this nation's "ship of state" for the next four years.

I wonder how many of those who cast their quadrennial ballots on Nov. 8 realize they will be selecting not only an American President but the leader of the free world.

For in the eyes of the world, the titular head of that portion we call free is the leader of the globe's most powerful nation, the United States of America. The President's role, however, is greater than that of a titular head, for he must become an active leader in world affairs. The Constitution assigns the conduct of foreign affairs to the executive branch of government. Therefore, the President must accept much of the responsibility that goes with world leadership.

The United States Presidency is an awesome job. One that can, and in most cases does, age a man far beyond his years. If a President takes his job seriously, and I know of none who have not, it is said that four years in the White House can be more stressful than 16 hard years in the private sector.

While it's true that Presidential responsibilities are awesome, it should be noted that the responsibilities of the electorate, those who elect the President, are equally awesome. They must know the issues, know the candidates and their positions on those issues, and above all, it is their responsibility to cast the ballots that elect the person who will be charged with the vast power of the American Presidency.

It is not my position to tell you for whom to vote, but I plead with you to vote. Your vote is as important to this country as the vote of any other person. Remember that self-government without the involvement of the governed isn't self-government. It is the first step towards oligarchy and tyranny.

The Americanism program for 1988 is in good shape. As of this writing, we have 17 Departments that have reached the 100% accreditation plateau. They are Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Twenty Departments are at better than 90%, and each of these Departments has a pretty good shot at reaching 100%.

The national average for Americanism accreditation is 89.05% and it could be well into the 90% range by National Convention time.

In the conference races, the Big Ten leads, as usual, with 96.42%. The Western Conference is a strong second with 92.51%. The Southern Conference and the Eastern Conference are currently at 85.09% and 82.15% respectively.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have always been among the leaders in advocating patriotic education that begins in elementary schools. The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have always been among the leaders in performing patriotic projects. We will continue to be the leaders in these areas, because without patriotic good works and the patriots who perform them, the freedoms and liberties of all Americans stand in jeopardy.

I can think of no better way of fulfilling the motto we have lived by for the past year, "FOR AMERICA, WHATEVER IT TAKES!" We look forward joyfully, filled with pride in what we have done and with confidence for what we will do in the future. We've had 90 years of service to America's veterans and to our communities, and we will continue because "WE REMEMBER!"

The United States Presidency is an awesome job. One that can, and in most cases does, age a man far beyond his years.

BUDDY POPPY

Chairman Dominic J. Romano
Director Thomas L. Kissell

The words "to assist worthy comrades, to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans" are found in Article I of the Constitution of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and are repeated countless times at Post meetings throughout the country.

One way this pledge is kept is through the sale of Buddy Poppies, and this year the largest in Buddy Poppy history was realized with 17,121,670 VFW Buddy Poppies being sold. Each and every VFW and Ladies Auxiliary member can be extremely and justifiably proud of this accomplishment and is to be commended for a job well done.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a proud heritage of service to disabled and needy veterans. Without that service, we would be hard pressed to justify our existence.

Worthy comrades are assisted through our nationwide system of Veterans Service Officers; the memory and history of our dead are perpetuated through the wearing of the Poppy, and our widows and orphans are aided at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids.

The Department of Minnesota led in sales this year with 1,200,755. Thirty-two Departments contributed to this great year for the Buddy Poppy Program by increasing their sales over last year's.

Buddy Poppy plaques are awarded to the Departments and Auxiliaries that have the greatest percentage increase over their own previous three-year average in each of the nine divisions. Divisions are determined by the three-year average sales per thousand of population, with the exception of foreign and domestic Departments with average sales of fewer than 45,000.

Last year the Over One-Million Sales Club was instituted to pay special recognition to the Departments whose total sales exceeded 1 million with five Departments qualifying. This year the Department of California joined the ranks of the over 1 million sellers.

Divisional winners for 1987-88 are Division 1, Department of Wyoming and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 2, Department of New Jersey and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 3, Department of Wisconsin and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 4, Department of Nevada and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 5, Department of New Hampshire and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 6, Department of Pennsylvania and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 7, Department of Maryland and its Ladies Auxiliary; Division 8, Department of Alabama and its Ladies Auxiliary; and Division 9, Department of Pacific Areas.

This outstanding year of Poppy sales would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many comrades and sisters who toiled in the field. To you, we say thank you.

We also express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the National Officers, Department Commanders and Department Adjutants/Quartermasters.

The National Buddy Poppy Committee members worked exceptionally hard this year to attain the record 17 million plus in sales. They are Dominic J. Romano, of Connecticut; T. William Bossidy, of New York; David L. Hutto, of South Carolina; Robert C. Jordan, of Maine; James Kimery, of New Mexico; Dwaine Wilson, of Nebraska, and Lois Marshall of Kansas, representing the Ladies Auxiliary. Each is to be commended for performance and dedication to the Buddy Poppy Program throughout the year, thereby reinforcing our commitment to our nation's veterans and their dependents.

This outstanding year of Poppy sales would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the many comrades and sisters who toiled in the field.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Chairman Al Gordon
Director Raymond N. Price

The National Community Activities Recordbook Contest is one phase of the VFW's Community Activities Program that receives a great deal of recognition, especially this time of year. During the awards luncheon, the three winning entries are presented national awards and the top ten winning entries are on display in the Continental Room of the Chicago Hilton.

The Community Activities National Awards Program deserves an equal amount of recognition, however. This is designed to recognize VFW Posts, County Councils, Districts and/or Departments for single outstanding projects in the field of community service.

Single outstanding projects, reported in the form of recordbooks, that are local, area, state or national in scope may be submitted to National Headquarters for judging. A brochure containing an entry form in the Community Activities Kit currently is being mailed to every Commander and President of record.

During the 1987-88 year, 43 entries in this program have been judged at National Headquarters, as of this writing. Of these, one earned the Gold Award of Honor, six won the Silver Award of Excellence and 13 received the Bronze Award of Merit. All other entries were given either a Certificate of Commendation or a Letter of Appreciation.

Every VFW Post, County Council, District and/or Department is invited to submit a recordbook of any especially noteworthy project through Department Headquarters as an entry in the Community Activities National Awards Program.

This year is proving to be another outstanding year in Community Activities. It is extremely likely that we will have as many as 41 Departments that are 100% by the end of the year. Currently, 28 Departments are at the 100% accreditation level and another 13 are in the 90% range. This tends to make me believe that the Community Activities Program is sound.

Once again the Big Ten Conference leads with 98.08%. The Western Conference is less than three percentage points behind with 95.64% and the South trails the West by less than three percentage points with 92.92%. The Eastern Conference is fourth with 88.60%.

Throughout our great republic, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are considered valuable and highly desirable parts of their communities. Why? Because they are truly interested in and take an active part in the affairs of their communities. Because they believe and live by the motto, "FOR AMERICA, WHATEVER IT TAKES!"

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary raise the consciousness of the communities in such vital areas as patriotism, safety and concern for youth through their involvement in VFW National Programs.

The VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary promise constant effort to keep America safe, free and strong because "WE REMEMBER!"

Single outstanding projects, reported in the form of recordbooks, that are local, area, state or national in scope may be submitted to National Headquarters for judging.

MEMBERSHIP

Director W. Benny Bachand

By the time this membership report is published, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will have recorded its 33rd consecutive year of membership growth, a record unmatched and unparalleled by any other major organization and one in which our members take great pride.

Achieving this goal took a lot of hard work, long hours and dedication by the men and women of our more than 10,000 Posts committed to doing FOR AMERICA, WHATEVER IT TAKES to be successful in 1988.

Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock set the tone for the 1987-88 membership year by declaring that we in the Veterans of Foreign Wars will do whatever it takes to fulfill our responsibility to our veterans and to our country.

We can do no less, and we didn't. What we did was to record our fifth consecutive year over the 2 million member mark and, as of June 30, 1988, had a membership total of 2,052,521. This membership strength will provide our organization with the influence and power to carry on its goals and objectives for another year.

The 1987-88 membership year had many twists that created an emotional rollercoaster. For the first three months of the year, we had sizable membership gains and then went through a couple of lean months, bounced back in February, dropped down in March and finished strong for the year.

At the end of June, 42 of our 54 Departments had exceeded the 100% barrier while 30 Departments surpassed the National Average of 100.34%.

Much of the credit for this membership success must be given to those who occupied positions of leadership on the Post, County Council, District, Department and National levels. In the final analysis, however, it is the rank and file members who dedicate their time and service to our cause and who, each year, work so diligently at recruiting, renewing and reinstating members.

In examining our membership statistics, we find that we have increased our retention rate again, while suffering our eighth consecutive deficit in the recruiting of new and reinstated members. We reported 136,873 new and reinstated members or 6.67% of our total membership and far, far short of our goal necessary to sustain our growth in the future.

The shotgun direct mail solicitation program continued to expand in 1988 with discounted offers and the introduction of the VFW Campaign Map of the World as a premium offer for a Post using the shotgun and for new and reinstated members joining as a result of answering our invitation to join.

More than a million letters were sent out by in excess of 500 Posts as a method of interesting prospective members by inviting eligible veterans to join our Posts. Again, we are suggesting that more of our Posts utilize this program to assist them in their new and reinstated program to help overcome our downward slide in getting new and former members.

Commander-in-Chief Stock provided us with outstanding leadership and motivation this year. His challenge to do Whatever It Takes, his innovative programs and his great love of this organization have propelled us to the position we hold today. His sincere interest in recognizing the grassroots workers of the VFW have

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made it possible for thousands of our members to meet our top VFW officer for the first time. We were able to succeed because of the time and effort expended by hundreds of thousands of volunteers.

For America, Whatever it Takes created an attitude that enabled us to achieve our goals and objectives this year.

Our future depends upon how well We Remember our past successes and our desire and commitment to keep our organization strong into the 1990s.

As we begin our 90th year of patriotism and service, remember that the Veterans of Foreign Wars can succeed only if we are committed to being the best.

To expand even further our capabilities to attract eligible veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars began putting together a membership marketing strategy that will expand our role in public relations and other marketing techniques to enhance our image and make recruiting easier for both the prospect and the recruiter.

Life Memberships continue to increase each year. More members are joining as Life Members and utilizing the covenience of paying their Life Membership fees via Visa or MasterCard. This trend is expected to continue for years to come because VFW Life Membership is a bargain.

All this membership activity produced an exciting and interesting membership year. Competition on all levels was very close. The conference races once again were exciting with the Big Ten, as usual, leading going into the Washington Conference and the Big Ten Conference the winner on June 30th. Three Conferences broke through the 100% barrier. The Big Ten Conference racked up membership gains in excess of 5,000. The Western Conference gained more than 1,700; the Southern Conference exceeded 2,000 and the Eastern Conference lost more than 1,400 members.

At this National Convention, we will honor once again those distinguished Commanders who have earned the right to be recognized as the champions of champions, the elite group of leaders who distinguished themselves by earning the honored recognition of All American Commander.

Twenty-five Department Commanders achieved this distinguished award by meeting or exceeding their assigned membership percentage and reporting 85% overall in the VFW programs. Forty District Commanders qualified as All Americans by excelling in membership growth, VFW programs and chartering new VFW Posts and 88 Post Commanders were selected to wear the distinguished red, white and blue cap and join this elite group by demonstrating membership growth, VFW program participation and Buddy Poppy purchases.

Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock, recognizing the contributions County Councils have made for past and future successes, reinstated the All American County Council Commander program and is pleased to present two County Council Commanders with their awards and welcome them to this elite group of achievers.

A special salute is given to all the District, County Council and Post Commanders who earned a place on the year-end National Honor Roll of Districts, County Councils and Posts. Noteworthy recognition is given to the top Commanders in each of the 12 National District Divisions, four National County Council Divisions and 20 National Post Divisions. These Commanders deserve our thanks for the contributions they made to this successful year.

Life Memberships continue to increase each year. More members are joining as Life Members and utilizing the convenience of paying their Life Membership fees via Visa or MasterCard. This trend is expected to continue for years to come because VFW Life Membership is a bargain.

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT

Chairman Norman G. Staab
Special Assistant for Employment Robert L. Jones

During the past year the National Civil Service and Employment Committee (NCSEC) pursued the implementation of the 27 national employment resolutions adopted at the 88th National Convention in New Orleans. In spite of Congressional procrastination concerning major revisions of the law concerning the VA (Chapter 41, Title 38 U.S. Code), as of this writing 17 of our employment resolutions have been fulfilled. It is hoped the VA administrator will take swift action to enact the proposed changes to Chapter 41, thus fulfilling another six national employment resolutions.

Resolution 606, which called for a change in federal regulations to recognize the role of the National Guard and Reserve forces in today's national defense by providing members an opportunity for employment assistance, has met with controversy among traditionalists. The Veterans of Foreign Wars noted that historical military roles and missions have been altered significantly to fulfill strategic national defense requirements using a total-force concept. The leadership displayed by the VFW in recognizing the National Guard and Reserve roles has been complimented by senior policymakers of the Departments of Labor and Defense.

Looking toward the future is a painful but necessary process that must be accomplished in preparing systems, structures and programs to meet national labor-force requirements. Workforce 2000 has become a popular theme in discussions held by representatives of both the public and private sectors. The NCSEC, after reviewing Workforce 2000 publications, called for a national forum to be held by the secretary of labor to discuss future programs for veterans. A three-day forum attended by service providers, program managers and policymakers was held in Washington, D.C., last April.

The NCSEC representative to the forum stated, "There is an immediate need for policymakers of the Departments of Labor, Defense, Education and Commerce and the Veterans Administration to collectively target intellectual and financial resources to examine the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriations of institutions, programs and policies that address employment and training services for veterans."

He called on "all organizations and agencies to demonstrate a commitment to applying cooperative, innovative reforms to ensure veterans who are a valuable commodity are competitive in the future labor force."

It is hoped that the report generated by the conferees at this forum will result in the implementation of administrative and legislative reform to redesign or refine, as appropriate, employment and training programs to enhance services for all veterans.

Considering the pockets of high unemployment and readjustment difficulties that continue to plague Vietnam combat veterans and disabled and minority veterans, special emphasis for these veterans must continue through refinement of programs specifically targeted to their needs.

America cannot dismiss these middle-aged veterans who continue to be confronted with significant employment barriers. So far, current structures, programs and services have not effectively resolved the historical employment and training needs of these veterans.

Our aging workforce, though experienced, stable and reliable, may increase the rigidity of the economy. The average age of the workforce in the future will increase from 35 to 39. This workforce will be less willing to relocate, retrain or change occupations, even though the economy will demand increased flexibility and dynamism. There will be an intense job squeeze among middle-aged workers.

There is no consensus that workers should learn new skills over the course of their work lives. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 27 million adults are functionally illiterate and have basic skill deficiencies in oral communications, reading, writing and calculation. Added to this figure each year are 2.3 million adults. In

the work place, efficient cost-effective training focused on higher levels of analytical skills, as well as the requirement of conjunctive and reasoning skills, must be encouraged.

Private employers invest billions of dollars each year on worker education. Most of this money is spent on professionals, technicians, managers and the highly skilled. Little or no systematic approach to ensure workers do not become obsolete is offered. Few workers in vulnerable jobs seek training to prevent their displacement.

Former Secretary of Labor William Brock said:

"Education and occupational training too often are viewed as institutional processes that end when a young person begins earning a living. We need to look beyond the classroom and realize that education—especially work-related education and training—is a life-long endeavor. We must make the rhetoric of 'continuing education' a reality."

Today's veterans, compared with those of the immediate future, have a level of education slightly less than 13 years. While the Montgomery GI Bill provides a mechanism for future veterans to pursue advanced education, today's veterans have lost educational entitlements through mandated delimiting dates. Thus, in the context of the Workforce 2000 hypothesis, an artificial barrier to employment has been erected. The intent of the GI Bill must be revitalized, especially Sections 1662(a)(3) and 1691, 38 U.S. Code. Assistance on a recurring basis to veterans educationally disadvantaged or requiring vocational training should be provided on a recurring basis.

Cooperative education programs utilizing two-year colleges and private learning centers that offer alternating or parallel periods of employment and study should be explored. Such a program is envisioned as linking federal programs and employers with veterans in a mutually funded partnership designed to provide continuing education tailored to fulfill specific geographic labor-force requirements. Employer participation should be encouraged through tax credits and incentives similar to the present Veterans' Job Training Act that will defray continuing training costs. Temporary income and relocation cost provisions must be incorporated to encourage veterans' readjustment to rapidly changing Workforce 2000 occupational skills demands and continuing education requirements as set forth in Resolution 790.

The Veterans Education Outreach Program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Amendment Act of 1986 requires refinement to encourage veterans, in particular those dislocated and without VA education entitlements, to pursue acquisition of remedial skills and training and education. In view of the current cost per credit hour at community colleges, tuition assistance for disadvantaged veterans should be incorporated into this program.

Veterans' preference continues to receive the attention of policymakers at all levels. Veterans are more likely to work for federal, state or municipal governments than non-veterans. A non-scientific NCSEC survey of state civil service/merit system reflected that of the 40 respondents, 17 are attempting to modify existing local veterans' preference laws. At the federal level, 37% of the 2 million plus labor force are veterans. Though the director of the Office of Personal Management has a strong personal commitment to veterans and has transmitted her support to the field, the decentralized nature of personnel management in federal agencies has led to innovative manipulation of regulations to circumvent veterans' special hiring authorities.

Veterans' spokesmen must become increasingly vocal in their participation on state veterans' advisory committees and federal executive boards to emphasize the use of special hiring authorities (Resolution 780) and affirm veterans' preference (Resolution 699).

The VFW has exercised national leadership in pursuing the refinement of existing programs as well as preparing new entitlements for the future. Our outreach efforts conducted by Department and Post employment officers must identify deficiencies in local structures and systems. We must aggressively pursue corrective action through local administrative entities. Our presence must consistently be felt by local policymakers in order to ensure that all veterans have an opportunity to provide for their families in a meaningful way. ◆

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

Chairman Clyde A. Lewis
Director James N. Magill

100th Congress First Session

The first session of the historic 100th Congress convened Jan. 6, 1987, and adjourned Dec. 22, 1987. During this time, the House and Senate were in session 169 days and 170 days, respectively. There were 7,542 legislative proposals introduced with 247 being enacted into law.

The first few months of the first session were almost exclusively devoted to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 1988 budget. The VFW appeared before many Congressional committees during this period to present its views and concerns on the Administration's proposed VA budget. While the President's budget proposal was $550 million over the previous year's level, the VFW was quick to point out this increase would provide only for uncontrollable expenses such as cost-of-living adjustments, salary increases and inflation. In reality, the VFW determined the President's budget fell $288 million below what the VA needed just to provide current services. Fortunately, the House and Senate listened to the VFW's concerns and adopted a more realistic funding level for the Veterans Administration.

With the adoption of the FY '88 budget, the way was clear for Congress to move on to consideration and passage of the 13 appropriation bills which specifically provide the actual dollars to fund the various departments and agencies of the federal government. However, Congress failed to advance any of the individual appropriation bills and was forced to adopt an omnibus spending bill based on an agreement between the White House and the Congress. This agreement provided for reduced spending to meet deficit-reduction needs. Following is the line-item breakdown of the $27.024 million Fiscal Year 1988 VA appropriation:

	FY 1988
Compensation & Pension	$14,334,287,000
Readjustment Benefits	625,700,000
Veterans Insurance & Indemnities	14,290,000
Medical Care	10,094,808,000
Medical & Prosthetic Research	192,899,000
Medical Administration & Misc. Operating Expenses (MAMOE)	46,628,000
General Operating Expenses	762,810,000
Construction, Major	402,884,000
Construction, Minor	115,942,000
Parking Garage Revolving Fund	3,936,000
Grants for Construction of State Extended-Care Facilities	40,320,000
Grants for the Republic of the Philippines	480,000
Loan Guaranty Revolving Fund	389,800,000

The first session of the 100th Congress produced very few new public laws affecting veterans. One new law, however, was the result of one of the most effective lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill — making the New GI Bill permanent. While there have been four previous programs of educational benefits for veterans, this marks the first time that such a valuable program has been made a permanent fixture on the national scene.

Under the new law, participating recruits must complete three years of active duty with an honorable discharge in order to qualify for $300 a month in educational benefits to a maximum of $10,800. An individual completing two years of active duty plus four years of service in the Selected Reserve is entitled to $250 a month in educational benefits to a maximum of $9,000. In return, the basic pay of personnel participating in the program is reduced by $100 a month during his first year of service.

Basic benefits are administered and paid by the VA, but the various service branches can offer recruits increases over the basic monthly benefit in order to increase entitlements in critical areas or to encourage longer enlistments. Individuals signing up for at least six years in the Selected Reserve can receive up to $5,040 for undergraduate college education, with no reduction in basic pay. These benefits are administered by the VA but are paid by the branch of the service involved.

Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the author of this bill, received an additional honor for his untiring work in seeing the New GI Bill become permanent when the program was renamed the Montgomery GI Bill Act.

Another new law, Public Law 100-198, substantially changes the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. The new law revises the formula used by the Veterans Administration to guarantee loans. While the VA does not make loans, it does guarantee a lending institution that, in the event of loan default, the VA will pay off a certain portion of the loan. The formula used in the past guaranteed 60% up to a maximum of $27,500. The new law authorizes the VA to guarantee 50% on loans under $45,000 and 40% on loans over $45,000 with a maximum guarantee of $36,000 and a minimum guarantee of $22,500. This new formula should allow veterans to purchase homes in areas with a high cost-of-living and where housing is higher priced.

Public Law 100-198 authorizes nonprofit organizations to help homeless veterans and their families by purchasing homes foreclosed by the VA at a discount. These then would be utilized as shelters for homeless veterans and their families.

Congress also approved and the President signed into law H.R. 2945 which provides for a 4.2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the Veterans Administration's

compensation benefits paid to the more than 2.2 million veterans with service connected disabilities. This increase, retroactive to Dec. 1, also applies to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) paid to spouses and children of veterans who have died of service-related causes.

In addition, the new law, P.L. 100-227, extends for six months the application deadline for the Veterans' Job Training Act from Dec. 31 through June 30. The act partially reimburses employers who train and hire long-term unemployed Korean War and Vietnam-Era veterans. Since it became effective in November, 1983, this veteran's employment program has placed more than 57,000 veterans in jobs.

While H.R. 2945 originally contained numerous provisions addressing a variety of issues, the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees agreed to pursue the advancement of this legislation with only the COLA increase and the two provisions affecting veterans' employment so as to achieve enactment during the first session of the 100th Congress. The committees continued their negotiations on the remaining provisions of H.R. 2945 at the outset of the second session of the 100th Congress.

The closing weeks of the first session also saw the VFW move one step closer in realizing a long-term priority goal. In a rare point of agreement, the Administration, Congress, Veterans Administration, Veterans of Foreign Wars and all of the other major veterans' service organizations support designating the VA as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Proposals to make the Veterans Administration a cabinet-level executive department have been introduced in every Congress since at least the 88th Congress. Now at last, it would appear that this long-sought goal is to be realized. There is unanimity among the experts that elevating the Veterans Administration to a cabinet-level executive department is a good idea. House members demonstrated their support by overwhelmingly passing H.R. 3471, a bill which would elevate the VA to a federal department.

Elevating the VA to cabinet level just makes good sense. Along with having performed a very special patriotic service to the nation, veterans represent a more diverse and complete cross-section of this nation's population than any other group. Black and white, rich and poor, urbanite and farmer, they are the men and women who for awhile set aside personal gain and ambition in order to ensure America's freedom. Veterans' programs are much too important to be left to mid-level decision makers at OMB. The establishment of a cabinet-level department of Veterans Affairs will guarantee that policy decisions affecting veterans will be made at the highest level of government.

Making the Veterans Administration an executive department will enable it to serve the nation far better. One of the most important roles of the cabinet is ensuring that national policy and federal programs be coordinated and achieve the highest possible level of efficiency — that limited national resources be used to achieve the greatest national good. It is vital that the achievements and expertise associated with the VA's enormous and far-reaching activities be brought to bear in the evolution and development of national public policy. Transition of the VA to cabinet status is essential to achieve this end. The U.S. Senate, at this writing, is awaiting floor action on its version of legislation which would elevate the VA to a federal department. The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs has held three hearings on the issue and has reported the legislation to the full Senate.

Unfortunately, the close of the first session of the 100th Congress saw a setback for the Vietnam Women's Memorial. In a surprising move, the Commission of Fine Arts rejected placement of a statue of a woman Vietnam veteran at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., despite VFW endorsement and that of all the other major veterans' organizations, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and many members of Congress.

As a result, Sens. Dave Durenberger and Alan Cranston and Rep. Sam Gejdenson introduced legislation specifically authorizing the placement of a statue of a woman veteran at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Sen. Dale Bumpers, chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests, has conducted a hearing on this issue. While these two pieces of legislation differ, a compromise agreement has been reached and legislation will emerge from the committee reflecting this agreement.

100th Congress Second Session

The second session of the 100th Congress convened Jan. 25, 1988. Once again, the budget for the upcoming fiscal year commanded much attention during the first few months of 1988.

At first glance, the Adminstration's proposed $30.1 billion VA budget at least seemed to be in keeping with the objective of providing veterans with a current services budget. But a more thorough review revealed this spending plan to be both painfully inadequate and far below what is even necessary to keep pace with inflation.

The deception was in the fact that even though the requested budget authority is larger than the current year's authority, it included $1.6 billion for expenditures

from VA-managed trust funds which do not, in fact, require appropriations. Furthermore, $1.5 billion was included in the budget for *proposed* legislation of which about $1.3 billion is to be used to fund the Administration's so-called "credit reform" plan.

This plan is nothing more than a scheme requiring Congress to appropriate money equal to the estimated subsidy value (the additional amount OMB claims a VA loan is worth to an individual) of the loans it makes or guarantees. Along with using actual appropriation dollars to cover the OMB estimated paper losses, once the appropriation is used up, the VA would not be allowed to guarantee any more loans without an additional appropriation. This would effectively cap the program and potentially prevent untold thousands of veterans from getting a VA loan. Also the money earmarked for the credit reform scheme inflates the VA budget and makes it appear to be much larger than it actually is.

So, with the misleading numbers and deceptive rhetoric removed, we are faced with a VA budget woefully inadequate to care for this nation's veterans. For example, overall health-care funding would be increased by only 2% over the 1988 level. At a time when the number of veterans requiring inpatient, outpatient and long-term care is on the rise, the proposed FY '89 health-care budget, adjusted for inflation, is a full $370 million short of even providing for current services health care by the VA. In fact, total expenditures for discretionary items in the VA budget would rise only by 1.8% over the 1988 level even though inflation is projected to be 4.5% in 1989.

The Administration's FY '89 budget calls for the elimination of 2,439 VA employees. At a time when the demands on the VA health-care system are rapidly on the rise, 1,782 health-care employees would be eliminated. The Department of Veterans Benefits would be forced to eliminate 492 employees including 248 regional-office claims adjudicators. Conceivably, in spite of the fact that over the past five years the VA has struggled to handle claims in a prompt manner, the Administration would eliminate over 7% of the already overtaxed regional-office claims work force.

The VA Home Loan Guaranty Program — one of the most beneficial veterans' programs in existence — would also fall under the budget-cutter's ax. Even though the current strained economic climate has resulted in the loan guaranty program suffering a dramatic increase in foreclosures and in the amount of time foreclosed properties must be managed and maintained by the VA, this FY '89 budget calls for a reduction of 75 loan guaranty personnel.

The Administration seems to have lost sight of the fact that Congress only recently enacted legislation which mandates increased attention to loan servicing and property management. Of one thing we may be certain, the last thing in the world the VA home loan program can tolerate at this time is a reduction in personnel.

The entire Veterans Administration falls under the Administration's proposed budgetary assault. Despite a demonstrated need for an additional 3,500 nursing-home beds by 1992, the VA would be slated to receive only 120 new beds in FY '89. In an area of major concern to this nation's Vietnam veterans, the Veterans Administration's Vet Center Program would suffer a reduction of 79 full-time employees and a budget cut of $4.7 million. Additionally, the Administration has declined to seek additional funding for the Veterans' Job Training Act which is now just about completely out of money. Of major concern to all, but particularly to older veterans, is the fact that there would be more than a $34 million reduction in money available to purchase new medical equipment, and the funding for facility construction, modernization and renovation would be reduced by $22 million.

This budget proposal is absolutely unacceptable; we are going to fight it tooth and nail. With hard work and determination and the help of our friends on Capitol Hill, the VFW will do its utmost to see that veterans' programs are properly funded. Even so, as long as the Veterans Administration is dominated by OMB bureaucrats, we're going to be confronted with these abhorrent proposals over and over again.

Aside from the budget, many hearings were held during the early months of the second session. At one hearing, the VFW testified before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs with respect to the siting of the Korean War Memorial. During the 99th Congress, legislation was enacted which placed strict controls on where memorials may be erected in and around our nation's capital.

Under this new law (P.L. 99-652), monuments and memorials dedicated to wars or those who fought in them would be restricted to what is defined as Area II, a site located within Washington, D.C., or its environs but excluding the Mall area which contains such monuments and memorials as the Washington Monument and the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Vietnam Veterans Memorials. In order to place the Korean War Memorial within the more prominent Area I, Congress must grant an exemption to Public Law 99-652.

The VFW pointed out that we have a monument for the veterans of every major conflict except the Korean War. During our annual National Convention in New Orleans last August, the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary contributed $250,000 to the American Battle Monuments Commission to build this memorial.

Over the Korean War's bloody three-year span, more than 5.7 million Americans served in the military forces. In the ensuing battles to achieve peace and democracy for the Korean people, more than 54,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines lost their lives while an additional 103,000 were wounded and 8,200 were missing in action. Of those who served, more than 5 million are alive today.

We stated it is our strongly held conviction, now that this monument to these brave and all-but-forgotten patriots is at long last to be constructed, that it should be prominently located in the nation's capital.

The VFW told the committee we strongly support and encourage the erection of the Korean War Memorial within what is designated under Public Law 99-652 as Area I. The memorial to honor the sacrifices and achievements of those brave Americans who fought in this war of major national and international consequence is decidedly of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the nation and may appropriately and properly be located within the special historical Area I.

Another hearing saw the VFW testify in support of legislation which would allow certain service-connected disabled veterans to receive military retirement pay in conjunction with VA compensation. At the hearing, the VFW told the committee it is an unfortunate but a generally known fact that a large number of this nation's retired military veterans are being deprived of a portion of their retirement pay. This is due to the existence of a 19th century law that still bars concurrent receipt of military retired pay based on length of service and veteran's disability compensation. It should be noted, however, that the 1944 law does permit retirees to receive tax-free compensation if they forfeit the equal amount of taxable retired pay. Military retirees comprise the only group of retirees subject to such a forfeiture or offset of retired pay. The civil service retiree or private sector retiree can collect the full amount of retirement annuity and disability compensation without reduction in either.

This law came into existence in a period when retirement was an all-too-seldom realized privilege for those members of the armed forces who were both sufficiently hearty and fortunate to serve long enough to qualify for Old Age Retirement. When VA compensation was created, it was the basic means by which persons could receive disability benefits if they had served fewer than 20 years in the military service. It was also the only means by which enlisted men could receive disability benefits if they were discharged from military service prior to completing 20 years of service. In fact, it was not until well after World War II that legislation was approved to permit enlisted men to retire from military service because of disability.

So even though we may not agree with the structure and intent of this law pertaining to military retired pay and disability compensation as it was originally formulated many years ago, we at least recognize that it was in accordance with the standards of those times. In this day and age, when retirement and early retirement systems have become commonplace, the prohibition against the concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA compensation is an outdated inequity.

We concluded by stating, "It is the VFW's contention that disabled military retirees should not be asked to pay for their disability compensation out of their hard-earned retirement money. Disabled military retirees, through long service and great sacrifice in the defense of the nation, are entitled to both."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars also appeared on Capitol Hill to call for legislation that would restore equity to the Social Security system. The Subcommittee on Social Security of the House Ways and Means Committee conducted the hearing to hear testimony on the recently released General Accounting Office (GAO) study entitled "Social Security: The Notch Issue."

Notch is a highly controversial issue centering on those persons born between 1917 and 1921 who are receiving less compensation than those born prior to 1917. Congressional action in 1972 allowed those born prior to 1917 automatic cost-of-living increases to Social Security benefits. In 1977, Congress, faced with a potential bankruptcy of the Social Security system because of the 1972 action, passed amendments designed to eliminate overindexing and stabilize replacement rates. The GAO report clearly indicated that the replacement rate (the percentage of a worker's salary at retirement that is replaced by Social Security benefits) was found to be proportionally higher for those persons with the same earnings history born prior to 1917 than those persons born after 1916. Those born after 1921 receive less than those born before 1922 with the same earnings history.

Citing the GAO study, the VFW said that "no amount of technical discussion and sophisticated analysis is sufficient to convince an individual that it is equitable for him to receive a benefit that is $100 less than his nearly identical neighbor." The VFW maintains that Americans born during the notch years should be given exactly what they were promised back in 1977, a gradual and equitable downward transition to the new lower benefit structure.

Aware of several VFW resolutions seeking legislation that would provide equity to all persons in the Social Security system, the House Subcommittee on Social Security invited the VFW to testify. The VFW's testimony noted the complexities of the issue and called for Con-

gress "to rethink this problem and devise a new transition phase-in formula that would fairly compensate those Americans caught up in the transition (notch) period."

The hearing was well attended by those older Americans affected by the notch. The VFW testimony was well received by those in attendance and an unprecedented round of applause was given for our unwavering support of legislation to restore equity to the Social Security system.

Action was finally completed on H.R. 2616 during the first few months of the second session of the 100th Congress. This bill, originally passed by both houses of Congress during the last weeks of the first session, languished for months in conference committee. Known as the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act of 1988, the measure literally impacts on all programs administered by the Veterans Administration. Following are highlights of this massive piece of legislation. With respect to health-care program, the bill would:

- Require that the Administrator furnish on an ambulatory or outpatient basis such medical services as the Administrator determines are needed to:

  — any veteran for service-connected disability;

  — any veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 50% or more for any disability; and,

  — any veteran disabled as a result of VA treatment or in pursuit of vocational rehabilitation.

- Require that the Administrator furnish outpatient or ambulatory medical services reasonably necessary in preparation for or to obviate the need for hospital admission for any disability to:

  — any veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 30% or 40%; and,

  — any veteran whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of nonservice-connected pension payable to a veteran in need of aid and attendance for any disability.

- Provide that the Administrator may furnish on an ambulatory or outpatient basis medical services which the Administrator determines are needed to veterans in the following priority order:

  — any veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of less than 30% or any veteran for a compensation or pension examination;

  — former prisoners of war and veterans with eligibility based on exposure to toxic substances in Vietnam or to ionizing radiation during atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device, or who were exposed to ionizing radiation following the detonation of such devices in Japan during World War II;

  — veterans of the Mexican Border period or World War I whose annual income exceeds the maximum annual rate of pension; and,

  — veterans in receipt of increased pension or compensation based on the need of regular aid and attendance or by reason of being permanently housebound but whose income is below the Category A threshold ($15,833 for a single veteran or $18,999 for a veteran with one dependent).

- Provide that the Administrator may furnish needed domiciliary care to any veteran whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of pension payable to a veteran in need of aid and attendance or to any veteran who the Administrator determines has no adequate means of support. Veterans who were patients or residents in a state or a Veterans Administration domiciliary during the period Jan. 1, 1987, through April 1, 1988, whose income exceeds the maximum annual rate of pension may remain in the State or VA facility.

- Clarify the Veterans Administration definition of nursing-home care to include care delivered in skilled, intermediate and combined nursing-home care facilities and to exclude domiciliary care.

- Authorize contracts for hospital care and medical services in non-Veterans Administration facilities to include diagnostic services on an inpatient or outpatient basis for observation or examination of a patient to determine eligibility for a benefit or service administered by the Veterans Administration.

- Provide authority for fee-basis care outside of the United States for service-connected disabilities related to service in the U.S. military forces by citizens of the Republic of the Philippines or Canada or elsewhere as determined by the Administrator.

- Reduce the minimum internment period required for eligibility for outpatient dental care for former prisoners of war from six months to 90 days.

- Repeal the mandatory transition of Vietnam veterans' readjustment counseling centers from a program operated primarily in locations apart from VA medical facilities to a program primarily operated in VA medical facilities; requires the Administrator to submit a national plan at any time except within 60 days before and 60 days after the end of a session of Congress which sets forth plans with respect to each readjustment counseling center in existence on February 1, 1988; and prohibits any action being taken with respect to any center for 120 days after submission of the national plan.

- Provide that, effective July 1, 1988, during any fiscal year in which the Administrator exercises the authority to make beneficiary travel payments, payments shall be made for travel in connection with examinations, care or treatment (i.e. hospital, nursing home, domiciliary or

outpatient treatment) for which the veteran is eligible to: veterans for scheduled VA compensation and pension medical examination; veterans for a service-connected disability; veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 30% or more; veterans in receipt of pension; veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of pension which would be payable if such veteran were eligible for pension; veterans for whom ambulance transportation, wheelchair van transportation or other special modes of transportation are medically indicated and a determination is made by the Administrator that the veteran is unable to bear the cost of such transportation; veterans whom the Administrator determines to be unable to defray the expenses of travel; or such other persons as the Administrator determines by regulation. Eligible veterans will be responsible for the first $6 of the cost of travel to receive VA medical care. For eligible veterans whose medical conditions warrant frequent visits, the maximum monthly amount for which the veteran will be responsible is $18.

- Extend the authority to provide adult day health care for these years, from Sept. 30, 1988, to Sept. 30, 1991.
- Permit the Administrator to conduct a two-year pilot program to evaluate the use of mobile health care clinics for eligible veterans residing in areas at least 100 miles from the nearest VA health-care facility to furnish eligible veterans with health-care services at a location convenient to their residences. The pilot program may be carried out using at least two mobile health-care clinics in the Northeast, the Midwest, the South and the West subject to specific appropriations of $5 million for each of fiscal years 1989 and 1990 for the program.
- Authorize a pilot program of contract community-based residential care — for homeless chronically mentally ill veterans, veterans being furnished hospital or nursing-home care by the Administrator for a chronic mental illness disability and veterans with service-connected chronic mental illness — in halfway houses, therapeutic communities, psychiatric residential treatment centers and other community-based treatment facilities for the period ending Sept. 30, 1989. Authorizes appropriation of $6 million for each of fiscal years 1988 and 1989.
- Require the VA to report annually not later than Dec. 15 in each of three fiscal years beginning in 1988 on the activities of the VA in assisting homeless veterans.
- Increase the per diem rates for payments by the Veterans Administration to states for hospital care, domiciliary care and nursing-home care in state home facilities. The per diem rate for domiciliary care would be increased from $7.30 to $8.70; the per diem rate for nursing-home care would be increased from $17.05 to $20.35; and the per diem rate for hospital care would be increased from $15.25 to $20.35 effective Jan. 1, 1988.
- Authorize the VA to increase the state home per diem rates annually, beginning in fiscal year 1989 (Oct. 1, 1988) by a percentage not greater than the percentage increase in the cost of care in VA hospitals.

In the area of veterans' benefits, the bill would:

- Increase the specially adapted housing assistance allowance from $35,500 to $38,000 effective April 1, 1988. Increase the specially adapted housing assistance for service-connected blindness in both eyes or loss of or loss of use of both hands from $6,000 to $6,500.
- Increase the automobile assistance allowance from $5,000 to $5,500 effective April 1, 1988.
- Increase the burial allowance for veterans who died as a result of a service-connected disability from $1,100 to $1,500 effective April 1, 1988.
- Provide a presumption of service-connection for lupus erythematosus, systemic, which became manifest to a degree of 10% or more within one year from the date of discharge from service.
- Restore to a very limited number of beneficiaries Social Security equivalent benefits paid by the Veterans Administration to survivors of veterans who died from service-connected causes and who were inadvertently omitted from the restoration of such benefits in 1982.
- Permit the VA to place flat markers on graves in cemeteries located on the grounds of or adjacent to a VA health-care facility and in the national cemeteries in Riverside, Calif.; Bourne, Mass.; Augusta, Mich.; Indiantown Gap, Pa.; and the proposed national cemetery for Northern California.
- Permit the Administrator to make contributions for construction on land adjacent to national cemeteries in order to facilitate safe ingress and egress from the cemetery.
- Authorize the Administrator to provide graveliners for use in national cemeteries. The Secretary of the Army is also authorized to provide graveliners at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Establish a currency fluctuation account for the American Battle Monuments Commission to protect Commission operations from the negative effects of declining dollar values abroad for fiscal year 1989 and each succeeding fiscal year. ◆

NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chairman Fr. Albert G. Salmon
Director Kenneth A. Steadman

"Two hundred years ago, we Americans gained our freedoms in the war for independence.

"Our independence gave us the responsibility for defending our newly won freedoms. In nine major wars and countless smaller conflicts, we have borne that responsibility. Today, thanks to those who carried out their responsibility, we remain free. We will continue to share the blessings of liberty if we continue to share the responsibility for its defense.

"This is a responsibility we in the VFW take seriously and it is time more Americans thought seriously about our national security.

"We took our responsibility seriously when we in the VFW warned of the spreading danger of Communism in Central America. We took our responsibility seriously when we warned that a divided and weak foreign policy in Central America only invited further Communist expansion . . .

"We are more convinced than ever before that we have sounded the right warnings. Now it is our responsibility to ensure that the warnings have been heard in time. Time may be running out in Central America. But there is still time to act and to act decisively to protect our national security interests in Central America. We, who sounded the warnings, can do no less."

Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock took the VFW's priority National Security and Foreign Affairs goals to U.S. government officials in a series of visits to Washington's policymakers. The Commander expressed the VFW's concerns for arms reductions, Central America and the POW/MIA issue. In meetings with the President and the Vice President and with the secretaries of defense and state, he urged support for our priorities and pledged the VFW's help in reaching these goals.

Stock met with members of Congress to whom he outlined our veterans' and national security positions. The Chief went on record soon afterward in urging a stronger Coast Guard, noting it has suffered severe cuts in appropriations which it has absorbed with difficulty but without degrading its services to the nation.

This year's appropriation cut of $150 million, however, is so severe as to cripple the Coast Guard for years to come, he said. "I strongly urge you, therefore, to restore the Coast Guard's funding level to that requested by the President."

In his meeting with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Chief Stock discussed the U.S. role and mission in the Persian Gulf. The discussion led the Commander-in-Chief to urge the Pentagon to recognize the contribution of U.S. servicemen and women by awarding an appropriate expeditionary force medal to those eligible for such a medal.

"Such an award would, I believe, tell our servicemen and women that we appreciate their efforts and the sacrifices they make on behalf of our national security," he said.

Secretary Weinberger later did authorize the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, thus fulfilling the mandate of the VFW's resolution on the Persian Gulf.

When an Iranian mine ship was captured and the U.S. Navy responded, Commander-in-Chief Stock announced the VFW's support for the action.

"Our Navy has a peaceful, defensive mission in the Persian Gulf," he said. "We in the VFW support our Navy and its mission. When Iran or Iranian forces and their bases endanger the accomplishment of our Navy's mission, then the Navy should and must take action to defend itself and successfully complete its mission. Iran may have to learn this lesson the hard way, but they have to learn that the United States means what it says and the U.S. Navy is there to back up our word."

As secretary of defense, Weinberger earned and enjoyed the support of the VFW for his leadership in achieving a strong national defense. So when he announced his resignation, Commander-in-Chief Stock praised him for his work:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has had a close relationship with Secretary Weinberger and has supported his work and his efforts because we knew our goal of a strong national defense was his goal. Mr. Weinberger has our sincere appreciation for a job well-done."

Committed himself to working closely with members of Congress on the POW/MIA issue, Stock, following the mandates of the resolutions passed at the 88th National Convention, wrote members of Congress to outline the VFW position and encourage their continued efforts.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars remains convinced that government-to-government contact is the best means of attaining our goal. We are further encouraged by and fully endorse the appointment of Gen. John W. Vessey as Presidential emissary to Vietnam. It is our hope that his appointment will signal our highest concern about our men and convince Hanoi to move as rapidly as possible to

fulfill this humanitarian goal. We also believe that every effort should be made to stimulate similar progress with the Laotian government."

After the Presidential emissary's talks with the Vietnamese and the Vietnamese announcement of the resumption of the return of remains, the Commander-in-Chief was hopeful but cautious when he said:

"The return of three honored servicemen is a hopeful sign that Vietnam is living up to its recent pledge to speed up the return of our MIAs, but it is still up to the Vietnamese to prove their sincerity by keeping the pledge. If we see that rapid progress is being made, it may change some attitudes towards Vietnam."

He was also encouraged by U.S. action to bring a foreign terrorist suspect to the U.S. for trial. When the FBI captured a suspected terrorist in territorial waters, the Chief supported the action by reminding that "the Veterans of Foreign Wars has been pushing our government to take the offensive against these terrorists who hunted Americans in airports, hijacked airplanes and murdered our citizens. I'm encouraged that bringing this terrorist suspect to trial will finally signal that the United States has assumed the offensive against terrorism. The VFW hopes European and Mideastern countries would follow U.S. leadership and crack down hard on all terrorist suspects."

He was critical, however, when the State Department and Congress remained silent about the repression of Tibet by the Chinese Communists. He urged action and in letters to Secretary of State George P. Shultz, and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell noted a double standard:

"The United States government has remained strangely silent about the latest outrage committed by the Chinese Communists against the people of Tibet. For over a week, the Chinese have been engaged in the violent suppression of the human rights of the Tibetans who have demonstrated for freedom and against their Chinese occupiers.

"Yet, our government, which has been quick to condemn non-Communist countries such as the Republic of Korea during public disturbances, remains silent about this act of Communist suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"It is time to stop coddling the Chinese Communists, end our double standard of treatment between Communist and non-Communist countries and help the Tibetan people regain their freedom."

When Soviet Party Chief Mikhail Gorbachev was invited to address a joint session of Congress, Commander-in-Chief Stock called upon the President to maintain his firm stance against Communism and not provide the foreign dictator of an oppressive regime the distinction of being the first Communist leader to address a joint session of Congress.

"We are still dealing with a regime that after shooting down a civilian airliner with one of our Congressmen on board can't even bring itself to apologize," he said.

The Washington Summit between President Reagan and Gen. Secretary Gorbachev was closely watched by the VFW's Commander-in-Chief. After he examined the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) and VFW resolutions on the subject, the Commander-in-Chief added his support. In letters to the leadership of the Senate, the Chief announced his endorsement:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has resisted endorsing arms treaties, unilateral freezes and other past arms-control initiatives which would have placed the United States in a position of military inferiority. Instead, in the interest of our national security, we have stood firmly in support of balanced and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons.

"We believe our patience and determination have been justified and rewarded. The proposed INF Treaty reduces Soviet and U.S. nuclear warheads by approximately a 4 to 1 ratio, thus achieving a balanced reduction. The treaty is the first of any arms agreement to contain on-site verification provisions which reduce the opportunity for and danger of cheating. It is vitally significant that the proposed treaty will maintain the current strategic military balance while offering a pattern for future strategic arms reductions. While some risks will always remain, we believe the treaty supports the security interests of the United States and its European allies while reducing the danger of nuclear conflict. In conclusion, the treaty meets the requirements of the delegates attending the VFW's 88th National Convention held last August in New Orleans."

As the issue of Communism in Central America was renewed during the end-of-year budget debate, Stock threw his support behind continuing aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. After discussing the issue with Central American leaders and U.S. officials, he said, "The democratic process created by the Arias Peace Plan and U.S. security interests are endangered by Nicaragua's plans to field a 600,000-man army. With Soviet and Cuban help, Nicaragua can dominate and dictate its

terms to all of Central America.

"Costa Rica with only 8,000 civil guardsmen and Honduras with only 23,000 military are not threats to Nicaragua, but a 600,000-man Nicaraguan army is certainly a major threat to the security of those countries, the whole of Central America and to our own security."

He said that Administration and Congressional efforts for the short-term continuation of aid to the Nicaraguan resistance was a compromise.

"We have got to look at the long-term efforts of a Communist regime in our hemisphere. We cannot compromise our security or the security of our Central American neighbors," he continued.

"Certainly, we hope the Arias Peace Plan achieves what the nations of Central America want. We are watching the process closely. In the meantime, the American people have to wake up to the serious threat that we and the democratic governments in Central America face. The American people and the Congress must provide to democratic governments and movements the economic and military aid needed to resist the expansion of Communist intrusion into this part of the world."

When the Central American crisis headed for a showdown vote in Congress, the Commander-in-Chief grew more determined in urging support for the freedom fighters:

"The real issue before the Congress and the country is not the Contras; it is Communism in Central America. The cosmetic appearance of democracy in Nicaragua is only to disguise the fact that at their core, the Sandinistas are Communists. Now they are intent on building an overwhelming military force in alliance with Cuba and the Soviet Union that represents a clear and alarming threat to their neighbors as well as to our own security."

With VFW support, Congress finally enacted an aid package that supported the needs of the Nicaraguan resistance.

When U.S. defense needs were jeopardized by the budget problem, Commander-in-Chief Stock stood firmly for defense. In their desire to cut defense spending, Congress and the Administration proposed to eliminate the Midgetman strategic missile program. The Commander-in-Chief, backed by the VFW's resolutions, stood firm. In a letter to defense and Congressional officials, he expressed the VFW's position:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, knowing of the threat to our security posed by the Soviet Union's missile forces, has long supported the modernization of our strategic arsenal. In the past we have publicly supported and lobbied Congress for the deployment of the MX missile, construction of the B1-B bomber and development of a small, mobile ICBM.

"Now, however, we understand the Air Force proposes to end the small ICBM program as part of the FY 1989 budget cut.

"In view of the importance of the small ICBM, as outlined in the Scowcroft Commission report, we in the VFW do not understand why this program is being ended. Also, in light of the ongoing Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, it seems more important than ever to modernize our land-based deterrent with a mobile, survivable missile system.

"Therefore, on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I urge you to reconsider this proposal and continue support for the small, mobile ICBM."

Thanks to the VFW's determined stand, the Congress relented and funds were restored to continue this important defense program.

The VFW also stood up for American servicemen and women. Recognizing that they are the backbone of a strong national defense, Commander-in-Chief Stock laid the VFW position on the line in support of an increase in military pay:

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is concerned that the foundation for our national defense will be weakened if action is not taken to provide adequate pay to our servicemen and women.

"Over the last six years military pay has fallen behind private sector wages by over 10%. The pay caps enacted by Congress have kept our servicemen and women well below the general wage average. These actions now have led to falling recruiting and retention rates that jeopardize our ability to attract and retain highly motivated people for the Armed Forces.

"On behalf of the dedicated and patriotic men and women who provide our security, the more than two million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars strongly urge you to support a full 4.3% pay raise for our servicemen and women."

Commander-in-Chief Stock has made new headway in VFW efforts to reach the goals set forth in the VFW National Security Priority Goals. He has dedicated himself to ensuring that the VFW is heard in Washington because he believes in America and **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to keep it strong and secure.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

Chairman Clifford G. Olson, Jr.
Director Frederico Juarbe, Jr.

As we gather from across the nation to assemble for our annual National Convention, it is a time to look back to the past and forward to the future. This article is intended as a report to you on the activities of your National Veterans Service (NVS).

Since one of the founding principles of our great organization is service to our comrades, fellow veterans, their dependents and survivors, it is only appropriate that we review for you on these pages the extent and breadth of that commitment.

In order to carry out your mandate to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living," it is essential that the duties and function of your NVS be widely known. Accordingly, this report to you serves the added purpose of making those who may have a need for our assistance aware of the important services provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Service Work

Let's start out with a reminder of the NVS mission. We are charged with administering the VFW Service Program of assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors through a network of Post and Department service officers coordinated by your NVS staff. We are assigned the duty of surveying Veterans Administration medical centers, regional offices, Vet Centers and national cemeteries to ensure that those elements of the huge VA system are responsive to the needs of the population they are intended to serve. In addition to the VA, which is our primary focus, we maintain liaison with a variety of federal agencies which may impact on veterans' programs. We are asked to provide research assistance and staff expertise to the VFW National Legislative Service for the preparation of testimony before the Congress expressing your views and concerns regarding veterans' issues. Finally, we are called upon to advise the Executive Director, VFW Washington Office, and through him the entire VFW leadership on veterans' issues.

Although principally housed at the VFW Memorial Building in Washington, your NVS staff operates from a variety of locations. Those making representations before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) have offices collocated with that agency in Washington. Others man the VFW office at the Washington VA regional office which serves veterans overseas, as well as those in and around the nation's capital. That office also operates an expanding outreach program for this large metropolitan area and very importantly functions as a training center for new NVS staff members and Department service officers. Although their chief operates from the VFW Memorial Building, our military claims consultants have an office at the Pentagon where they can be near the scene of the action. Three of our staff members located at our National Headquarters in Kansas City are a field representatve, service officer and a secretary. Finally, a new and especially positive force for the future is the fact that eight Departments with 17 staff members are currently participating in the Department service office pilot program. This is an experiment to determine the feasibility of extending the VFW National umbrella over large numbers of our nationwide service offices. This listing constitutes only an outline of the services available to you.

Nationwide more than 600 accredited representatives, including your Department service officers and others, function at all levels of our service network. Included also are state and county employees serving the VFW as accredited representatives and our network of VFW Post service officers.

During 1987, field representatives of your NVS staff surveyed 33 Veterans Administration medical centers, four VA regional offices, four Department service offices and one national cemetery. In addition, they participated in State and Post service officers training conferences, assisted in training three new Department service officers and surveyed eight Departments in conjunction with the

pilot service office program. The goal for our field representatives for 1988 is to visit and survey 70 facilities, thereby providing you with useful information on VA facilities in your respective states and on the activities of your Department service offices. Improving the training and advising the appropriate Commanders of the strengths and weaknesses of their Department service offices is a vital part of our NVS mission.

Your NVS appeals consultants presented 5,288 cases to the BVA during 1987. This was an increase of almost 1,000 cases over the previous calendar year's total. Decisions favorable to the veteran appellants were achieved in 12.5% of those cases. Another 19.5% of the appeals were remanded or returned to the regional office for further development, based upon the presentations of VFW appeals consultants. Of those cases remanded, or returned to the field, 16.6% were allowed upon reconsideration. Thus, in total, we can point with pride to an overall allowance rate of almost 16% in 1987. During the 1987 VA Fiscal Year, VFW appeals consultants achieved an overall allowance rate of 23% on claims appealed by former prisoners of war. Also, during that same period our appeals consultants achieved an allowance rate from the Board of Veterans Appeals of 19.5% for cases that involved an appeal of a denial of an initial claim for post-traumatic stress disorder. For the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1988, the overall allowance rate achieved by VFW appeals consultants in their presentations before BVA was 19.2%.

Military claims consultants of your NVS staff appear on a regular basis before four military correction boards and four military discharge review boards in the Washington metropolitan area. In addition, they are responsible for providing prompt responses to incoming correspondence and phone calls, as well as providing technical information on military matters for inclusion in VFW publications. This staff, overseen by a chief of military claims and supported by one secretary, participated in 1,380 informal presentations before the correction boards of the Army, Navy and Air Force during 1987 with an allowance percentage rate of 12%, 20% and 10% respectively. Also during 1987, a total of 1,500 informal presentations and nearly 350 formal presentations were made before Army, Navy and Air Force discharge review boards. The favorable allowance rates for those actions were 9%, 5% and 15% respectively.

The 21st edition of the VFW Service Officer's Guide was published in the early spring of 1987 and is available from the Emblem and Supply Department in Kansas City. Your NVS staff is already planning and preparing for the publication of the 22nd edition which we hope to have ready in the spring of 1989. Your NVS is particularly proud of this publication, held in high regard throughout the veterans' community. Painstakingly compiled and edited by the NVS staff, the guide is updated every two years, and interim changes, as they occur, are distributed throughout our VFW service officer network via technical information bulletins and Our Service to Others publication. Every Post service officer should have a copy of this guide, as it is an invaluable reference tool and symbol of the VFW's continuing commitment to provide service on a wide range of matters.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Your NVS is also deeply involved in the VA Voluntary Service Program (VAVS). The NVS Director serves as your National VAVS representative, and the six field representatives on the staff serve as deputy national VAVS representatives. There are 172 dedicated VFW members serving as VAVS representatives, 282 serving as deputies and 42 serving as associates. They encompass every VA medical center in the nation. These often unsung heroes of our organization coordinate the efforts of more than 6,000 volunteers who have devoted more than 900,000 hours to veteran patients. The NVS staff recognizes these volunteers with certificates and lapel pins attesting to hours of service devoted to this worthy cause. Also, the VFW encourages inclusion of young persons in the volunteer force. To stimulate the participation of young persons, one of our field representatives serves as the treasurer of the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholar-

ship Award. In October, 1988, at the 42nd Annual VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., seven scholarships will be awarded from this fund to young volunteers. The total amount of scholarships this year is $8,000. In support of this program, the VFW added $1,000 this year to the $5,000 the National organization provided earlier. The VFW can do much in transporting veteran patients to and from VA health-care facilities. A variety of duties in the various VA medical centers need the volunteer support. We owe our veteran comrades who are patients whatever assistance we can provide. If you can spend a little time at your nearest VA medical center, we urge you to contact your VFW VAVS Representative.

Hospital Committee

Your NVS staff also works with the VFW National Hospital Committee. Purpose of this committee is to address the VFW's concern for the morale and comfort of the growing number of veterans receiving treatment in a variety of acute and long-term care facilities in the community-at-large and in those of the Veterans Administration. The committee's principal objective is to encourage Posts, Districts and Departments to honor every hospitalized veteran and to act as an information source for the Commander-in-Chief on matters pertaining to veterans' health care delivery. Your NVS staff has been selected to support the activities of that committee. It is our hope that this committee will lead to renewed vigor and an expanded commitment to hospitalized veterans and also to complement, although their roles are completely different, the efforts of our VAVS volunteers.

Now a look at some of the major issues confronting your NVS staff during this past year. As of this writing, some form of judicial review of any denial or reduction of VA benefits to a particular veteran seems a strong possibility. As a result, VFW representation activities on behalf of veterans may become subject to increasing scrutiny by outsiders. Fortunately, the semiannual proficiency training conferences, coordinated by your NVS staff, have laid the groundwork in improving representation skills on the part of those who interact with the VA. Therefore, we feel we can face any challenges posed by judicial review confidently.

As a result of several court actions, the VA has agreed to expand due-process rights of veterans who appeal a decision to deny or amend a benefit. Essentially, the veteran must be granted a personal hearing by someone other than the rating body which made the unfavorable decision. It is expected that by Oct. 1, 1988, the VA will have 36 special-hearing officers in place at some 24 centrally located regional offices around the nation. These specially-trained hearing officers are expected to preside at some 25,000 personal hearings annually. The special-hearing officers concept was developed since the VA is insufficiently staffed to provide an additional three-member hearing panel at most regional offices. The VFW will be watching closely to see whether there are any pitfalls to this effort to expand due process.

On the medical side, it is quality of care that counts. Our field representatives have been charged with the responsibility to survey and report on a number of specific activities which are indicators to us of quality medical programs and which point to any flaws in that quality. Your NVS staff will remain active by letter writing, attending meetings and taking part in forums in our constant effort to protect, preserve and expand veteran entitlements.

This is our report to you, the delegates to our annual National Convention. We assure you that in mid-1988 the service program mandated by our membership remains vigorous and is expanding. Under the guidance of your NVS Committee and the Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office, your NVS staff is always vigilant in order to fend off assaults on veterans' programs and entitlements and is always ready to lend a hand to carry out your mandate to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."

POST DEVELOPMENT

National Chief of Staff Paul E. Wampler, Jr.
Director Joseph D. Ross

The Veterans of Foreign Wars established 277 new Posts in communities across the nation from July 1, 1987, through May 18, 1988. These new Posts reported more than 10,000 new and/or reinstated members to National Headquarters. This membership is vital to the continuous growth of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Post Development Program was established in 1965-66 as Post Extension, with its primary function the strengthening of membership throughout the country by organizing new Posts. Twenty-three years have passed, and the record speaks for itself. More than 5,335 new Posts have been established. This represents a yearly average of 232 new Posts a year since the program was founded. Frequently, it is asked how many of these Posts last. The retention rate for Post Development is 77.14%. Thus, almost eight out of every ten have succeeded. Review the New Post Development and Membership section to determine the number of new Posts your Department developed this year.

New Posts have given the Veterans of Foreign Wars an opportunity to expand its many outstanding programs in new communities and to enhance the VFW's image in these communities. Additional benefits to the Veterans of Foreign Wars are added per capita tax to Departments and National Headquarters; increased sales of Buddy Poppies; increased sales of merchandise from the Emblem and Supply Department; a source of new ideas and new leadership at the Post, District, County Council, Department and National levels; service to veterans and their dependents in their local areas; and the opportunity to further the goals and ideas of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Most important for a new Post is the followup. This will be stressed more in the coming year. We must profit from past experience and be sure a new Post is well informed of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' basic aims, purposes and programs. We must make every effort to assist the newly established Post until it is on a sound basis. A well-versed member should be assigned to the new Post by the Department to keep watch and be responsible for its success. In many cases, an older Post will volunteer to assist or adopt the new Post as a project. This has proven highly successful in many Departments. Each Post is important to the overall success of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its programs. No program runs smoothly all the time. Therefore, we find Posts that are having problems. True leadership will confront the problem situation and step forward with wisdom and foresight to detect and correct the problem. Too often, officers take the easy way out, that of seeking cancellation of the Post Charter. This is not the way to overcome the problem. We must face the situation with optimism.

Past experience shows that most problems can be worked out with proper attention from the District, County Council or Department. Interest must have existed among veterans in the area for a Post to be formed. It is a challenge to the leadership to rekindle the members' interest and to inspire them to become active again. Remember, when we lose a Post, we lose our representation in that community, and the community loses the benefits provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As we close the 1987-88 year, the cooperation of each and every VFW member and officer is needed for the future, as we will be "For America, Whatever It Takes."

Most important for a new Post is the followup. This will be stressed more in the coming year. We must profit from past experience and be sure a new Post is well informed of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' basic aims.

POST DEVELOPMENT

New Post Development and Membership
July 1, 1987 to May 18, 1988
By Department

Department	Total Posts Developed	Total Membership
Alabama	0	0
Alaska	1	32
Arizona	1	34
Arkansas	4	139
California	34	1,183
Colorado	4	117
Connecticut	0	0
Delaware	0	0
District of Columbia	1	26
Florida	8	351
Europe	0	0
Georgia	4	132
Hawaii	1	35
Idaho	2	60
Illinois	20	693
Indiana	17	525
Iowa	5	225
Kansas	7	291
Kentucky	4	116
Louisana	2	63
Maine	0	0
Maryland	6	163
Massachusetts	2	51
Michigan	18	537
Minnesota	2	77
Mississippi	5	167
Missouri	10	320
Montana	1	30
Nebraska	11	431
Nevada	1	35
New Hampshire	2	63
New Jersey	7	250
New Mexico	2	57
New York	11	429
North Carolina	16	759
North Dakota	0	0
Ohio	15	668
Oklahoma	17	755
Oregon	5	186
Pacific Areas	0	0
Panama Canal	0	0
Pennsylvania	4	162
Rhode Island	1	42
South Carolina	4	139
South Dakota	0	0
Tennessee	4	170
Texas	4	103
Utah	0	0
Vermont	0	0
Virginia	5	194
Washington	4	150
West Virginia	2	89
Wisconsin	3	95
Wyoming	0	0
Foreign	0	0
Total	277	10,144

POST SERVICES

Director Thomas L. Kissell

The office of Post Services is charged with the responsibility for the collection, recording, maintenance and storage of the official records of over 10,000 Posts.

The annual Post Election Report is the primary source of information from which the Post Officer files are constituted and from which the rosters of Post Officers and the amount of annual dues for each Post are compiled and stored in electronic data processing.

Inasmuch as the Post Officer file is one of the most frequently used at National Headquarters, it is absolutely essential that the maintenance of the file be current at all times and that special attention be given to accuracy in storing and updating the records in data processing. The data processing file contains the names and addresses of the Commander and Quartermaster, the amount of annual dues, the name, location, date of muster and status of each of our over 10,000 Posts.

The importance of the Post Election Report in the maintenance of the Officer file is paramount. Without the information provided in the annual report of election, it is impossible for the Department or the National Organization to communicate with the Post. Annual dues notices cannot be mailed until the election report is revised because of the need to know the name and address of the Post Quartermaster and the amount of the Post dues.

As the reports of election of Post Officers for the 1988-89 year are received and processed, computer-generated acknowledgements will be sent to the Post Quartermaster-elect to confirm the names and addresses of the Post Commander and Post Quartermaster and the amount of annual dues. Copies of these acknowledgements and any subsequent changes are sent to the respective Departments.

The acknowledgement is made on a preaddressed and prepaid return postcard with space provided for corrections and/or changes in any of the information shown on the card. If the information is correct, the Post retains the card for use during the 1988-89 administrative year to report any changes in the amount of Post dues and/or in the offices of Post Commander and Post Quartermaster. As corrections and/or changes are reported and made, these, too, are acknowledged so the Post Quartermaster always has a return postcard in his possession to report changes during the year.

Reviewing questions and documentation of eligibility of officers at all levels, as well as of current members and potential members, is an on-going process of Post Services and continues to be a very time consuming project. Special Orders are issued terminating the membership of those who fail to provide documented proof of their eligibility.

Another area of responsibility for Post Services is the Post Inspection Program. In recent years, the Post Inspection Program has taken on increased significance. This program provides State Commanders and other officers with important information concerning the operation of each Post under their jurisdiction. Post Inspections insure that financial safeguards are maintained and that the Post is operating in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws and regulations of the Department as well as governmental statutes. All Inspection Reports are reviewed by the Director of Post Services. Where possible or known discrepancies are reflected, copies of the Inspection Reports are returned to the State Commander asking for a review of the discrepancies and requesting that corrective action be taken. As a result of these review procedures, the Inspection Program has become more purposeful. When appropriately used, the results provide Commanders at all levels with a reliable indication of potential trouble areas and give early indication of those Posts which are in need of assistance. Department Inspectors, along with their deputies who conduct inspections in a conscientious and concerned manner, can be assured that this program will become a management tool of great value.

Other matters falling within the area of the responsibility of the Director of Post Services include the preparation and dissemination of General Orders, Special Orders and the monthly National Headquarters Bulletin.

Our goal in Post Services, along with that of the entire administrative staff, is to ensure that the needs of our membership are better served as we continue to be For America, Whatever It Takes.

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chairman Howard Silber
Director Wade LaDue
Director Public Affairs, VFW Washington Office, William G. Smith

Our collective welcome back to the Windy City after a four-year interval. The staff again will operate the VFW Press Room in the Marquette Room of the Chicago Hilton.

Publications

Since the 88th National Convention in New Orleans, the VFW Magazine has enjoyed another fine year in advertising revenues while exploring new national markets applicable to readership demographics. PABCO Representatives, of New York City, has handled all advertising related matters for over 25 years.

The magazine, 27th in circulation among all magazines nationally, has, like other publications, experienced the postal increase along with rising costs of paper. Higher prices in both areas may be on the horizon.

The Communicator and Washington Action Reporter were published nine and 12 times, respectively, along with this National Convention Program. Several other organizational pamphlets and brochures were reassigned and republished.

The staff would like to extend congratulations to the winners of the National Publications competition and certainly extend deep appreciation to all the many editors and public relations appointees who work in the trenches informing the membership and general public about our organization. This contribution is invaluable to the overall success of the Public Relations and Publications operations.

Public Relations

The Public Relations offices in both Kansas City and Washington, D.C., were extremely busy with news releases, Convention and Flying Squadron audio-visual productions, special events, support of the National Chair Officers, speech-writing and responses to media questions. All of this was carried out in support of the resolutions you adopted last year in New Orleans.

Through a media distribution syndicate, thousands of medium size market, suburban and small market newspapers have used VFW generated articles on critical issues. Radio and television stations across the national also carried these reports.

A media kit is being prepared for all Departments and Posts which should assist public relations appointees in their dealings with local media.

The Public Relations Office also sponsored a one-day media course for the National Chair Officers and a similar three-hour session for the Department Senior Vice Commanders and Adjutant/Quartermasters.

It has been a good year, but even more emphasis in telling the VFW story is a must at all levels. No one, at least no eligible veteran, should be able to say, "I didn't know the VFW did that" or "I have never been asked to join." Your staff in Kansas City and in Washington point to "We Remember" with even more determination to tell our story through every means of communication at our disposal. The resolutions passed here in Chicago become our responses to the media and our positions in other public forums, so we encourage thoughtful consideration of these proposals.

The staff also wishes to thank the National Officers for their support and input. Also deserving of kudos are the members around the world who write and call with comments and constructive suggestions which are gladly received and taken to heart.

Our best wishes for a productive, enjoyable and safe 89th to all.

It has been a good year, but even more emphasis in telling the VFW story is a must at all levels. No one, at least no eligible veteran, should be able to say, "I didn't know the VFW did that" or "I have never been asked to join."

SAFETY

Chairman Paul R. Fleurdelys
Director Joseph D. Ross

Chairman Paul R. Fleurdelys and I wish to thank you and every other member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary who participated in the Safety Program this past year. I am sure that many long hours of hard work and extra effort by these comrades and sisters account for the Safety Program's success.

The interest and enthusiasm of our members have made the Safety Program one of our organization's fastest growing. In the 1987-88 year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary presented a six-point National Safety Program.

Home Protection

This is two-fold: fire prevention and home security. Posts and Auxiliaries across the nation and overseas conduct seminars in an effort to educate persons in their communities in how to protect themselves and their property.

Working in conjunction with local law enforcement and fire officials, VFW members have distributed thousands of VFW fire prevention and home security checklists as a community service.

Drive to Survive

This VFW program's a three-hour course that teaches good drivers to be better drivers. It is designed to prevent traffic accidents by showing how to recognize road hazards, to understand the defense against these hazards and to take the necessary preventative action in time. Law enforcement agencies are cooperating with VFW Posts and Auxiliaries by providing traffic specialists to assist in the project.

Bicycle Safety

The current popularity of the bicycle, combined with grim, new accident statistics, is establishing the bicycle as a major safety concern. Accident statistics can be greatly reduced if proper instructions are provided. The Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary presented two programs in bicycle safety: Lite-A-Bike and safe bicycling.

Lite-A-Bike, one of the most effective VFW community service activities, has provided reflective tape for more than 30 million bicycles since the program was initiated. VFW and Auxiliary members affix pre-cut strips of reflective tape that illuminate and silhouette the bicycle.

Many police and fire departments, PTA groups and other civic and fraternal organizations lend support and assistance to this program which has saved the lives of many cyclists.

Safe bicycling, sponsored by the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary, brings an audiovisual presentation into the classroom of local elementary schools. It provides a real learning experience for children in the essentials of bicycle safety. All schools have the equipment to utilize this program.

Recognition and Public Commendation

Certificates of Appreciation are available from the VFW Emblem and Supply Department. The citations are available for law enforcement agencies or officers and fire departments or individual firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

Veterans Fight Drugs

The VFW Drug Abuse Program is an action-initiated effort to assist in controlling and eliminating the abuse and illegal use of drugs. Sponsored seminars conducted by trained law-enforcement officers provide the adult community with the necessary information to combat the drug problem.

Hunter Safety

This educational program is sponsored by Posts and Auxiliaries in coordination with their state fish, game and wildlife commissions.

The primary purpose is to promote responsible and ethical conduct in order to emphasize the importance of laws and regulations and to learn safe handling of hunting equipment.

This year, the Safety Program did play a vital part in communities across our nation and overseas confirming that the VFW is "For America, Whatever It Takes."

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

Chairman Jack McIsaac
Director Larry LeFebvre

The foremost youth activity sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the annual Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Scholarship contest.

In completing its 41st year at the VFW Washington Conference, the Voice of Democracy program again reached a quarter of a million 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in public, private and parochial schools across the country.

Two additional $1,000 scholarships were perpetuated this past year, and the sixth place award was increased by $500. The National scholarships now total $42,500.

The sixth place award for $1,500 is given by Joseph O. Hansen, of Maryland, a Past Department Commander of Maryland and a strong supporter of the Voice of Democracy.

The seventh place award of $1,000 is given annually by the Tallman Insurance Agency in the memory of Francis J. Tallman, a longtime friend of the VFW and supporter of its youth work.

The eighth place $1,000 Robert A. Stock Memorial Award is donated by Commander-in-Chief Earl L. Stock, Jr., in memory of his brother who was killed in World War II.

The ninth place $1,000 Walter and Doris Marshall Award is donated by Doris Marshall, of Montana, in the name of her late husband, Walter. Both have worked tirelessly for Voice of Democracy on all levels.

In addition to competing for the national scholarships totaling $42,500, all state winners received expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., where they visited national shrines and observed firsthand the workings of the federal government. State winners who were sponsored by their respective Departments also attended the American Academy of Achievement's Salute to Excellence Weekend in Nashville, Tenn., June 30 to July 3, 1988. Each received the academy's Golden Scroll Award and was enrolled in the academy's Hall of Fame for America's Young Captains of Achievement. The National winner received the academy's Golden Eagle Award for the Promise of Greatness.

The nine winners for the 1987-88 program were first place, $16,000, Rick Speer, Reifenberg, West Germany, sponsored by VFW Post 9659 and its Ladies Auxiliary; second place, $9,000, Lori Martens, Gustine, Calif., sponsored by VFW Post 7635 and its Ladies Auxiliary; third place, $6,000, Patrick Jordan, Smithfield, N.C., sponsored by VFW Post 5886 and its Ladies Auxiliary; fourth place, $4,000, Julie Jackson, Kansas City, Mo., sponsored by VFW Post 5606 and its Ladies Auxiliary; fifth place, $3,000, Scott Rowland, Evergreen, Colo., sponsored by VFW Post 8991; sixth place, $1,000, Dylan Townsend, Seattle, Wash., sponsored by VFW Post 3348 and its Ladies Auxiliary; seventh place, $1,000, Ziad Munson, Duluth, Minn., sponsored by VFW Post 137 and its Ladies Auxiliary; eighth place, $1,000, Heather Easterday, Meade, Kans., sponsored by VFW Post 3661 and its Ladies Auxiliary; and ninth place, $1,000, Meliesa Hawley, Broadus, Mont., sponsored by VFW Post 1595 and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Two additional $1,000 scholarships were perpetuated this past year, and the sixth place award was increased by $500. The National scholarships now total $42,500.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Chairman George T. Kelley
Director Lawrence LeFebvre

The membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognizes the importance of shaping America's youth. Providing wholesome activities that stress fair play and good citizenship has been the goal and guiding principle of the National Youth Activities Committee this year. Some of the foremost youth programs in the organization today are:

Sons of the VFW

This activity is for boys whose parents or grandparents are eligible for membership in the VFW. At the present time, VFW Posts have 650 active Sons Units.

Scouting

Some 1,360 Posts sponsor Boy Scout units. An equal number support the VFW-BSA partnership by providing adult leadership, meeting space, Americanism materials and safety aids to thousands of Cub packs, Scout troops and Explorer posts. Twelve VFW outstanding Scouters were selected from six regions to receive Woodbadge scholarships. This annual program provides recognition and incentive for VFW members who are serving Scouting in leadership roles.

Junior Rifle

The VFW and the National Rifle Association provide an opportunity for boys and girls to receive training in gun safety and marksmanship and to experience the fellowship and competition of a rifle club activity, an individual and team postal match is conducted annually. NRA furnishes aids for affiliated Junior Rifle Clubs of VFW Posts and Sons of the VFW Units.

Youth Bowling

Teams sponsored by Posts in every Department provide instruction and competition for boys and girls in one of the nation's principal lifetime sports and fun activities.

ROTC

If a school in your area sponsors the ROTC program, this is an opportunity for your Post to be active in youth programs. The VFW ROTC awards for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability are available for Junior and Senior ROTC programs.

Special Olympics

A major fundraising effort sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary is to bring the next to 1 million mentally retarded citizens into the Special Olympics programs and to support the year-around programs to accomodate them.

Posts are active in all facets of youth sports in addition to baseball, basketball, football, hockey, swimming, wrestling, golf and tennis.

Hundreds of other youth activities have been documented in reports from more than 8,000 VFW Posts during the past year.

The VFW has endorsed the Junior Olympics and American Youth Soccer Organization. Brochures and pertinent information regarding these youth programs are available from National Headquarters.

Child Identification

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, in keeping with its commitment to community service, provides child identification booklets to Posts and Auxiliaries, free of charge, to enable them to conduct identification and fingerprinting programs for the children in their communities.

American Youth Soccer Organization

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, in trying to provide outstanding programs for the youth of America, has officially endorsed the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). Founded in Los Angeles in 1964, AYSO is dedicated not only to the promotion of youth soccer, but also in developing young men and women into becoming contributing citizens. The AYSO philosophy guarantees that each child will play at least half a game. A balanced team concept assures that all teams play in a healthy competitive atmosphere.

Pledge of Allegiance Coloring Book

The Pledge of Allegiance Coloring Book is geared for children in grades 1 to 4, and it affords children the opportunity to learn how to recite the Pledge of Allegiance correctly as well as to enjoy coloring our nation's Flag and various scenes in the book. In the middle of the book is a map of the United States, which is also useful in teaching geography. These books can be presented on behalf of the Post and/or Ladies Auxiliary, along with a small patriotic program, which could also include the passing out of the Pledge of Allegiance cards, small Flags and similar patriotic materials.

NATIONAL HOME

President, Board of Trustees, Ronald G. Tyler, Sr.
Secretary Treasurer Joseph Epling

The VFW National Home is a reflection of the commitment and pride VFW members have in their organization. A community of caring that has been serving veterans' families since 1925, the National Home houses children without parents and single-parent families who need help. Eligibility is based on VFW or Ladies Auxiliary affiliation.

There have been several indicators of a bright future for this facility during the past year. Extensive renovation of the interior of the Health and Education Building, following exterior refurbishing completed last year, is a tremendous financial investment by the Ladies Auxiliary. Home Life staff are responding to more referrals, and population has averaged in the mid-80s since last summer. A newly-produced video, "Caring for Our Own," provides those who cannot travel to Eaton Rapids an accurate glimpse of life and progams there. It is introduced by Commander-in-Chief Earl Stock, Jr., and National President Joan Katkus.

The VFW National Home is completely funded by the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. It does not receive federal money. Programs to raise operational funds include the annual Seals campaign, bequests and National Home Life Memberships, as well as special gifts.

Increasing the number of residents continues to be an important issue. The VFW National Home is actively serving veterans' children and families, and homeless American families attest to its needs. You are the key to finding those who can use the help this Home has to offer.

Contact VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827-9799 for information on programs, referral, inexpensive educational seminars or funding.

Eligibility requirements have been expanded. Grandparents who are VFW or Auxiliary members do not have to have custody of the child for him or her to be admitted to the program. Eligibility is in four categories:

1. A child whose parent is deceased or totally disabled and that parent is a VFW member.
2. A child whose parent is deceased or disabled and the living or non-disabled parent is a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member.
3. A child whose grandparent is a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member.
4. A child whose parent is a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member, and a home-study investigation by National Home staff reveals that the child's home situation is not conducive to the health of the child.

Children coming to the National Home enjoy a wide range of recreational activities planned by Community Center personnel, ample opportunity to become involved with Eaton Rapids school and church groups, tutorial and enrichment programs within the Home's Education Department, a weekly chapel service and a full staff of counselors and support personnel to help them cope with problems and build for the future.

Other National Home features include a well-equipped fire department (adult and some teenage volunteers are licensed firefighters), a working farm providing 4-H experience, a student training program, a full scholarship program, Independent Living (for upper level high school students demonstrating responsible behavior) and aftercare for those who have been graduated from high school.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Chairman Charles E. Kinney
Director Charles F. Ball, Jr.

Delegates to the 80th National Convention held in New Orleans adopted Section 718 an Amendment to the National By-Laws establishing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Political Action Committee

How Are Candidates Chosen?

Candidates are selected by the VFW-PAC Board of Directors based on their votes cast on veterans' entitlements and national defense-related issues. Each of the selected votes is measured against resolutions adopted by the delegates to VFW National Conventions and priority national security and legislative goals.

Non-incumbent candidates are considered for endorsement when an incumbent's voting record is less than 50%. In such races a position paper dealing with veterans' entitlements and national defense is requested by the VFW-PAC Board of Directors. After reviewing these position papers and information received from the VFW leadership and PAC coordinators in each state, the board makes its final endorsement decisions.

The VFW-PAC separates fact from fiction regarding the complex votes on issues of importance to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The VFW-PAC is non-partisan in making its endorsements. The VFW-PAC does not tell anyone how to vote but informs the VFW membership on how Congress has voted on non-partisan issues of interest to the VFW. Endorsements and contributions are made to Democrats, Republicans and independents alike, so long as they meet or exceed the endorsement threshold based on their votes.

The VFW-PAC and its Board of Directors are composed of John Stang, member, Kansas; Arthur J. Fellwock, member, Indiana; Charles F. Ball, Jr., director, Washington, D.C.; Ronald A. Duchin, treasurer, Washington, D.C.; Ted C. Connell, member, Texas; Herbert R. Rainwater, member, California; Charles E. Kinney, chairman, New Jersey; John R. Ray, member, New York, and Glenneta Vogelsang, Ladies Auxiliary liaison, Missouri.

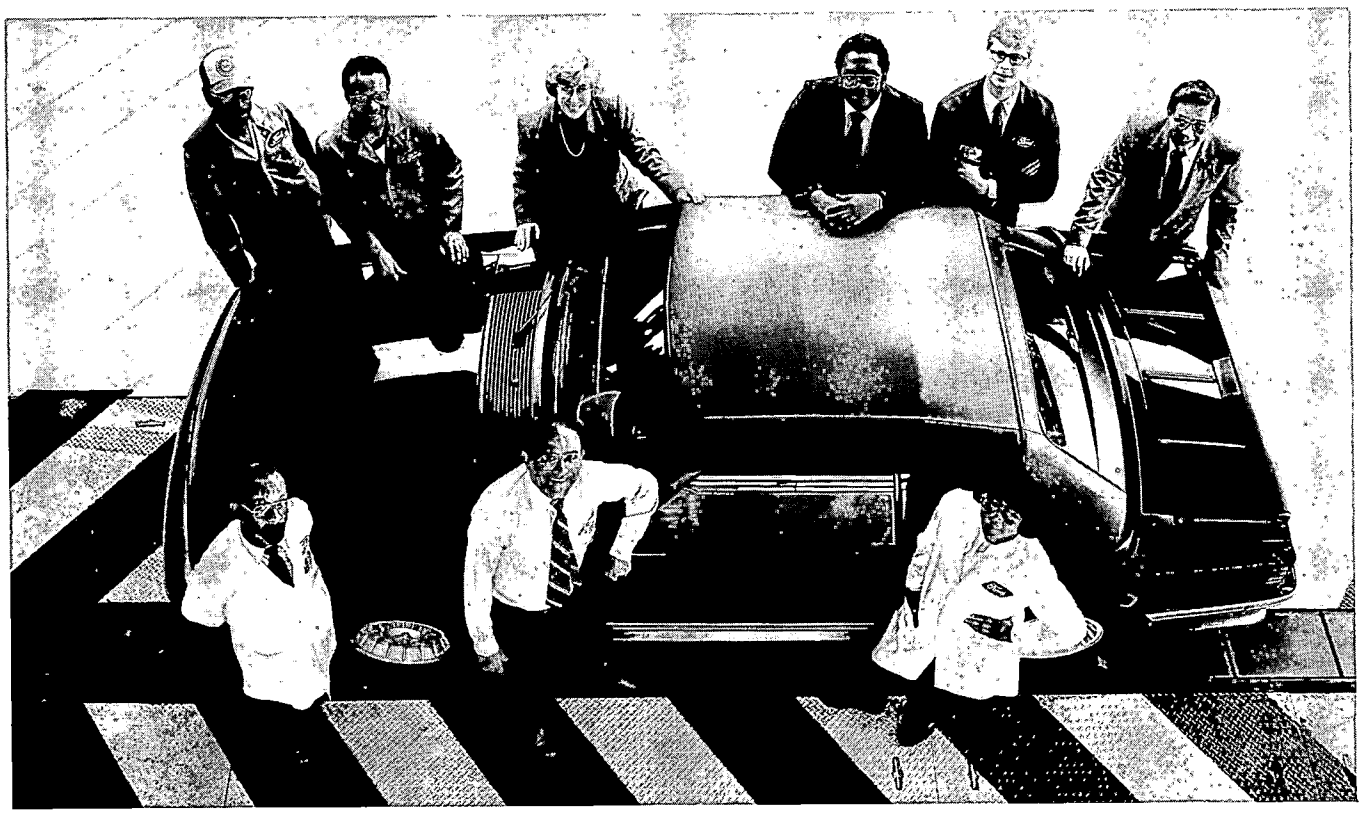
The following financial report is provided in accordance with Section 718 of the VFW National By-Laws:

Political Action Committee
June 30, 1987, to May 30, 1988

Cash at Hand as of 6-30-87	$438,956
Income:	
Contributions Individual	$188,192
Contributions Post & Auxiliaries	$158,235
Interest Income (investment)	$ 39,682
Total	$386,109
Expenses:	
Operating Expenses	$190,017
VFW-Power PAC Report (newsletters)	$ 25,154
Fundraising Expenses	$175,250
Candidate Contributions	$ 5,500
Pin Awards Program (start-up)	$ 30,000
Total	$425,921
Total Difference Cash and Expenses	$399,284
Cash at hand	$342,284
Other Assets (equipment)	$ 56,860
Total Cash and Assets	$399,921

Candidates are selected by the VFW-PAC Board of Directors based on their votes cast on veterans' entitlements and national defense-related issues.

Teamwork:



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FORD
MERCURY
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One more reason Ford Motor Company has designed and built the highest quality American cars and trucks for 8 years running.

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Quality is Job 1.

FORD • LINCOLN • MERCURY • FORD TRUCKS • FORD TRACTORS

Buckle up—Together we can save lives.

*Based on an average of owner-reported problems in a series of surveys of '81-'88 models designed and built in North America.

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As sole sponsor of the U.S. Olympic Training Centers since 1981, the Miller Brewing Company has been proud to help America's athletes go for the gold... The American Way.

At sites in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Lake Placid, New York; and Marquette, Michigan our athletes train for the Olympic Games using the most modern and best equipped sports facilities. Aspiring, young people are given the true opportunities to develop their skills and abilities.

Many U.S. athletes who eventually become Olympic champions receive the finest training and supervision at the Olympic Training Centers.

WITH MILLER'S SUPPORT OUR ATHLETES TRULY ARE

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